
SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING
VIRTUAL MEETING
Monday, May 25, 2020
2-4 p.m.

Present:

Abi Sriharan, Andrea Cortinois, Audrey Laporte, Blake Poland, Carol Strike, Christine Shea, Christopher Noel, Crystal Milligan, Daniel Grace, David Fisman, Dionne Gesink, Ellen Sokoloff, Erica DiRuggiero, Fiona Miller, France Gagnon, Geoff Anderson, Jennifer Mary Bell, Jennifer Brooks, Jeremy Scott, Joanne Kotsopoulos, John McLaughlin, Julia Zarb, Ken Onate, Kevin Thorpe, Laura Rosella, Mark Dobrow, Nicolas Shepperd-Jones, Nousin Hussain, Olli Saarela, Pamela Kaufman, Paul Bozek, Pierrette Buklis, Prabhat Jha, Raisa Deber, Rob Schwartz, Roberta Timothy, Robin Hurst, Rose Schmidt, Sarah Ko, Shaza Fadel, Steini Brown, Tony Panzarella, Valerie Rackow, Victoria Haldane, Wendy Lou, Xiaolin Wei

S. Bondy (Chair), F. Miller (Co-Chair)

1. Call to Order. Chair, Sue Bondy welcomed everyone to the last meeting for the 2019-20 academic year of School council. Everyone was asked to identify themselves with real names on screen as this was a virtual meeting during the pandemic. The Chair also read the land acknowledgment.
2. Presentation and approval of the agenda. NOTE: mover/seconded was not mentioned in the recording nor in the transcript but that there were 45 affirmative votes to accept the agenda)
3. Review and approval of minutes of March 30 Council meeting. One abstention. Moved and seconded verbalized by Obadiah but no mention of names. Approved.
4. Paul Bozek introduced the minor modifications for information of Council. These were approved on behalf of Council at the Education Committee meeting on May 4, 2020. information only of
 - a) Change to Program Requirements - PhD SBHS (Lori Ross)
 - b) Course Name Change CHL5101H (Lori Ross)
 - c) New Course CHL5134H Institutional Ethnography (Daniel Grace)
5. No new business arose.
6. Standing Items
 - 1) CAO Update: Robin Hurst

Given the Pandemic, the University has gone forward with several different committees to communicate and address specific issues such as academic continuity, research, health and safety, IT, and so on. These committees filter up to the Incident Leadership Team (ILT) made up of the Provost, VPRI, among others, to tackle a few items which includes re-entry guidelines. This document is under review, and when formalized, will provide each division to determine how they want to use this document and develop their own continuity planning amid COVID-19. Robin and Dionne Gesink are working closely with each other to determine the resources that the DLSPH community needs for online teaching moving forward for the Fall.

There are three different sessions on three different platforms that are available as publicized in the Events Digest (Communications Office) to help folks become familiar with the functionalities of Microsoft.

The building remains closed 24/7. People are asked to wear masks, gloves if coming in, but are not encouraged to work within, to get files.

2) Dean's Update: Adalsteinn Brown

The Dean acknowledged that this is not the usual way of doing business, and not the usual way to hold the last meeting and that there are a number of stresses and challenges that folks are dealing with and offered his thanks and appreciation to everyone for their patience and what they have done thus far.

Convocation. We are required by law to have a convocation. And because of the pandemic, a virtual convocation, which was coordinated by the Communications had to be done. The virtual convocation included an address by the person who would have been our honorary doctorate, Chan Shah. The Dean remarked that the convocation was superbly done and hoped that it was somehow touching for the graduands.

Adding to Robin's update on continuity plans, the Deans have been meeting once a week to go over what is happening and to hear from the University about what is happening. A roadmap has been developed from these meetings and committees, to include emerging guidelines around PPE, class size, physical distancing to ensure the health and safety of everyone.

The School will be hiring to support faculty as they adapt their courses to virtual teaching.

Support to faculty and staff to make sure they have good working conditions at home is also being looked at which includes whether they can work from home through additional support for mental health.

Some faculty out of DLSPH are directly engaged and leading health and safety standard work: Vivek Goel, Lori Ferris, OEH faculty, to name a few. Our faculty are extensively engaged on the municipal, provincial, and federal levels- providing advice, publishing with rapidity. The volume and quality of activity coming out of the School is helpful to shape things and move them along.

A healthy discussion followed: on academic freedom, hybrid approach to teaching/learning, financial challenges resulting from previous government cuts and now with COVID-19 preventing international students to travel abroad, faculty reviews and promotion considerations.

3) ADR Update: France Gagnon

France acknowledged the challenge folks may have on research and funding for non-COVID research and gave assurance that the ORS is getting ready to support after the Fall competitions with the current pandemic situation. France also recommended faculty to consider the internal peer review process to increase the chance of funding, as well as to use the ORS for support for copy editing and project development, as it is more than usual, competitive.

Reopening Research Space- this would align with teaching/learning reopening. The ORS is working on developing guidelines based on what the University sets out about re-opening particularly the Gage building.

The CIHR project grants that was to be postponed in the Fall is now reversed. The issue they had was there was not enough reviewers and so a survey was sent out to faculty. About 40 faculty members responded affirmatively to serving as reviewers. The competition will likely proceed in the Summer.

France also offered updates on process on NSERC and CIHR research grants, again mentioning for faculty to reach out to ORS for questions and support.

4) ADAA Update : Dionne Gesink (Olli Saarela)

Graduate Coordinator Olli Saarela informed the body that Dionne has been putting together the resources for online teaching and that this link will be posted, in its current state, to the portal. Olli will continue to update.

A message has also been sent to the Division Heads that all the instructors will be contacted about classroom booking which have to be completed fairly immediately, considering physical distancing measures. In the absence of concrete guidelines from the university, classes will have to be taught at least online to ensure safety and health.

A discussion on scheduling ensued, prioritization of classroom booking for core and elective courses, concerns raised on behalf of students who may be situated abroad and are in a different time zone and other potential challenges from the students' and faculty's perspective.

Faculty will have a menu of choices of platforms and for which there also will be technical support available. A communication on this is forthcoming.

7. Update on slate of membership 2020-21 academic year.

Chair Sue Bondy called attention to the draft slate of membership for the Council and Committees, elaborating on how vacancies (for other academic appointees) were filled over the summer of 2019 via an invitation to nominate or self nominate others. Student associations hold their elections in September, while the alumni association are on an unpredictable timeline when the President steps down. Staff select their own representatives until that person has served the term or wishes to stand down.

Sue opened the floor for comments.

Fiona Miller, cited that the Bylaws of the School Council identify a certain number of individuals as ex-officio members, adding that the Director of IHPME should be an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee of the School Council. Steini mentioned that as director of IHPME he attended the Exec Com meetings and is supportive of this. Audrey added that it would be a guarantee for tighter collaboration.

It was mentioned that changes to the Bylaws may be proposed at anytime and may be changed by a vote of a meeting of Council after these changes are presented at Department/faculty meetings, and as long as they are not in conflict with university policies. Changes to the constitution, however, require university approval through the Academic Board.

Given there were no further comments, Sue Bondy introduced a motion to approve the current proposed slate of membership, to be updated as appropriate. Fiona Miller moved; John McLaughlin seconded. It was approved by a majority vote.

8. Meeting dates for the next academic year are still be set, given things are very fluid considering the COVID-19 Pandemic.
9. Adjournment moved by Jeremy Scott, seconded by Fiona Miller. Meeting adjourned at 3:31 pm.