

Planning and Research Committee
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Minutes of Meeting
Thursday, June 16, 2022, 9:30 a.m., via Webex

A meeting of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Planning and Research Committee was held Thursday, June 16, 2022, 9:30 a.m. via WebEx. J. Lokash occupied the Chair, in the absence of C. Thorne. The following members were in attendance:

Dr. Matt Milner Dr. Nicholas Welch
Dr. Liam Swiss Dr. Jennifer Lokash

Regrets: Dr. Cory Thorne, Dr. Véronique Forbes

Absent: Eva Redmond

1. Approval of the Agenda

Agenda approved with the following Change: Approval of Minutes of Meeting for May 19-2022 deferred to September; meeting quorum not met today for voting.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Approval of Minutes of Meeting for May 19, 2022 deferred to September.

3. Henrietta Harvey and George Story Lectureship competition

The guidelines on the budget templates still require updating.

A submission for a George Story Lectureship is still forthcoming. This is an indigenous scholar and the lectureship has been agreed in principle by this committee. The formal process requires completion. Delays are due to busy schedules on lecturer end. Proposed time is in November when lecturer is already in St. John's for another function, which should reduce the budget required. The hope is to have an in-person lecture this year and we may be able to offer live-stream as well.

4. Brightspace/Communications Platforms for Committees (Ongoing May-September)

There was discussion of the ongoing concerns around using Brightspace for committee work. It was stated this committee might be able to advocate for better systems for working committees. J. Lokash indicated that C. Thorne raised the issue and concerns with Dr. A. Craig, Interim Dean, who will bring to Heads for discussion. It was noted that Microsoft 365 is possibly being adopted by the University for the Fall and Microsoft Teams may work for committees. M. Milner provided a link to the CIO office listing tools approved and currently being used across the university:

<https://www.mun.ca/cio/governance-and-collaboration/systems-and-tools/>

L. Swiss will contact other groups/other Faculty Associate Deans to see what works for them.

5. PRC Committee Membership

There was general discussion on the make-up of the PRC and ideas for possibly enlarging the number of representatives, which involve having by-laws updated. Further review and discussion would need to be had on enlarging committee membership.

The Constitution and By-laws identify committee membership as follows: 5 ASM's, 1 GSU rep, 1 MUNSU Rep, + Associate Dean, and Grants Advisor. It was noted that this committee has not had a full complement of members for a couple of years. A reminder will go to departments for the call for committee membership. GSU & MUNSU have been contacted and MUNSU has also been advised that the student rep has been absent from meetings since January.

6. PRC Mandate/Constitution and By-laws

There was general discussion around goal setting for the upcoming year, and preparing a task list.

- An item for the task list was brought forward - Research Grant Administration is an issue for researchers. Front end support is noted to be exceptional, but back-end support, after funding is received, appears to be lacking. L. Swiss to reach out across the faculty and identify issues. This committee can make recommendations and advocate for ways to move forward for resolution of some of the issues. It was noted by L. Swiss that HSS Communications Advisor, Chad Pelley, has a plan coming on research information and better promotion and publication of ongoing and completed research.

It was suggested for the fall to review the mandate for this committee, with a suggestion for this committee to create working groups or subcommittees for specific tasks (like the Research Grant Administration Issue) and report back to PRC. This committee could benefit from more members and reps from more units. Getting more people involved with more meaningful service might prove helpful and make the PRC more effective.

7. Other Business

There will be no meetings held during the summer.

L. Swiss identified that the Dean's Office is looking a proposing a possible initiative which may require adjudication by this committee. No details available as of yet.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Next meeting will be 3rd Thursday/September 2022, 9:30 a.m.