

Minutes of the Special Meeting of Science Faculty Council held Monday, November 3, 1997 at 3:30 p.m. in 207 Buller Building.

Present: J.C. Jamieson (Chair)

P. Aitchison
L. Ayres
R.C. Barber
T. Berry
P. Blunden
T. Booth
J. Brewster
D.N. Burton
H. Cameron
P. Cerny
L. Chan
S. Cheng
N. Chow
G. Clark
R. Connor
D. Court
H. Duckworth
J. Dundas (SSA)
W. Ens
W. Falk
B. Ford
A. Gerhard
D. Gillis
G. Goldsborough
N. Halden
R. Harper
G. Hickling
E. Huebner
A. Janzen
K. Keen
D. Kelly
P. King
W. Kocay
C. Kozier (SSA)
J. Kusie (SSA)
A. Larocque
P. Laznicka
P. Loewen
A. MacGregor
B. Macpherson
P. McClure
J. McKee
K. Mount
R. O'Kell

M. Panagio
R. Padmanabhan
J. Page
S. Page
H. Perreault
D. Punter
G. Robinson
L. Rosenberg
C. Schachter (SSA)
T. Secco
M. Shaw
B. Sherriff
P. Shivakumar
J. Sichler
B. Southern
F. Spiring
J. Stewart
J. Svenne
A. Thavaneswaran
L. Van Caesele
W. van Oers
J. van Rees
R. Wallace
I. Waters
T. Wiens
G. Williams
G. Woods
E. Worobec
Q. Ye

Visitors: R. Bird
L. Chartier
I. Dudar
P. Fortier
N. Marnoch
L. Romuld
B.-A. Wiebe

Regrets: J. Vail
H. Williams

Dean Jamieson indicated to Faculty Council that this was the third in a series of meetings he has called; the first meeting was with the Science Administrative Council and Senators; the second

for all faculty and staff. The purpose of calling these meetings was to ask for advice on how to proceed should there be items of concern to the Faculty of Science in the Task Force Report. At the end of the meeting held on October 29, an invitation was issued for any support staff to join us at this Faculty Council meeting, as they do not as yet have representation on Faculty Council. The Dean stated that he would be very pleased to hear from the support staff in attendance, with Faculty Council's permission, if they wish to take part in the discussion. There were no objections.

Dean Jamieson went through a series of transparencies showing items that would be of interest to Science in the Task Force report.

- page 33, 2d; Amalgamation of Faculty of Arts and Science
 - i. amalgamate Botany, Microbiology and Zoology
 - ii amalgamate Statistics, Mathematics and Applied Mathematics
 - iii consolidate Astronomy in Physics
 - iv transfer Biochemistry and Molecular Biology to Chemistry
 - v establish new Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences
 - ix transfer Natural Resources to Faculty of Arts and Science.
- page 15, 6b: one aspect that concerned Dean Jamieson with this recommendation is the category of Instructor; the individuals in question are expected to do 2 of 3 things; in most cases teaching and administrative work, so this item does not cover this particular category.
- page 17: graduate student teaching assistants; if they are withdrawn from us, the effect this would have would be to lower our amount of funds. It might have a negative effect on the employment of undergraduate teaching assistants.
- page 22, 2c : Dean Jamieson stated he was personally not against this, although if faculty are up for review presumably they could not supervise graduate students.
- page 34, 5: Dean Jamieson wondered how these could be dealt with in the grand scheme of things.
- page 6: comments in text are of interest to Science.
- page 26: This is the comment that led to the recommendation that Arts and Science should be amalgamated.

What have we done already:

- The astronomy transfer happened last year.
- The same approach is being used for the merger of mathematics and applied mathematics; there have been several meetings, with one or two exceptions there is willingness to merge. Dean Jamieson stated he will step back from the process and let them craft the process, but will keep an eye on the process. This merger does not include the Statistics Department.
- The amalgamation of the biology departments; we have had discussions with biology department heads and chemistry; we will continue to discuss and narrow down the options and get one that is acceptable to all players. Dean Jamieson stated, at that point, he would step back from the process.

- **Earth and Environmental Science:** Dean Jamieson stated that he is not clear whether this is the best approach to take.

Dean Jamieson displayed positive and negative transparencies on the amalgamation of Arts and Science and also a listing of universities that have combined Arts and Science faculties and other models. Dean Jamieson mentioned that the University of Victoria for some time had three deans; Humanities, Science, Social Sciences; one of these Deans in rotation became a super dean. They have now done away with this as it was too cumbersome and now have three separate faculties.

The Dean asked that Faculty Council consider the situation with regard to the amalgamation of the faculties that affect us plus all the other amalgamations that affect us.

The following contains excerpts of the discussion that took place.

Dean Jamieson, in response to a suggestion that students comment from their perspective, mentioned that Dean Currie and he have been asked to attend a meeting of the Science Students Association and Arts Student Council.

Science Students Association members indicated that they had met with the Arts Student Council. The issues discussed were University I, division of student fees to each body and the implication that there would be restructuring or elimination of courses, the difficulty for student councils to fight student apathy within this larger group. Also in a large faculty, students feel their voices would be diluted.

Dr. G. Robinson provided Faculty Council with a preview of his presentation to the Task Force with regard to the proposed creation of the new Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences.

Dr. Halden spoke on Earth and Environmental Science and stated that there should be a close look at the science that is being done to understand the concept of earth and environmental studies.

Dr. Booth mentioned that, as one of the conceivers of the environmental science program, he supports Dr. Robinson.

Dr. Barber stated that the reasons for amalgamation of Arts and Science were largely centered on rules; we are already fixing the rules without a merger. There are no economies of scale in putting the faculties together.

Dr. Burton mentioned the University of Victoria and the reasons why they had just split. He stated he could not see that there are any administrative arguments for the re-merger of Arts and Science. We have already made some progress on the harmonization of rules and regulations.

Dr. Macpherson spoke against the amalgamation of Statistics with Mathematics and Applied Mathematics. There is no support for this within the Statistics Department. With regard to the review of subjects, i.e. statistics courses, he stated that this is an interesting recommendation and he would be very happy to see it implemented except that they did this back in 1972. He stated that more than a year was spent on looking at statistics across campus. He stated it was a most interesting but frustrating exercise.

Dr. Woods agreed with Dr. Macpherson's comments about the importance of keeping Statistics as a separate department. The Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics should be combined. Statistics is sufficiently different and would be best left alone.

Dean Jamieson stated that from what he has heard so far there are strong opinions that Statistics should not be included in an amalgamation with Mathematics and Applied Mathematics. Dean Jamieson stated that he was not hearing a lot of enthusiasm for an amalgamation of Arts and Science. Dean Jamieson asked whether anyone from the biological sciences would care to speak; although he mentioned he had heard Dr. Loewen's presentation to the Task Force.

Dr. Duckworth remarked on the Task Force recommendations regarding amalgamation of the biological sciences departments and establishing a new department of earth and environmental sciences.

Dr. Huebner commented on the amalgamation of the biology departments; that there are many different models that could be proposed and to force premature merger without thinking about the models would be a mistake. He would like some rationale in what culminated in the recommendation.

Dean Jamieson mentioned that he had consulted with the Vice-President as the Zoology Department Head's term ends at the end of December. We decided to conduct a search with a three year appointment rather than the normal five years. If there are to be any changes to take place it is important to have a head to represent them.

Dr. Svenne mentioned that one of the things that the Task Force heard most was that there were too many walls and barriers. The barriers really are there.

Dr. Sumner mentioned that the barriers we find particularly in life science exist between ourselves, the medical school and agriculture. It may be the intention to break down the barriers. What is happening is we are talking but the people we know over in Agriculture are not talking because they are not affected; there almost has to be a directive to get them talking. He also mentioned that the professional schools are not mentioned.

Dr. J. Page agreed that one of the obvious connections he sees is not with Arts particularly; amalgamation with Engineering would make much more sense; more common interests, some positives maybe some things not so positive. The other concern he had was with the suggestion that we go the trimester system which seems to him to be a very risky business; courses have to be offered more frequently. He wonders whether the resource implications have been considered.

Dean Jamieson mentioned that the Task Force Report does not indicate how these things might be implemented.

Dr. Bird commented that the professional faculties of Architecture, Human Ecology, Education are mentioned in the Report as are a few others. She commented that students are our main concern: how to retain them, make them more interested in University life. Science students feel that they don't have any identify. We need to think about this.

Ms Schachter mentioned that there is a huge responsibility to publicize what's good at the University; so the public will start to respect us more.

Dr. Svenne mentioned that this Report is a draft and is not cast in stone; hearings are going on. There are 19 different names on the Task Force Report not just the President.

Dr. Duckworth asked the Task Force members whether they have a feeling there will be a balanced response to this report. The trouble with first come first served you do not necessarily get a balance.

Dr. Fortier mentioned that Plan 2000 had much less consultation. He noted that there is not a lot of enthusiasm for Arts and Science joining and for some other proposals. He said what he is lacking are alternative proposals.

Dean Jamieson mentioned that he has thought about Arts and Science. There are really only 3 models; one we have now, one we had, and the 3 faculty-type model. The problem with the way things have happened is that it is not easy to propose one of these other two models. The only one left is the 3 faculty model. He would rather debate the reasons why the Task Force wants to amalgamate and there is nothing in the report for him to debate. It is easy for him to understand the views of the 3 biology departments because he knows there are many other options.

Dr. Sherriff indicated that Science is at the forefront and we should come up with ideas. We need to think positively and move forward; we should be seizing the opportunity.

Dean Jamieson indicated that all comments are not negative that positive things are being done; the amalgamation of the two mathematics departments; the transfer of astronomy to physics.

Ms Schachter mentioned some positives: the shuttle bus idea; the idea of rewarding professors for their teaching and research skills. If they can't teach they shouldn't be teaching period. There should be student voices on committees. She also stated that it would be better to amalgamate a smaller faculty with a larger one rather than amalgamating two large faculties.

Dr. Wiens indicated that walls have their place; they have use. Arts and Science do have flow. Removing that wall would not be particularly useful. Since separated, there has been more divergence than convergence. With regard to his own area, he thinks there are definitely some positive aspects to amalgamating of departments. The view in Zoology is that we could well live with an integrated biology department.

The Dean indicated that there would be no recommendations made today as the purpose of this meeting was to get a feel from the faculty members about the Task Force Report.

Meeting adjourned 5:15 p.m.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA
Faculty of Science
250 Machray Hall
Office of the Dean
Inter-Departmental Correspondence

October 27, 1997.

TO: All Members of the Faculty Council of Science

FROM: J.C. Jamieson, Dean, Faculty of Science

ON: **Notice of Meeting**

J.C. Jamieson

A Special Meeting of Science Faculty Council is called for:

Monday, November 3, 1997

3:30 p.m.

Room 207 Buller Building.

Agenda

Task Force report

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