

THE FACULTY COUNCIL
FACULTY OF ADMINISTRATIVE STUDIES

Notice of Meeting

The regular meeting of the Faculty Council of 1980-81 Academic Year will be held on Friday, 27 February 1981 at 9:30 a.m. in the McCaskill Auditorium.

A G E N D A

1. Chairman's Remarks
2. Dean's Remarks
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting
4. Business Arising from Minutes of Previous Meeting
5. Inquiries and Communications
6. Reports of Standing Committee:
 - (A) Masters Programme Committee
 - (i) Inter-Course and Inter-Section Variance
in Core Course Content, Workload and
Grade Distribution -----Appendix "A"
 - (a) Core Course Content
 - (b) Grade Distribution
 - (ii) Deletion of Courses from the Curriculum-----Appendix "B"
 - (B) Undergraduate Programme Committee
 - (i) B.B.A Prerequisites-----Appendix "C"
 - (C) Nominating Committee
 - (i) Nomination for Research Committee-----Appendix "D"
7. Other Business
8. Adjournment

MINUTES OF FACULTY COUNCIL
FACULTY OF ADMINISTRATIVE STUDIES

The regular meeting of the Faculty Council of 1980-81 Academic Year was held on Friday, 27 February, 1981, at 9:30 a.m. in the McCaskill Auditorium.

The following were present:

Professor M. Taylor - (Chairman)
Dean W. B. Crowston
D. Brewer - (Associate Dean - Student Affairs)
V. Murray - (Associate Dean - Academic)

Members of Faculty:

N. Biger	G. McKechnie
R. Blackmore	D. Morrison
S. Borins	E. Phillips
A. Courtney	L. Rosen
D. Daly	P. Simmie
G. Dermer	P. Tryfos
J. Dewhirst	R. Vachon
D. Dimick	S. Warner
I. Fenwick	T. Warner
J. Friedlan	K. Weiermair
R. Grasley	T. Wilson
R. Heeler	U. Zohar
D. Horvath	Y. Yagil
W. Jordan	J. Kantor
C. Mayer	

Other Members in Attendance:

Prof. B. S. MacKinnon - (Atkinson College)
R. Varma - (Librarian)
M. Partington - (President, Graduate Student Business Council)
D. Boothman - (Ph.D. Student Representative)
R. Randall - (Undergraduate Student Business Council)
L. J. Birchall - (Secretary)

Item #1 - Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman introduced Professor Fenwick who has just joined the Faculty.

Item #2 - Dean's Remarks

(a) Hiring

The Dean stated that one offer for a Faculty member in the Finance area has been accepted. There is one pending in the Accounting area and two requests have been made for hiring one in the Finance and one in the Policy area. In addition

there are several appointments of a contractual nature which are being considered.

(b) Strategic Planning Report

The Dean outlined the progress which is being made by the Strategic Planning Committee and stated that the report which has been presented by that committee has received favourable comment by all members of the University. Based on the conclusions which were reached in that report, it is now the intention to bring forward recommendations to the Council for debate. Once the resolutions have been approved, they will then be sent to the various standing committees for implementation. His present plan was to have all the recommendations submitted to Faculty Council within the next three months.

Regarding the work which is already being done concerning the Undergraduate Programme, it is now planned to reduce the number of incoming students in order to raise the quality of that programme. In addition, all support possible has been given to the Faculty of Arts in setting up the first two years of study preparatory to entering our Undergraduate Programme. In addition, the Faculty of Arts are preparing three programmes which will also be based on those first two years of study and these are being examined by our Faculty.

Item #3 - Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Mr. Birchall pointed out one typographical error in line 3 of page 7 in which the word "subjects" should read "arrears". Moved by Professor Mayer that the minutes be accepted as amended. Seconded by Professor Daly. Carried.

Item #4 - Business Arising from Minutes of Previous Meeting

NIL

Item #5 - Enquiries and Communications

NIL

Item #6 - Reports of Standing Committees:

(A) Masters Programme Committee

(i) Intercourse and Intersection Variance in Core Course Content, Workload and Grade Distribution

(a) Core Course Content

In introducing this item, Professor Murray said that this was a problem of long-standing and several efforts have been made to resolve it.

The present motions endeavour to take the first steps toward resolution of the problem and the results of long consideration by the Executive Committee, the Masters Programme Committee and the Operating Committee presented a motion-- Motion No. 1 in Appendix A.
Seconded by Professor Jordan.

Professor Rosen stated that the Accounting area were having very great difficulty in carrying what they felt to be their proper function within the regulations which have been passed by Faculty Council and those now being proposed. In looking at the assessments made by outside accounting firms and industry in general, York University was sinking lower and lower into the standards and procedures being enforced upon the Faculty. It was his opinion that the present standards are too low and that the regulations now before Council would merely force them lower yet. He therefore, moved an amendment that the following be added to the second paragraph beneath that "that the Accounting area be exempted from the provisions of this motion because of their special problems".
Seconded by Professor Kantor.

Professor Jordan expressed the view that the motion would appear to place the responsibility completely within the Accounting Area. Hence, they could deal with the problem as they saw fit. After considerable discussion a vote was taken on the amendment.

7 - in favour; 16 - against; 7 - abstentions.
The motion was lost.

Professor Tryfos stated that while he was in favour of common course content, he was not convinced that there was a crisis. He felt that the courses were all now approved by Council and it would remain their authority under the present regulations. Therefore, if an Area Coordinator wished to change the course content, it would have to go to the Council for authority. Another concern was that giving the Area Coordinator authority to control the texts grading scheme etc. was in violation of academic freedom. He, therefore, felt that the motion as such was a very radical change from what we now have. It was his opinion that if a faculty member did not adhere to the proper course content etc. he would be brought before the Associate Dean (Academic) or the appropriate programme committee to explain and give his reasons. At least this gave him an opportunity to put forward his own views.

Professor Biger stated that there appeared to be two issues. He felt that the first problem is with the instructor and not with the course content, texts, grades, etc. Students sometimes select a professor who gives very low grades purely because he is a better instructor and they will learn more. The passing of this motion would not solve this problem.

Professor Wilson stated that he believed that consistency was essential in the core courses in order that those who were giving electives would have students of equal knowledge and learning.

Professor Blackmore pointed out that these motions could be in contravention of Articles 10 and 11 of the YUFA contract. He therefore felt that we should clear this before approving the motions. Dean Crowston replied that he felt this was a matter of Faculty concern and was not governed by the union contract. He therefore, suggested that we should vote as we feel on this matter without concern for the YUFA reaction.

Ms. Partington, speaking on behalf of the students stated that there is a definite serious problem. Students have come out of the core with completely different knowledge backgrounds depending upon which section they had been in. She felt that the present motion was a move in the right direction and it would help in bringing the student to a common standard before entering the second year.

Reverting back to the YUFA problem, Professor Beechy stated that it was his opinion that YUFA were vitally concerned in this type of thing and we should give it consideration. Professor Jordan said that there were three responsible bodies mainly Senate, YUFA and the Management. The Faculty Council is a committee of Senate and hence this is really a matter for Senate. He felt that the jurisdiction in responsibilities would sometime have to be tested in court by YUFA.

Professor Weiermair gave basic support for the underlying principles in the motion but suggested we should have another look at the process. Professor Horvath felt astonishment by the concerns being raised by academic members. He felt that somehow we must attain or come closer to a common standard for students graduating from the core and perhaps we should try to give constructive criticism rather than debating the motion now before us. Professor Heeler agreed in principle and stated that he was happy that a motion did not prevent experimentation or initiative on the part of instructors. Also with the collective agreement a coordinator could not get out of line or be too vindictive.

Because of the concerns raised by Professor Tryfos, Professor Murray put forth an amendment in which he would add the following to the end of paragraph one "consistent with core course content outlines as approved by Faculty Council" and in line 3 of the second paragraph following the word "authority" insert the words "within the terms of core course outlines as approved by the Faculty Council". In that Professor Murray was the mover of this motion, he obtained agreement from Professor Jordan who seconded the motion and the amendments were accepted into the main motion.

Professor Beechy stated that the amendment would tie us back to course outlines which are hopelessly out of date and this may put us into a position of having to submit new amendments every year as innovations were accepted. Professor Jordan felt that a problem exists but perhaps we should not take as large a step as the motion proposed. He therefore suggested that we might still move towards our objective but to a slighter degree by amending as follows: In paragraph one the third line place a period after the word areas and delete the following words "and offer a comparable pedagogical approach between sections". In the second paragraph in the fifth line put a period after the word "textbooks" and delete the following words "other teaching materials, methods of instruction and grading scheme used".
Seconded by Professor Daly.

Professor Weiermair stated that if we were trying to get some degree of commonality, we should probably have a common examination. Professor S. Warner then stated that no matter what we passed or approved, people would not have to abide by them but get around them in any way they felt so that regardless of what action we took, nothing much would be achieved. Professor Brewer agreed that there should be common topics and content. He would like to see the areas take some responsibility concerning the core courses.

The amendment as proposed by Professor Jordan was now placed before the Council and defeated.

Professor Friedlan now moved that the motion be tabled.
Seconded by Professor Tryfos.
Defeated.

The main motion was now placed before the Faculty Council.

11 - in favour; 13 - against; motion defeated.

(b) Grade Distribution

Professor Murray now moved motion 2 as contained in Appendix A.

Seconded by Dean Crowston.

Professor Murray reviewed the rationale and elaborated on the background for this motion. Professor Beechy voiced his concern that this reflects a standardization of grades across the faculty. The Accounting area has to consider outside influences which are not of concern to other areas. He, therefore, placed an amendment before the Council to add at the end of the motion "The foregoing shall not apply to the Accounting area".

Seconded by Professor Jordan

Professor Dimick expressed mixed feelings in that he shared the Accounting area's concern with their external market but there was also the problem of forcing quality control on students in the core subjects who were not going to be accountants. Professor Beechy responded that the course content in the core courses was material that he felt every MBA graduate should have regardless of whether or not they were interested in accounting. Professor Biger gave the view that the problem was not trying to make each area the same but rather to have the grades within an area more or less consistent. One of the big problems was the wide variations between core course sections within individual areas. Professor Courtney stated that grading is a function of two variables namely the students and the instructors. This proposal only looked at the instructor variable. The point was then raised by Professor Tryfos that there was not sufficient time between the final examination, and the grading of that examination for Area Coordinators to really become involved and there was very little purpose of an Area Coordinator being involved prior to the final examination. Professor Horvath then stated that it was not only a question of low grades by some instructors but also very high grades by others.

The amendment was then placed before the Faculty Council.

9 - in favour; 15 - against; motion defeated.

Professor Brewer then put forward an amendment to delete the entire first paragraph and in the first line of the second paragraph it would now read "in pursuit of the objective that the grade distributions for course offerings be for reasonable, it is the desire of faculty" and then in the third line after the word "review" delete the words "individual grades or".

Seconded by Professor Dimick.

In explanation of this amendment, Professor Brewer said that this would take care of the extreme cases which arise from time to time.

The amendment was placed before the Council.

1 - in favour; 15 - against. The amendment was defeated.

The main motion was now placed before the Council.

10 - in favour; 18 - against; motion defeated.

(ii) Deletion of Courses from the Curriculum

Moved by Professor Murray that the courses as outlined in Appendix B of the Agenda be deleted from the Calendar. Seconded by Professor Jordan.

Professor Brewer asked whether or not the material contained in MGTS 610 would now be covered in other courses and Professor T. Warner stated that it is covered in MGTS 600. Professor Biger then asked to have one Finance course which has been deleted in their programme added to the list namely FINE 671. This was agreed to by Professor Murray.

The motion was now placed before the Council and carried.

(B) Undergraduate Programme Committee

(i) BBA Prerequisites

Moved by Professor Heeler that the motion contained in Appendix C be accepted by the Council. Seconded by Professor Jordan.

Professor Jordan suggested an editorial change that in line 4 of the motion that the words "or AS/MA 131.3 and 231.3" be deleted. This was agreed to by Professor Heeler. The motion was now placed before the Council and carried.

(C) Nominating Committee

(i) Nomination for Research Committee

Moved by Professor Daly that Professor J-C Spender be appointed as a member of the Research Committee for the remainder of the current academic year. Seconded by Dean Crowston. The motion was placed before the Faculty Council. Carried.

Item #7 - Other Business

The Chairman now stated that this was an historic occasion in that it would be the last Faculty Council meeting at which Mr. Birchall would be the Secretary following twelve years of service in this capacity. Professor Jordan then moved that "move that this Council extends its great appreciation and thanks to L. J. Birchall for his outstanding and creative services during the past twelve years as Secretary to the Council. Furthermore, we wish him well in his future activities".

Seconded by Professor Daly.
Carried unanimously.

Professor Kantor stated that the Accounting area were having increasing difficulty with the Grade Appeal procedures and that he felt that we should reconsider them as soon as is possible. Professor Murray responded that this matter was already before the Student Affairs Committee and it was his sincere hope that amendments would be forthcoming and approved before the academic year. Professor Zohar stated that the Student Affairs Committee would be having an open meeting for faculty members to express their views on this subject.

Item #8 - Adjournment

Moved by Professor Daly that the Council adjourn.
Seconded by Professor Biger.
Carried.