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**SLIS School Council**

28 October, 2022

10 AM to 12 PM

7-152 Education North

Present: D. Allard, K. Anderson, D. Askey, M. Chernyavska, C. Chiovelli, S. Day, K. Gariepy, C. Harbak, L. MacLeod, M. McNally, T. Oliphant, B. Reyes Ayala, T. Samek, D. Zhao

Regrets: K. DeLong, K. den Boon, C. Lynch, K. Peacock, J. Rodger

Guests: L. McGarvey (Item 4.1 only)

Minutes: C. Mosimann

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Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file. Votes were conducted by a show of hands unless otherwise noted.

*Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement.*

1.0 Approval of Agenda dated 28 October, 2022.

**Motion:** It was moved by T. Oliphant, seconded by D. Allard, that the agenda be approved with one amendment: change of item 4.2 presenter to C. Mosimann

**CARRIED**

2.0 Roundtable Introductions

Members were asked to introduce themselves and their role on School Council.

3.0 Committee Reports

3.1 Curriculum Committee

Curriculum Committee chair D. Zhao delivered an update. The committee is still being formed and the first meeting is scheduled for 04 November, 2022.

### 3.2 Scholarships, Awards, and Bursaries Committee

Committee chair M. McNally overviewed the awards and amounts recently distributed to students. A member asked why some awards were not given out. M. McNally responded that some awards had no applicants. In other cases, such as travel awards, there was eligibility criteria that students did not meet.

## 4.0 New Business

4.1 Proposed Changes to Governance of the School of Library and Information Studies Faculty of Education Vice Dean L. McGarvey presented on restructuring in the Faculty of Education and the governance implications for SLIS. In particular, the proposal is to move SLIS governance underneath Education Faculty Council, meaning School Council would no longer function as its own quasi-Faculty Council, and course and program changes would instead go to the Faculty's Graduate Academic Affairs Council (GAAC).

During the Q & A portion the following was raised:

- A member asked if other departments in the Faculty had a School Council. L. McGarvey responded that they had Department Councils but not School Councils.
- A member asked what will happen to Academic Council, which, unlike Department Councils, does not have student or stakeholder representation. L. McGarvey responded that SLIS can make decisions about its committees. She also noted that in other universities with LIS programs not in a dedicated LIS faculty, advisory bodies are established, but not governance bodies.
- A member asked if voting School Council representatives would have votes on an advisory board. L. McGarvey responded that those representatives would not.
- A member inquired about the governance procedure to change to one of the suggested models. L. McGarvey responded that there would be processes internal to the Faculty. K. Gariepy noted that SLIS has autonomy to make internal decisions, and these changes would need to be debated at Academic Council and brought to School Council, as appropriate.
- A member asked about SLIS' representation on GAAC. L. McGarvey responded that the current GAAC terms of reference include one SLIS faculty member and one student.
- A member noted that it would be very helpful to receive, before voting, confirmation from the ALA Committee on Accreditation that this will not threaten our accreditation. It was further noted that any revised terms of reference for GAAC be updated to reflect SLIS.
- A member asked if GAAC has external members from the field or only faculty members. L. McGarvey responded that there is one ATA member with voting privileges who currently abstains.

- A member asked if the governance working group has purview over stakeholder groups such as graduate student and alumni associations. L. McGarvey responded that the Dean is attempting to create a graduate student executive with representation of all the GSAs in the faculty.
- A member noted that there is representative and community input that currently comes from School Council, and suggested there be a similar position to the ATA representative on GAAC to ensure the MLIS curriculum remains suitable for graduate students who will work in their libraries.
- A member asked about the timeline for changes to SLIS as those must go through GFC. L. McGarvey responded that the plan is to bring this to Education Faculty Council in the next few months and then to GFC for approval to ensure it is in effect for July 2023. If SLIS does nothing, then the motion will have course and program decisions at School Council move directly to GAAC instead of FGSR..

#### 4.2 Administrative Updates (C. Mosimann)

C. Mosimann delivered an administrative update because K. Peacock was not in attendance. As of July 2022, the Faculty transitioned to a de-departmentalized structure supported by central administrative units in the faculty. The four previous department manager positions have been replaced by two Academic Faculty Manager (AFM) positions, held by I. Martyniak and K. Peacock. Each AFM has a portfolio that supports the entire faculty. All student advising, including scholarships and awards, is now in Education Student Services.

#### 4.3 Council Representative Updates

All members were invited to give brief updates to School Council.

- Faculty members overviewed their teaching and research currently underway.
- Edmonton Public Library has undergone many changes and is now hiring management-level positions. EPL is also undertaking strategic planning for 2024-2026.
- There is a new minister for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. The Public Library Services Branch is looking at red tape reduction. There is also work underway to improve service to underserved groups.
- There were several updates from the University of Alberta Library (UAL). The move of the Health Sciences Library to ECHA is underway with a scheduled opening in September 2023. UAL will be opening a parenting space in Rutherford North in the very near future. UAL has resumed recruiting again. There is a new scholarship for Indigenous students established by the Council of Prairie and Pacific Libraries. University of Alberta Museums have moved to space in Rutherford South.

- Because of changes to COVID protocols, GELA is now able to enter correctional facilities again as part of their prison books project. Currently, they are working with the Edmonton Remand Centre and the Edmonton Institution for Women and hope to branch out more with more volunteers. There is also a project to increase the number of available books by Black and Indigenous authors. GELA is also planning various series and collaborations with other associations.
- LISSA elections have finished and all positions have been filled. LISSA is working on communication between online and on-campus students with an ongoing effort to improve. They are also obtaining SLIS-branded sweaters via the bookstore. LISSA has resumed collecting membership fees. There are plans for an anti-oppressive workshop with plans for more, if successful.
- The Library Association of Alberta has examined the criteria of their scholarships and awards to ensure more students are eligible to apply. There are free LAA memberships available to students who are serving in a governance capacity on any sort of board or governing body.

#### 4.4 Correcting Academic Council Terms of Reference (K. Gariepy/C. Mosimann)

C. Mosimann spoke on the proposed corrected terms of reference, which are necessary following K. Gariepy's identification of errors in the Academic Council Terms of Reference that were passed at Academic Council and School Council in both 2019 and 2020. After consulting with the Faculty's Governance Administrator, it was determined that a simple editorial change is not possible. Therefore a formal motion must be made in order to correct the terms. This motion is to correct the errors in the terms only. Full and substantial changes to the terms that reflect restructuring in the Faculty will be brought forward at a future meeting.

**Motion:** It was moved by C. Mosimann, seconded by C. Harback, to approve the corrected Academic Council Terms of Reference as presented.

**CARRIED**

#### 4.5 Council Input on MLIS Curriculum

D. Zhao overviewed the questions presented to members and invited responses from School Council. During discussion the following was raised:

- Several members supported including the Indigenous contexts course as a curriculum core course.
- A member suggested a dedicated course about accessibility. Another member suggested a sustainability course, which is connected to accessibility.
- A member suggested teaching media and digital literacy would be valuable, as well as the intersection of freedom of expression and social justice.

- A member requested it be on record that, while they approve of the Indigenous contexts course becoming required, they do not wish for it to become the only Indigenous representation in the curriculum.
- A member suggested that more students be encouraged to take the practicum, to which some members voiced support. Another member noted that when practicum was first created it was entirely local, and cautioned against making it required because practicum placements cannot be guaranteed.
- A member noted that the MLIS curriculum is siloed with few students from outside of SLIS. It was suggested that there could be more cross-listed courses. Another member noted that instruction is important for public librarians and therefore crossover with other education courses may be helpful. Another member noted that this would need to be carefully considered to ensure it does not conflict with accreditation requirements.

#### 4.6 Graduate Coordinator's Report

T. Oiphant overviewed her responsibilities as Interim Graduate Coordinator and overviewed the demographic data for the current incoming student body. There have been notable shifts in demographics in recent years. It was asked if study permits for international students were a problem for SLIS this year. T. Oliphant responded that this occurred for one student. A member suggested that COVID restrictions and people staying home may explain the shifting numbers of Alberta students in recent years.

#### 4.7 Director's Report (K.Gariepy)

In the interests of time, K. Gariepy's Director's Report was emailed to members.

#### 5.0 Announcements

C. Mosimann announced that Graduate Administrator J. White, who worked with SLIS and other programs, has retired after many years in the faculty. S. De Guzman, who worked alongside J. White as Graduate Assistant, is the new Graduate Administrator and is dedicated to the MLIS program.

K. Gariepy delivered several faculty announcements. Associate Professor Dr. A. Worrall resigned from the University of Alberta effective June 30, 2022. Professor Dr. A. Shiri was appointed Interim Dean of FGSR. Congratulations were extended to ATS Lecturers J. Rodger and L. Zhang for their recent ATS promotions to Associate Lecturer.

#### 6.0 Question Period

There were no questions.

#### 7.0 Other Business

There was no other business.

Motion to Adjourn

**Motion:** It was moved by C. Mosimann, seconded by D. Allard, that the meeting be adjourned.

**CARRIED**

*Meeting Adjourned.*