

MINUTES

125th Meeting of the Science Faculty Council
held on Thursday, February 16, 2012, at 10:30 a.m. in
Senate Chambers

PRESENT: M. Whitmore (Chair) R. Roshko M. Piercey-Normore
P. Graham T. Schultz M. Chestley
Judy Anderson M. Fry J. Treberg
S. Whyard M. Docker E. Huebner
E. Smirnova W. Buchannon E. Worobec
J. Hare Gary Anderson B. Johnson
A. Samson D. Gunderson J. Arino
D. Gillis V. Keown K. Sharma
S. McKenna H. Luong B. Southern
J. McKee J. van Wijngaarden P. Budzelaar
P. Hultin R. Borgersen M. Doob
T. Kucera T. Andres J. Bate
C-M. Hu P. Blunden M. Shantz (recorder)

REGRETS: E. Troutt P. Loewen R. Eskicioglu
John Anderson S. Cardona J. Sorensen

GUESTS: D. Barnard, J. McConnell, G. Sobie

1. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: to approve the agenda. Moved by D. Gillis, seconded by P. Budzelaar.

CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: to approve the minutes of the 124th meeting of Faculty Council, held on December 15, 2011. Moved by J. Hare, seconded by T. Kucera.

CARRIED

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

- Endowment Fund Terms of Reference:
M. Piercey-Normore consulted with the Endowment Fund Committee, who propose two revisions to the terms of reference (see attached).

MOTION: to approve the attached revisions to the Endowment Fund terms of reference. Moved by J. Bate, seconded by S. McKenna.

CARRIED

4. Undergraduate Course and Program Changes – M. Piercey-Normore

The following course changes have been approved by Executive Committee and brought to Faculty Council for information only.

- course deletion – BIOL 4430 (can be offered as topics course if needed)
- course modification – BIOL 4460

The following program changes have been approved by the Committee on Courses and Programs, reviewed by Faculty Executive and forwarded to Faculty Council for approval.

- Actuarial Mathematics Program - removal of ACT 3530
- Biotechnology Honours and Major Programs – removal of BIOL 4610 and addition of MBIO 3030 as a required course, and the addition of co-op wording to the Calendar
- Computer Science Program – modifications to the areas of specialization
- Genetics Major Program – MBIO 4020 and MBIO 4672 added to available options
- Psychology Honours Program – increase in required total credits from 114 to 120
- Statistics Program - removal of ACT 3530, and year 3 electives increased from 3 to 6 credit hours

MOTION: to approve the above program changes, as circulated. Moved by M. Piercey-Normore, seconded by G. Anderson.

CARRIED

5. President David Barnard

The President addressed the Council. His remarks included:

- mentioned that graduate students need more support
- enrolment planning is of importance – may want to revisit the idea of the overall size of the institution as the control variable
- this and next years' budget based on provincial government's promise of a 5% operating increase
- there is a need to optimize space to make the best use of infrastructure already available
- the need for more data and information extracted from that data about resource usage, how we compare with peers elsewhere and where we need to make investments which we are currently doing on very little information. The Office of Institutional Analysis is working very hard to bring us up to speed with data collection.

The President invited comments. The following points were raised:

- Biological Sciences confronted with the removal of all animal holdings to the Richardson Centre for Functional Foods and Nutraceutica. Would like assurance that infrastructure is in place to conduct their research here on campus.
- Does the President agree with that idea that courses delivered by a for profit organization (Ad Astra) are an integral part of programs here at the U of M?
- Will there be opportunities for broad consultation with faculty members and departments regarding the restructuring initiative?
- Do mechanisms exist to ensure any significant changes made in this tight economic environment will be effective? For example, IST changes, some of which seem to be counterproductive. We need to look at the big picture.

- Considerable work is being downloaded to the departments, and will departments be compensated for this extra work?
- Concern that basic science is not highlighted enough in the President's strategic plan. It leads to difficulties for researchers to describe their own work as far as the University's plan is concerned.
- Infrastructure is the single biggest challenge in achieving the goal of an outstanding work place. There is far more attention being paid to new construction rather than to the timely completion of upgrades to antiquated facilities. This may lead to cynicism and poor morale.
- Concern about renewal and IT changes - many changes all at once. The rapid pace of change and the changing demographics are happening together along with the current economic resource constraint. Feeling that it is crucial for the University to think more than 2-3 years in advance.

6. Dean's Report

- Congratulations to David Barnard, Harry Duckworth and Gordon Goldsborough who are recipients of the Queen's Jubilee Award.
- The Department of Statistics is hosting two public talks - February 29 and March 2.
- A committee has been formed to award funding for field research and teaching. The first meeting is on February 29th.
- A Committee for Internationalization has been formed.
- There has been lots of discussion about shared services, information technology, etc. and those discussions are continuing.
- Discussions are underway to ensure that the impacts of various ROSE initiatives on academic departments are being recognized.
- The Science/Engineering/Environment/Agriculture cluster has requested to meet with the Provost – discussions are at a very early stage.
- The Faculty is receiving good PR recently.
- Our budget submission priorities include a further increase in graduate student funding, further increase in support of undergraduate student research awards, and a request to hire 2-3 more grant facilitator staff.
- Plans are to continue our program of undergraduate lab and research space renovations.

Comments based on Dean's Report:

- Endorsement to the importance for students to have USRA experience. NSERC does take this into consideration when assessing future postgraduate, postdoctoral or grant funding.
- GETS program – matching funds against new grants and money dedicated to student stipends. This program is significantly undersubscribed and, if eligible, faculty are encouraged to consider this program.

7. Other Business - nothing to report

8. Adjournment - meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.