

Faculty Council of Humanities and Social Sciences Meeting
Wednesday, February 7, 2024
1:00 p.m. via Webex

The regular meeting of the Faculty Council of Humanities and Social Sciences was held on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 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.

-Consent Agenda was approved and adopted (item # 3).

-Regular Agenda was approved as presented (Moved/Second: M. Burchell/P. Dold). Carried.

Regular Agenda:

4. Dean's Remarks (N. Hurley)

-Welcome to Dr. Julianna Will, new Faculty member in Classics who started in January.

-Budget: The provincial operating grant for MUN is reduced and is expected to be reduced over the next couple of years. HSS will continue to go through with the hiring planned for this year, because the positions are needed. This may put additional pressure on the budget situation, if we are successful with all the hiring. The Dean wants everyone to be aware of HSS budget situation so there is understanding when the Dean's Office cannot support all the funding requests it receives. In response to a query, the Dean indicated that Facilities Management (FacMan) had been contacted with regard to space management for HSS during her initial few months of joining Memorial. FacMan indicated at that time any costs for repairs or restructuring of spaces for the faculty would be charged back to the faculty's budget.

-Follow-up on Brown-bag Lunch with the President: The Dean expressed thanks to those who attended this event in January, although there was a lower turnout than was hoped. It was encouraging to see attendees bring concerns directly to the President. If anyone has any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to forward to the Dean's Office, and they will be presented to the President on your behalf.

-Research Report: The Dean's Office is compiling data for a report of research being performed at HSS. We are interested in metrics in grants and contracts, and also on the productivity and support side of research. We want to ensure that everyone is accurately represented, and will seek input from the Faculty. M. Burchell will be reaching out for information. If you have anything specific that you want included in the research report, please contact M. Burchell: mburchell@mun.ca.

- A Fine Crowd event: This event is currently not accomplishing all we would like it to be. The Dean's Office is working to re-imagine a better way that showcases HSS research and recognizes all our researchers in a more meaningful way. We are open to suggestions on how this can be done and welcome ideas from all HSS members. Please forward ideas to the Dean, M. Burchell, or anyone in the Dean's Office.
- HSS Staff Review: A meeting is planned for Feb. 15 with all HSS staff to launch the staffing review process. It was re-iterated that this is not about cutting positions but finding new ways to use all our resources. It will be an ongoing process and may take up to a year to complete.
- Department Operating Budget Review: This process is ongoing. As mentioned previously, this review includes the last 3 years. All departments should now have received their budget information collected by the Dean's Office. In the spirit of transparency, each department budget will also be reviewed by other departments as part of this process.
- Supervisor Guidelines: Currently, there is inconsistent information in various places within HSS and SGS on guidelines for supervising grad students. P. Dold and M. Burchell are continuing to gather information to prepare an HSS document for more complete and consistent guidelines for HSS faculty. Thanks to everyone who have provided information from within their units thus far.
- SGS Opportunities: SGS is searching for a part-time Academic Lead, and they have also issued a call for Graduate Student Tri-Council Awards. Anyone with questions on either of these items should contact SGS directly: sgs@mun.ca
- SGS Academic Council: HSS is allotted 3 seats on SGS Academic Council. There are currently 2 vacancies. Anyone interested and who has capacity to represent HSS on the SGS Academic Council, please put your name forward to the Dean's Office and it will be forwarded to SGS.
- Search Committee for Provost: This committee has been struck and is scheduled to meet later this month.
- Search Committee for President: The Dean indicated they are the representative for the Deans on this search committee.
- Anti-Racism Joint Committee: In response to a query, the Dean noted that the joint committee between Social Work and HSS on Anti-Racism met for the 1st time on February 6. There will be a subcommittee made up of Graduate and Undergraduate students who may liaise with the larger committee.
- There have been conversations of building a student committee here at HSS for meeting and bringing concerns directly to the Dean. The Dean will be reaching out to Heads for names of student representatives.
- HSS has been contacted for use of its HSS Common Room during Canada Summer Games in August 2025. It would be used as a quiet space for Summer Games athletes. Please let the Dean's Office know if you have any objections. Otherwise, HSS will allow Canada Games to use the space, as it appears to be a reasonable request.

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

- All calendar change proposals submitted have gone through SCUGS and hopefully will be on the agenda for Senate next week.
- If you have any calendar changes now, please put them forward. Anything that does not require the Board of Regents approval can be processed at any time. P. Dold indicated there is a second deadline for Calendar Changes in the Dean's Office of February 28th. Those

submitted this time of year can get approved by Senate in time for the Fall implementation, but won't appear in the academic calendar until 2025-2026.

-CPC has a subcommittee struck to review CRW courses, and a survey has been issued to Heads for completion. CRW courses have been on the calendar for 7-8 years and we want to ensure they are working as intended and to fix any issues that may exist.

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

-PRC is currently working on an informal study of the research tools, both hardware and software, used within the faculty. This will give our faculty an overall picture of the diverse ways our faculty does research. We will provide the information to the ADR for possible inclusion in the research report that is being prepared for the faculty.

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

-The survey for CRW course review has been distributed to Heads, and they have been asked to consult with their departments before completion. The deadline for feedback to be sent to the Dean's Office is March 5.

-A call for Field School proposals will be coming soon. Deadline will be April 30th. This is for Field Schools to be held between 2025-2027, depending on Field School location.

-There is an HSS Student Coffee Break planned for February 15th at the HSS Common Room, Science Building, Room 1107 from 10:00 a.m. -12:00, noon. The Dean, Assoc. Dean, and Academic Advisors will be available to meet with students, answer questions and provide information as needed.

-The Dean's Office is looking to do more to engage with students and would like to receive contact emails within HSS for student societies. Please send societies' contact information to P. Dold pdold@mun.ca or L. McIsaac ljdmacisaac@mun.ca.

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

-Information on upcoming grants and awards deadlines was provided. Anyone who requires assistance or further information can contact the Grants Facilitation Officers (GFOs), M. Milner or H. O'Brien.

-The Undergraduate Student Research Awards are upcoming, and the faculty allocation is 1 award. If you need information, please contact the GFOs.

-M. Burchell and P. Dold are continuing work on support documents for graduate officers and graduate students, and they may be reaching out to Heads and GOs for unit-specific information that does not appear to be available elsewhere.

-Thanks to all regular ASMs and Adjunct Professors for submissions for Insight Development Grants. A special thanks to the GFOs in meeting all the deadlines.

9. Announcements, other business, questions

-No questions or other announcements.

10. Adjournment

-Meeting adjourned at 1:50pm

Next Faculty Council: Wednesday, March 6, 2024, 1:00 p.m. (Webex Only)

Attendance:

Arthur Sullivan, Jeff Howard, Emil Francis, Patricia Dold, Meghan Burchell, Joshua Goudie, Julianna Will, Renee Mercer, Sara Mackenzie, Rose Frew, Danine Farquharson, Dominique Bregent-Heald, Catherine Losier, Dave Wilson, Milo Nikolic, Ken Hopkins, Arn Keeling, Melanie Doyle, Michelle Rebidoux, Myriam Osorio, Natasha Hurley, Nicholas Welch, Rebecca Newhook, Renee Skinner, Robert Ormsby, Roberto Martinez-Espineira, Sadie Mees, Sarah Thorne, Stephanie Field, Suma Rajiva, Theresa Mackenzie, Vaughan Grimes, Wendy Mosdell-Wadman, Amanda Tiller-Hackett, Andrea Stapleton, Gloria Boadi, Julie Kavanagh, Kathryn Simonsen, Kelli Durdle, Luke MacIsaac, Luke Roman, Amanda Bittner, Maria Mayr, Matthew Milner, Sarah Gordon, Anne Thareau, Sarah Penney, Yolande Pottie-Sherman, Heather C. O'Brien

Regrets:

Renee Shute