

Faculty Council of Humanities and Social Sciences Meeting
Wednesday, January 10, 2024
1:00 p.m. via Webex

The regular meeting of the Faculty Council of Humanities and Social Sciences was held on Wednesday, January 10, 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/N. Welch).
Carried.

Regular Agenda:

4. Dean's Remarks (N. Hurley)

-Review of staff positions: This review is ongoing. It is planned for the Dean's Office and an HR representative to meet with staff next week. It was reiterated that the full process will take about a year, and this is not about cutting positions, but using HSS resources the best way possible.

-Department Operating Budgets: Review is ongoing. It is planned to look at the past 3 years. The Dean's Office has compiled information relating to the units, and this will be confirmed with the departments. After the review is complete, there may be a need for some re-allocation of resources, but the process will be transparent.

-Brown Bag Lunch with the President, Dr. Neil Bose: This is scheduled for January 22, Science Building, Room SN-2025, 12:00-1:00 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to attend. It's an opportunity to raise issues and concerns directly with the President. Dr. Hurley stated that it may be more important for the President to hear from other members within HSS (as opposed to the Dean - who brings issues and concerns to university administration regularly).

-Annual Activity Reports: Dr. Hurley stated the importance of faculty submitting annual activity reports to the Dean's Office. These reports are and can be used to help promote the research of our faculty and bring to light the valuable work being done in HSS.

-M. Burchell and the Grant Facilitation Officers are preparing a "Research Data Report" similar to what N. Catto did previously for the "Curriculum and Programs" segment. The Dean's Office will rely on annual activity reports from departments for this, so again, it's valuable that these reports be issued to the Dean's Office. We are trying to think about new ways that Research Data can be used in conjunction with, and possibly remodeling, the

annual event “A Fine Crowd”. One of the goals will be to find new, creative, and better ways to celebrate and promote HSS research, both within and outside the Faculty.

-Supervisor guidelines for GO’s: The Associate Deans are undertaking the task of improving what is available for GO’s. They are gathering information that already exists and will improve the support documents and improve information on best practices. If anyone has any information that might be helpful, please forward to Rose Frew (rmfrew@mun.ca).

-HSS Senate Seats Available: Dr. Hurley issued a reminder that there are 2 Senate seats available for HSS members. As indicated in the presentation given by L.A. McKivior, if anyone is interested, contact Senate (senate@mun.ca). Dr. Hurley issued a general invitation to Senate members from HSS to share information with Faculty Council.

-Memorial Administration Searches: The Search Committee for the Provost has been struck and is scheduled to meet next week. The Search Committee for the President is in the process of being struck. More details will be provided as it is made available.

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

-P. Dold presented in the absence of K. Simonsen.

-All HSS calendar proposals are with the SCUGS committee. HSS proposals were originally on the agenda for the December meeting, but the agenda was lengthy, and HSS proposals were deferred to a future meeting. Further information will be provided when available.

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

-There was no meeting held in December

-The committee is working on an inventory of research tools, for research endeavors in the faculty.

-There is still space for 2 members on PRC and welcome volunteers for those positions.

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

-A full-day workshop on Mental Health is being coordinated for faculty members. It will combine first aid for others and first aid for oneself. It is being scheduled with an outside consultant and will be held after the end of classes. The Wellness Centre is also being contacted to possibly coordinate a shorter workshop to provide some measure of support and put something in place for the faculty.

-Teaching Plans have all been processed and finalized. If you have not already heard from the Department Head, faculty members should be hearing something shortly.

-A review of CRW courses is planned for this year - a review is supposed to happen on a regular basis. We will be asking questions about the CRW courses and CRW criteria. The request for your input and feedback will be coming soon.

-Student Events: P. Dold is seeking any ideas for possible student events and the Dean’s Office will be reaching out to student representatives to ask for input.

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

-Please submit annual activity reports as requested in the Dean’s remarks. This will help with our work on a Research Data Report. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please reach out to M. Burchell.

-Decisions on SITA(Scholarship in the Arts) funding will be issued to Department Heads shortly. M. Burchell thanked everyone for their patience.

-M. Burchell reminded everyone of the Research Funding Tracker, and identified grant application deadlines for upcoming competitions. Links to information was provided for everyone who may be interested in applying.

-If anyone has any questions on funding or grants, please reach out to the Grant Facilitation Officers or M. Burchell.

9. Announcements, other business, questions

-In response to a query about the Mental Health Workshop, P. Dold indicated that she participated in a similar workshop provided by SGS (with 3rd Party, Allison Butler), which followed Canadian Curriculum for Mental Health First Aid. As a result of that experience, it was considered a good idea to provide some of the Mental Health First Aid content for others within our faculty, but to also address understanding one's own mental and emotional health. The HSS Mental Health Workshop will also be separate from the Wellness Centre, which is available on campus. Faculty Relations does not have anything comparable for academic and non-academic staff, hence the need to work with an outside party. It was stated that the HSS Mental Health Workshop won't take the place of anything that is available on campus, but something additional in providing resources and support for HSS members.

-It was stated that Student Life can provide an overview of what is available on Mental Health resources through that option. There is also a wellness advisor at SGS for graduate students. The contact information for the SGS advisor was provided by M. Burchell.

-In response to a query, the Dean stated there is nothing new to report with regard to the accommodations and accessibility plan. Information and details provided by our faculty was submitted by deadline, and the committee is working the next steps. The Dean did thank everyone for providing information and feedback, and indicated that the concerns and issues raised were submitted as well. Further information will be provided as it becomes available.

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:34 pm.

Next Faculty Council: Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 1:00 p.m. (Webex Only)

Attendance:

Natasha Hurley (HSS, Dean's Office/English), Arthur Sullivan (Philosophy), Danine Farquharson (English), Emil Francis (Gender Studies Undergrad Student Rep), Karine Abadie (MLLC), Luke MacIsaac (English Undergrad Student Rep), Meghan Burchell (HSS, Dean's Office/Archaeology), Joshua Goudie (HSS Dean's Office), Ken Hopkins (HSS, Dean's Office), Laya Heidari Darani (Linguistics Grad Student Rep), Meghan Forsyth (Music), Renee Skinner (Registrar's Office), Rose Frew (HSS, Dean's Office), Sara Mackenzie (Linguistics), Andrea Stapleton (Business), Dave Wilson (Science), Dominique Brégent-Heald (History), Sarah Thorne (English), Stephanie Field (Human Kinetics & Recreation), Roberto Martinez-Espineira (Economics), Anne Thareau (MLLC), Nick Welch (Linguistics), Patricia Dold (HSS, Dean's Office/Religious Studies), Jillian Gould (Folklore), John Sandlos (History), Myriam Osorio (MLLC), Melanie Doyle (CITL), Rebecca Newhook (Co-operative Education), Renee Mercer (HSS Dean's Office), Renee Shute (HSS, Dean's Office), Sadie Mees (Anthropology Grad Student Rep), Sarah Gordon (Folklore), Shannon Hoff (Philosophy), Suma Rajiva (Philosophy), Vaughan Grimes (Archaeology), Wendy Mosdell-Wadman (English), Yolande Pottie-Sherman (Geography), Rochelle Cote (Sociology), Maria Mayr (MLLC), Amanda Tiller-Hackett (Library), Lynn Gambin (Economics), Mariya Lesiv (Folklore), Robert Ormsby (English), Michelle Rebidoux (Religious Studies), Jennifer Selby (Religious Studies), Alec Brookes (Anthropology/Gender Studies), Julie Kavanagh (Co-operative Education), Milo Nikolic (Classics), Matthew Milner (HSS, Dean's Office/History), Sarah Penney (HSS, Dean's Office)

Regrets:

Sharon Roseman (Anthropology)
Kathy Simonsen (Classics)