

MINUTES

103rd Meeting of the Science Faculty Council

Held on Thursday, June 29, 2006 at 2:30 p.m. in Room 111 Armes

Present:

M. D. Whitmore (Chair)	R. Roshko
M. Abrahams	B. Worobec
T. Schultz	M. Chestley
P. Dibrov	E. Smirnova
D. Court	P. Loewen
G. Valdimarsson	G. Krause
J. Xidos	P. Budzelaar
M. Sumner	S. Renault
M. Piercey-Normore	F. Hruska
C. Kemke	J. Brewster
R. Sparling	A. Worley
M. Doob	G. Robinson
G. Anderson	J. Hare
T. Booth	E. Huebner
T. Berry	N. Hunter
H. Perreault	G. Hickling
C. Platt	H. Duckworth
R. Padmanabhan	

Regrets:

B. Machpherson	J. Van Rees
J. Hoskins	P. Hultin
K. Gough	J. Williams
D. Punter	J. Harper
G. Baldwin	T. Kucera
P. King	R. Thulasiram
P. Thulasiraman	D. Gillis

1. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the 102nd meeting held on February 14, 2006 were approved with one change. Under the Major Degree it should state "No more than 18 credit hours", not 8. Motion to approve the minutes as amended was moved by H. Duckworth and seconded by G. Krause.

MOTION: CARRIED

2. Course and Program Changes

Associate Dean Worobec outlined the Course and Program changes to the undergraduate program as noted in the Science Committee on Courses material. The motion was moved by M. Sumner and seconded by T. Berry.

MOTION: CARRIED

3. Graduate Program Changes

Associate Dean Abrahams outlined the changes to the Graduate programs. There were changes to the Chemistry and Statistics programs in response to the Graduate Program Reviews.

Chemistry:

- Reduction in course requirements for MSc and PhD degrees from 12 to 9 credit hours.
- More details in financial support for graduate students.

Statistics:

- Increase in minimum credit hours for the MSc program from 15 to 18 for the thesis and practicum options
- Make STAT 7140 a compulsory course in all options of the MSc program
- Make STAT 7080 and STAT 7140 compulsory in the PhD program (if not taken at the MSc level).

Dr. Abrahams moved approval of the Graduate Program changes, which was seconded by E. Huebner.

MOTION: CARRIED

4. Dean's Honour List Regulations

Dean's Honour List:

Previously students had to achieve a 3.50 gpa on 24 CH or more to qualify for the Dean's Honour List. Due to the new Aurora system, students are now assessed on a term to term basis and must attain a term gpa of 3.80 or higher with a minimum of 12 credit hours. There are 4 terms with the Aurora system (first and second term in the regular session, Summer Term 1 and Summer Term 2).

MOTION: To qualify for the Dean's Honour List in any program, a student must achieve a term grade point average (TGPA) of 3.80 or higher on a minimum of 12 credit hours.

Degrees with Distinction (for General and Major) and First Class Honours (for Honours): Students must attain a DGPA of 3.80 at point of graduation. Prior to Aurora, students had to achieve a minimum CGPA of 3.50 on all courses taken in the degree (General). Major students had to achieve a minimum CGPA of 3.50 on the last 60 hours of their programs and Honours students had to achieve a final CGPA of 3.50.

MOTION: All students in this category must achieve a degree grade point average (DGPA) of 3.80 at point of graduation.

Associate Dean Worobec moved approval of these motions, which was seconded by M. Sumner.

CARRIED

5. Dean's Report

Senate

Dean Whitmore reported that the rules for Academic Standing and changes to Introductory Biology and Botany programs have been approved by Senate.

Entrance Requirements

The requirement for students in U1 to have a minimum gpa of 2.0 to enter into any other faculty was passed by Senate. Automatic transfer into other faculties has ended.

Budget Allocation

Science was allocated \$445,000 in the recent budget allocation. This includes \$45,000 for a new support staff position in Statistics as well as funds for undergraduate labs and lab equipment. The funding has been allocated as follows:

- \$80,000 to the Faculty of Science Endowment Fund. Students voted to double their contributions to the fund from \$75.00 to \$150.00 annually. The Dean has committed to doubling the Dean's Office contribution of \$40,000 to \$80,000.
- \$150,000 to the establishment of a new fund for undergraduate projects
- \$170,000 to fund undergraduate lab supplies, TA's etc.

Endowment Fund

The total expended last year was \$254,000 which came from three sources: interest, student's contributions (\$93,000) and the Dean's Office allocation (\$40,000).

This year the fund will increase to approximately \$388,000: the students' contributions will double from last year (to approximately \$186,000) and the Dean's Office allocation will also double to \$80,000.

SIP

In the Spring SIP, Science was awarded 5 positions, with one additional position to be used for a specific purpose. The positions replace retirements, 2 in Zoology, 2 in Physics and 1 in Chemistry.

Graduate Changes

Graduate changes in the Departments of Botany and Zoology are in progress.

Research

Associate Dean Abrahams reported that the CRC Tier II Chair deadline for applications is July 4th.

There was one successful CFI application, C. Hu was the recipient of a CFI-N award. Dr. S. Cardona and J. van Lierop's applications have been forwarded to CFI.

6. Other Business

There was a question in regard to the use of DGPA for calculation of performance. It is not being used currently because it is still being customized. There are two Aurora coaches housed in Science and shared between Fine Arts, Environment and Pharmacy.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.