



ACADEMIC COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
OCTOBER 23, 2024

The meeting was held at 2:30 p.m. in South Annex, Room 060.

COUNCILORS:

Laura Béres	Peter Ibbott	Jane Sanders
Nonie Brennan	Jen Jeffrey	Steve Shajimon
Graham Broad	Liam Kennedy	Jennifer Silcox
Claudia Clausius	Allyson Larkin	Ridley Smith
Adrienne Co-Dyre	Miriam Love	Ricardo Soto
Tracy Cunningham	Kristin Lozanski	Natalie Spruce
John Dool	Donna Maynard	Thomas Tieku
Russell Duvernoy	Alison Meek	Carrie Traher *
Jeannette Eberhard	Laura Melnyk Gribble	Joseph Turnbull
Jordan Fairbairn	Jacque Newman	Robert Ventresca
Josephine Gemson	Brian Patton	Corinne Walsh
Chaya Halberstam	Marcie Penner	Paul Wilton
Erin Hannah	Jeff Preston	Mark Yenson
Joe Henry	Pat Ryan	

OBSERVERS: Jim Panchaud, Rodney Parker, Samantha Pearson

MINUTE TAKER: Ann Hoffer

R. Ventresca, Chair, called the meeting to order

1.0 Land Acknowledgment

T. Tieku offered a land acknowledgement

2.0 Opening Prayer

J. Panchaud opened with a prayer.

3.0 Reports (info)

3.1. President (Interim) Information

R. Ventresca, Interim President, highlighted the details of his report, including the Classroom Modernization Advisory Group Report (*circulated with the agenda*). He acknowledged our recent fall convocation and alumni reception celebrations.

R. Ventresca highlighted King's strong financial position but noted sector challenges due to underfunding and international student permit restrictions. He emphasized the need to

reassess long-standing assumptions and has formed a planning and budgeting task force to recommend mission-aligned priorities and explore alternative models, like multi-year budgeting.

R. Ventresca drew attention to the report on classroom renovations and commended the Classroom Modernization Advisory Group for their efforts in supporting investment in learning.

R. Ventresca explained that, due to changing circumstances and timelines with the CFI grant, we have shifted from pursuing a new building to leasing space. This is the fiscally responsible option and ensures we respect and engage with the CFI grant, which is rare for an institution like King's to receive.

3.2. Vice-President and Academic Dean

M. Yenson, Interim Vice-President Academic Dean, presented his report (*circulated with the agenda*) noting it was brief as most items would be covered in committee reports. M. Yenson also thanked J. Gemson for assuming the Associate Academic Dean role which received a round of applause.

3.3. President, King's University College Students Council (KUCSC)

R. Soto, President of KUCSC gave a verbal report, expressing gratitude for efforts to ensure the Student Council's voice was heard in governing bodies at King's. He introduced Ridley Smith, VP Student Affairs, and Steve Shajimon, Academic Council Student Liaison.

- Elections for education department representatives have concluded, four seats remain vacant (Disability Studies, Economics, Psychology and Thanatology). Applicants can submit a letter of intent with 15 department signatures to apply.
- We met with Councilor Sam Trosow to discuss a transit plan for King's and to potentially support him in bringing a motion to City Council. A survey has been released to assess the demand for a bus stop at King's (by SLC) and gather feedback on the new Honk system
- R. Smith highlighted two initiatives Christina's Closet and KUCSC Food Cupboard, noting the clothing drive will begin in November and food donations are always welcomed.

A member asked how to raise concerns about holding questions until the end of the meeting.

Moved by J. Newman, seconded by C. Clausius

That questions be taken at the end of each section, rather than waiting until the end of the meeting.

CARRIED

A 30-minute discussion ensued:

- In forming the planning and budgeting Task Force, R. Ventresca emphasized that while the size can vary, the focus should be on having the right stakeholders involved.
- In the absence of a Vice-President Finance and Support Services, R. Ventresca noted the finance office's many years of budgeting experience, collaboration with a Fractional CFO, and Board financial expertise.
- When asked about the appointment process for the Fractional CFO, Rob explained this temporary appointment was expedited due to the urgency of the situation. Responding

to further probing, R. Ventresca shared that Leroy Innanen, from TCOBI, a well-known firm, has been hired to provide support to our great finance team

P. Wilton recused himself at 3:04 PM due to a perceived Conflict of Interest with the following.

- Discussion focused on a perceived conflict of interest with the University Secretary leading the Executive Search due to their dual role as Executive Director to the President and University Secretary to the Board. It was noted that the Board, consulting with national experts, structured the process to fit the university's size. The Board Chair clarified that joint reporting is common and assured members that identifying potential conflicts and mitigating them is standard practice.

P. Wilton returned to the meeting.

- Western University will determine, in letter of attestation, what student permits will be allocated to King's next year. The President recommended that departments be very conservative in their planning, adding our numbers will be lower than last year (<105). He added the structural challenge that our finances are based on a large proportion of international student revenues.
- A member requested clarification on the disbanding of KET, and the President responded, noting that this matter pertains more to operations and falls outside of the purview of the Academic Council, but in a view of transparency the change was intended to bring more academic voices, and diverse perspectives to the table.
- Instead of using the CFI Grant for a King's facility, we are applying it to space renovations and leasing at Western Research Park. This option allows for expansion and mitigates research demand risks.

4.0 Consultation Items from the Board of Directors

R. Ventresca provided contextual information on the search and appointment processes (*circulated with the agenda*). Rob noted the Board's responsibility for approving search processes after consultation with Academic Council and shared these items are coming to Academic Council for advice and feedback to the Board.

Moved by P. Ryan, seconded by B. Patton

**To Refer Governance Policy 1.2.7 - Search and Appointment of the President; Draft Governance Policy 1.2.8 - Search and Appointment of the Vice-President and Academic Dean; and, Draft Governance Policy 1.2.10 - Search and Appointment of Vice-Presidents (non-academic) to the Nomination and Governance Committee of Academic Council
CARRIED**

A 16-minute discussion ensued.

- Members discussed timelines for appointing a permanent President by July 1, 2025, proposing at minimum a 10-day consultation period. Feedback would need to be submitted by November 13th for review by the Board Governance Committee ahead of the November Board meeting.

5.0 Committee Reports

5.1. Governance and Nominations Committee

M. Yenson, Committee Chair, presented the Academic Council and Committee Roster 2024-2025 (*circulated with the agenda*), reporting that K. Irvine has had to step away from the Scholarship and Bursary Committee. A 5-minute discussion ensued.

- A. Bohnet is from History, a Social Science, which has led to underrepresentation of the Arts on the Cardinal Carter Library Committee
ACTION: M. Yenson to review and report back
- It was noted that student representation is missing on the Research Committee and Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM) Committee
 - o **A friendly amendment was proposed to add the KUCSC president to the SEM Committee**
- It was confirmed there is no policy limiting the number of committees a faculty member can join, but suggested the issue could be referred to the Governance Committee for consideration.

T. Tieku moved, C. Halberstam seconded

MOTION: To approve the slate of Academic Council committee nominees for 2024-2025, as amended.

CARRIED

5.2. Educational Policy Committee

M. Yenson, Committee Chair, presented the proposed changes (*circulated with the agenda*) by discipline. Mark suggested reverting to the previous practice of presenting minor changes to the Academic Council for information, while major proposals (such as new programs or courses with resource implications) should be submitted for consideration.

Moved by J. Newman, seconded by P. Ryan

That for future meetings, minor changes form part of the Consent Agenda

CARRIED

M. Yenson noted a further amendment, so English 1901E, History 1901E, and Philosophy 1901E were removed from the motion. The revised versions will go through a virtual EPC meeting.

Moved by M. Yenson, seconded by C. Clausius

That Academic Council approve the following proposals from the listed Department.

5.2.1. Department of Disability Studies

- a) Disability Studies 1010A/B Exploring Disability - **CARRIED**
- b) Disability Studies 3325F/G Law and Bioethics - **CARRIED**
- c) Disability Studies 3339F/G Disability Cross-Culturally - **CARRIED**
- d) Disability Studies Major and Minor - **CARRIED**

5.2.2. Department of English, French, and Writing

- a) English 1901E Foundations in the New Liberal Arts - **TABLED**
- b) English 2102 and 3556E Twentieth-Century Drama - **CARRIED**
- c) Writing 2240F/G Intro and Revision to Minor and Certificate - **CARRIED**

5.2.3. Department of History

- a) History 3710F/G and 4710F/G The World Wars in History, Memory and Reconciliation - **CARRIED**
- b) History 1901E Foundations in the New Liberal Arts - **TABLED**

5.2.4. School of Management, Economics, and Mathematics.

- a) MOS 2220F/G Cross-Cultural Commercial Relationships - **CARRIED**
- b) MOS 2227A/B, 2228A/B, 3310A/B, 3312A/B - **CARRIED**

5.2.5. Department of Philosophy

- a) Philosophy 1901E Foundations in the New Liberal Arts - **TABLED**
- b) Philosophy 2206W/X Modern and Contemporary Philosophy - **CARRIED**
- c) Philosophy 3244F/G Planetary Ethics and Social Transformation - **CARRIED**

5.2.6. Department of Politics and International Relations

- a) Politics and International Relations Major in Law, Politics and Policy - **CARRIED**

This more substantial proposal was brought to Academic Council for consideration, followed by review through Western's Institutional and Quality Assurance Program.

A 4-minute discussion ensued.

- In response to the question about whether current enrollment in the program would be maintained, M. Yenson confirmed it would.
- A member inquired whether the department would consider using a Philosophy course in the Certificate and was advised to contact the department directly.

5.2.7. School of Social Work

- a) Bachelor of Social Work (Honors) – Honours Specialization in Social Work - **CARRIED**

5.2.8. Department of Sociology

- a) Sociology 3342F/G, 3351F/G, 4480E - **CARRIED**
- b) Sociology 1020W/X Introduction to Sociology - **CARRIED**
- c) Sociology 3310F/G Qualitative Research Methodologies - **CARRIED**

5.3. Scholarships and Bursaries Committee

M. Yenson, Committee Chair, presented the terms of reference for five new Awards (*circulated with the agenda*). Unless members had objections or concerns, Mark asked for one motion to approve all awards. A 15-minute discussion ensued.

- Members raised concerns about the Perseverance Award, particularly the request for personal examples of resilience, fearing it could lead to disclosing confidential information. The Chair noted that the committee has discussed this, and in some cases, requested the Foundation to work with the donor to ensure a more inclusive process.
- Referring the Perseverance Award to the Scholarship and Bursaries Committee may delay allocation, as the committee has already reviewed the language. Emphasis on the need to follow the timeline to ensure timely distribution of funds to students in need.
- It's important to be mindful of requests for students to disclose information. The committee is addressing unconscious bias, particularly when faculty members reviewing submissions may also have students from their own classes.

- A student sharing their resilience story may feel retraumatized if they do not receive the award, implying their trauma wasn't considered significant enough to merit the scholarship.
- It would be ideal if the foundation could guide the donor to support in a way that avoids competition.

Moved by J. Newman, seconded by C. Clausius

That Academic Council refer the Perseverance Award back to the Scholarship and Bursaries Committee and approve the introduction and terms of reference of the following awards:

- 1. Foyston, Gordon & Payne Award**
- 2. Davis Martindale Award in Accounting**
- 3. Crowe Heart-Centred Leadership Award**
- 4. Charity of Hope Entrance Award**

CARRIED (19 In favour, 8 Opposed, and 3 Abstentions)

6.0 The Unanimous Consent Agenda

Moved by P. Ibbott, seconded by C. Clausius

That Academic Council approve the Strategic Enrolment Management Committee and Library Committee reports on the Consent Agenda

CARRIED

7.0 Items removed from Consent Agenda Discussion

None.

8.0 Discussion and Question Period Discussion

In response to why the four trees were removed, R. Ventresca explained they were taken down for safety reasons and noted that the practice is to replant 1-2 trees for every tree removed.

9.0 New Business


None.

10.0 Adjournment

On motion (moved by P. Ryan, seconded by P. Ibbott), the meeting adjourned at 4:12 PM.



Robert Ventresca,
Chair



Paul Wilton,
University Secretary