Minutes of the Faculty of Science
Council Meeting No. 128
held on
Wednesday, January 15th, 2014
in the Ad-Hum Fifth Floor Boardroom (AH 527)


Senate Representatives: M. Dagenais, B. Krismer

Representatives from other Faculties/Units: J. D’arcy, G. Donnelly, K. Herman, K. Naqvi, C. Oriet, M. Vetter


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

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 127 HELD SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2013
Weger/Sterenberg
CARRIED

3. BUSINESS ARISING
N/A

4. CHAIR’S REMARKS
   • Welcome to all representatives.
   • President Timmons will be attending to discuss her plans for 2014.
   • Dr. Joe Piwowar will be attending to discuss his plan for the consultation process and the assembling of a consultation team for the U of R Strategic Plan.
   • Budget submissions for FY2015 are due on Feb. 19, 2014.
   • Most departments report being tight for space in Fall 2013 and Winter 2014 in both classrooms and labs.
   • Two recently created major committees of Council are chaired by Science faculty members: Chris Yost (Biology) is the Chair of Council Committee on Academic Mission and Tanya Dahms (Chemistry & Biochemistry) is the Chair of Council Committee on Budget.
   • Science received two replacement positions in Biology last fall. The department is currently searching for a Tenure-Track Assistant Professor in Plant Ecology and a Tenure-Track Lab Instructor in Animal Physiology.
   • Registration statistics are up again in Winter 2014 compared to Winter 2013 by 6.7% (4th behind Nursing, Engineering and KHS). These statistics were also higher in Fall 2013 compared to Fall 2012.
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
Mobed/Kozdron CARRIED

(2.1) Faculty of Science
Approval to include the Environmental Science 20, Health Science 20 and Physical Science 20 in to the Early Conditional Category A list requirement for admission.
Mobed/Hall CARRIED

(3.1) Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
Approval to remove note “All students beginning 300 level chemistry or biochemistry courses who have appropriate grades should obtain academic advising from the Department of Chemistry on their programs so that they are prepared for Chemistry 401/402 if they choose to take these courses” from section 20 for the Undergraduate Calendar & Course Catalog.
Mobed/Raina-Fulton CARRIED

(4.1) Department of Mathematics and Statistics
Approval to change CS 498 to CS 498 or Math 497, and CS 499 to CS 499 or Math 498 within the BSc Combined Honours Major in Computer Science & Mathematics, and the BSc Combined Honours Major in Mathematics and Computer Science.
Mobed/Farenick CARRIED

5.1.3 Pages 8-12 are for information only.

6. ASSOCIATE DEAN (RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES) REPORT

- NSERC USRA applications are due in FGSR February 3, 2014. This is one avenue to help with the training of HQP.
- There are two current CFI calls for proposals. One is the Draft Call for Proposals for the 2015 Innovation Fund (IF). The internal deadline to submit the NOI to ORIP is February 3, 2014. The second is the John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF). JELF was previously known as the Leaders Opportunity Fund (LOF). The internal deadline to submit the NOI to ORIP is January 31, 2014.
- FGSR is holding a competition for the Saskatchewan Innovation and Opportunity Scholarship. There are multiple scholarships to award. The award is worth up to $15,000 for PhD students and up to $9,000 for MSc students.
- FGSR would like to raise awareness that plagiarism is a growing problem. FGSR would like feedback on the notion of requiring a Turnitin report for every thesis. The choice of Turnitin is simply that the UofR has a license for it. This can be done by the student, by the supervisor(s), by the department, associate dean, or FGSR. Feedback and comments are welcome.

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 Arts

- Structural changes to departments: Geography and Environmental Studies now one department.

11. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

11.1 Department of Biology

- No report.

11.2 Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

- Increased enrolments and less funding have put a strain on labs and GTAs.

11.3 Department of Computer Science

- Enrolments are up, first and third year classes are full, as well as grad classes.
- Graduate Co-Op program is busy.

11.4 Department of Geology

- No report.

11.5 Department of Mathematics and Statistics

- Dr. Shaun Fallat has been named the Olga Taussky Lecturer at the 2014 International Linear Algebra Society Conference in Seoul, Korea.
- The Department is hosting the Canadian Kangaroo Mathematics Competition for the first time ever in late March. This national contest is organised in collaboration with the Canadian Mathematical Society and is hosted by several universities across Canada.

11.6 Department of Physics

- No report.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

N/A

13. ADJOURNMENT

Gagnon

The meeting adjourned at 4:38 pm.