

MINUTES

**136th Meeting of the Science Faculty Council
held on Monday, February 9, 2015, at 10:00 am in
Senate Chambers, E3-262 EITC**

PRESENT:	S. Baum (Chair)	M. Piercey-Normore	I. Oresnik
	R. Flynn	M. Whitmore	J. McConnell
	B. Mark	G. Hausner	D. Court
	John Anderson	C. Wang	S. Whyard
	M. Docker	K. Koczanski	J. O'Neil
	J. van Lierop	B. Southern	N. Kenkel
	T. Booth	R. Craigen	H. Luong
	K. Scott	S. Durocher	M. Domaratzki
	J. Stacey	J. Treberg	S. Renault
	L. Brown	T. Kucera	D. Weihrauch
	J. Hare	Judy Anderson	S. Kirkland
	P. Graham	P. Budzelaar	M. Shantz (recorder)
REGRETS:	P. Loewen	E. Huebner	M. Bieringer
	G. Anderson	E. Smirnova	J. van Wijngaarden
	K. Gough	R. Eskicioglu	
GUESTS:	C. Adams	T. Schultz	

1. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: to approve the agenda. Moved by P. Budzelaar, seconded by Judy Anderson.

CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: to approve the minutes of the 135th meeting of Faculty Council, held on September 5, 2014. Moved by T. Booth, seconded by Judy Anderson.

CARRIED

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

Nothing to report.

4. COCAP Terms of Reference

Proposed changes (as circulated) and amendments:

- Under membership i) - amendment to replace the wording as circulated - to read “three faculty members, one from each of the three disciplines in Science (life sciences, physical sciences, and computer and mathematical sciences) to provide a broader perspective”.
- Under terms of membership - change in wording from “No fixed term of membership.” to “Three year term for all faculty/staff members, and one year term for students, with the possibility of renewal.”
- Under duties and responsibilities:
 - (a) addition of “interdisciplinary programs”
 - (a iii) new wording - “by requesting feedback from all affected departments and faculties”.
 - (c) amendment to replace the wording as circulated - to read “ensure consistency, **as appropriate**, with general regulations and across departments and programs within the Faculty of Science”.

MOTION: to approve the changes to the COCAP terms of reference, as circulated, with the above amendments. Moved by P. Graham, seconded by P. Budzelaar.

CARRIED

5. Undergraduate Course and Program Changes

M. Piercey-Normore outlined the undergraduate course and program changes. The undergraduate course changes are brought to Faculty Council for information only. The program changes have been recommended by Faculty Executive and are brought to Faculty Council for approval.

MOTION: to approve the undergraduate program changes, as circulated. Moved by M. Piercey-Normore, seconded by S. Kirkland.

CARRIED

6. Graduate Course and Program Changes - for information only

- The Department of Mathematics currently offers a thesis-based Master’s degree. They proposed the introduction of an optional course-based Master’s degree.
- In Mathematics, the cross listing of 17 senior undergraduate Mathematics courses with graduate courses.

Both proposals were approved at the January 7, 2015 meeting of the FGS Academic Programs Committee. The next step is approval from FGS Executive.

7. Dean's Report

State of Our Faculty

- Our new communications officer, Jennifer Macrae, is doing really great things. Be sure to check out the 'Science Today' emails, now featuring weekly student video broadcasts.
- Each department will be provided with a camera, which we encourage you to use, and there are plans to install hallway TVs in each Science building to display FoS events.
- J. Macrae is working to develop a system through LinkedIn for tracking alumni. Please provide Jennifer or Bridgette Parker with any alumni contact information you may have.
- Fundraising - currently working with B. Parker to develop a Faculty of Science case for support. It will be distributed when completed and will include areas where we can seek funds.
- John Page (Physics and Astronomy) was recently awarded an American Physical Society Fellowship.
- Jorg Stetefeld and Gregg Tomy (Chemistry) received WED funding to establish the Centre for Oil and Gas Research and Development, an internationally-accredited analytical centre in environmental monitoring and remediation services.
- The Dean's Office will be hiring two Associate Deans - one for undergraduate programs and one for undergraduate student experience.
- Looking to develop a new strategic plan later this year (spring/summer).
- The FoS first annual 'Science Bash', where participants share their research through a single projected image, with two minutes to describe that research, is planned for this Spring - details to follow.

Budget

- Too early to know what will happen with the budget. The Strategic Resource Plan presentation went as well as could be expected. We have been asked to plan for a 4% cut, which will require a reduction to our course offerings. P. Loewen has sent a request to Heads for next year's curriculum offerings, requesting a reduction to first year sections. We need to think of how we can reduce our load.

Renovations

- The Biological Sciences research lab in 511 Buller will be completed in May.
- The Microbiology general office move to 213 Buller is completed.
- The Starbucks outlet in Armes will be completed within the month and the Science Student Lounge area to be completed by the end of March.
- The move of the Mathematics and Statistics departmental offices has been tendered and is planned to start in late March.
- Funds have been allocated from Central to renovate the Physical Chemistry teaching lab in Parker and the large Microbiology teaching lab in Buller - most likely in the summer of 2016.
- The Faculty has applied to another teaching lab fund from Central, with the first year Chemistry teaching labs and Biochemistry labs in Parker on the list.
- Renovation plans for a research lab on the 500 level of Parker to house the recent WED award to G. Tomy and J. Stetefeld are being prepared.
- Construction in A lot is for the Manitoba Institute for Materials

Undergraduate Retreat - M. Piercey-Normore

- The Undergraduate Retreat, held in November 2014, focused on six topic areas:
 - increased flexibility and clarity in programs
 - increased experiential “deep” learning/education for all Science students – possibility of an accelerated program
 - program consistency – in terms of concentration, and in major and minor programs
 - understanding 3-year students
 - design an improved Science student advising system – the role of Career Services and improved communications between department and advisor
 - common first year for all students – in order to alleviate taking more courses
- There are plans in the works to hold a second retreat.

CRC Chair Process - I. Oresnik

- Three NSERC Tier I and one NSERC Tier II allotments from VP (Research)
- 14 proposal ideas were received from Faculty of Science departments
- Four Tier II and one Tier I proposals were put forward, in no particular order:
 - Tier I - J. Stetefeld renewal
 - Tier II - Medical Physics, Arctic Biome, Big Data, and support for the Tier II proposal from Engineering for MIMS (with the agreement that they will support FoS in the next round).

Indigenous Effort - M. Whitmore

- There are now 30 volunteers and six sub-committees.
- A draft strategic plan has been developed and sub-committees have initial draft terms of reference.
- A strategic plan discussion session on Indigenous Achievement is planned for March. All Faculty of Science faculty, staff and students will be invited to attend.

8. Other Business - nothing to report

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

ADDENDUM

Statistics – Economics Joint Honours program

A proposed program modification to the Statistics – Economics Joint Honours program was mistakenly omitted from the January 29, 2015 COCAP agenda. We were informed that if the changes could be approved at the various committees within the Faculty of Science (COCAP, Faculty Executive, Faculty Council), the program modification will be considered at the SCCCC meeting. The proposed changes are the result of curriculum revisions in both the Economics and Math departments that require changes in the Statistics – Economics Joint Honours program.

An electronic vote was conducted on March 31, 2015, seeking approval from Faculty Council.

MOTION: that the program modifications to the Statistics-Economics Joint Honours program be approved. Moved by S. Lui, seconded by R. Sparling.

CARRIED