

York University
Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
Faculty Council

Zoom Meeting Room
Minutes of the 99th Meeting of Council
October 7, 2021

1. Call to Order and Approval of the Agenda

The meeting was called to order. The Chair announced that the meeting will be recorded.

After consultation with the Faculty Council team, experts on collegial governance from Osgoode Hall and the University Secretariat, all future votes on substantive matters of Council shall be decided only using a vote in favour of or a vote against a motion.

- This means that there will be no option to abstain from votes in the future on the poll on screen.

A motion was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the agenda.

A member asked whether the Chairperson or the Executive Committee had addressed the letter sent by Provost Lisa Philipps and Dean JJ McMurtry to all faculty in LA&PS after the Faculty Council meeting on September 16, referring to the motions passed by Council that day.

The chair responded that this can be discussed under “Other Business”

2. Chair’s Remarks

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting of Faculty Council (FC).

3. Minutes of the June 10, 2021 Meeting

It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2021 meeting.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

A member asked about the recordings of the September meeting. The member advised that members who were not able to attend the previous Faculty Council meeting would need to access these recordings since the minutes were not yet available. The Chair answered that the meeting recording can be accessed through a link which the Secretariat can share to anyone who requests.

The Chair mentioned that the Faculty Council secretariat will be muting members until they are allowed to speak and that this is consistent to senate practice.

A member asked the Chair to clarify when to use the chat function in Zoom.

- The Chair is asking members not to use the chat to jump the queue. When a motion is on the floor, chat cannot be used to contribute to the motion.
- The Vice-Chair also mentioned that the chat is not an official channel of communication, but members may use the chat to communicate amongst themselves or to raise a point of order. A member withdrew the motion to appeal the Chair’s advise.

5. Reports of the Standing Committees of Council

a) Executive Committee

The Vice-chair reported that the YUSA and CPM positions vacancies had been filled. Nominations were closed on 1st of October and elections will be held on 11th and close on 15th of October.

For nominations that do not require an election, the office of the Faculty Council will connect with the nominees. The results of the election and remaining vacancies will be announced at the November Faculty Council meeting.

6. Update from Dr. Andrea Davis on LA&PS Anti-Black Racism Initiative

Last year, we have had 4 successful targeted black hires and welcomes 2 other black colleagues through open hires.

Dr Davis noted the following new initiatives:

1. Black Scholars Research Fund, AD Research and Graduate Studies;
2. DARE 2021 Special Initiative: Championing Black Student Researchers, AD Research and Graduate Studies (10 awards went to Black students);
3. Championing Emerging Black Scholars-LA&PS Postdoctoral Fellowship, AD Research and Graduate Studies;
4. Undergraduate Internships focused on equity and social justice, AD Programs;
5. Anti-Black Racism Initiatives fund that disbursed over \$50,000;
6. Webinars and teach-ins that reached close to 7,000 participants;
7. Worked with Research & Innovation and Equity, People and Culture to provide new research funding for Harriet Tubman Institute and CERLAC.

Dr Davis also mentioned things that have happened over the summer:

- Connecting new Black faculty and pairing them with mentors outside their departments;

- Worked with the Dean to develop a readiness plan for future new hires, building on lessons learned past year;
- DARE award to develop new resource website for teaching and research.
 - This site can be used by the Faculty and the Students as it contains research done in Canada in the area of Black studies.
- Tom Janes Award for Black Scholars.
 - This award will be granted to 10 first year undergraduates who identify as black
- Pan-university Black Research Fund. \$150,000 in new research funding to support individual and collaborative research projects across the university. This fund will support 6 projects of \$25,000 each.
- Black Studies major/minor at the undergraduate level and Black Studies graduate degree program.

She also mentioned some things which were not being able to be done:

- Independent staff audit. The Dean will have to bring it to completion
- Ongoing support for graduate students.

Overall, there was tremendous support and goodwill from the Dean and the Associate Dean.

A member raised their concerns on the Anti-Black racism at York, they emphasised that all the information was from public sources. Black faculty across North America have expressed concern as well as faculties inside York.

A member wished to clarify with Dr Davis if there was a new direction for the resistance and struggle against racism.

Dr Davis responded, that they certainly believe that the faculty of liberal arts and professional studies, with confidence, that there is a new, broadened, and deepened commitment to equity, to access and to justice for all students, faculties, and staff.

7. Dean's Report

The Dean provided an overview of Fall 2021 enrollment:

- University-wide Fall 2019- 2021 admissions, there has been an increase of 8.11%
- LA&PS has remained relatively stable with 4.37% increase in enrolled counts, noting the hard work staff

The Dean also noted a 20% increase in domestic students in 2021- 2024.

For LA&PS Fall 2019-2021, there has been a significant decline of visa student applicants of 27%. He noted that this will have an impact on budgets going forward and over the course of four years.

There has been good successes on the graduate level including an increase in international students

Budget Update report:

- The Dean commented that it is an overall a positive surplus and a very positive year
- There is a significant contingency to predict and protect from the negative implications of COVID-19.

For Forecast Allocation 2021/22 chart, the Dean talked about the Central Allocation being 32% or \$110 million dollars and he drew everyone's attention to Hold Harmless and University fund numbers present in the Central allocation table, since these numbers are changing in SHARP 2.0. The Dean mentioned that 91% of expense is essentially the wages or support for graduate students while the rest of the 9% is spent on operating and interference track transfers.

8. Adjournment

As there was no more arising business, the chair called for motion and it was moved, seconded, and carried to adjourn. The chair asked to put up the poll and asked members to vote on the polls. The meeting is adjourned as the chair thanks everyone for participating.

Nelson Waweru, Chair of Council

Erika Nunes, Secretary of Council