

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

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

Dean Hurley advised that the meeting would be recorded today for the benefit of P. Dold, Associate Dean, Curriculum and Programs, who could not be in attendance. Anyone who does not wish to be recorded was given an opportunity to exit 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. As there were no objections, the Consent Agenda (item #3) was adopted.

Regular Agenda was adopted as presented. Moved/Second: M. Burchell/L. MacIsaac; Carried.

4. Dean's Remarks (N. Hurley)

-Review of staff positions in the Faculty: A first meeting has been held. It was emphasized that this review is not to reduce positions, but a proper review is needed to allocate staff properly. Aiming to get questionnaires issued to staff before the December holiday break. The main goal is to align/re-allocate and support everyone better and recognize staff for what it is they do.

-The Dean's Office will be reviewing operating budgets, which hasn't been done in a long time. There is no new money available to departments, but we may be able to re-allocate resources.

-The Brown Bag Lunch with the president has been rescheduled to January. It was rescheduled to accommodate the students' Day of Action being held Nov 8.

-An initial meeting was held to discuss threats on campus and how best to respond to threats of violence, mental health issues, and risks in classrooms. Dr. Dold is taking Mental Health First Aid Training today. We hope to make it available to anyone in HSS. We are acting to remove information on class locations and instructor information from public facing websites. The information will still be available to students and faculty using their regular MUN Login to Banner. Dept Heads and faculty are advised to keep these things in mind

when doing Teaching Plans. Another meeting will be held and the date will be announced soon. The Registrar's Office Rep advised that information will be forthcoming in the next few weeks from the Registrar's Office as well.

-Accommodation Plan: The Government of Newfoundland has passed regulations regarding accommodations plans, which includes Memorial. Memorial's deadline is December 31. A formal request for information will be issued, as faculty input will be needed (i.e. changes to the built environment, training provided, committees established, practices/processes implemented regarding accessibility). It was stated that HSS should be a leader on this, and help is appreciated on meeting the timeline.

-Budget: The university has been receiving budget cuts and we can expect more. The highest priority is hiring new faculty members, as HSS has been successful in advocating for positions. Additional resources will go to fund searches and start-up funding. As indicated previously, there is no new SITA funding. Dr. Hurley expressed her own disappointment with the current budget situation and asked for understanding, but wanted to be upfront with all members of Faculty Council. We will be unable to accommodate new money requests.

-Auditor General's Report: The audit report on Memorial University has been released covering the period of 2019-2022. The President's office has provided a website for information updates, and the site link was provided for all to view when time permits. Memorial has basically accepted the recommendations that government has made. Some changes are already made or are being made for improvements, and there is a commitment for transparency. It was noted that the report does take aim at the costs related to Harlow campus, and the leadership will discontinue funding to the Harlow incentive program. HSS was not consulted on this, just informed. This may affect the iBA, and study abroad programs.

-Dr. Hurley provided a link to information and resources for students on how to get more involved on committees, including on advisory councils. This was in response to L. MacIsaac query and comment that he's hearing from students that they want to have responsible input and involvement, but are unaware in a lot of cases on what might be available to them.

-Space issues: It was stated that the Dean's Office is working diligently with regard to space issues for the faculty.

5. Update from Chair, Curriculum and Programs Committee 2023-2024 (K. Simonsen)
-All the calendar change proposals submitted will be on the Agenda at December Faculty Council for approval.
6. Update from Chair, Planning and Research Committee 2023-2024 (N. Welch)
-The committee is not at its full compliment. Still 2 faculty member slots available.

-A draft document is being issued by the Associate Dean (Research) for PRC review regarding funding for grad students.

7. Update from Associate Dean, Curriculum and Programs (N. Hurley for P. Dold)
 - Most calendar change proposals are out for Consultation, but all will be ready for Faculty Council approval at the December meeting.

 - Generative AI: Grammarly, which is provided by Memorial for free to Grad Students, may be an issue as it can do more than correct grammar. All faculty are encouraged to have the necessary conversations with students on restrictions and guidance (what is and is not acceptable) with regard to all Generative AI, not only chat GPT. Please continue to keep P. Dold informed on Gen AI. She will pass on feedback to the Registrar as they evaluate the need for changes to Calendar rules and language around academic integrity.

 - The next Brown Bag Lunch on Pedagogy is scheduled for next Wednesday, Nov. 8, 1-2 PM. Melanie Doyle (CITL) and Jason Cleary (Blundon Centre) will discuss accessibility and accommodation in our classes. Location is the HSS Boardroom (AA-5014) and all are welcome. Thanks to M. Doyle for suggesting and organizing the session.

8. Update from Acting Associate Dean, Research (M. Burchell)
 - The George Story Lecture is tomorrow, Nov 2, Room A1043; 7pm; Special guest lecturer is Dr. Barbara Barbosa Neves
 - Research Week is scheduled for Nov 21-24. If you want to add something to the schedule of events being organized, contact Meghan.
 - The call for Scholarship in the Arts (SITA) Project Proposals is being finalized and will be issued week of Nov 6-10. This is a little delayed, but the Dean's Office was awaiting confirmation of information from leadership on SITA funding.
 - Dr. Burchell provided grants and awards deadlines information, and advised that if anyone has any questions on funding to contact the Grants Facilitation Officers, Matt Milner and Heather O'Brien.

9. Announcements, other business, questions
 - L. MacIsaac informed members that there is a new conference locally being held Nov 14-17. The first Atlantic Canada Seafood Industry Innovation Summit. It may be of interest to anyone interested in AI, as they are specifically presenting topics on that within that programming. Luke provided a link for information for anyone who may be interested

10. Adjournment
 - Meeting adjourned at 1:47 pm.

Next Faculty Council: Wednesday, January 10 2023, 1:00 p.m. (Webex Only)

Attendance:

Rose Frew, Sarah Penney, Amanda Bittner, Dominique Bregent-Heald, Kathryn Simonsen, Joshua Goudie, Arthur Sullivan, Denzel MacDonald, Andrea Stapleton, Luke MacIsaac, Maria Mayr, Kelli Durdle, Ken Hopkins, Mark Stoddart, Meghan Forsyth, Natasha Hurley, Melanie Doyle, Michelle Rebidoux, Myriam Osorio, Paul De Decker, Rebecca Newhook, Renee Shute, Renee Skinner, Robert Ormsby, Roberto Martinez-Espineira, Sara Mackenzie, Sarah Thorne, Sebastien Rossignol, Stephanie Field, Sharon Roseman, Theresa Mackenzie, Wendy Mosdell-Wadman, Alec Brookes, Amanda Tiller-Hackett, Anne Thareau, Heather C. O'Brien, ED Academic GSU, Isabelle Cote, Jeff Howard, Julie Kavanagh, Kodjo Attikpoe, Laya Heidari Darani, Luke Roman, Matthew Milner, Meghan Burchell, Sadie Mees, Walter Okshevsky, Dave Wilson

Regrets: Pat Dold, Renee Mercer, William Schipper