APC160407M

University of Windsor

ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE (APC)
Minutes of Meeting

Date: Thursday, May 12, 2016
Time: 9:30am-11:00am
Room: 209 Assumption Hall

Committee Members: Dr. Lorna deWitt (Chair), Mr. Dariush Karimi, Dr. Erika Kustra, Dr. Scott Martyn, Dr. Mitra Mirhassani, Dr. Antonio Rossini, Dr. Alan Scoboria, Prof. John Weir.

Absent: Ms. Shaista Akbar, Dr. Fazle Baki, Prof. Jeffery Berryman, Dr. Katherine Quinsey, Dr. Karen Roland, Dr. Chris Weisener, Ms. Shuzhen Zhao.

In Attendance: Dr. Linda Patrick, Mr. Andrew Kuntz, Mr. Dave Butcher; Ms. Renée Wintermute and Alison Zilli (University Secretariat).

Formal Business

1 Approval of Agenda

Although items were not discussed in sequential order, the minutes do reflect the agenda order of business.

MOTION: That the agenda be approved.

Dr. A. Rossini/Dr. E. Kustra
CARRIED

2 Approval of Minutes

MOTION: That the minutes of the meeting of May 7, 2016 be approved.

Dr. C. Weisener/Dr. A. Rossini
CARRIED

3 Business arising from the minutes

Nothing to report.

4 Outstanding business

Nothing to report.

Item for Approval

5 Reports/New Business

5.1 Revisions to Nursing Admission Requirements

(See document APC160512-5.1 for further details.)

MOTION: That a minimum grade of 65% in Grade 12U English (English 4U) be required for admission to Nursing's undergraduate programs.

Dr. C. Weisener/ Dr. A. Rossini

NOTED:

- Given that the ability to communicate in English is critical to safe and effective nursing practice, the proposed requirement will help ensure that incoming students in the Nursing program will have stronger success in the program.
- This new requirement is consistent with other Nursing programs in Ontario that require a minimum 12U English grade between 60-75%.

CARRIED

Item for Information

5.2 Operating Budget (2016-2017)
(See document APC160512-5.2 for further details.)

NOTED:

- The role of Academic Policy Committee is similar to that of the Senate in that it receives the Operating Budget report, seeks clarification on issues identified by committee members, and offers feedback for consideration.
- The largest expenditure in the University operating budget is salaries, benefits and pension costs representing approximately 73% of the Operating Budget.
- The 2016/17 Operating Budget is the next step in the implementation of UWindsor 2.0, which is the vision for the next phase of the University's growth.
- The new budget model was introduced to address changing student demographics, directly link Faculty enrolment with financial position, align base budgets with tuition revenue, clarify the University's financial condition to all stakeholders, and, consider the financial sustainability of the intuition as a whole.

APC Comments/Feedback

- APC agrees that transparency and accountability are important principles on which to base the budget and, to this end, encourages greater communication with APC, in the form of discussions on the budget process and key budget assumptions, earlier on in the process.
- In addition to metrics set for Faculties, primarily in the form of enrolments, APC suggests there be more clarity on the metrics for administrative areas.
- APC questioned whether basing Faculty budgets on a rolling three-year average, rather than using only the prior year's activities, might more effectively capture the diversity of activities within Faculties.
- APC encourages the University community as a whole to consider how the portion of the budget under "Other" could be increased, given the constraints around tuition and government grants. A systematic strategy to increase this portion of the budget would help alleviate budget pressures elsewhere.
- APC notes that government grants now make up only 38% of operating revenue, making Windsor (and other universities) increasingly reliant on tuition fees, particularly international fees, for revenue, as the domestic student population declines. Consequently, there is an increasing reliance on course-based Masters programs that changes the profile of the University and is not without risks, as other Canadian and international universities also focus more and more on international markets. (Members further noted a shift in emphasis from research to teaching, more so in some Faculties than others, and cautioned against an over-reliance on course-based Masters programs given that international markets can change quickly.) APC also stresses the need for long-term visioning within Faculties, and the University as a whole, to ensure that decisions made today set the University on the right path to where it wants to be in ten to twenty years.

5.2 Internationalization Annual Report (2015-2016)
(See document APC160512-5.2 for further details.)

This item was deferred to a future agenda.

5.3 Comprehensive Student Discipline Annual Report (2015-2016)
(See document APC160512-5.3 for further details.)

This item was deferred to a future agenda.

Additional Business

6 Question period/Other business/Open Discussion

Nothing to report.

7 Adjournment

MOTION: The meeting be adjourned.

Dr. C. Weisener/Dr. S. Martyn

CARRIED