

MINUTES

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**118th Meeting of the Science Faculty Council
held on Tuesday, September 14th, 2010
at 2:30 p.m. in Senate Chambers**

PRESENT:

M. Whitmore (Chair)	E. Worobec	R. Roshko
P. Graham	J. Arino	A. Samson
R. Sparling	S. Muthukumarana	J. van Rees
I. Oresnik	J. Bate	S. Renault
P. Dibrov	M. Doob	John Anderson
D. Court	J. Brewster	M. Docker
Judy Anderson	K. Sharma	H. Luong
M. Chestley	K. Koczanski	B. Li
Z. Mohammed	R. Borgersen	J. Y. Seo
D. Gunderson	J. Xidos	G. Anderson
A. Shalchi	D. Gillis	S. Sealy
B. Southern	K. Scott	F. Gauvin
G. Williams	S. McKenna	C. Platt
E. Huebner	G. Robinson	R. Eskicioglu
M. Sumner	A. Worley	A. Leblanc
P. Budzelaar	J. van Wijngaarden	J. McKee
L. Lester (recorder)		

REGRETS:

J. Hare	T. Booth	P. Loewen
E. Smirnova	R. Compton	J. Sorensen
P. King	I. Ferguson	G. Krause
J. Williams	Y. Zhang	T. Kucera
M. Davidson	C. Bartels	J. Pai

GUESTS: J. McConnell G. Sobie

The agenda for the meeting was approved by Faculty Executive Council at their meeting on September 1, 2010.

1. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the 117th meeting held on February 17th, 2010.
Moved by Judy Anderson, seconded by J. Bate.

CARRIED

2. Introduction of New Faculty Members

The following new members of Faculty Council were introduced:

Biological Sciences:	Mark Belmonte, Assistant Professor
Chemistry:	Horace Luong, Instructor 2
Mathematics:	Robert Borgersen, Instructor 1
Physics & Astronomy	Andreas Shalchi, Assistant Professor
Statistics:	Saman Muthkumarana, Assistant Professor

Dr. Whitmore introduced David Gunderson as the new Head of the Department of Mathematics.

3. Introduction of SSA members

Rochelle Viray, SSA President
Zaiba Mohammed

4. Recognition of Promotions and Tenure

Dean Whitmore congratulated the following faculty members who were granted tenure in 2010:

Gary Anderson	Biological Sciences
Anne Worley	Biological Sciences
Steve Whyard	Biological Sciences
Yanni Ellen Liu	Computer Science
Jaydeep Chipalkatti	Mathematics
Eric Schippers	Mathematics
Can-Ming Hu	Physics and Astronomy
Johan van Lierop	Physics and Astronomy
Alex Leblanc	Statistics

Dean Whitmore congratulated the following faculty members who were promoted in 2010:

Francois Gauvin	Chemistry	Senior Instructor
Alex Leblanc	Statistics	Associate Professor
Steve Whyard	Biological Sciences	Associate Professor

5. Undergraduate Course and Program Changes

The program changes put forward by the Committee on Courses and Programs have been reviewed by Faculty Executive and forwarded to Faculty Council for approval. Course changes are for information only as they are approved by Faculty Executive.

Associate Dean, B. Worobec, outlined the changes to the Honours Degree regulations as follows:

- Change the Honours GPA entry requirement from 2.50 to 3.00.
- Remove the C+ requirement in honours specific courses for continuation.
- Remove the C+ requirement in Honours specific courses for graduation.

MOTION: To approve the proposed changes to the Faculty of Science Honours Degree regulations. Moved by B. Worobec, seconded by Gary Anderson.

CARRIED

Dr. Worobec outlined the changes to the General Degree regulations. The proposed changes would allow for more flexibility in course pairings.

MOTION: To approve the proposed changes to the General Degree requirement. Moved by B. Worobec, seconded by R. Eskicioglu.

CARRIED

MOTION: To approve the package of all remaining program changes as circulated. Moved by B. Worobec, seconded by K. Sharma.

CARRIED

6. Graduate Course and Program Changes

Associate Dean, P. Graham, outlined the proposed Graduate Course and Program Changes in Computer Science, resulting from the Department's external graduate program review. The proposed changes include:

- Changes in grading away from pass/fail to COMP 7220 (this has been approved by Faculty Executive Council and here for information only)
- Change in the number of credit hours in the thesis M.Sc. Program due to the change in COMP 7220.
- Reactivation of the Course Work Masters option without comprehensive exams.

The latter two points have been recommended to Faculty Council for approval and tentatively approved by Graduate Studies.

MOTION: To recommend approval of the Course Work Masters in Computer Science. Moved by P. Graham, seconded by J. Bate.

CARRIED

7. Faculty Senate Election

Dean Whitmore congratulated Tom Berry on his election to Senate for a 3 year term, beginning June 1, 2010 to May 31, 2013.

8. Dean's Report (attached)

The Dean's Report is also available on the Faculty of Science website.

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn. Moved by M. Whitmore, seconded by D. Gillis.

CARRIED

A Note of Thanks

My first and happy task is to extend my personal thanks, and that of the Faculty of Science, to Roy Roshko for so ably filling the role of Acting Dean of Science and to Norm Hunter for interrupting his leave to fill in as Acting Associate Dean. They did a wonderful job in taking on these roles during the busy and complex times of budget restraints and the ROSE and OARS reviews.

Administrative Updates

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate Guenter Krause for the completion of seven years as Head of the Department of Mathematics. Guenter has been replaced by David Gunderson. I'm delighted to congratulate Dave and welcome him to this role which I am confident he will find both stimulating and rewarding.

Betty Worobec will be on administrative leave for the first six months of 2011. I will be issuing a call for nominations/applications/suggestions for an Acting Associate Dean for this period; you can start thinking about this now.

I would also like to thank Gordon Goldsborough for his 14 years of service as Director of the Delta Marsh Field Station. Major projects during his tenure include the construction of three new buildings and major renovations to the dining hall.

Budget

In the lead up to the current budget, all Faculties were asked to prepare scenarios for a budget reduction of up to 5%. In the end, budget reductions were generally severe, but not that severe; allocations ranged from reductions of 3.25% to an increase of 3%. The Faculty of Science lost 2.52% in baseline, which is almost exactly \$700 K. The budget reduction was partially offset by a one-time allocation of \$350 K in budget-only funds.

A reduction of this magnitude is comparable to the starting salaries of approximately 10 faculty positions. Since our financial circumstances were already very tight, we have little room to maneuver outside of reducing faculty positions. Our general strategy is to permanently cut two or possibly three

positions, insert a one-year delay in any new hiring, and make minor reductions at the edges of our operating budget. Since we typically have approximately seven departures per year, (mainly retirements), this plan would amount to a reduction of 10 faculty positions on an operational basis.

Research and Graduate Studies

The 2009-10 academic year saw a reversal in the declining enrollments trend of previous few years: graduate enrollments increased from 262 in September 2008 to 298 (285 full time, 13 part time) in September 2009. I do not have the 2010 numbers, but anecdotal reports from some departments are very encouraging.

In our budget decisions, we have preserved our Faculty of Science graduate fellowships, and are, once again, participating in the too-modest NSERC top-up program. To preserve this support, we make other sacrifices as a Faculty.

The changes occurring at NSERC are very worrisome. One of our departments has used its ICM revenues to help cushion the blow to some individuals. We have decided not to continue our support for future RTI applications.

The Manitoba Institute for Materials has been approved by Senate. We were optimistic about a major funding application submitted to WED for the renovation of the old cyclotron space in the basement of the Allen building, but unfortunately, the funding was not approved. We will continue to advance the Institute through other activities, including some very modest financial support.

The High Performance Computers that we are purchasing through our participation in the Westgrid consortium have arrived, and are currently being installed in the new purpose-built building between the Machray Hall and Buller buildings. It is anticipated that the computers will be commissioned later in the fall with access becoming available in stages as acceptance testing and setup are completed.

The Faculty of Graduate Studies has completed its "Time-to-Completion" Study. The Dean of Graduate Studies will be making a presentation at an upcoming meeting of the Faculty of Science Faculty Council.

Congratulations, yet again, to Ken Standing and Werner Enns for winning the *Encana Principal Award*, which is the highest honour bestowed by the Ernest C. Manning Awards Foundation. This award is given to Canadians who have demonstrated innovative talent in developing and successfully marketing a new concept, process or procedure. They are the first University of Manitoba professors to win the award.

Congratulations to Mike Butler for his NSERC grant of \$5 million over five years to create a strategic alliance known as MabNet. The network will involve 20 professors based in nine Canadian universities in collaboration with 12 Canadian biotechnology/pharmaceutical companies and three government institutions.

Undergraduate

The four-year Major in Genetics, with and without a co-op option, has been approved by Senate and the Joint Honours Computer Science/Statistics Program should be appearing at Senate shortly.

Undergraduate enrollments are up this year. In Science, the number of majors is up 7.5%, and our UGSCs are up 1.9%. These numbers compare with 1.0% and 0.8% for the U of M as a whole. Our largest increases are in Microbiology and Statistics. Overall, our student numbers are reaching, or exceeding, our capacity.

Admission, continuation and graduation requirements for all undergraduate programs are under review with the goal to provide simpler, more consistent requirements across the Faculty. The first tangible outcome has been the introduction of the option for students to transit from University 1 directly into one of our four-year Major programs. Our plan is to develop the transit feature to include Honours programs.

Joe Williams (Mathematics), along with Judith Owens (Department of English) is co-chairing an Ad Hoc Committee to Review the M (mathematics) and W (writing) requirements. Betty Worobec, Don Trim (Mathematics) and Xikui Wang (Statistics) are committee members. The Committee is to provide a report to Senate Executive by the end of November.

Recently, the program *review of University 1* was presented to Senate and endorsed by Vice-President Academic and Provost Joanne Keselman. There will be general changes to governance: U1 will now report to the new Vice-Provost Students and U1 Council will be replaced by an Advisory Committee. Betty Worobec and Joan McConnell have been asked to sit on the Advisory Committee. The major impact of the review for the Faculty of Science will be the development of Blended Entry Options. A template for Blended Entry, based loosely on the direct-entry model for Engineering, will be going before Senate in October. The template prescribes a certain high school average (e.g. 85%) on a set number of 40S courses for students wanting to enter directly into a Faculty from High School. Faculties opting for Blended Entry must also allow students to enter via University 1. Betty Worobec is currently collecting data to determine what would constitute a reasonable high school average and corresponding course requirements for a Science Blended Entry Option; she will work with the Faculty of Science Committee on Courses and Programs (COCAP) to develop a proposal. Blended Entry proposals must be approved by Faculty Councils and submitted to Senate no later than December 2010 for implementation in the 2012-13 year.

A pilot of the High School Math Diagnostic Test was run in June with 50 high school students. Many schools were interested in participating, but the timing of the test was not ideal. The Department of Mathematics will continue the pilot over the next year, plus collect data on first-year Math grades correlated to High School Math grades, to assist in development of remedial programs. The pilot was initiated in response to the unknown outcome of the newly implemented High School Math curriculum.

Faculty of Science Office Staff changes – a new International Student Advisor Jennifer Marchand joined us this summer. Jennifer is an experienced student advisor from the Asper School of Business. Long-time Science Student Advisor Jill Ogston, who has been with the Faculty of Science for 10 years, will be leaving at the end of September to join her husband in their family business.

A University-wide comprehensive Academic Discipline Website will be launched in the next month. It will contain many resources for faculty, staff and students including template letters and tables of standardized sanctions. The Faculty of Science should be proud to know that our website and materials were used as the template for this initiative.

Recruitment/Retention activities: besides Evening of Excellence, Info Days, the Rotary Career Fair, Brandon Career Fair, the Eastern Manitoba Career Fair (Beausejour), and the Parklands Career Fair (Dauphin) the Faculty of Science hosted a new initiative in the spring called Discover Your Future in Science (DYFIS). Over the course of two evenings, our Science departments made presentations and spent time speaking with students all with the intent to attract students to Major and Honours Science programs. DYFIS has been moved to the Fall term for 2010, and along with the other information evenings like the Medical and Dentistry information sessions; the series now runs a different session, Monday-Thursday for the entire month of September.

All of these events, including high school tours and workshops, will continue in 2010/11, plus for the first time, the faculty will have a presence at the Science Teachers of Manitoba yearly SAG workshops held every October.

Other events included Science Rendez-Vous (lead by James Xidos, Department of Chemistry). Science Rendez-Vous is free all-day event that aims to highlight and promote great science in Canada. The target audience is the general public, parents, children and youth, with an ultimate aim of improving enrollment and investment in sciences and technology in the future.

Let's Talk Science (LTS) had another successful year with an increase in the number of Science student volunteers (graduate and undergraduate), number of schools and students reached. Some of the highlights include out-reach activities at St. Vital Mall, Rossbrook House, Boys and Girls Club of Winnipeg, Bright Futures and Biomedical Youth Programs and the All Sciences Challenge event (a nation-wide all-day contest for schools). In addition, LTS Director David Tang was named the National Co-ordinator of the Year. This year, in addition to the previously mentioned events and on-going school visits, LTS plans to develop science camps for inner-city and aboriginal children, expand the mall events, and expand their presence in inner-city and rural schools.

ROSE and OARS

These two projects have touched, perhaps, everyone in the university (even deans on leave.) A great deal of work has been done that identify issues, which I believe is a step forward. Proposed solutions are beginning to emerge, and we should all be prepared for significant change.

Duff Roblin Fire Update

The psychologists and other Arts inhabitants have moved back into the Duff Roblin building. A number of our biologists have moved to the trailers now that the psychologists have returned to Duff. Other people are still scattered about. We are holding some undergraduate laboratories in "our" side of the building but, otherwise, our re-occupancy of Duff is still well in the future: 2012.

On a personal note, I continue to be delighted by the professionalism of everyone who has been affected by this fire, either directly or indirectly. I particularly commend the head and associate heads of Biological Sciences for their tireless work and dedication.

Delta Marsh Field Station

The Delta Marsh Field Station and the Delta Marsh Bird Observatory are open and are fully operational for the mid-April to November period. Early indications suggest that it has been a very successful season. Although a comprehensive picture of the role of the Field Station is still under development, it is my expectation that it will continue operations on a seasonal basis.

Infrastructure Renewal

Two major Faculty of Science facility projects have been funded by the Knowledge Infrastructure Program (KIP), the Biological Sciences Building and the Buller Building. Both are progressing well, although with the usual issues regarding logistics, security, timing and cost over-runs. According to the federal government, these projects must be completed by April of 2011 in order to receive the KIP funding. The cost over-runs may be problematic.

In the meantime, we are continuing with other smaller projects.

Advancement and Development, and Communications

Jason Coates was hired as our new Development Officer after Karen Fowler was externally recruited to a more senior position. Jason is actively engaging Faculty, and would be pleased to meet with departments and individuals.

Maureen Paisley has been working very hard, with Khosrow Hakimzadeh and Jason, to update our web site, print materials, and to create accessible stories which are on our web site. This work has paid off in some unpredictable ways. For example, Steve Whyard did 17 CBC radio interviews, and Michelle Piercey-Normore and John Sorensen have been interviewed by Maclean's about their work. We have been advocating for the central communication team to incorporate more about the Faculty of Science in their work, and include what matters to potential science students in their positioning of the University of Manitoba.

Our annual Homecoming Luncheon is this September 24. Attendance is growing, and we will include a number of our faculty members with posters. Attendance is also expected to include our president and three vice-presidents.

Strategic Planning

The Faculty of Science Strategic Plan is built on a number of assumptions, some of which no longer appear to be valid. It is my intention to re-visit these assumptions and revise the plan accordingly, without this becoming an onerous exercise. The process began with an Administrative Council retreat in early September, and will continue with that group prior to coming back to the Faculty as a whole.