

**Royal Roads University
ACADEMIC COUNCIL
January 21, 2009, 3 pm, HC315**

Minutes

PRESENT ELECTED MEMBERS

Connie Carter
Darryl Karleen
Gerry Nixon
Janna Jorgensen
Michael Young

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Voting:
J. Peter Meekison (Chair)
David Rees
Jim Bayer
Mary Bernard
Nancy Arsenault
Pedro Mårquez
Steve Grundy
Non-voting:
Dana McFarland
Doug Hamilton

Recording: Bette Kosmolak

REGRETS Katie Klassen
Steven Glover

Voting:
Allan Cahoon

GUESTS: Gwen Campden

1. **Call to Order** – The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.
2. **Approval of the Agenda** – The agenda was adopted on a motion by Gerry Nixon, seconded by Connie Carter.

On a motion by Steve Grundy, Dana McFarland, Librarian, was thanked by the Chair for her many years of service to Council and to the university community at large. Along with noting that she has been a pillar of strength and would indeed be missed by many, she was also wished well in her future position with Vancouver Island University.

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion: It was moved by Pedro Mårquez, seconded by Mary Bernard THAT THE MINUTES OF December 17, 2008 BE ADOPTED AS DISTRIBUTED.

CARRIED

4. Announcements and Communications

- Erich Schellhammer was welcomed to Council as a new member.
- Steve Grundy announced that the MA in International and Intercultural Communication had been accepted and approved by the Program and Research Council, and the Board of Governors. The proposal is required to be posted to the Ministry's (AVED) website for the 30 days.
- The Registrar, David Rees, noted that three faculty positions on Council had now been filled by Erich Schellhammer, Niels Agger-Gupta and Ingrid Kaizer-Mitchell. That still left vacant one 3-year term and three 2-year terms for faculty.

The Registrar would be placing a call for nominations for vacant seats on Curriculum Committee, after which a further call would be made for nominations for the above vacant faculty seats on Academic Council.

5. Business Arising

a) Academic Plan

By way of introduction to a discussion on the draft Academic Plan, Doug Hamilton noted that although there was good alignment between the Academic Plan and the Strategic Plan, we were still striving to improve alignment. He also commented on the depth of input and collaboration afforded by a lengthy but transparent planning process.

Discussion focused on:

- Positioning the document: was it an academic plan or a description of the process of academic planning?
- improving integration with the strategic plan
- making the role of research more prominent and providing better balance between research and teaching
- creating an executive summary to capture what is remarkable about this document
- taking into account any effects of the recent global economic meltdown
- extending the plan beyond domestic credentialed programs
- building arguments and rationale which provide context for the statements made at the end of the document
- fleshing out what is meant by internationalization
- outlining RRU's position of strength – what we are really good at
- defining our customer better

Both Mary Bernard and Steve Grundy noted that the plan was a draft and that some of the recommendations noted in the latter part of the

document were included to initiated discussion. Several of these fundamental issues, such as the graduate/undergraduate mix, moving to distance only programs, or ideal size still needed discussion.

Members were encourage to provide further feedback via the Moodle site or directly to the Recording Secretary.

b) Standing Committees

i) Awards Committee

Gwen Campden, Chair of Awards Committee, noted that the awards policy has been delayed because of the restructuring of RRU Foundation. The policy will likely be presented to Council at the February meeting.

ii) Admissions Committee

**Motion: It was moved by Dave Rees, seconded by Jim Bayer
THAT THE REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE ADMISSIONS
COMMITTEE BE ADOPTED AS PRESENTED.**

CARRIED

Further to revising the Terms of Reference, the Chair of Academic Council called for volunteers to serve on the Admissions Committee. Erich Schellhammer and Gerry Nixon volunteered to serve for the following year while Mary Bernard and Pedro Màrquez agreed to extend their terms for a second year.

iii) Curriculum Committee

Although no proposals were being brought forth from the Curriculum Committee at this time, Doug Hamilton noted several upcoming proposals which will be presented to Council in the ensuing months. Each of the Deans also provided a brief overview of upcoming proposals, which included several new and revised programs.

6. New Business

a) Conflict of Interest in Research Policy

**Motion: It was moved by Mary Bernard, seconded by Pedro Màrquez
THAT THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN RESEARCH POLICY BE APPROVED**

AFTER INCLUDING A FRIENDLY AMENDMENT REGARDING THE DEFINITION OF 'RRU MEMBERS.'

Discussion: Mary Bernard explained that although the university already had conflict of interest policies, one specific to research was required by our agreement with Tri-Council.

7. Adjournment

Before adjourning at 4:05 pm, the Chair suggested the standing agenda include a Question Period, coupled to the Announcements and Communications. Members were in agreement.

Next Meeting
Wednesday, January 21, 3 pm, HC 315