

MINUTES

142nd MEETING OF THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

held on Thursday, February 2nd, 2006, 1:30 p.m. in 250 Allen

PRESENT: Mark Whitmore, Chair
E. Worobec
R. Roshko
D. Scuse
J. Cullen
D. Gillis
J. Williams
M. Shantz (Secretary)

M. Abrahams
B. Macpherson
B. Southern (for N. Davison)
D. Schroeder
T. de Kievit
W. Buchannon

REGRETS: R. Williams, A. Gumel

GUESTS: J. McConnell
J. Sealey (Arts)

J. Ogston
N. Swaine (Arts)

The Dean welcomed Janet Sealey and Nancy Swaine from the Faculty of Arts, and Joan McConnell and Jill Ogsten from the Faculty of Science. The agenda was altered to accommodate the guests.

1. Academic Standing and Degree Requirements

The new Student Information System could not program current academic assessments, so Science needed to revise policies consistent with the capabilities of Aurora. Their guiding principles were:

1. keep it simple
2. keep everything within the capabilities of Aurora
3. consistency across departments

The proposed policies were developed in consultation with departments and have been approved by the Committee on Courses. The VP Academic initially took strong exception to some of the proposals and still have concerns:

- dislike counting Fs, as repeated Fs are not counted in new cgpa
- not happy with lack of standard probation and suspension assessments
- happy about students individually advised

Janet Sealey noted that the Policy Committee and the Faculty Executive in the Faculty of Arts developed a similar, but not exactly the same, model as Science. The main consideration for Arts for their three year degree was that there be a limit on the number of F and D grades a student could earn, regardless of whether the course was repeated. Arts felt D grades were marginal, and should be included in assessments, as the more D grades a student accumulated the further

away they could be from achieving a minimum C average. Students would be permitted a maximum of 30 hours of Fs, and a maximum of 42 hours of F and D grades combined. Arts did agree, after pressure from the VP Academic, to provide some accommodation for repeats in their assessment. Students were permitted an additional 12 hours of Fs and Ds if these courses were repeated. Janet noted that Arts students rarely repeat courses, unless they are aiming for a professional faculty. Joan McConnell noted that this is different in Science: students do repeat courses quite often, mostly for professional program entry, but also because Science programs had very specific course requirements.

Mark Whitmore noted that Science policies used the cgpa for assessment of General and Major students, but the Dgpa (Degree gpa) for Honours students. McConnell explained that the Aurora system had only two "operative" gpas - that is, gpas on which assessments would automatically be made: the TGPA (term) and CGPA (Cumulative). Any other gpa would not produce an automatic assessment, but would have to be done by way of a report. While it was not as advantageous for students, it was decided to use the cgpa because of time exigencies. Both Science and Arts hoped that there might be a customization arranged to make the dgpa an operative gpa. Whitmore thought that there was little interest in making this happen at this time. IT has agreed to stress the importance of this suggestion in our regulations.

Whitmore noted the VP Academic said that students would be limited to repeating a course only once. This has not yet been approved by Senate.

Whitmore also noted that the VP Academic expressed an interest in students achieving a certain GPA in U1 before being allowed to move into ANY faculty, including Arts and Science. Dean Sigurdson from Arts has met with the VP about this. Kerr's suggestion was that students have a 2.00 minimum, but after discussion, he was prepared to consider a 1.8. Whitmore provided this for information only, as he noted that this was not part of our new assessment.

MOTION: To recommend that the proposed Academic Standing and Degree Requirements be forwarded to Faculty Council for approval. Moved by D. Gillis and seconded by E. Worobec.

CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the 141st meeting of the Executive Committee held on December 16, 2005. Moved by M. Abrahams and seconded by D. Scuse.

CARRIED

3. Course and Program Changes

Associate Dean Worobec outlined the changes.

MOTION: To approve the course and program changes which were approved by the Faculty Committee on Courses. Moved by E. Worobec and seconded by J. Williams.

CARRIED

4. Graduate Program Changes

Associate Dean Mark Abrahams reported that Botany and Zoology have identical changes to their graduate supplementary regulations. They are both proposing a reduction in the number of required courses. The minimum at FGS is now 6 (MSc) and 6 (PhD).

MOTION: To recommend approval of the graduate program changes, subject to approval by the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Moved by M. Abrahams and seconded by D. Schroeder.

CARRIED

5. Dean's Report

Dean Whitmore is currently working on:

- budget presentations
- academic assessments
- CFI applications and CRC searches
- a draft schedule for Academic Program Reviews

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA
Faculty of Science
250 Machray Hall
Office of the Dean
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: January 24, 2006
TO: Faculty Executive Committee, Faculty of Science
FROM: Lorraine Lester, Dean's Office *Lorraine*
RE: **NOTICE OF MEETING**

The 142nd meeting of the Faculty Executive Committee is scheduled for Thursday, February 2 at 1:30 p.m.. in Room 250 Allen Building.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the 141st meeting of the Faculty Executive Committee held on December 16, 2005.
2. Course and Program Changes (enclosed)
3. Graduate Program Changes (enclosed)
4. Dean's Report
5. Other Business

Encl.