Minutes of the Faculty of Science  
Council Meeting No. 136  
held on  
Tuesday, May 12th, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.  
in the AdHum Boardroom, AH 527


Senate Representatives: B. Krismer

Representatives from other Faculties/Units: G. Donnelly, A. Fizzard, K. Herman, C. Oriet, C. Phelps

Regrets: L. Aument, L. Bradshaw, M. Brigham, A. Cameron, S. Lukasewich, R. Manzon

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
Moved to amend the agenda as posted on the Faculty of Science website.  
Argerami/Weger  
CARRIED

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 135 HELD JANUARY 20, 2015  
Farenick/Weger  
CARRIED

3. BUSINESS ARISING  
No business arising

4. CHAIR’S REMARKS  
- Sarah Posehn (HS&E) Presentation: Risk Management in Research Wet Labs  
- Science had a 1% cut to our budget, which is approximately $150,000. That is a relatively small amount, but it is calculated based on the entire budget of the Faculty of Science, which includes all salaries and benefits. It is a much larger percentage of our operations budget, approximately 15%.  
- In the Dean's Office, one of our largest budget lines is for sessionals. Most of the cut will be in that budget line. Small sized classes should be kept to a strict minimum, electives taught every second year (unless numbers warrant teaching them once a year) and faculty members are to teach as many courses as they can based on their level of research activity.  
- The only position that was authorized for FY2016 was a replacement lab instructor in Chemistry and Biochemistry based on need from a large influx of Engineering students and safety concerns.  
- No increased funding was given for TAs.
The development and implementation of a new Master of Health Information Management program was not funded from the base budget (but it may be through a special initiative budget).

Hopefully Science can maintain the minimum of sessional hires that are needed, maintain most of our teaching equipment renewal budget, as well as try to maintain our departmental budgets for FY2016.

As discussed at previous Council meetings, a new Faculty of Science organizational chart has been created to better reflect our true organization and reporting structure. (Attached as Appendix I).

5. ASSOCIATE DEAN (RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES) REPORT

- Results for the NSERC Discovery Grants 2015 cycle:
  The Faculty of Science had 12 applications submitted and 8 of these were funded. Biology was 4/6, Chemistry & Biochemistry was 1/2, Computer Science was 0/1, Geology was 1/1, and Mathematics & Statistics went 2/2. This 67% acceptance rate ties our highest acceptance rate of the past six years.
- The University of Regina had 12 NSERC Discovery Grants funded. Thus, the Faculty of Science received 67% of the University of Regina's total. Science had 12 applications this year. This is the fewest number of applications we have had in the past 6 years. We had one case in which someone got back on NSERC after having been off for a couple of years.
- If you are planning to apply in the upcoming cycle, the Notice of Intent to Apply is August 1st. The NOI is mandatory.
- Program Officers from NSERC will give a DG workshop on June 18th. The last NSERC DG workshop hosted by ORIP was fantastic. Thanks to Don Stanley and Chris Yost for sharing their experiences with us.
- ORIP has once again kindly offered to help you prepare CCVs. Please contact Ara as soon as possible.
- NSERC has decided to fund each applicant in the highest bin that was not funded to the tune of $10K for one year. I am waiting to hear from ORIP if we have anyone in this category. This is essentially bridging money.
- In more NSERC news, Physics was perfect this year going 2/2 in their applications. Science had 2/3 NSERC RTI grant applications funded.
- The Mitacs Director of Business Development will visit the UofR on May 19th-20th. Please contact myself if you would like to meet with him. He will give a presentation if there is enough demand.
- The 6 GRF nominations from Science were all accepted by FGSR. Thanks to the graduate coordinators from each department for their effort in making the process seamless this year.

6. ASSOCIATE DEAN (ACADEMIC) REPORT

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

6.1.1 (1.0) Faculty of Science
  Approval of Graduands
  Mobed/Sterenberg CARRIED
(2.1) Department of Biology
Approval to replace Biol 476 with Biol 356 in the BSc and BSc Hons in Biology (Ecology and Environmental Biology Area of Concentration), BSc Combined Major in Biology and Geography, BSc & BSc Hons in Environmental Biology (Joint Program with Saskatchewan Polytechnic & Lethbridge College), and the BSc & BSc Hons in Environmental Biology (Joint Program with Lakeland College).
Mobed/Weger CARRIED

(3.1) Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry
Approval to delete Biol 288 from, and add one Science elective to, the BSc and BSc Hons in Biochemistry.
Mobed/Sterenberg CARRIED

(4.1) Department of Mathematics & Statistics
Approval to revise Section 16.17.2.10 of the Undergraduate Calendar and Course Catalog from a minor in Mathematics to a Minor in Mathematics with and Applied Stream and a Pure Stream.
Mobed/Farenick CARRIED

Pages 15-19 are for information only.

(5.1) Faculty of Science (in conjunction with First Nations University)
Approval to create the Bachelor of Science in Indigenous Environmental Science degree.
Mobed/Farenick CARRIED

Pages 23-26 are for information only.

6.2 Scholarship Committee (Attached as Appendix III).

7. FACULTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT
   • Becky Jamieson has been appointed as the Technician in the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry effective April 1, 2015.

8. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT
   (Attached as Appendix IV).
   Maidorn/Dahms CARRIED

9. NEW BUSINESS
   Motion: to set up a 1-year (effective immediately) ad hoc committee within Science, to oversee remaining issues with the Print Optimization project. Request 3 volunteers to join
   Lee Aument on the committee.
   East/Dahms CARRIED

10. REPORTS FROM SCIENCE REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER FACULTIES/UNITS/COMMITTEES
   No Reports.
11. **Reports from Representatives from Other Faculties, Senate and Student Representatives**

No Reports.

12. **Department Reports**

12.1 *Department of Biology*
- The department had a site visit by the Canadian Council for Animal Care (CCAC) in May. They inspected the ARE (Animal Research & Education) Facility, the Aquatics Facility, and also the protocols for dealing with animal-based field research. The inspection went well. The recommendations will be outlined in the CCAC site visit report, which will arrive in July.

12.2 *Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry*
- No Report

12.3 *Department of Computer Science*
- Presentations for ISM Canada Computer Science and Technology Project Award received good media coverage
- Ministry of Justice $625,000 contract

12.4 *Department of Geology*
- Several colleagues in Geology obtained major external funding in recent months. Dr. Hairuo Qing, following his NSERC-Discovery grant renewal, obtained a major funding from Sinopec.
- Dr. Kathryn Bethune obtained a major funding from the GEM2 (Geological mapping for Energy and Mineral Resources in Northern Canada) program of the Geological Survey of Canada; she also obtained an NSERC-CRD grant with support from NSERC and Areva.
- Dr. Guoxiang Chi, together with Dr. Bethune, obtained a funding from Cameco.
- Dr. Janis Dale received the University of Regina Alumni Association Award for Excellence in Teaching.
- Congratulations to my colleagues for their achievements.

12.5 *Department of Mathematics and Statistics*
- The Department hosted a very successful national math competition and math camp in March, attracting more than 100 participants from Grades 1 through 12.
- This spring and summer the Department is offering 15 undergraduate courses in mathematics and statistics, including one offered in Saskatoon.
- The Canadian Institute for Actuaries (CIA) is conducting a site visit in late May. The Actuarial Science program received national accreditation earlier this year, and congratulations are extended to all academic staff members involved in the program.
- Adam Gorr, a 4th year student in Mathematics, received the University’s only NSERC CGS M postgraduate scholarship. He will begin his Masters program at the UofR in March.
The student society (MASS) has become active again, and is organising a "steak night" fund raiser.

Former Head of Math & Stats and present Chancellor, Dr Jim Tomkins, was recognised by Purdue University as a Distinguished Science Alumnus at a recent convocation of Purdue University.

12.6 Department of Physics

- A formal offer has been made to the candidate for a Sylvia Fedoruk - U of R bridged Assistant/Associate Professor (Tenure-Track) position.

13. Other Business

No other business

14. Adjournment

East

The meeting adjourned at 4:29 pm.