Faculty of Science Scholarship Committee  
Report to Faculty of Science Council  
May 12th, 2015

Items for Approval:

1. The Faculty of Science Scholarship Committee recommends Isabella Hugel, BSc in Computer Science, Co-operative Education designation, achieving Great Distinction be awarded the University Prize in Science at the 2015 Spring Convocation.
   1.1 A write-up for the Convocation program for Isabella is attached.

2. The Faculty of Science Scholarship Committee recommends Kristen Leigh, BSc in Biology, Concentration in Ecology & Environmental Biology, achieving Great Distinction be awarded the Faculty of Science Dean’s Medal at the 2015 Spring Convocation.
   2.1 Kristen was nominated for the President’s Medal, and the letter of recommendation from the Faculty of Science Scholarship Committee is attached for information.

Items for Information:

The Faculty of Science Scholarship Committee awarded the Faculty of Science 10th Anniversary Scholarship to Michayla Hicks, an entering Science student, major in biochemistry.

The Department of Biology awarded the Dr. Robert M. Agnew Memorial Award to Megan Zak.

The Department of Chemistry awarded the Society of Chemical Industry, Canadian Section, Merit Award (Chemistry) to Francois Boire.

The Department of Chemistry awarded the Society of Chemical Industry, Canadian Section, Merit Award (Biochemistry) Dale Thomas.

The Department of Geology awarded the APEGs Gold Medal to Ericka Bourlon.

The Department of Physics had no eligible awardees for the Sadie and Norman Ratner Prize in Physics for the Spring 2015 convocation.

N. Mobed (Chair)  
Associate Dean (Academic)
1.1 University Prize in Science

The University Prize in Science is awarded at convocation to the most distinguished student graduating with a first degree from the Faculty of Science. Isabella Hugel is the recipient of this prize at the 2015 Spring Convocation. Isabella is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, with a Co-operative Education designation, achieving Great Distinction.

Isabella graduated from Greenall School in June 2010. While studying at the University of Regina, she has received many scholarships in recognition of her academic achievements, including: Academic Gold Scholarship (Winter 2011, Fall 2011, Fall 2012, Fall 2014), Academic Silver Scholarship, Centennial Merit Plus Scholarship, ISM Canada IT Futures Scholarship, Muriel E. Finlayson Undergraduate Computational Science Research Scholarship, NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award (Spring/Summer 2012, Spring/Summer 2013), Regina Engineering Society Scholarship, Rural Student Entrance Scholarship, Saskatchewan Innovation Undergraduate Scholarship, SED Systems – A Division of Calian Ltd. Scholarship, Shell Canada Scholarship in Computer Science, Stantec Scholarship in the Faculty of Engineering, University Medal, and Wascana Preceptory No. 51 Knights Templar Scholarship (Fall 2012, Spring/Summer 2013).

In the 2012 Spring/Summer semester, Isabella was the recipient of a university-sponsored NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award, and worked under the supervision of Dr. Howard J. Hamilton. The title of this award was “Fast, Flexible Crowd Animation Guided by the Influence of Individuals on Perceived Quality”. Crowd animation refers to animating simulated crowds of people or autonomous creatures. It is used in games, films, emergency planning, etc. Due to the complexity of choosing actions for many interacting individuals in a crowd and then animating these actions, crowd animation is challenging for current systems. The goal of her project was to systematize the handling of update rates of individuals in a crowd, based on their perceived influence on visual realism. In other words, the idea was that more computer time would be spent on the members of the crowd who were more easily seen. As a result of the research, some crowd simulation software was developed and evaluated. A report was prepared for internal use, but it was not submitted for publication. Dr. Hamilton’s also commented, “She is noted for her many articulate questions in lectures, her careful, comprehensive work on assignments, and her brilliant performance on examinations.”

In the 2013 Spring/Summer semester, Isabella was the recipient of a second NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award, and worked under the supervision of Dr. Orland Hoeber. The title of her project was “Visualizing Temporally Changing Sentiment in Twitter Streams”. Her work on this project provided the basis for subsequent funding and ongoing research in this domain. She was a co-author on one workshop paper:


Outside of her studies, Isabella has a passion for music that’s led her to take part in the University of Regina concert band as a flutist, and become a volunteer keyboard player for St. Agnes Roman Catholic Church. Both of these endeavors require numerous hours of practice to learn the music, and how to integrate her portion into the full musical piece. Truly, Isabella is a distinguished student, both in her academics, research work, and extra-curricular activities.
2.1 Faculty of Science Dean’s Medal – Kristen Leigh

The Faculty of Science Scholarship Committee nominates Kristen Leigh, BSc in Biology, Concentration in Ecology & Environmental Biology, with a CGPA of 87.69% to be considered for the President’s Medal at the 2015 Spring Convocation.

As a result of her consistently outstanding academic record, with term averages ranging from 83.20% up to 91.50%, Kristen was awarded the Academic Silver Scholarship in the Fall semesters of 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014. She will also be awarded the Faculty of Science Dean’s Medal at the upcoming Spring convocation for her outstanding academic record and volunteer work.

Outside of her academic studies, Kristen has truly excelled in her volunteer experiences. She was a Supplemental Instruction (SI) Leader for one of our Phys 109 sections for the Fall 2014 semester. Volunteering as a SI leader requires several hours of dedication, both in attending the course with the students and drafting lesson plans to lead the SI sessions at a later date.

In the fourth year of her university studies, as part of a business class entitled Innovation and Entrepreneurship, she opened a community based business called Soulful Sandwiches. Through this business, in conjunction with Tangerine: The Food Bar, she sold sandwich vouchers to those that wanted to give back to the community and to help those in need. The vouchers were used to provide a nutritious meal in a welcoming environment to women staying at either SOFIA House, or The Shirley Schneider Support Centre. SOFIA house is a second stage transition home for women who have been abused. The Shirley Schneider Support Centre is a teen mothers program offered through Balfour Collegiate.

Currently, she volunteers as a Queen of Green Coach for the David Suzuki Foundation. This program is designed to help people learn how to make their home a focus of green practices to reduce their impact on the planet. She will be working with seven families over the next several months to work these green practices into their every day routines. This area of volunteer work is perfectly suited her to the BSc in Biology, Concentration in Environmental Biology & Ecology, that she has completed this year.

Kristen has shown herself to not only be an outstanding academic, but also a compassionate person that’s led her to become a strong leader in helping people through innovative and creative ways. Her volunteer and academic experiences have been the basis of developing the skills required to help her succeed in whatever path she chooses to follow in the future.