

**Royal Roads University
ACADEMIC COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 17, 1999**

MINUTES

PRESENT	COUNCIL MEMBERS	EX OFFICIO MEMBERS
	Jim Bayer	Ramona Lumpkin, Chair
	Doug Bright	Gerry Kelly
	Nicole Grimm	
	Russel Hotsenpiller	Rosemary Smedley, Recording
	Stephen Long	
	Cathy McKenzie	
	Jim McTaggart-Cowan	
	Penny Mills	
	Ann Nightingale	
	Eric West	
ABSENT	Anton Boegman	Tom Austin
	Steve Grundy	David Krauel
	Gerry Nixon	

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 3:05 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed.

3. Approval of January 20, 1999 Minutes

It was noted that Ann Nightingale's name was inadvertently left off the attendees list.

Motion: It was moved by Cathy McKenzie and seconded by Jim Bayer

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 20, 1999 MEETING BE APPROVED AS DISTRIBUTED, WITH THE ADDITION OF ANN NIGHTINGALE'S NAME TO THE ATTENDEES LIST.

MOTION CARRIED

4. Business Arising From Previous Minutes

a) AUCC Site Visit

The Chair advised the Council that the AUCC site visit went well and the Site Visit Team responded very positively to what RRU is doing. The Team's report will go to the AUCC Executive in June and to the full membership in October.

In case there are any problems with RRU's submission for membership in AUCC, members are asked to send to the Chair any information they have on successful submissions from other non-traditional institutions.

5. New Business

a) Policy Issue: How Many RRU Learning Credits are Required to Earn a RRU Degree?

The Chair noted that the issue of how many RRU learning credits are required to earn a Royal Roads University degree is one which will need to be clarified in the future.

The typical policy in most universities is that half of the degree must be completed at their institution, though a number of institutions are beginning to give more liberal interpretations of that requirement.

Council extensively discussed the thought that, given RRU's outcomes based philosophy, it could be argued that a student wouldn't need to take any courses at RRU in order to get an RRU degree. RRU could assess the competencies learners had acquired from many sources and grant the degree based on demonstrated achievement of outcomes or competencies.

Many members expressed concern that the learning communities at RRU are an essential factor in obtaining a degree. Learning communities create a sense of belonging and a common bond. It was suggested that not having the learning community experience could weaken ties with future alumni. As a minimum requirement, perhaps learners would have to complete a residency period at RRU before they can receive a degree. As an alternative, part of the assessment process could involve a period of time on campus.

It was suggested that learning communities are a means, not an end, and there could be other ways to achieve the same results.

There was some concern that current undergraduate students and graduates could be upset by a decision which allows future undergraduate students to by-

pass courses. Currently, students must take all courses, regardless of their past course work.

As an education business, can Royal Roads afford to offer only one type of education or will it need to diversify and have a mixed portfolio? We can't separate quality from finance or finance from quality.

It was suggested by Cathy McKenzie that search conferencing be used to gather input on this issue and that it could be done as a MALT project. Cathy will follow up with the Chair on this suggestion.

There was discussion as to who should have input into this issue. While there is a need to get input from a variety of groups (internal and external), concern was noted about the need to phrase the questions carefully as people outside the institution don't realize the importance of learning communities.

The Chair noted that, ideally, the proposed policy should be in place by late Summer. The policy could be university-wide, at the degree level or be program specific.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m. The Chair noted that the March meeting of Academic Council will be rescheduled due to several scheduling conflicts.