

SOTA Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2015 - 1:30 pm
CNH 607

In attendance:

William Renwick, Rachel Rensink-Hoff, Joseph Sokalski, Keith Kinder, Olivia Dudnik, Judy Major-Girardin, Sabine Noack-Haley, Angela Sheng, Andrew Mitchel, John Ford, Sally McKay, Catherine Graham, Peter Cockett, Carmela Laganse, Briana Palmer, Alison McQueen, Matthew Woolhouse, Rose Mannarino, Rita Crespo

There were no regrets received

1. Introduction

- Due to the absence of minutes from the previous SOTA meeting 26 September 2014, Prof. McQueen called for a motion to confirm the curriculum changes discussed and approved at that meeting. Prof. Sheng made the motion and Prof. Major-Girardin seconded. All voted in favor and the motion carried.
- Prof. Sheng had invited Professor Noack-Haley, a Sessional instructor, to this meeting. Prof. Noack-Haley introduced herself. Prof. McQueen stated that departmental meetings are open to the public and that Sessional instructors are welcome to attend, however they are not required to attend.

2. Director's Remarks on The Year Ahead

- A schedule of monthly School meetings has been set and those meetings will take place unless notice is given otherwise.
- There is also a schedule of monthly meeting for the Executive Council, the membership includes: Profs. Cockett, Girardin, Renwick and Sheng.
- There will also be monthly Program meetings. These meetings with focus on concerns specific to each of the four areas of the school such as IQAPs and course management.
- We will hold a two-hour meeting on Friday October 30th that will contain a brainstorming session with a facilitator - Lorna Somers, Director of University Advancement. Lorna has considerable international experience facilitating such sessions and she also excels in promoting departments to prospective donor. All faculty and staff and the student representative are asked to attend this meeting. Carol Podedworny, Ihor Holubizky, and Rick Stapleton have also accepted invitations. This session explore shaping our vision for SOTA's future.
- Administrative Structure document – Prof. Kinder led a review of this document as recently as 2011. It will be the first priority of the Executive Council to make amendments, with the hope of presenting to the School later this semester, and hopefully no later than January.
- Thanks to all that have submitted their 4-year teaching plans by the deadline of today.
- If you would like to make any suggestions about the meeting structure, or anything else, please do not hesitate to contact the director.

3. Spotlight on the Arts

- We have received a \$25,000 donation for Spotlight on the Arts. This donation came from the same donor as previous \$25k. The couple does not reside in Canada; hence we will be relying on photos, web and media so they can have a good sense of our events.
- The director recognizes all the hard work that went into the previous Spotlight on the Arts events and projects.
- This donation will be used to support events we have going on, as well as recruitment and creating a sense of community within our programs. The director will be presenting ideas for each area at the first Program meeting.

4. Goal Setting Exercise

1. Acknowledge something from the past year that you think you did really well
2. What would you like to bring forward from last year?
3. How do you want to feel at the end of this year?
4. What do you need from the School of the Arts?

All present were asked to write down their answers to the four questions above. The answers to questions 1-3 were kept to oneself, while the answer to questions four was thrown into a box and then randomly picked by another person. Following are the answers submitted to question 4:

- more support with the recognition of different research practices within the school
- advocacy for faculty positions in the program, with the need to be able to plan for the future with colleagues, with a reasonable expectation that the plans we invest time and energy in will be able to be developed in future years
- need to have things operating more smoothly to be able to accomplish our goals
- more active and integrated promotion of our events
- this is something I've never really considered: in teaching we need to continue to improve classroom space to better suit our course delivery. in research, some way to support research assistants independently of SSHRC or other external funding would be helpful
- more communication between faculty and staff and updated policies and procedures
- having invested time and energy in the program that goes beyond the regular teaching load and administration, I need a longer term investment from SOTA
- transparency
- support with organizing teaching conditions, administering research, strategically situating research? Teaching within university/funding agency priorities
- flexible and adaptive methods of support that may assist with research ambitions
- continues support in creating new courses that stretch program boundaries
- continuation of collegial and supportive school to further goals of individual members
- recognition of my contribution in service teaching and research
- need to have clear guidelines and have things operating more smoothly to be able to meet our deadlines and goals (this answer is repeated)
- financial transparency
- technical support; information about other professors' research interests/expertise in order to exchange ideas if pertinent; opportunity to bring forth ideas
- adequate space and resources to truly develop excellence

- increased assistance with organization and capturing/communicating the many things we do in order to make these initiatives more visible to the campus and wider community; financial support for off campus initiatives
- faculty and staff of SOTA to think about the school as a team

5. Banner

- Presentation of 2 banner designs and feedback was not supportive for either
- A request was made for a new SOTA logo, which we believe dates to 2001
- Discussion followed about the important purposes for which we might use the banner: recruitment fairs and events; studio art portfolio interviews; as music auditions, branding purposes
- It was proposed that good fonts and colours be used as well as asymmetry. There was debate over whether it would be wise to use photographs
- Prof. Laganse suggested that Nikkie To, office assistant, should design the banner
- Discussion about the Spotlight on the Arts logo, which received considerable support around the room
- We will present draft banners designed by Nikkie To at the next SOTA meeting, following the curriculum presentations

5. Fitzhenry Studios

- All in attendance enjoyed a tour of the new Fitzhenry studios guided by Prof. Major-Girardin

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm following the studio visit.