

MINUTES

109th Meeting of the Science Faculty Council

Held on Tuesday, September 18th, 2007, at 3:00 p.m. in 204 Armes

PRESENT:

M. Whitmore, Chair	E. Worobec	M. Abrahams
R. Roshko	K. Kopotun	N. Hunter
I. Waters	G. Anderson	M. Docker
S. Whyard	K. Scott	M. Fry
J. Brewster	M. Doob	J. Athayde
D. Dhaliwal	R. Thomas	G. Kler
P. Mysore	J. Bate	H. Duckworth
J. Stetefeld	J. van Wijngaarden	J. Sorensen
K. Gough	T. Hegmann	P. Blunden
G. Lukács	B. Macpherson	G. Krause
T. Berry	J. McConnell	T. Schultz
R. Jayas	J. Zhang	J. van Rees
P. King	B. Mark	T. de Kievit
G. Robinson	D. Punter	M. Speare
D. Court	P. Budzelaar	M. Gericke
S. Cadogan	B. Southern	J. Williams
M. Sumner	E. Huebner	M. Piercey-Normore
D. Weihrauch	R. Sparling	G.I. Moghaddam
J. Chipalkatti	M. Shaw	M. Shantz (Secretary)
L. Lester (Secretary)		

REGRETS:

J. Hoskins	J. Hare	P. Loewen
J. Xidos	S. Cheng	D. Gillis
E. Smimova	T. Kucera	H. Perreault
P. Hultin		

1/2/3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the 106th meeting held on February 22, the 107th meeting held on March 15, and the 108th meeting held on May 24. Moved by J. Bate and seconded by G. Robinson.

CARRIED

4. Introduction of New Members

The following new members of Faculty Council were introduced:

Biological Sciences: Judy Anderson, Department Head

David Bird, Assistant Professor
Mark Fry, Assistant Professor
Dirk Weihrauch, Assistant Professor

Chemistry: Krystyna Koczanski, Instructor II

Physics & Astronomy: Sean Cadogan, Professor and Tier 1 Canada Research Chair
Michael Gericke, Assistant Professor

5. Recognition of Promotions and Tenure

Dean Whitmore congratulated the following faculty who were granted tenure in 2007:

Kevin Campbell	Biological Sciences
Scott Kroeker	Chemistry
Ben Li	Computer Science

Dean Whitmore congratulated the following faculty who were promoted in 2007:

Kevin Campbell, Biological Sciences, to Associate Professor
Michael Freund, Chemistry, to Professor
Peter Budzelaar, Chemistry, to Associate Professor
Michael Zapp, Computer Science, to Instructor II
Ben Li, Computer Science, to Associate Professor
Jaydeep Chipalkatti, Mathematics, to Associate Professor
Kiril Kopotun, Mathematics, to Professor
Saumen Mandal, Statistics, to Associate Professor

The above individuals will also be recognized at the 2nd Annual Faculty of Science Celebration of Excellence, to be held on January 31, 2008.

6. Course and Program Changes

Dr. Worobec outlined the course and program changes (see agenda attachment). The changes were considered by the relevant Faculty committees and were available in Department offices for perusal by members.

MOTION: to approve the proposed course and program changes. Moved by E. Worobec and seconded by M. Sumner.

CARRIED

MOTION: to approve the prerequisite changes as presented. Moved by E. Worobec and seconded by ???

CARRIED

MOTION: to accept the proposed other changes, namely modifications to and introduction of new courses. Moved by E. Worobec and seconded by D. Court.

CARRIED

Dr. Worobec noted that the Joint Chemistry/Physics and Astronomy Honors program has been approved by 4Cs and Senate. The formal proposal is almost ready to send to COPSE. However, Faculty Council needs to formally approve the program proposal at this time.

MOTION: to approve the Joint Chemistry/Physics and Astronomy Honors program. Moved by N. Hunter and seconded by P. Blunden.

CARRIED

7. Forensic Science Program

The proposed Forensic Science Program requires Faculty Council approval prior to sending it to COPSE. Dr. Worobec announced that the preliminary proposal has been reviewed by outside consultants, other faculties and all science departments, and is ready to go forward to COPSE.

MOTION: to approve the Honors Bachelor of Science in Forensic Science Program for the purpose of approving the Statement of Intent which will go to COPSE. Moved by E. Worobec and seconded by T. Berry.

CARRIED

8. Faculty Senate Election

Dr. Whitmore congratulated Dr. P Hultin on being elected to Senate for a three year term.

9. Dean's Report (Attached)

Dr. Whitmore announced that Mark Abrahams, Associate Dean (Research) will be leaving at the end of January for the position of Dean of Science at Memorial University, Newfoundland. He thanked him for his contributions to the faculty and university.

10. Review and Update of Faculty Regulations Concerning Grades and Appeals.

This item was brought to the floor of Faculty Council by an individual council member. Currently, there is no policy in place for items such as this to be added to the Faculty Council agenda. It was decided that this item should be referred to the Faculty Executive Council.

MOTION: To approve Faculty Executive Council devising a process to deal with matters such as review and updating of faculty regulations and procedures. Moved by J. Bate and seconded by H. Duckworth.

CARRIED

11. Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:00. p.m.

Dean's Report, Faculty of Science
September 18, 2007

The past year has been a very busy and successful year. The Faculty of Science has accomplished a great deal.

- The Department of Biological Sciences came into existence on July 1, 2007, through the combination of the Department of Botany, the Department of Zoology, and the Biology Program. We are making progress on creating new research clusters, and new programs. I am also pleased to report that the position of head was approved as an incremental position for the department, and further that Dr. Judith Anderson will become head on October 1, 2007. Dr. Erwin Huebner has been very busy as Acting Head for the summer, and I thank him for all his efforts. A search for a CRC in Phylogenomics for the Department of Biological Sciences was launched recently.
- Dr. John Brewster was appointed Head of Statistics effective September 1, 2007. I particularly thank Dr. Brian Macpherson for his contributions as Acting Head for over two years.
- Dr. Sean Cadagon joined us this year as a Tier 1 CRC, and Drs. Samar Safi-Harb and Joerg Stetefeld were made Tier 2 CRCs. Congratulations to all.
- Dr. Terry Dick's NSERC Northern Research Chair was renewed.
- Dr. Gordon Goldsborough was re-appointed Director of the Delta Marsh Field Station. An ad hoc committee was appointed to advise the dean on operations and priorities at the Field Station, and those recommendations will be implemented over the coming year. An ambitious fund-raising campaign for Delta Marsh has been launched by the Department of Development.
- In a very tough year, our Faculty did very well at NSERC and with CFI. Casual comparisons suggest we did, comparatively, very well. I will leave lists and details for another day. We have just learned that we have received provincial matching funding for the Manitoba Research and Innovation Fund (MRIF).
- Budgets: Last year, we went through an extensive mid-year budget review. We essentially identified the maximum we could claw back from each department, and then took half of this from each. We essentially froze spending in the dean's office. These steps allowed us to keep control of our own budgets. At year end, a couple of departments ended up with small deficits, but most had small surpluses. At the Faculty level, the end-of-year tuition transfer was not as bad as we expected, and funds were found lurking in the staff benefits account. The overall result was an end-of-year surplus, which we were allowed to keep this year.

- For this year, we first went through a “zero-base budgeting exercise” with each department. We then provided the minimum required, plus a small discretionary amount. Budget reallocation process provided salary for a support staff position in Statistics, plus lab fees. Although we don’t know yet, we think the lab fees will provide about \$500 K per year in increased revenue to the Faculty of Science.
- Spring SIP provided 10 positions. With the CRC position in Biological Sciences approved and two incomplete searches from previous SIP allocations, we now have 13 searches under way.
- As a result of all this, we are able to:
 - Increase our Faculty of Science graduate student scholarship program from \$250 K per year to \$350 K per year, and make it permanent.
 - Re-establish our undergraduate summer NSERC awards program.
 - Selectively increase TA allotments to departments.
 - Create a special “special projects” pot of about \$300 K, and work with departments to identify and carry out projects.
 - Provide more competitive start-up funding for new faculty.
 - Provide an additional \$30 K to each department. Departments can request additional funding from our special projects pot to create new staff positions.
 - Continue to allocate \$80 K to the endowment fund, which should award nearly \$400 K this year.
 - We hope to create a new Faculty of Science communications officer position, in line with our Interim Strategic Plan.
 - Avoid any further cuts.
- Enrollments slipped about 1% last year, and appear to be doing so again this year. This is not unexpected given the demographics, but is a trend that needs to be addressed in our Strategic Plan.
- We developed an on-line voting system, which should streamline our voting procedures, and save a lot of paper and mundane work.
- We have introduced iClickers in a number of courses. The Faculty established an ad hoc committee that studied alternatives, and chose a common one for use across the Faculty. We have suggested to all other Faculties that they use the same one.
- The Faculty has developed a proposal for a program in forensic science, which is now at COPSE for initial response. Additional funding will be needed to mount the program. The proposal team, headed by Betty Worobec, has members from many departments and faculties, as well as outside membership from the RCMP and other organizations. It is primarily a Faculty of Science initiative.

- We are now working from the Faculty of Science Interim Strategic Plan which is on the web. Departments are working on departmental plans, and all should be finalized by year end.
- The Department of Mathematics has very recently developed and implemented a new voluntary diagnostic test and remedial program. The test is available on line, and remedial program has a new workbook and a Saturday morning tutorial program.
- Better promotion of the Faculty of Science has emerged as a priority. In this regard:
 - As noted, we plan to hire a new communications officer.
 - Our student advisors have created a super new CD.
 - We have re-vamped our web site. It now includes the Faculty of Science Annual Report.
 - The dean is eating more, visiting with alumni whenever I can. I will be attending an alumni affairs reception in Los Angeles this year.
 - We are exploring ways to better communicate with all our alumni, especially those with second degrees from a different Faculty.
 - We have had a number of positive press articles, both in the local press and in the university papers. One of our faculty members was profiled in the Globe and Mail. Our computer science robots continue to get us great press.
 - Brian Macpherson is working to create a promotion and development plan for the Faculty of Science.
- We will be holding our Second Annual Faculty of Science Celebration of Excellence Ceremony this winter on Thursday, January 31, 2008 at 11:30 in Marshall McLuhan Hall.
- A team led by Dr. Ken Standing was awarded the 2006 NSERC Brockhouse Award for Interdisciplinary Research in Science and Engineering. The winning team also includes Harry Duckworth and H el ene Perreault of the Department of Chemistry, and Werner Ens and Oleg Krokhin of the Department of Physics and Astronomy. Dr. Standing was also honoured by MDS Sciex, Genome Alberta and the University of Manitoba (including the Faculty of Science), by the creation of the Standing Award, presented for the first time this year at the 3rd International Symposium in Enabling Technologies for Proteomics held in Toronto, May 10-11, 2007.
- We completed the revisions of our Faculty of Science Promotion and Tenure policies.
- It has been a very, very busy year on the infrastructure front:

- Last year, the Faculty of Science Endowment Fund allocated in excess of \$386K to the purchase of undergraduate teaching equipment and to support outreach activities, and I expect this to increase this year. We are very grateful to our students for their contributions to this fund.
 - We renovated an undergraduate optics laboratory in the Department of Physics and Astronomy.
 - Major renovations continue in Buller. Nearly all the windows have been replaced, and two floors are completed. Work will continue next year. This has been very trying for everyone involved.
 - The Department of Chemistry won funding from Western Economic Diversification and Varian Canada (a total of approximately \$1M, including the Faculty of Science contribution) to create a new research/teaching facility called the Manitoba Chemical Analysis Laboratory (MCAL). In the words of the department head, “the new instrumentation makes this facility one of the best undergraduate labs in Canada.”
 - Physical Plant has financed and carried out major renovations to two undergraduate chemistry teaching labs, 433 Parker in summer 2006 and 431 Parker in summer 2007, each with a price tag of around \$400-500K. We are hopeful regarding another chemistry teaching lab (522 Parker) tentatively scheduled for summer 2008.
 - A number of research labs have been renovated, and this continues.
 - We anticipate that the Pharmacy Building will form the “showpiece” of the new Department of Biological Sciences.
- We hosted the **Second Peguis First Nation Science and Technology Symposium** for Senior 1-4 students from the Peguis Central School, from February 14 through 16, 2007. Approximately seventy University of Manitoba academic staff, support staff, and students representing departments from eight faculties came together to run it, all under the direction of Dr. Tom Berry of the Department of mathematics. This year it was held on campus, complementing the annual “Information Days” event. Immediately following the opening ceremonies of the symposium itself, students attended the keynote address by Dr. Bob Thirsk, an astronaut from the Canadian Space Agency. Students then participated in small group workshops in which they received hands-on exposure to a variety of scientific topics. A total of 96 workshops were offered. Twenty one members of the Faculty of Science presented talks at the Symposium.
 - We also co-hosted the **Biology Olympiad** this year.
 - We continue to run a program of mathematics workshops and camps for high school students.
 - A number of our faculty have been recognized. For example:
 - Ken Standing, as noted above.

- Roy Roshko was honored by Will Guest as an outstanding teacher.
- Saumen Mandel received the SSA Award for Teaching Excellence for the *third* straight year.
- James Xidos received the SSA Award for Teaching Excellence.
- Elena Smirnova received the Innovative and Developmental Award for Teaching.
- Jennifer van Wijngaarden received the U1 Teaching Excellence Award.
- Kirk Marat received the support staff Service Award of Excellence.
- There are many more accomplishments that I could list, and I apologize to those who have been overlooked. Please go to the Faculty of Science Annual Report on the web for a longer list.

Congratulations to all of you for a very successful year.