ARTS STAFF ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday March 19, 2018
1:00pm, PAS 2438

Present: Rita Cherkewski, Susan Cole, Janice Da Silva, Shelby Davies, Kathryn MacDonald, Janine Ouimet (notes), Douglas Peers, Stacy Reda (Chair), Jameson Shildroth, Karin Staley, Sam Vandekerckhove, Breana Walker

Regrets: Sharon Secord

Notes

Dean’s Report (Doug)

- The Equity Action Plan is progressing.
- Working to implement the Waterloo budget model (WBM).
- Some changes have been approved in Arts Faculty Council (AFC) and will be forwarded to Senate:
  - Stratford to become the Stratford School of Interaction Design and Business.
  - Renaming Department of Drama and Speech Communication to the Department of Communication Arts.
- The new constitution was passed unanimously at AFC, but will go to the Senate for approval in May. If approved by Senate and the Board of Governors, AFC meetings will be reduced to about 3 per year and Arts Faculty Council Executive will be eliminated. There will be two members from staff (Executive Officer and ASAC Chair).

UWSA Area Reps Report (Karin)

- Jennifer Gillies from Accessibility Services was a presenter. For more information on this presentation, see the [UWSA Meeting Minutes from March, 15, 2018](#).
- Advisors should be aware that students need to go to Accessibility Services every term to maintain any services they have been using. The previous year’s services do not carry over to the current year automatically.
- Accessibility Services can provide guidance related to student medical information and tips for how to handle this information.
- Salary negotiations are in progress. They are close to an agreement for the 2018-19 year.
- There was no UWSA representation at the recent mental health town hall. They will be represented at any related future events.
- Staff are invited to contact the UWSA if they would like presentations for their units. Rita may follow up on this for the graduate coordinators/advisors.
- UWSA would like to increase outreach and encourage more staff to attend the UWSA Area Rep Meetings. All staff are welcome at the meetings.
Learning and Development Committee Report (Rita)

- Susan contacted campus Mental Health and Wellness about offering a session. Dave Logan (Stratford) may be available. Wednesdays work best.
- The Safety Office or a registered massage therapist may be available to provide ergonomic training sessions over the lunch hour.
- Shelby wrote text for the brown bag "Job Chat" event (copies were distributed to the Council members). Rita will send the email out inviting all staff to the event.
  - Feedback will be obtained at the event to help inform if future events would be useful to staff.
  - Council members discussed strategies for getting participants moving around and circulating to ensure they could maximize the opportunity to connect with staff.
- Still trying to determine the date for the Arts town hall event. Rita will look into some larger rooms that may work for a large group, but can also be used for a smaller group if attendance is lower than anticipated.

Other business arising

- The Arts Coffee Break was a success. 45 people attended. Pictures will be published in the Inside Arts newsletter.
- Members discussed the university's mental health town hall and the current climate surrounding the discussion about student mental health at the university. The following points were discussed:
  - The current statistic of 1 counselor per 1000 students is better than the statistic for the mainstream population, but students have cited that this ratio is not enough.
  - Council members who attended the town hall reported dissatisfaction from the students. The university endorsed 37 of 170 recommendations.
  - Students had voiced that more representation from counseling services would have improved the town hall.
- Council members discussed that the co-op experience, the international experience, and some of the intense programs of study may be relatively more impacted by mental health issues.
- Support from university services (including after graduation), enforcing breaks/vacations, providing peer mentorship, and other strategies for building community and engagement (e.g., small classes of about 25, as will be implemented for Arts students) were discussed.
- Council members suggested that staff training and clear instructions on how to respond to situations would be helpful.

Next Meeting – Monday, April 16, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. PAS 2438

AMENDMENT: APRIL 16th meeting cancelled. Next meeting, Tuesday, May 22, 2018.