



ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE
Minutes of Meeting

Date: Thursday, September 19, 2024
Time: 9:00am-10:45am
Location: Room 209 Assumption Hall and via MS Teams

Present: Hisham Barakat, Isabelle Barrette-Ng, Juliet Bushi, Aiden Carr, Milad Moradi Haydarloo, Erika Kustra, Adam Mulcaster, Maureen Muldoon, Kristina Nikolova, Jessica Raffoul, Karen Robson, Chitra Rangan, Jacqueline Stagner.

Absent: Suki Randhawa, Anneke Smit.

In Attendance: For item 5:3: Marion Doll, Marie Hawkins; Renée Wintermute (University Secretary).

1 Approval of Agenda

Item 5.4 was unstarred.

MOTION: That the agenda be approved.

Chitra Rangan/Kristina Nikolova
CARRIED, as amended

2 Minutes of meeting of May 16, 2024

MOTION: That the minutes of the meeting of May 16, 2024 be approved.

Maureen Muldoon/Jessica Raffoul
CARRIED

3 Business arising from the minutes

Nothing to report.

4 Outstanding business

Nothing to report.

5 Reports/New Business

5.1 APC Mandate, Membership, and Meeting Schedule

(See document APC240919-5.1 for more details.)

The document was received for information.

5.2 Establishing Lead Readers for Annual Reports

(See document APC240919-5.2 for more details.)

Lead readers were identified for the various annual reports.

5.3 Student Awards and Financial Aid Annual Report (2023-2024)

(See document APC240919-5.3 for more details.)

NOTED:

- An overview of the 2023-2024 Student Awards and Financial Aid Annual Report, including activities, challenges, and future initiatives, was provided. The report, jointly submitted by the Office of Student

Awards and Financial Aid (SAFA) and Faculty of Graduate Studies now includes information on both undergraduate and graduate awards.

- In response to a concern raised last year about the recruitment tool requiring a local phone number to move through the process, SAFA has been able to implement a workaround for international students.
- The new student service hub, expected to launch in Fall 2025, will enable better tracking of students and leveraging resources for greater efficiencies during peak periods.
- SAFA is actively working with others on supports for Indigenous students, with a view to supplementing financial supports provided by their bands and/or the government.
- Rubrics and criteria for awards should be reviewed regularly for clarity.
- Making students aware of the awards and financial aid opportunities is half the challenge. SAFA's website contains information on all available awards and financial aid.
- The percentage required to retain a renewable scholarship is higher than other universities, since not all course attempts are considered; rather the top 6 (first year) or top 12 (second year) are considered. This allows for grade forgiveness where a student may have struggled in 1-2 courses but did well overall.

AGREED:

- Table 2 regional sections will be reassessed and pared down for next year's report.
- Information on available awards, etc, should be provided to faculty recruiters before the Ontario Universities' Fair and the Fall Open House.
- Minor corrections were made.

5.4 Dramatic Art – Revision to Admission Requirements

(See document APC240919-5.4 for more details.)

MOTION: That the proposed revisions to the admissions requirements for the Drama in Education and Community Program and Concurrent General Bachelor of Arts (Drama)/Bachelor of Education be approved.

Chitra Rangan/Kristina Nikolova
CARRIED

5.5 Policy on Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPT) – Revisions

(See document APC240919-5.5 for more details.)

MOTION: That the proposed revisions to the Policy on Student Perceptions of Teaching be approved.

Jessica Raffoul/Chitra Rangan

NOTED:

- The revisions clarify that responses are linked to students but only accessed by the University in extenuating circumstances where there is threat to self or others or a breach of policy. Responses will remain anonymous to the instructor.
- Since only instructors receive written feedback, they will need to report comments they feel are inappropriate.
- As more SPTs are generated, data will be assessed, including the research/demographic questions, to determine whether and how questions should be revised or removed.

AGREED:

- Minor revisions were made.

CARRIED, as amended

6 Question period/Other business/Open Discussion

6.1 Updates: APC Subcommittee on Generative Artificial Intelligence; APC Subcommittee on Cross-listed Courses

NOTED:

- The APC Subcommittee on Generative Artificial Intelligence was been meeting regularly and has crafted Principles on the use of generative AI. A website will be launched in the coming weeks.
- The APC Subcommittee on Cross-listed Courses has forwarded a draft policy to Heads, Associate Deans, and Deans for feedback. The intent is to provide clarity and consistency around cross-listed courses. The Subcommittee is also working with the Registrar's Office on standard operating procedures for operationalizing/identifying cross-listed courses in UWinsite.

All-Access Textbook Pilot

AGREED:

- The move to an all-access textbook program is, at its core, an academic decision as it fundamentally impacts academic program delivery and student success and the academic mission of the University. Among other concerns:
 - It encroaches on the academic freedom of the instructor to determine the best material for their course. Preliminary anecdotal feedback from instructors involved in the pilot noted that the selection of course materials was limited and in some cases they were unable to use their choice textbook as it was not among the available options.
 - In some programs, the instructor may determine that hard copy textbooks are the best way to deliver the course and ensure optimal student learning of the material.
 - Many programs also rely on foundational/first year textbooks throughout the program. Regardless of how it plays out, students must have access to these textbooks later in their program.
- Preliminary anecdotal feedback from students indicated that many were unclear as to the purpose of the fee and decided to opt out, without understanding that they would no longer have access to the textbook.
- There may also be questions around accessibility requirements, particularly in the case of students who require hard copy materials.
- APC will provide a preliminary report to Senate and indicate its intention of further reviewing the matter with a final report and recommendation (if any) provided to Senate.

7 Adjournment

MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned.

Jessica Raffoul/Jacqueline Stagner

CARRIED