PhUS Council Minutes
September 28, 2020
12:00 PM (Zoom)

Attendance:

President	Parsa Amin	P	1st Year Rep	-	
VP Internal	Jeremy Bulatao	P	1st Year GC	-	
VP External	Kevin Kang	P	1st Year GC	-	
VP Academic	Giordano Bua	P	2nd Year Rep	-	
VP Finance	Jessica Jiang	P	2nd Year GC	-	
VP Social	Radha Gupta	P	2nd Year GC	-	
AVP Social	Felisha Teja	P	3rd Year Rep	-	
VP Communications	Marcus Lo	P	3rd Year GC	-	
Secretary	Vanessa Cheng	P	3rd Year GC	-	
Senator	Nick Pang	R	4th Year Rep	Elisa Colasurdo	A
Sports Rep	Chris Xi	P	4th Year Rep	Kathleen Lau	A
Sponsorship Coordinator	Grace Li	P	2021 Grad Reps (4th Year)	Dane Chapman	A
				Gina Sangha	A
2022 Grad Reps (3rd Year)	Celine Jeon	P	Faculty	Sandra Jarvis-Selinger	A
	Ayah Kapani	P			
Faculty	Jennifer Chatterton	A	Faculty	Kerry Wilbur	L 12:43pm
Faculty	Emma Riek	A	Faculty	Ginette Vallee	A
Faculty	Marion Pearson	R			

P (present) | **A** (absent) | **R** (regrets) | **L** (late)

Guests: Lilyan Jia (PhUS AVP Academic), Georgia Yee (AMS VP Academic), Shivani Mehta (AMS AVP Academic), JP Marchand (Pharmacy OETLD),
PY3: Jonah Thornburn, Dildeep Gill, Devon Crilly, Vivian Phan, Brian Lin, Lillian Chen, John Lee, Samuel Chu
PY2: Phalon Schleppe, Aamir Ladak, Joon Lee, Haereen Kim, Valeria Carvalho, Alicia Klaassen
PY1: Marcus Wong, Isabella Woroshelo, Hajer Mahmood, Erin Yang, Randi Shen, Kareem Abdel Meguid, Garrett Wu

Meeting called to order at 12:04 PM

Approval of Minutes

Moved: Parsa; **Seconded:** Giordano

Discussions:

1. **VP Academic**
- Open Letter Regarding the Usage of Proctorio
- AMS VP Academic: A Call to Action Against the Usage of Proctorio
   a. **Updates from AMS VP & AVP Academic on Proctorio**
      I. **Principles for the Appropriate Use of Remote Invigilation Tools** can be found under keepteaching.ubc.ca
         1. Provides guidelines regarding the appropriate usage of remote invigilation for certain assessments
         2. Implements suggestions for faculty to improve online teaching and course designing and delivery.
         3. Addresses and provides potential solutions regarding privacy concerns in other programs (e.g showing student cards over Zoom), and best practice in terms of flagging issues
      II. **Why must we end the usage of Proctorio?**
         1. To exercise compassion and flexibility to students, staff, and faculty who have expressed concern through social media and open letters
         2. To show UBC does not tolerate unethical behaviour, especially between Proctorio CEO Mike Olsen and members of the UBC community (students and staff)
            a. Proctorio CEO Mike Olsen Releasing UBC Student's Chat Logs
            b. Attacking students on Reddit (u/artfulhacker)
            c. Proctorio's Lawsuit Against UBC Learning Technology Specialist, Ian Linkletter
         3. To avoid outsourcing exam proctoring with a program that fails to reliably identify academic dishonesty
            a. There are multiple sources on the Internet demonstrating ways to circumvent Proctorio
            b. The **Guidelines** under keepteaching.ubc.ca thoroughly direct instructors how to rearrange their classes in a way that promotes academic integrity without the need for virtual invigilation
         4. To support those expressing concern over discriminatory programming
            a. Proctorio requires students to have their picture taken and verified prior to entering an exam, yet students who have darker skin have consistently expressed frustration over difficulties having their face recognized.
            b. Proctorio's algorithm flags unusual movements as potential cheating, which discriminates against students with different academic needs (e.g ADHD, tics)
            c. This directly opposes UBC Inclusion Action Plan Goal 4.B: "Implement[ing] inclusive course design, teaching practice, and assessments"
         5. To halt the use of a program that consistently demonstrates technological difficulties
            a. Many students have experienced, and worry about, getting kicked off of an exam session due to problems outside of their control (e.g connectivity, sleight of hand)

       i. This is classist, as Proctorio's technology standards may not be achievable for some students, despite the technology bursary.

   b. Students have expressed frustration over Proctorio's inability to properly conduct room surveys (e.g continuously showing the camera around the room and being unable to continue with the exam)

   c. Students now have the added stress of being arbitrarily flagged for reasons they're unaware of, and unintentionally doing

   d. International students, especially those in countries with protective firewalls, have difficulty meeting Proctorio's system requirements due to restricted access

6. <u>To address student concerns regarding privacy and control of their own device</u>

   a. Students have openly expressed concern through social media regarding their right to privacy and Proctorio. This especially affects:

       i. *Young female-identifying students:* There have been alleged comments from students reporting that faculty members (professors, TAs) requested they point their webcams at their desk with their face in view. This made female-identifying students uncomfortable due to the webcam essentially being pointed at their chest.

       ii. *Non-binary students*

       iii. *Lower income students*

       iv. *Students with young children:* It is unreasonable to flag a student due to excessive noise or movement when they may not be able to have an ideal testing environment due to their responsibilities and obligations

7. <u>To protest questionable changes to Proctorio's Terms of Service</u>

   a. As of September 26, 2020, Proctorio's Terms of Service changed from "You may not mandate Authorized End Users use the Application Service" (as of September 20, 2020) to "Proctorio is committed to the ethical use of our Application Service by the purchasing Institution and Authorized End Users" (Present)

       i. This change controversially occurred soon after a UBC Reddit post addressed that no student was required to use Proctorio

8. <u>To advocate for true "Academic Freedom"</u>

   a. UBC defines [Academic Freedom](#) as "A unique value of the academy: a scholar's freedom to express ideas through respectful discourse and the pursuit of open discussion, <u>without risk of censure</u>"

       i. Finding alternative means for exam invigilation means protecting the Academic Freedom of members of the UBC community such as Ian Linkletter, who openly voiced concerns for students and yet is being sued by Proctorio

       ii. This also directly contradicts Dr. Emma Cunliffe (UBC Faculty of Law)'s article on UBC's [responsibilities to academic freedom](#)

III. **Next Steps**

1. Students:

   a. Are encouraged to continue writing to professors and to the administration

   b. May sign petitions regarding UBC's use of Proctorio

   c. Can also express concern through Student Evaluations of Teaching

2. Faculty have a voice and are needed to speak up
3. UBC:
   a. Consider the provisions made in the <u>Open Letter</u>, specifically:
      i. To end its relationship with Proctorio and other similar programs, OR
      ii. To provide clear rationale behind their choice to use programs like Proctorio, as well as acknowledge how students will be affected, AND
      iii. To conduct an external audit of Proctorio's privacy mechanisms and assess any risk to its students
      iv. To provide low-barrier options if invigilation is truly required and to offer alternate forms of assessment for students demonstrating need

2. **VP Internal**
   a. **Why is Proctorio the program that UBC Pharmacy decided to use?**
      I. **Selection Meeting for Proctorio for Flex PharmD**
         1. OETLD does not disagree with any concerns that were previously said
         2. The initial goal during selection meeting 3-4 years ago was to find a solution for distance education (Flex PharmD degree)
         3. When COVID caused the school to shut down unexpectedly, OETLD only had 48 hours to transition so that schooling would continue as scheduled. The Faculty had a few years of experience with Proctorio by then.
      II. **Other potential programs**
         1. Although the Faculty (and others) have heavily used Examsoft in the past, OETLD concluded that it was <u>not</u> FIPPA-compliant, and thus students were required to sign consent forms to use the program
         2. Therefore, although Examsoft had the option for remote proctoring, its privacy and data issues were much more concerning than Proctorio's. When Examsoft refused to fix these concerns, OETLD decided to utilize Proctorio instead.
         3. As a majority of our assessments are conducted online, UBC PharmSci is used to looking out for data security and privacy issues.
         4. Have tested lock-down browsers and Zoom invigilation, but Zoom has loopholes too, and requires high manpower per assessment
      III. **Choosing Proctorio for Winter 2020 School Year**
         1. Dr's. Kathy Seto and Kerry Wilbur, and other OSS assistants were involved in discussing the use of Proctorio. The discussion ultimately weighed on: Curriculum design, how courses are run, and coordination with other professors.
         2. The only way to validate assessments without the use of proctoring is to use pen book examinations
            a. This required professors to rewrite all questions, which takes more time than students may believe
            b. This timeframe was not possible during the transition to online education
      IV. Any further questions or concerns:
         1. Please direct questions to Giordano (PhUS VP Academic) at phus.academic@gmail.com
         2. Remember that Faculty will only use programs that UBC has approved of. Any concerns should be directed to UBC

Round Table:

Faculty	Dr. Wilbur: Townhall meeting with the Dean will occur on October 19 from 12-1PM. Emails to students have been sent out
President	PY1 and PY2 Year-Rep / GC elections are open today until Oct 1st 11:59PM!
Secretary	
VP External	
VP Internal	
VP Academic	- Will continue to follow up with Proctorio - Student Pipeline will be coming in early October
VP Social	
VP Sponsorship	
VP Finance	
Communications	
Senate	
Sports Rep	
Grad Rep 2021	
Grad Rep 2022	
1st Year Rep	
2nd Year Rep	
3rd Year Rep	
4th Year Rep	

Meeting Adjourned: 12: 57 PM
Moved: Parsa; **Seconded:** Jeremy
Be it resolved that PhUS council adjourns the meeting.