



**Academic Advisory Committee
Woodsworth College**

A meeting of the Academic Advisory Committee was held at 4:30 pm on October 9, 2008, Woodsworth College, Room 123, 119 St. George Street with the following members present:
Yvette Ali, William Bateman, Joe Desloges, Jack Chambers, Brock MacDonald, Lori Riznek, Tom Socknat, Leslie Krenbrenk

Regrets: Heather Graham, Margaret Hirst, Kathryn Morgan, Cheryl Shook, William Watson,

Professor Jack Chambers called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Approved.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting, October 9, 2008

Approved

3. Report of the Principal (Joe Desloges)

Undergraduate Programs: The Centre of Criminology moved to its new home in August of 2007. As well the Centre now comes under the Faculty of Arts & Science umbrella. Previously it had been part of the SGS group. The Centre for Industrial Relations and Human Resources is likewise now part of the faculty as well.

Searches: The CIRHR search will be concluded by the end of this term. The Centre of Criminology searches are concluded. The new hires are: Matthew Light and Sandra Bacerius.

Towards 2030: The synthesis report is now available. As well, Principal Desloges referred the members to p. 42 of the Task Force Report, where the report refers to the UofT colleges.

Curriculum Renewal Steering Committee: The committee is working to ensure that all recommendations are implemented. Of the 26 recommendations, six are completed and it is expected that a further ten recommendations will be implemented this year.

Other Colleges: Principal Desloges will work with the other colleges on issues arising from the 2030 Task Force Report and Curriculum Renewal.

4. Report of the Program Office: (Bill Bateman)

Bill Bateman moved that two new courses be added to the Criminology program, beginning in the academic year 2009-2010:

WDW 343H1 Comparative Criminal Justice 36L

Criminal justice issues outside Canada, based on a variety of international and historical studies. The evolution of criminal justice systems in Western Europe, including the English adversarial and continental European inquisitorial approaches. A comparison of policing, criminal procedure, forms of punishment, and crime rates in the contemporary world.

WDW 382H1 Immigration and Crime 36L

The connection between immigration and crime, the effect of immigration on crime rates, discrimination against immigrants, the representation of immigrants in crime statistics, public perception of risk and security, and criminal justice policy changes which affect immigration. We consider research conducted in Canada, the United States, Germany and the Netherlands.

Comments & Questions

- Questions regarding the structure of how new courses are approved were asked. What materials have to be submitted to Arts&Science: an outline of the course has to be submitted to A&S. As far as the process internally at Woodsworth is concerned, once a new course or amendments to courses are approved by the Academic Advisory Committee, they are then brought forward to college council and upon approval there, they are brought to A&S for approval and inclusion in the calendar. B. MacDonald asked whether the proposed new courses will have capped class sizes. The courses will be capped at 50 students each.

Action: The motion was passed, seconded by Brock MacDonald

5. Report of the Academic Writing Centre (Brock MacDonald)

As was reported in last year's minutes, only a small number of ABP students are able to attend the Learning Improvement Program due to scheduling conflicts and resource limits. Ways to improve this situation have been addressed. Due to several factors, including the changing demographics of students in the ABP (many more students are under 25 years of age), previous approaches were not working. Learning improvement seminar delivery has therefore undergone some changes. It was decided to integrate study skills strategy sessions into the courses. As a result, writing centre staff will visit the classes when they meet. Visits are planned for 7 courses.

Brock reported that this approach was tried on a provisional basis last year and proved to work quite well. Jack Chambers asked if this alters the work of the AWC: No it is merely deploying staff in new ways and it does not interfere or impinge on the work of the AWC in general.

Brock further reported that AWC staff work in small groups during course time and that this has been quite well received.

Tom Socknat reported that in his course he has built it into the course outline. Although the tenets of grammar are usually covered by ABP instructors, what Brock's group will do is to add more value and impact and concentrate on learning strategies in their small group work. It is hoped that this strategy will also encourage students to attend the Saturday seminars.

Lori Riznek asked whether these services could be provided to instructors teaching other WDW courses. She will discuss this possibility with Brock.

6. Other Business:

Yvette Ali asked the group if the terms of reference of the Academic Advisory Committee need to be looked at as well as the function of the committee. Changes would have to be reflected in the Woodsworth College Council constitution.

Action: Jack Chambers, chair, requested that Yvette Ali and Stephanie Woodside review the function and terms of reference of the committee.

Joe Desloges had two further items:

Outreach and accessibility at UofT: A committee has been struck to look at a possible re-visioning of the two access programs at UofT: TYP and ABP. The group is working on a detailed report on the communalities and differences of these two programs. Brock MacDonald, Cheryl Shook and Mary Choi are part of this group.

Seneca Pilot Project: Woodsworth College is going to be the centre for a new program between U of T and Seneca College. The University of Toronto and Seneca College have signed a Letter of Understanding for a three-year pilot, creating a program for students in the two-year Liberal Arts Diploma Program at Seneca College who will be able to transfer into an Honours Bachelor of Arts at the U of T with significant transfer credit.

Next meeting: Thursday, November 6, 2008 – 4:30 p.m. Woodsworth College, Principals' Seminar Room.

Minutes prepared by Stephanie Woodside