

Faculty Council of Humanities and Social Sciences Meeting
Wednesday, October 4, 2023
1:00 p.m. via Webex

The regular meeting of the Faculty Council of Humanities and Social Sciences was held on Wednesday, October 4, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. via Webex. A list of those who attended is attached. Dr. N. Hurley chaired the meeting.

Dr. Hurley advised that Faculty Council Recording Secretary is unavailable for today's meeting, and this particular meeting would be recorded strictly to help prepare the minutes. Members were given an opportunity to leave the meeting if they chose not to be recorded or had any objections.

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 items were adopted. Regular Agenda was adopted as presented (Moved/Second: S. Matthews/M. Burchell. Carried.)

3. Dean's Remarks (N. Hurley)

-There is a Brown Bag Lunch with Dr. Neil Bose for HSS members scheduled for Oct 16th, 1:00 pm. in the HSS Boardroom. This is at the request of Dr. Bose, and there is no set agenda. All members of HSS are welcome. This is an opportunity to ask questions of Dr. Bose. The location of meeting may change, and this will be confirmed to HSS members.

-A meeting is scheduled for October 12, HSS Boardroom (A-5014) 2pm, for HSS members to discuss how best to respond at Memorial and HSS with regard to trends of increasing violent events in post-secondary environments. This is meant to discuss mental health concerns, threats of violence, ensuring we provide appropriate supports, clearly identifying supports available, and identifying what else can be done. This will be a beginning conversation around these issues, and further sessions will be held. For those who will be unable to attend Oct 12, there will be an opportunity to participate at a later time in these discussions. These will be open meetings and everyone is welcome to attend.

-The Dean's Office will be looking to review all staff positions within the Faculty. A meeting was held with all the staff in all departments and members of the Dean's Office. It appears that members of HSS want this review. This is not about saving money or about budget, but about recognizing what staff are doing, what supports there are, and ensuring we are responding to requirements for staff support and responding to staff needs. The Dean's Office will work this in conjunction with HR.

-At the request of Dr. Hurley, several members provided information and feedback about their experiences with requests for student accommodations. It appears that faculty are getting an increasing number of requests for accommodation from students. Dr. Hurley thanked everyone for speaking up and indicated the information is helpful to identify some issues and also provides some ideas for further discussion on way to move forward in the Faculty.

-The general email to use for sending requests to the Dean is: deanofhss@mun.ca.

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

-K. Simonsen was elected as Chair at September meeting.

-Subcommittees on Language Studies Requirement and CRW courses have been re-established, as some previous members are no longer available.

-The deadline for submission of calendar change proposals to the Dean's Office is Monday, Oct 16.

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

-N. Welch was elected as Chair at September meeting.

-Some initiatives identified to be worked on are as follows: study on kinds of research tools being used within the Faculty and what can be done to make sure everyone is aware of those tools; develop HSS research inventory report; develop research communication strategy; develop best practices/guide for funding graduate students; establish a grants deadline/research grants calendar for faculty members.

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

-Calendar Change Proposals are due Oct. 16 to the Dean's Office. Submit proposals to P. Dold and R. Frew. Pat is willing to consult and review during preparation of the proposals prior to submission.

-The deadline for submitting extra GA allocations requests has passed, and decisions will be made as soon as possible. The Dean's Office will work to accommodate as many requests as possible.

-There is a Brown Bag Lunch scheduled for Wednesday, Oct 11, on pedagogy in HSS in the Boardroom (A5014), 1-2pm.

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

-The first meeting between ADR and Graduate Officers was held to provide some training and provide some resources and support for GO's. This will be a monthly session to continue to provide support from the Dean's office.

-Dr. Burchell provided deadlines for various grants and awards and encouraged students to apply.

-The faculty submitted an unprecedented number of SSHRC Insight Grants, and thanked M. Milner and H. O'Brien for all the work they do on those.

-Anyone who has any questions on research funding or grants can reach out to Meghan, Matt or Heather.

8. Announcements, other business, questions
 - Classics is hosting a visiting speaker – Dr. Francis Panel, University of Alberta, tomorrow afternoon at 4:30. This is in conjunction with History and Religion.
 - The next Nexus Centre exchange session is Wednesday, Oct 11, 12:30.
 - The VPR Conference Fund applications deadline is tomorrow, Oct 5.
 - In response to a query, Dr. Hurley advised that a request to Heads will be issued very soon for submission of Annual Activity Reports. ASM's are encouraged to submit these reports as they can be used for self-promotion to publicize the great work being done at HSS.

9. Adjournment
 - Meeting adjourned at 1:53 pm.

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

Attendance:

Natasha Hurley (HSS Dean's Office/English), Alec Brookes (Anthropology), Andrea Stapleton (Business Administration), Arn Keeling (Geography), Catherine Losier (Archaeology), Dave Wilson (Science), Dominique Brégent-Heald (History), Emil Francis (Gender Studies Undergrad Student Rep), Isabell Cote (Political Science), Jeff Howard (Classics), Jennifer Dyer (Gender Studies), Julie Kavanagh (Co-operative Education), Karin Thomeier (Digital Learning Centre), Kelley Totten (Folklore), Kelli Durdle (Nursing), Ken Hopkins (HSS, Dean's Office), Luke MacIsaac (English Undergrad Student Rep), Maria Mayr (MLLC), Mariya Lesiv (Folklore), Mark Stoddart (Sociology), Matthew Milner (HSS, Dean's Office/History), Megan Boothby (English Grad Student Rep), Meghan Burchell (HSS, Dean's Office/Archaeology), Melanie Doyle (CITL), Nicholas Welch (Linguistics), Paul De Decker (Linguistics), Patricia Dold (HSS, Dean's Office/Religious Studies), Rebecca Newhook (Co-operative Education), Renée Mercer (HSS, Dean's Office), Renée Skinner (Registrar's Office), Roberto Maritnez-Espineira (Economics), Sarah Penney (HSS, Dean's Office), Sarah Thorne (English), Scott Matthews (Political Science), Sébastien Rossignol (History), Sharon Roseman (Director of ISER/Smallwood/Anthropology), Vaughan Grimes (Archaeology), Jillian Gould (Folklore), John Sandlos (History), Joshua Goudie (HSS, Dean's Office), Heather C. O'Brien (HSS, Dean's Office), Katherine Simonsen (Classics), Walter Okshevsky (Education), Anne Thareau (MLLC)

Regrets: Robert Ormsby, Meghan Forsyth, Alison Coffin, Myriam Osorio, Amanda Tiller-Hackett