

MINUTES

102nd Meeting of the Science Faculty Council

Held on Tuesday, February 14, 2006 at 2:30 p.m. in Senate Chambers, 245 Engineering.

Present:

M. D. Whitmore (Chair)	R. Roshko
M. Abrahams	B. Worobec
T. Schultz	M. Chestley
R. Thulasiram	P. Thulasiraman
G. Hickling	H. Duckworth
P. Dibrov	J. McConnell
K. Londry	B. Southern
P. Budzelaar	J. Xidos
P. Hultin	W. Buchannon
T. Berry	B. Macpherson
G. Krause	J. Bate
P. Loewen	R. Sparling
J. van Rees	E. Huebner
A. Worley	D. Gillis
J. Hare	G. Woods

Regrets:

F. Hruska	H. Perreault
J. Hoskins	P. King
P. Graham	T. Kucera
F. Gauvin	J. Williams
E. Smirnova	

1. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the 101st meeting held on December 20th, 2005 were approved as circulated, moved by P. Loewen and seconded by J. Bate.

MOTION: CARRIED

2. Course and Program Changes

Associate Dean Worobec outlined minor changes to the undergraduate program and moved that they be approved. R. Roshko seconded the motion.

MOTION: CARRIED

Discussion ensued about the biochemistry project course being offered at St. Boniface College. It was decided that the Dean would seek additional information and that it be referred to the joint committee to make a recommendation to the Committee on Courses.

MOTION: CARRIED

Associate Dean Worobec outlined the proposed policy changes to the requirements for the Faculty of Science Academic Standing for the Bachelor, Major and Honours degrees. These policies were developed in consultation with department heads, and passed by the Committee on Courses, passed at the Faculty Executive and are now on the agenda for approval at Faculty Council. The reason for the policy changes was due to the new Student Information System, which is not capable of programming current academic assessments and as a result Science needed to revise policies consistent with the capabilities of Aurora.

General degree – there will be no suspension, below 2.0 gpa will receive an academic warning, and there will be no course limit. After 36 credit hours of F's the student will be placed on probation.

Major Degree – There will be no course low. CGPA more than 2.0 to remain in the program. No more than 8 credit hours of F's. DGPA must be more than 2.0 to graduate. At least C on all Major specific courses.

Honours Degree – In order to qualify for the Honours program the student is required to have qualified for the Majors program. A minimum of 9 credit hours per term is required. DGPA must be more than 3.0 to remain in good standing. No more than 15 credit hours of F's are allowed. At least C+ on all program specific courses. DGPA more than 3.0 to graduate.

Science policies will use the CGPA for assessment of General and Major students, but use the DGPA for Honours students. The Aurora system has only two "operative" gpas – the gpas on which assessments would automatically be made, the TGPA and the CGPA. Any other gpa would not produce an automatic assessment. It was decided that the CGPA would be used. Science hopes that the DGPA will become an operative gpa as well.

After discussion on this topic, Darren Gillis moved that an amendment be made to strengthen the wording regarding the preference of using the DGPA over the CGPA with Associate Dean Worobec providing the wording. This motion was seconded by James Xidos.

MOTION: CARRIED

3. Graduate Program Changes

Associate Dean Abrahams outlined the changes to the Graduate programs. Mark Abrahams moved approval for a motion that credit hours in Botany and Zoology be reduced, which was seconded by Erwin Huebner.

MOTION: CARRIED

4. Dean's Report

Budget

A diminished deficit is projected. The budget was submitted before Christmas and an aggressive budget presentation was done in January.

SIP

In the fall SIP, Science was awarded 2 assistant professors; one in Mathematics and one in Physics and Astronomy, and two Instructors; one in Computer Science and one in Mathematics.

Canada Research Chair Searches

There are 3 CRC searches. Tier 1 in Advanced Materials, Tier 2 in Structural Biology and Tier 2 in Genomics. The Tier 2 in Structural Biology search was chaired by Associate Dean, Mark Abrahams. An agreement has been reached with the candidate, who was offered and has accepted a faculty position in Chemistry. The nomination will be forwarded to CRC subject to the Board of Governors approval. The Tier 1 has reached a similar stage and the candidate has agreed to the terms. The Tier 2 in Genomics is at the short-listing stage.

Student Referendum

Students voted in favour of doubling their annual fee from \$75.00 to \$150.00 in this year's referendum. We thank the students for their efforts and commitment.

Opening of EITC

The EITC Building opened on schedule and congratulations go out to everyone involved in this project, particularly John Bate.

Research Grants

Associate Dean Mark Abrahams reported that there were 12 requests of 1.5 million for the RTI funding competition. The Faculty of Science is still providing seed money.

There were a total of 7 CFI NIF applications for the university, 3 coming from the Faculty of Science.

February 24th is the deadline for applications to the LOF-E. Experienced researchers can apply for up to \$1.M.

LOF-N – Faculty are eligible within 36 months of first appointment. – full applications are due by Monday, April 10.’

NPF (National Platforms Fund) – one integrated proposal from U. of M. joining Westgrid due on April 24th and going into the joint program in May.

Infrastructural Issues

Associate Dean, Roy Roshko, reported that a lot of attention needs to be paid to the development of a strategy to repair the infrastructure in the faculty. Three areas of concern are research infrastructure, teaching and routine maintenance. There have been two requests relating to research infrastructure, one from Brian Rivers and one from VP Research. There is no similar structure for teaching and routine maintenance. Trevor and Roy devised a prioritized list of renovations, which was sent to Brian Rivers. Subject to budgetary restrictions, one or two items a year will be completed. The list will be updated every six months to a year and Roy will be in touch with department heads for lists of routine maintenance issues. We must be proactive on teaching and routine maintenance. In regards to fundraising for these projects, the question was raised whether anything has been done through Elaine Goldie’s office.

High School Math Pre-requisite

Associate Dean Worobec reported that the high school mathematics pre-requisite for entry into U1 has been eliminated and working on having it written into department requirements. Thinking of still having it as a requirement for admission into Science. Still not sure how the transfer credits will work so that is another problem.

Student Discipline

There are an increasing number of discipline cases, academic dishonesty etc. The Student Discipline Committee is building on the model that mathematics and computer science use. There should be a faculty template with guidelines, lists of penalties, honesty declarations, available to the students on the Faculty of Science website.

International Student Advisor

The Dean’s office is in the process of hiring an International Student Advisor whose main duties will be advising international students, but who will also help out with other advising.

Scholarships and Fellowships

The issue of funding to graduate students from central resources requires assessing. The students receive less now than they did two years ago.

5. Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.