Minutes of the Faculty of Science
Council Meeting No. 127
held on
Tuesday, September 17th, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.
in the Ad-Hum Fifth Floor Boardroom (AH 527)


Senate Representatives: M. Dagenais, B. Krismer

Representatives from other Faculties/Units: J. D’arcy, K. Herman, H. Kreek, F. Obrigewitsch, C. Phelps, W. Wessel

Regrets: R. Caines, S. Culhane, G. Donnelly, K. Leyton-Brown, K. Naqvi, C. Oriet

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Sterenberg/Brigham
Moved approval of the agenda as posted on the Faculty of Science website. CARRIED

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 126 HELD MAY 15TH, 2013
Yost/Farenick
CARRIED

3 BUSINESS ARISING
N/A

4. CHAIR’S REMARKS
• Welcome to all representatives from other faculties, Senate and student representatives.
• Welcome four new Department Heads; Dr. Renata Raina-Fulton (Chemistry & Biochemistry), Dr. Howard Hamilton (Computer Science), Dr. Guoxiang Chi (Geology) and Dr. Nader Mobed (Physics).
• The last two University budgets have required all units to make cuts. Science ended FY 2013 in the black. We are now in FY 2014 and cuts were made to departmental budgets, affecting teaching assistants, markers and sessionals. This semester we have an increased enrolment over last year. The departments are coping with a lot of flexibility and ingenuity.
• The Academic Program Review is now drawing to a close, and the structural organization review that was to go with it has been postponed indefinitely. No major university wide administrative initiative will be undertaken during this fiscal year.
• Science believes social interactions are a big part of maintaining morale. We hosted another successful golf tournament involving people from other faculties and units on campus, and we had a great slow-pitch game against the Faculty of Arts. Photos from the slow-pitch game are available on the Science website.
• On September 19th the Science Pub Series kicks off with Dr. Cory Butz’s presentation: AI: Rise of the Machines, and September 23rd is our annual Science Centre Social at the Sask. Science Centre.
5. ASSOCIATE DEAN (ACADEMIC) REPORT

5.1 Admissions and Studies Committee (Numbers in brackets correspond to the numbers on the A & S Reports). (Attached as Appendix I).

5.1.2 (1.0) Faculty of Science
Approval of Graduands
Sterenberg/Brigham CARRIED

(2.1) Faculty of Science
Approval to add “must have a lab component” to the natural science requirement listed under section 16.9.1.1 of the Undergraduate Calendar and Course Catalog.
Mobed/Hilderman CARRIED

(2.2) Faculty of Science
Approval to change “**Geography, Economics and Psychology courses are considered to be within the Faculty of Science only for BSc and BSc (Hons) students who are majoring in Geography, Economics or Psychology respectively” under section 16.9.1.1 of the Undergraduate Calendar and Course Catalog to “For BSc and BSc (Hons) students majoring in Geography, Economics and Psychology: courses within the major requirements are considered to be within the Faculty of Science. Additional courses in these disciplines will continue to be treated as Arts electives (see below).”
Mobed/Hall CARRIED

5.1.3 Page 3 is for information only.

6. ASSOCIATE DEAN (RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES) REPORT

• The soft, internal deadline for NSERC DGs to the Dean's Office has traditionally been October 1. If you are applying, please send me your PDF as soon as possible. Applicants are also encouraged to have colleagues review their application. The ORIP internal deadline is October 15th.
• If you are applying for an NSERC RTI, please send me your application as soon as possible. The ORIP deadline is September 25th.
• Regarding Brazilian PhD students in the Science Without Borders program, the students must express interest by the end of the month. You will receive an email indicating that a student is interested in working with you. Then you will be given the application package to review to decide if you want to take the student.
• In the Faculty Awards of Excellence, there is a new category called "Excellence in Graduate Research Mentorship". If you would like to nominate a Science colleague, then please get in touch with me. I will either prepare the nomination package or I can assist you.
• The AI/GI/CRV conference in May was a huge success. Thanks to everyone who helped out. Special thanks to Dr. Orland Hoeber and to Jacqui Lockert for all of their hard work.

7. FACULTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT
(Attached as Appendix II).

8. NEW BUSINESS
No new business.

9. REPORTS FROM SCIENCE REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER UNITS
No reports.

10. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES FROM OTHER UNITS, SENATE AND STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

10.1 Library
• Library personnel are available to attend lectures and talk to classes about Library resources.
11. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

11.1 Department of Biology
- Managing the budget.
- Our enrolment has increased, we also have more international students.
- Increase in research.

11.2 Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Managing the budget (TAs, grad student funding).
- First year classes are at maximum capacity.
- Looking at Engineering for possible funding resources to help with increased class size.
- Congratulations to Mohan Babu on receiving a CIHR New Investigator Award.
- Welcome Dr. Dennis Fitzpatrick as a new faculty member to the Department.

11.3 Department of Computer Science
- Two of the largest conferences on Electronics and Computer Engineering were held on campus in May: The 2013 Canadian Conference on Electrical and Computer Engineering (CCECE’13) & the 2013 AI/GI/CRV Conference.
- Enrolments are up, first and third year classes are full, as well as grad classes.
- New active program – Graduate Co-Op program with 18 students currently enrolled.

11.4 Department of Geology
- Enrolment has increased, courses are full or nearly full.
- Two field schools were offered this summer; Rocky Mountains (May) and Flin Flon (August). Both were a success.

11.5 Department of Mathematics and Statistics
- The 14th annual University of Regina Mathematics Enrichment Camp will be held October 5th. This one-day camp is open to all Saskatchewan students in Grades 7 through 12.
- Problem Solving workshops run Monday nights, please visit the dept. website for details.
- Undergrad enrolment has increased, lots of students in Calculus and Statistics.
- Pre-Calculus Seminars are an opportunity for students to review topics that are required for first-year courses in mathematics. Attendance was strong again this year, and it was offered by Patrick Maidorn, LeighAnne MacKnight, and Robert Petry.
- New active program - MSc (Course-Based) program is a two-year program of advanced coursework and is suited for students who do not intend to pursue a career in research.
- Grad student orientation was a success.
- Dr. Ragnar-Olaf Buchweitz from the University of Toronto kicks off the PIMS Distinguished Lecture Series on September 24th. Everyone is welcome.

11.6 Department of Physics
- Enrolment in first year courses is up 20%.
- Courses are at full capacity.
- Short 6 instructors for program delivery.
- Looking into an online grading system to save on teaching assistant salaries.
- Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation/Sylvia Fedoruk Centre (CCNI) set up by the Provincial Government with $30M funding over 7 years. Its purpose is to place Saskatchewan among global leaders in nuclear research, development and training through investment in partnership with academia and industry for maximum societal and economic benefit. An initial round of "Project" funding in
2012 had 5 successful projects (each around $100k): 4 to the University of Saskatchewan and 1 to the University of Regina/Physics. The U of R Physics project is to apply photo sensor technology from our GlueX/Jefferson Lab research to the applied sector (nuclear imaging for plants and personal radiation monitors for safety). The 5 inaugural projects participated in a public forum on August 28 called nuclear FACTS2013. The CCNI is adding "Programs" to its portfolio in 2014 and for these it has decided to invite 2 Letters of Intent from U of S (Nuclear Imaging and Environment) and 1 from the U of R (Public Policy) with possibly a second one to the U of R in 2014 (Nuclear Safety). Physics/Science is working with the new Dean of Engineering on collaborative research and programs. Ultimate goals are to carry out high calibre research in the Province and also to educate the public on nuclear issues and get its pulse to see if Nuclear Reactors in Saskatchewan are a possibility in the future.

12. OTHER BUSINESS
   N/A

13. ADJOURNMENT
   Gagnon/Brigham
   The meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm. CARRIED