Minutes of the ERINDALE COLLEGE COUNCIL meeting held on Wednesday, October 13, 2010 at 2:15 pm in the Council Chamber, Room 3130, William G. Davis Building


Regrets: J.Lukkarila, R.Beck,

In Attendance: S. Ramachandran

In his opening remarks, the Chair welcomed members to the work of ECC and to a new academic year.

A.Wensley encouraged all those present to support the United Way in whatever way possible. He drew members’ attention to ongoing campus events benefiting the United Way, which can be found at [www.utm.utoronto.ca/unitedway](http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/unitedway).

1. Welcome Deep Saini, Vice-President and Principal, UTM

A.Wensley noted that the first item of business is the welcoming of our new Vice-President and Principal, Professor Deep Saini to his first meeting of Erindale College Council. He introduced D.Saini by providing a brief overview of his accomplishments.

D.Saini commented that although he has only been in the office for two months, the people have been outstanding. He is delighted to be with such a wonderful campus. He spoke of the leadership and the strong teams who support them.

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting [April 9, 2010]

The minutes were approved. [P.Goldsmith / A.Lange]

3. Ratification of the Erindale College Council membership
The Chair referred members to the 2010-11 membership list that was made available on the Erindale College Council website and available at the front of the room.

The following administrative staff members were elected to fill the eight available seats on Erindale College Council:
- Melissa Berger
- Arthur Birkenbergs
- Lucy Gaspini
- Duncan Hill
- Kristian Horvath
- Debra Iafrate
- Rajni Lala
- Louise Oliver

This year there were 76 candidates nominated to fill the 50 ECC seats for full-time undergraduate students. An election was held on Thursday October 7th. Full-time students who were elected as new members of ECC were emailed with a notification on Friday October 8th. Three positions were filled for part-time students, nine remain available, the Chair noted that if anyone know of any interested part-time students, please have them email Tamara.

It was duly moved and seconded that the 2010-11 ECC membership list be approved [A. Birkenbergs / M. Overton] the motion was carried.

4. Reports of Standing Committees and Officers

A. Wensley stated that the next item of business is hearing the reports of committees and/or officers. We will hear from Paul Donoghue, CAO of UTM.

P. Donoghue provided an update of current activities and projects and the exceptionally busy summer on campus. At a previous meeting of ECC it was decided that there was a need to discuss various issues related to research resources and facilities services. Over the summer a working group was formed, designed to bring together facilities staff and research faculty to address both planned and unplanned interruptions to services. That group has been meeting on a regular basis and has made significant progress. A listserv and communication protocol for planned and (primarily) unplanned service interruptions was created. A research equipment database has been created and is currently being populated. The group is also looking at a research equipment alarms assessment and a subsequent action plan. P. Donoghue noted that we now have a hydrogen powered, PEM fuel cell backup system available for our critical IT servers. The fuel cell is up and running and final testing is underway. One of the key feature of the fuel cell as backup power is that it can run for about 16-24 hours compared with the existing battery packs that have a run time of about 15 minutes. Once testing of the fuel cell installation is completed, Computing Services will be looking to deploy a number of the existing battery-powered back up power supplies to researchers who need them for specific equipment.

P. Donoghue provided an update on the UTM Master Plan process that included an extensive consultative process last year, culminating in last April's approval by April ECC of the key elements to be included in the 2010 version of the Plan. Those elements included the full range of potential development sites and possible building envelopes. Having identified our space needs and development potential (sufficient ‘room’ to double
the amount of physical space, if the money is there, we will be able to move more quickly to initiate individual projects. ECC will be kept apprised as changes in projects and/or funding occur. It was also noted that we continue to work with our colleagues downtown to finalize the actual text of the updated Master Plan and to initiate the promised round of consultations that need to be undertaken with the local community and the city. This will be particularly important as we want to ensure that UTM’s plan is in step with the city’s Master Plan now under revision. However, that process has been slowed by the looming municipal elections. We hope to re-start the discussions with the city shortly after the elections and have our plan finalized in January, 2011.

Two projects, each at a cost of just under $2m are well underway and will be completed by the end of December. First, the office in-fill project at the end of the William G. Davis Building will add about 3000 square feet of office space. The Academic Annex, the modular building under construction adjacent to the Student Centre and Kanef Centre will provide high quality additions to office and dry research inventory.

The parking deck, originally planned to add 250 spots actually resulted in an additional 320 spaces for a cost of less than seven million dollars. The construction has occurred in record time with the main level being open in time for the start of classes and the second level scheduled to be open by the end of October. Also worthy of note, regarding access to campus and the demand for parking, is that the UPass utilization rate has been significantly higher than usual with over 9,400 passes being picked up.

The Instructional Centre project is going well and is on target for substantial completion by March 31, 2011 (and within the allocated budget of $70m). An exciting feature of this building is the solar panels (Photovoltaics) that have been fully integrated into the architecture of the building, forming the top three rows of window louvers on the west side of the building. Photovoltaic power generation employs solar panels comprising a number of cells containing a photovoltaic material. It is a method of generating electrical power by converting solar radiation into direct current electricity using semiconductors that exhibit the photovoltaic effect. The building also incorporates geothermal heating and cooling with a bore hole field of 120 wells, 500 feet deep, installed in the old playing field between the Instructional Centre and the North building. That field has been completely restored and in fact, is much better than it was when the project began (proper drainage, irrigation, etc). This restored outdoor space represents the realization of the “Campus Green” that was highlighted in the updated Master Plan. Finally, that field restoration was able to include the re-fitting of the old basketball courts that were rarely used with two new tennis courts that utilize the latest technology in tennis court surfaces.

The Health Sciences Complex, that will be clad in stainless steel, is about three weeks behind schedule but the contractor is working over-time and expects to make up that lag. The building, which will be shared by UTM and the Mississauga Academy of Medicine, will be substantially complete by March 31st and within the budget of $35m.

Additionally, work has begun on the construction of a 2 meter sidewalk, to be shared with pedestrians and bike traffic, along the back of the ring road From the RAWC to the north campus entrance at Mississauga road. Monday, October 18 will be the next phase of the project which will occur in front of the HMALC where the current pick-up and drop-off points into the library will be substantially re-built to improve functionality and safety. Landscaping and hardscaping will provide a new shuttle bus stop (the Sheridan route stop will remain at the North Building) and a sufficient vehicle layby will be constructed at the north end of the Instructional Centre.
Last spring, UTM engaged a group of traffic consultants to assess traffic flow and safety on campus. Those consultants identified several points across the campus that need to be addressed, especially from a safety point of view. The exit from the CCT garage will be fixed by the installation of a walkway and re-configuration of the exit to deal with the existing blind spots. In addition, the outer Ring Road, where it passes Principal’s Road and curves toward the site of the Instructional Centre remains a high priority for safety improvements. The optimal solution, as recommended by the expert consultants, is the re-alignment or squaring off of that part of the road to include a ‘T’ intersection and three-way stop. We are working collaboratively with the Grounds Monitoring Committee who have expressed serious concerns about any incursion into the forest edge that such a realignment might entail. Further discussions are expected as we try to balance off protection of a very small piece of forest edge against serious safety concerns. There are also considerations around the planned path of the realignment, a Butternut tree (on the endangered species list) and potential overlap with territory of Jefferson Salamanders that are known to have breeding ponds behind the central utility plant cooling towers. Every effort will be taken to improve traffic safety and wherever possible to separate bus traffic from pedestrian and car traffic.

Also directed toward improved campus traffic safety, we will be installing new streetlights that deliver excellent uniformity and improved visibility, feature superior thermal management design for a life rating of more than 30 years and are 40% more efficient. Improvements to exterior signage will also be considered.

It was announced that the new Senior Scholars Centre, in the location of the previous Principal’s Office, was now open. That space is an accessible workspace for faculty emeriti, equipped with computers and storage space. Finally, a high level summary of numerous other projects currently being undertaken on campus was provided.

The Chair opened the floor to questions for Mr. Donoghue.

A member asked if there are plans for more parking spaces.
P. Donoghue replied that there was a great deal of consideration and discussion put into deciding how big to build the parking deck. Lot three, where the Instructional Centre is, meant a loss of 351 spots. Another 140 spaces were lost in lot 9, adjacent to the construction of the Health Science Complex and some incidental spaces in lot 1. (None of the Instructional Centre spots can be recaptured). Parking utilization is monitored on a daily basis. Prior to the start of the two large construction projects we had 250-300 more spaces than necessary, however after the losses noted above, there was a requirement for at least 150 more spaces to meet existing demand. The sizing of the parking deck (originally at 252) is meant to provide for some expansion in demand while not resulting in over-supply (empty spaces generate no revenue to cover costs). The use of the UPass has, and is expected to continue to, ameliorate the rate of growth in demand for parking on campus. The parking deck was designed so we can build out onto the adjacent surface lots if necessary to expand capacity. At the present time, there are no immediate plans to expand parking capacity.

A member asked about food choices in the new building.
P. Donoghue responded that the specific types of food have not been decided. He also noted that Bill McFadden has presented a strategic plan for food services on campus on a number of occasions, including an open presentation at the Student Centre last year. There continues to be a Food Services Advisory Committee, primarily focused on students, which continues to meet.

A member asked how many spots will be available on campus.
P. Donoghue responded that in order to ensure a correct answer is given that the members should email him with the request and he would respond accordingly. The student followed up with Mr. Donoghue and he has responded with the total inventory of parking spaces that will be on campus once the upper level of the parking deck is open and the Instructional Centre and Health Science Complex are completed.

A member asked, do you plan on restoring the old tennis courts?
P. Donoghue responded that there has been no expression of unmet demand for access to additional courts. The new courts that were installed near the "Campus Green" were designed to meet demand and include leading-edge surface technology. At the moment, there are no plans to re-build the old courts.

A member asked about the addition on the William G. Davis Building – you mentioned there would be student spaces there, can you please give more information on those spaces? P. Donoghue noted that we have a large number of graduate students in labs close to the location of the addition. It makes sense to make some of the additional space available for those graduate students and get them out of the labs.

A member inquired about the potential for a bubble for the tennis court, specifically how big the demand would have to be to build something like that?
P. Donoghue suggested that perhaps Ken Duncliffe (Athletics) would be in a better position to that question. Mr. Donoghue inquired about feedback on the new surface and the member noted that the surface provides a slightly different bounce. P. Donoghue re-stated information about the cutting edge technology used which is quickly becoming standard within competitive tennis. He also noted that the surface can indeed be re-located if that was necessary.

A member inquired about the potential for an expansion of the current student centre.
P. Donoghue noted that there have been extensive discussions with UTMSU, and he is looking forward to receiving a proposal about the student centre expansion. A building expansion envelope is contained in the Master Plan.

A member inquired about the Food Services Advisory Committee and the amount of student involvement.
P. Donoghue responded that it is primarily student focused.

The Chair inquired if there was any new business to discuss. Seeing none, the Chair announced that the next meeting of Council would be on Thursday, November 18, 2010.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15pm (A. Birkenbergs / A. Lange)

Anthony Wensley
Chair

Tamara Breukelman
Acting Director of Governance