

**ROYAL ROADS UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC COUNCIL
MINUTES
MAY 21, 1997**

Present:	COUNCIL MEMBERS Chris Boissevain Doug Bright Jennifer Buchner Laura Grieg Steve Grundy Gerry Nixon Jim McTaggart-Cowan Betsy Symons	EX OFFICIO MEMBERS John Walsh, Interim Chair Gerry Kelly Barry Jensen Don MacMillan Peter Turner Rhonda Pettyjohn, Recording
Absent:	Jim Bayer Anton Boegman Tony Boydell Robert Gale	David Krauel

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by John Walsh at 5:15.

2. Approval of Agenda

On a motion duly made and seconded the Agenda was approved as circulated.

3. Approval of May 1, 1997 Minutes

On motion by Jim McTaggart-Cowan and seconded by Gerry Nixon, the minutes were approved as circulated prior to the meeting.

4. External Academic Review - MSc/MA in Environment and Management

The Chair, Dr. Walsh, introduced the topic referring to the report of the External Review Team which had been circulated to members in advance. He highlighted the impressive credentials of the three reviewers. He briefly discussed the five principal recommendations and made the Council aware of the very tight timeline through to anticipated approval by the Degree Program Review Committee of the Province in early June. Dr. Walsh emphasized that Royal Roads University had received a strong recommendation that the MSc/MA be approved, from an independent source. The Chair asked Dr. Grundy for comments.

Dr. Grundy assured Council of the thoroughness of the methodology of the reviewers, pointing out that they had met with several constituent groups of the University - students, professors, and administrators. They had also reviewed the grounds and

facilities. He reiterated Dr. Walsh's information that he would need a formal motion of approval from Council in support of the DPRC meeting in June. Once the motion was on the table, Dr. Grundy suggested there would be several items for discussion. He drew the Council's attention to Appendix A on the topic of Innovations in Canadian Universities and the strong fit with RRU practices; he reflected on the reviewer's conclusion that while innovations - including distance learning - have stumbled in some institutions, they may have a higher likelihood of success because of Royal Roads' unique frameworks. Finally Dr. Grundy - citing the fact that the reviewers were highly satisfied with the academic quality of the program design and the capability to deliver both on campus and by "distance" - recommended to Council that, subject to final Ministry approval, he hoped to enroll students beginning in October 1997.

The Chair asked for questions or comments.

Several members made comments, which included the following:

The Masters in Leadership and Training was built on the same model as the new program now being reviewed and therefore the reviewers' comments are very encouraging. In order to meet the 2nd recommendation, it is necessary to proceed with the faculty contracting well in advance of the program start-up to ensure their fit. As Royal Roads is breaking new ground, we must develop orientation and training programs, particularly in the areas of 'knowledge facilitator' and 'outcomes'.

Further discussion followed on the many points and challenges made in this document; how we have met some of them; ways to meet others; the composition of the current core faculty; and the credence given to the document by the current graduate class whose program is based on this same model. It is the responsibility of the Program Director to address each issue raised in the report and move items to the Academic Council as necessary.

Motion: Moved by Gerry Nixon and seconded by Steve Grundy

That the External Academic Review be accepted by Academic Council and that Council support the recommendations made in it by the Review Team.

MOTION CARRIED

The Chair pointed out that the Reviewers' report also looked at areas of concern to the DPRC - one of which is the appointment of a senior external academic to the Academic Council or to the mandated Program and Research Council. Comment was invited on the appointment of an external academic to one of these councils.

It was noted that the mandates of our two councils are distinct. The RRU Program and Research Council focuses on external issues and serves as a 'think tank' whose purpose is to bring ideas to RRU and the Board of Governors. Our Academic Council focuses on internal educational and pedagogical issues using independent, external academic reviews of new programs as a tool. There was further discussion on the roles of Senates, Board of Governors, and Councils.

Motion: Moved by Jim McTaggart-Cowan and seconded by Gerry Nixon

That the Academic Council recommend the appointment of a senior external academic to the Programs and Research Council.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Thesis Project Supervisory Policy

The Chair explained that Royal Roads needs to put in place a high level policy under which can be developed the appropriate guidelines for this and similar programs. The policy would promote wide diversity in faculty, and top practitioners in the fields of study. It would allow the thesis process to operate with contract and core faculty, and ensure the quality of graduates and thesis work. The submitted policy statement has been discussed with the Program Directors, who believe it provides the necessary flexibility and framework for thesis project supervision to ensure the quality of the thesis work.

Discussion followed on optional personnel compositions for the supervisory committee. Council was reminded that issues raised on quality control and changes to the policy document could come back to Academic Council on a recurring basis.

Motion: Moved by Gerry Nixon and seconded by Steve Grundy

That Academic Council adopt the proposed policy on “Supervision of Major Projects and Theses in Graduate Programs” with the addition at the end of the last bullet “at Royal Roads University”.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Other Business - Next Meeting

Council members reminded the Chair that they would like to see any policies coming forward being received by them at least 24 hours in advance of the meetings.

The President took this opportunity to thank John Walsh on behalf of the Council and the Board for all the developmental work he had done for Royal Roads University – particularly for his major influence on the Education Plan guiding our future. There was a unanimous vote of recognition and thanks.

The next meeting will be determined by the new Vice President, Learning and Student Services, Ramona Lumpkin, after her arrival in mid June.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.