

MINUTES

110th Meeting of the Science Faculty Council

held on Thursday, December 13th, 2007, at 2:30 p.m. in 245 Engineering

PRESENT: M. Whitmore (Chair) B. Worobec M. Abrahams
G. Anderson M. Speare S. Renault
M. Piercey-Normore D. Punter G. Krause
Judy Anderson B. Hann P. Graham
J. van Rees J. Hoskins D. Bird
P. Blunden J. Bate T. Berry
N. Hunter J. vanWijngaarden P. Budzelaar
J. Xidos G. I. Moghaddam G. Robinson
John Anderson B. Mark P. Dibrov
K. Kopotun J. Brewster D. Scuse
R. Eskicioglu B. Southern C. Hu
I. Waters F. Gauvin R. Thomas
D. Court I. Oresnik P. Loewen
M. Chestley S. Whyard K. Scott
D. Gillis R. Sparling J. Hare
T. Booth T. Schultz (secretary)

REGRETS: E. Huebner P. Hultin
P. King T. Kucera
P. Loewen J. Williams
M. Docker

1. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the 109th meeting held on September 18, 2007, with the amendment to include R. Eskicioglu under regrets and, under #6, the second motion was seconded by G. Robinson. Moved by J. Bate and seconded by R. Eskicioglu.

CARRIED

2. Business Arising from the Minutes

Undergraduate Report

- Dr. Worobec reported that the Forensic Science Program COPSE formal application will go to the Faculty Committee on Courses in January.

- The Biotech program is being reviewed with input from the Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences and the Faculty of Engineering. Biotech companies will also be included in these discussions.
- A Chemistry and Physics Double Honours program will be available as of Fall 2008.
- An Ad Hoc Committee on Committees was struck by the Faculty Executive. This committee is reviewing all of the Faculty's committees and drawing up revised Terms of Reference for each of them.
- The issue of students accessing exams after a grade is issued has been reviewed by an Ad Hoc committee composed of the Student Standing Committee plus one student. The committee will report to the Executive Committee.
- The Phylogenomics CRC search is underway.
- The search for an Associate Dean (Research) is still ongoing.

3. Items Discussed in Closed Session

Two items were discussed.

4. Dean's Report

- We should welcome the new President of the University, as he will be a member of the Faculty of Science.
- May 9 completed Faculty instruction plans.

5. Faculty Strategic Plan

Most departments have completed a draft strategic plan. The Heads have submitted 3 page summaries and will exchange the summaries with each other at the administrative council meeting. The Heads will look at each others' plans and identify opportunities for collaboration. The Dean will go through the department plans to see what agrees with the Faculty interim plan and what doesn't. Themes that have been identified are connections to alumni, students and external organizations. Funding, staffing, research, graduate student support, recruitment and infrastructure are other major issues. The Faculty needs to strengthen development and advancement, communications, and to coordinate student recruitment events on a department basis.

Staff and student levels

The institutional data booklet provided to the Faculty as part of the budget submission exercise indicates that the student to staff ratio in the Faculty of Science is the highest in the University. The SIP request is being written using this information to ask for incremental positions.

Funding

The Dean attended a 3 day conference on Development for Deans. The key is to build long term relationships with people so that we can help them identify how they would like to help us.

With the introduction of lab fees and the funds available from the endowment fund the Faculty will spend approximately \$1 million on undergraduate equipment and infrastructure this year.

Budget Submission

The budget submission is approximately 1" thick and it outlines that the Faculty teaches approximately 22% of the UGS with only 11% of the academic baseline.

- The staffing demographics are serious in a few of our departments.
- The Faculty cut departments budgets last year to avoid financial ruin.
- The Faculty of Science has 3 strategic priorities: research, undergraduates and ties to the external community. We have coupled it into our budget submission.
- The Faculty would like to provide more support for Aboriginal Students (convert a room in Machray Hall).

Our requests include:

- a communications officer and a development officer.
- increases to the Faculty of Science graduate student fellowships
- an additional instructor in Statistics
- a new building for Mathematics and Statistics

6. Other Business

MOTION: Obtain more information on all aspects of the establishment of the International College of Manitoba (NAVITAS College of the U of M). Moved by D. Gillis and seconded by J. Anderson.

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

7. Adjournment

Moved by R. Eskicioglu and seconded by R. Sparling at approximately 4:00 p.m.