

# MINUTES

## 108<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Science Faculty Council

Held on Thursday, May 24th, 2007, at 3:00 p.m. in 204 Armes

### PRESENT:

M. Whitmore, Chair	B. Worobec	M. Abrahams
R. Roshko	M. Docker	M. Sumner
D. Gillis	G. Anderson	M. Piercey-Normore
S. Mandal	R. Padmanabhan	S. Renault
J. Bate	T. Kucera	B. Hann
W. Buchannon	H. Perreault	K. Kopotun
J. O'Neil	J. Xidos	K. Sharma
K. Koczanski	E. Smirnova	B. Southern
F. Gauvin	J. Sorensen	J. van Lierop
C. Platt	J. Birchill	T. Berry
T. Booth	E. Huebner	T. Schultz
M. Chestley	M. Freund	P. Budzelaar
J. van Wijngaarden	T. Andres	J. Brewster
M. Doob	K. Travis	M. Bieringer
B. Macpherson	T. De Kievit	D. Court
B. Mark	J. Stetefeld	F. Hruska
R. Thomas	P. Blunden	J. Page
A. Gerhard	G. Krause	G. Moghaddam
J. Arino		

### GUESTS:

Dr. Robert Kerr, Vice President (Academic) and Provost

### REGRETS:

N. Hunter	J. Harper
S. Page	G. Robinson
J. Hare	R. Eskicioglu
S. Cheng	T. Kucera
J. Williams	

Dean Whitmore announced that the test run for electronic voting was successful and he would be proceeding to do a vote on the revised promotion and tenure policies soon.

The interim Strategic Plan was placed on the Science website on May 9<sup>th</sup>, following the Townhall meetings in March and April. Departments are currently working on their Strategic Plans.

Dr. Whitmore introduced Dr. Robert Kerr, Vice-President (Academic) and Provost. Dr. Whitmore invited Dr. Kerr to attend the meeting to share his thoughts on the Faculty of Science Strategic Plan. Dr. Kerr indicated his support for the plan and his willingness to facilitate the plan in any manner that he feasibly could.

Dr. Kerr addressed and summarized some of the issues facing the Faculty in the Strategic Plan.

- Funding – Administration is attempting to build up the budget. Dr. Kerr is hoping that the budget they are taking forward to the province will be supported.
- Need for more academic and support Staff – Dr. Kerr agrees and understands the issue, but there is little he can do about it due to funding restraints.
- Changes in Environment – Create multi-disciplinary programs across the faculty and university.
- Changing Demographics – increase in the Aboriginal population, MW requirement – the committee is recommending no change.
- Supporting student environment and facilitating their success. Maximizing and supporting research.
- Responding to a changing society. Where will the students' interests lie. How do we get students interested in research?

The major themes discussed were:

### **1) Funding**

A recurring theme was the lack of funding. Dr. Kerr announced that the President will be visiting departments. The budget presentations have highlighted the infrastructure problems in the Faculty, which administration is now aware of. Although there is no large scale solution in terms of funding, it is a priority. It was suggested that the Vice-Presidents, Deans etc. should be more visibly advocating for funding from the city and province and that there be a more aggressive public campaign to make the public and the bureaucrats aware of the state of infrastructure at the university.

In order to generate more funds, we need to think about ways to do this, such as implementing new programs for example. If they are successful, then resources will follow. Build links with other faculties, eg. Medicine.

Dr. Kerr is dealing with the government but their response is in terms of one year funding and controlling the budget. He assured the Faculty that the President is doing everything she can to convince the government that more funding is required.

The tuition freeze has resulted in lost revenue for the university and has not made any impact on student numbers.

### **2) Enrolment and Recruitment Issues**

The number of high school graduates is declining. The University must be more aggressive and proactive in attracting students. Dr. Kerr said that the university is revamping promotional material to attract students. There is a proposal being developed for an Integrated Studies Degree for students out of University for 5 years or more. A program for people in the workforce and support services for mature students were suggested.

Graduate student funding is an issue when trying to attract graduate students. We are competing with Universities outside the province where there is more funding for graduate students. Students go where there is more graduate student funding. The Government is trying to provide a substantial one-time funding amount for sholarships, but it will be another 5 years before any impact of that money will be seen. Currently, the government has a fixed amount of money they give each year and the university gets matching money for about half of the scholarship programs.

Dr. Kerr said that the University has to find a way to get the message out to the government and the public about the lack of funding. He feels that the Faculty and the University are doing an incredible job with the resources they have.

It was suggested that Faculties should be informed by December of each year of the amount of money there would be for graduate students, as timing is important in attracting them. The reason they are not informed by December is because administration is waiting for the budget to come out, which doesn't happen until the spring. It was also suggested that the SIP process be moved so that searches could begin earlier, but due to the same constraints (waiting for the budget to come out) it is not something within Dr. Kerr's control. Dr. Kerr said he would find out why the money is not available by December.

### **3) Marketing**

There needs to be more marketing of the excellence of our programs. Ads in the newspapers, brochures out to students and ads in locations that students congregate, outlining the benefits of coming to the University of Manitoba, promotion in the news etc. We must find a way to capture the audience we want to attract here. Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta are our competition.

Dean Whitmore thanked Dr. Kerr for his input and told the faculty that administration is listening.

### **Faculty Members who received Tenure in 2007**

- Kevin Campbell      Biological Sciences
- Scott Kroeker      Chemistry
- Ben Li              Computer Science

### **Faculty Members who were promoted in 2007**

- Kevin Campbell      Biological Sciences
- Michael Freund      Chemistry
- Peter Budzelaar      Chemistry
- Michael Zapp      Computer Science
- Ben Li              Computer Science
- Jaydeep Chipalkatti      Mathematics
- Kiril Kopotun      Mathematics
- Saumen Mandal      Statistics