

Faculty Council of Humanities and Social Sciences Meeting  
Wednesday, December 6, 2023  
1:00 p.m. via Webex

The regular meeting of the Faculty Council of Humanities and Social Sciences was held on Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. via Webex. A list of those who attended is attached. Dr. N. Hurley chaired the meeting.

**1. Land Acknowledgement**

Dr. Hurley provided the Land Acknowledgement:

We acknowledge that the lands on which Memorial University's campuses are situated are in the traditional territories of diverse Indigenous groups, and we acknowledge with respect the diverse histories and cultures of the Beothuk, Mi'kmaq, Innu, and Inuit of this province. We gather here as subjects implicated in the long history and structures of colonialism and in the spirit of community commitment to reconciliation and to undertaking the work of repair and building responsible relations.

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

Dr. Hurley reminded all in attendance of the Consent Agenda/Regular Agenda format and gave an opportunity to move items from Consent to Regular Agenda.

-The 3 MLLC Calendar Change Proposals were removed from Consent Agenda and moved to Regular Agenda as item # 8, as requested by P. Dold, Associate Dean (C&P).

With this change, item # 3 and 4 on the Consent Agenda were adopted.

-The Regular Agenda change is noted as adding MLLC Calendar Change Proposals as item # 8. The Regular Agenda was adopted with this change. Moved/Second: M. Burchell/P. Dold; Carried.

**Regular Agenda:**

**5. Guest Speaker, Dr. Lee Ann McKivior, University Registrar & Interim Secretary to Senate**

-Dr. McKivior presented information on Memorial University Senate, its various committees, and committee responsibilities. Dr. McKivior is presenting to all faculties across the university to encourage more volunteers from the faculty to get involved, as there are a # of Senate seat vacancies. The vacancies are listed on the Senate website. Dr. McKivior explained the Senate connections to the Board of Regents, and how involvement in Senate is an opportunity to impact change at Memorial. In response to a query, Dr. McKivior indicated there are opportunities for student involvement as well and it is welcomed. If anyone has any questions, please email: [senate@mun.ca](mailto:senate@mun.ca).

**6. Dean's Remarks (N. Hurley)**

-Administrative staff review: 1st stages are undertaken which was an overview of the staff complement. The next stage is to convene a meeting of those invested in the review to share what will be next steps. The full process will probably take up to a year to complete. It was re-iterated that this review is to ensure we use all our positions more wisely and equitably across the faculty.

-Department operating budgets are being reviewed, and is actively being worked, but no results are ready for sharing as of yet.

- Brown bag lunch with President, Neil Bose, is re-scheduled for January 22, 2024, Science Building, Room # 2025.
- Dean's List event held late November was successful and was well received. HSS should look to celebrate more of the Faculty's successes.
- The Dean's office may be reviewing criteria for the Dean's List and would like to receive feedback from the departments. The University's requirements say only 10% of students are eligible for the Dean's list, and we want to be mindful that the HSS students that we serve are well represented on the Dean's List.
- The Dean's Office is following up on providing Mental Health/Wellness Training to the faculty. More information will follow once we have something to share.
- Review of Teaching Plans is ongoing.
- The Dean wrote to Heads asking for information about the Accommodation/Accessibility Plan to align with new Provincial guidelines. Our Faculty has undertaken initiatives with regard to Accommodation and Accessibility, and we need to hear from the departments on what has been done and what is planned around this issue. In response to a query, the request will be sent to non-academic units as well. The Dean stated all information is welcome, and students are encouraged to provide information as well. The Blundon Centre and CITL are providing information as well, but they would not have information related specifically to HSS Faculty initiatives.
- The next Faculty Council meeting is being moved to Wednesday, January 10th, out of respect for all members (since the 1st Wed. in January is the first day back from break).
- The Indigenous Verification Consultant is working to get consultation moving forward, and everyone is encouraged to contribute if they can.
- The annual holiday party at the Breezeway is Thursday, Dec 14, and the Dean encouraged people to attend.
- The Dean thanked and expressed appreciation to everyone for the work and commitment to the Faculty in 2023, and wished everyone a safe and enjoyable break.

**7. Motion: Faculty of HSS Anti-Racism Committee to operate jointly with its equivalent at School of Social Work (N. Hurley)**

-The motion was included with the meeting package. The 2 Deans believe it is a good idea to take up more space in conjunction with the School of Social Work. In response to a question, it was stated that there is nothing in the current Terms of Reference to preclude students from becoming involved, and faculty would support and encourage student involvement. A proper return to the Terms of Reference will be reviewed, and will identify students as members in a future faculty council.

(Moved/Second: L. MacIsaac/M. Burchell); No further discussion, no abstentions, none opposed. Motion Carried.

**8. MLLC Calendar Change Proposals**

- MLLC, French UG Prog Housekeeping
- MLLC, Spanish UG Prog Housekeeping
- MLLC, MA French Prog Housekeeping

-P. Dold explained these 3 calendar change proposals were removed from consent agenda since it was brought to our attention that there are minor, editorial changes or corrections needed. The changes do not affect the intent of the proposals, and they are identified on the attached information sheet. The motion is to accept and approve these three calendar change

proposals, with the expectation that the edits noted be completed prior to submission to SCUGS/SGS, as appropriate. (Moved/Second: P. Dold/M. Mayr). Carried.

**9. Update from Chair, Curriculum and Programs Committee 2023-2024 (K. Simonsen)**

-The committee is thankful for all the departments for getting the calendar changes in and would encourage starting earlier. It was re-iterated that calendar change proposals can be processed all through the year, not strictly late in the fall.

-The committee is still reviewing CRW and Language Study Requirements, and a questionnaire is being finalized regarding CRW courses, and this will be sent out to Heads early in the new year.

**10. Update from Chair, Planning and Research Committee 2023-2024 (N. Welch)**

-M. Burchell gave an update in N. Welch's absence.

-There are still 2 openings for members to join this committee.

-The committee has reviewed a draft document outlining principles for graduate students.

-A meeting is being coordinated to have consultation and a discussion on the archives.

-The next meeting will be devoted to archives and see if there is a way to work together better to improve the research committee.

**11. Update from Associate Dean, Curriculum and Programs (P. Dold)**

-Majority of calendar change proposals were received by deadline, and all have been processed. The approvals today will be issued to SCUGS and SGS as appropriate. We do not know exactly when they will get onto those meeting agendas.

-Review is ongoing of teaching plans, and the goal is to have responses available for 1st thing in the New Year.

-P. Dold shared a proposal for review from the Registrar's office regarding Generative AI. The Registrar's Office has requested feedback on the proposal be issued to them by Dec. 8. Feedback was given, and if anyone has anything further, provide to Pat who will submit on behalf of the faculty to the Registrar's Office.

**12. Update from Acting Associate Dean, Research (M. Burchell)**

-Thanks to everyone who has reached out regarding Development Grants. Any questions, please don't hesitate to contact M. Burchell, or one of the Grants Facilitation Officers, Heather O'Brien, or Matt Milner

**13. Announcements, other business, questions**

-In response to a query, the Dean identified that an update to the Honors Program was within the list of Calendar Change Proposals approved today under the Consent Agenda.

**14. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Next Faculty Council: Wednesday, January 10 2024, 1:00 p.m. (Webex Only)

**Attendance:**

Lee Ann Mckivor (Guest Presenter), Alec Brookes, Amanda Bittner, Arn Keeling, Arthur Sullivan, Jennifer Dyer, John Sandlos, Kathryn Simonsen, Rose Frew, Meghan Burchell, Amanda Tiller-Hackett, Anne Thareau, Joshua Goudie, Ken Hopkins, Luke MacIsaac, Maria Mayr, Melanie Doyle, Myriam Osorio, Natasha Hurley, Patricia Dold, Rebecca Newhook, Renee Shute, Renee Skinner, Roberto Martinez-Espineira, Sadie Mees, Sara Mackenzie, Sebastien Rossignol, Sharon Roseman, Vaughan Grimes, Walter Okshevsky, Andrea Stapleton, Dwayne Avery, Dominique Bregent-Heald, Mona Asadian, Robin Whitaker, Theresa Mackenzie, Sarah Thorne, Sarah Penney

**Regrets:** Kelli Durdle, Renée Mercer,