Royal Roads University
ACADEMIC COUNCIL
APRIL 21, 1999

MINUTES

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

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 3:07 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved with the addition of item 5 c) Directed Studies Courses.

3. Approval of February 17, 1999 Minutes

Motion: It was moved by Steve Grundy and seconded by Jim Bayer

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 17, 1999 MEETING BE APPROVED AS DISTRIBUTED.

MOTION CARRIED

4.   Business Arising From Previous Minutes

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

The Chair noted that this item will be brought back to Academic Council over the next few meetings in the hopes that a draft policy can be in place by the end of Summer 1999. The intent is to prepare clear and defensible policy and procedures.

Following discussion of this topic at the February meeting, several members discussed it with various groups within the university in order to get feedback. Concerns/questions noted included:
> How will RRU maintain educational quality?
> How will RRU assess people wanting to challenge courses/programs?
> What are the critical components of an RRU degree?

The group continued discussion on who RRU should be asking for input on this issue. It was noted that we must heed the needs of the broader workforce, not only our learners. Current learners are those who are able to manage in the existing RRU model; others in the workforce can't manage in the existing model and are enthusiastic about opportunities that may allow them to attain post-secondary credentials.

It was suggested that RRU might consider having a different type of degree for people who wish to go this route.

It is felt that there will not be a large number of people who want to pursue the route of challenging the major portion of RRU courses in order to obtain an RRU degree. Ann Nightingale noted that, with current PLA practices at RRU, theoretically, a person could come in and challenge an entire program as the university has not yet defined maximum PLA credits.

It was suggested that for the undergrad programs completion of the group project might be a minimum requirement for obtaining an RRU degree. This would help alleviate concerns about potential undergraduates not benefiting from the integration of programs which takes place on-campus.

It was agreed that the questions "What are the characteristics of a Royal Roads University graduate?" and "What is the essence of the Royal Roads University degree?" will be put to the undergraduates by the Program Directors in those areas and the replies brought back to Academic Council for consideration.

This topic will be brought forward to the May Academic Council meeting for a further 30-minute discussion. After that, Council will decide on one of two possible options: 1) develop procedures for assessment and develop a general policy for the university, or, 2) remain silent on policy for this year and continue with flexible PLA procedures currently being used.

5.   New Business

a) Update on Health Care and MSCE Programs

Monique Cikaliuk reported on the professional programs mounted by the Leadership and Training Division over the past year. Activities have centered on health care, public sector and education. Total number of participants was 463.

Health Care Programs included Creative Leadership in Health Care (offered 3 times), Ministry of Health Senior Leadership Strategic Planning, Thompson Health Region Senior Leadership Team, Health Care Leaders Association, and Community Care Administrators Association.

Public Sector Programs included Executive Program in Public Sector Leadership (provincial government), Executive Program in Public Sector Leadership (federal government), Dunsmuir 360 Program (leadership assessment instrument), and Ministry for Children and Families.

Education Programs included Building a Learning Community Program for the Asia Pacific Management Program at Capilano College, Leadership Succession Planning in Education, and Education Technology Camp.

Programs run for six days and have 45 contact hours (excluding meal breaks and scheduled free time.) Some programs have a credit option – to date, 12 participants have elected to pursue this option. Programs have been rated generally high in evaluation. Over the past year, programs have generated $400,000 revenue and $100,000 profit.

Roger Mundell reported on the Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer (MCSE) program which has been running for the past year. The program has been run five times during the year with up to 20 participants in each intake (there have been 65-70 applicants for each intake). The program consists of 19 weeks in class and 8 weeks on an unpaid work term (a few of which turned into job opportunities for the graduates.) In June, a pilot Certified Web Architect program will offered. The MCSE program grossed $1.3 million last year (which was shared with General Physics who partners with RRU to offer the program).

b) May Meeting Date for Academic Council
It was agreed that, in order to accommodate timelines for convocation, the May meeting of Academic Council will be moved forward one week to May 12.

c) Directed Studies Courses

Motion: It was moved by Ann Nightingale and seconded by Steve Grundy

THAT ANY PROGRAM BE ABLE TO OFFER DIRECTED STUDIES PROGRAMS, AS REQUIRED.

MOTION CARRIED

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.