

Faculty Council of Humanities and Social Sciences Meeting
Wednesday, September 13, 2023
1:00 p.m. via WebEx

The regular meeting of the Faculty Council of Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences was held on Wednesday, September 13, 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 modify the Agenda. Item to ratify Faculty Council committee membership moved from Item 5 Regular Agenda to the Consent Agenda Item 4. With this change, the Agenda was adopted.

CONSENT AGENDA

3. Approval of Minutes of Faculty Council meeting May 3, 2023 (June meeting cancelled)

4. Motion: Ratification of Faculty Council committee membership for 2023-2024 academic year (Faculty Council by-law III (1.) (i.): "By the September meeting of Faculty Council, committee membership for the upcoming year shall be included on the meeting agenda for ratification by Council.")

REGULAR AGENDA

5. Dean's Remarks (N. Hurley)

-Dr. Hurley welcomed everyone back for the upcoming year with a special welcome to new staff, faculty, and Postdoctoral Fellows. Dr. Hurley made note of several departments with a new Department Head and the two new Associate Deans at the Dean's office.

-The Faculty has been approved to hire 8 ASMs for this coming year. This is in addition to the previous 7 already approved. The 8 positions have not yet been allocated, and departments and heads will be ranking priorities to send to the Dean's Office.

-Budget: There has been a budget cut to the faculty, but that was expected. It is also expected there will be multi-year cuts. We are working on what can be done to work smarter and decide on priorities for the coming year.

-SITA funding has been frozen by the Provost office. We must use the money remaining in our account at this time. There will be restrictions on what we can fund.

-The university is in the process of launching a new "My Career" system for recruitment. Applicants can upload their own applications, which can be shared with committees, the Dean's Office, etc. We are working to get training in place as soon as possible to do recruitment moving forward. In response to a query, the Dean indicated the system should be available using VPN, and if access is needed, the Dean's office will get it approved. It was asked that the Dean pass along concerns to upper levels of administration that it is disheartening to hear of budget cuts and also hear of the purchase of a new system which may cause more administration for faculty.

-In light of the recent incident of violence at University of Waterloo, Memorial is building a network for mental health supports and processes on campus. This is in coordination with the Chief Risk Office and will include mental health first aid training and developing best practices for in-class safety. A meeting call will be issued for anyone to attend to have some input.

-It was recognized that there is currently a housing crisis in St. John's, and Memorial students are experiencing housing issues similar to that being felt across the country. The university is advocating with the provincial government for solutions and resources. Anyone with ideas to alleviate some of the issues is encouraged to come forward. It was noted that the housing issue is being felt particularly by International Students, and it is understood that some think housing is included with tuition. In a recent Senate meeting international students were encouraged to register with the Internationalization office, as that office may have access to resources. Students are encouraged to fill out an application for housing, as some accommodations may become available. Please advise students to beware of scams and predatory housing practices (i.e. paying to view a property). There are conversations happening with the City of St. John's as well, but the Dean does not have specific details.

6. Faculty Retreat Follow-up

-A faculty retreat was held in June with about 100 people in attendance. Dr. N. Catto presented comprehensive data on faculty programming. This was presented as data only to help the faculty come up with ideas for best path forward for the faculty. The report and a list of ranked topics/priorities formulated during the retreat was issued with today's meeting package. N. Hurley encouraged members to review the information gathered and come forward with ideas that may help our faculty. Please contact the Dean's Office if you have any feedback.

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

-Calendar Change Proposals are due at the Dean's Office October 16th. Sample packages are on the HSS Website, which includes the pages required by SCUGS. There is also an updated template for syllabi. A sample syllabus is needed when proposing a new course. Any questions can be forwarded to P. Dold or R. Frew.

-The Dean's Office will be issuing a call for additional GA ships very shortly.

-Teaching Plans for next year are going to be due November 22. More details and guidelines will be sent out in October.

-There is a page on our HSS Website on Generative AI. CITL also has excellent resources and everyone is encouraged to visit that page. The Nexus Centre is having discussions on GEN AI on October 11, and on a monthly basis 1-2 pm.

-There was a meeting with Facilities Management regarding plans for the Science Building. The Dean's Office will be contacting departments who are affected. Facilities Management is encouraging us to let the Provost know the issues we are facing while waiting for other spaces to be prepared. Anytime there are space, furniture, or equipment in classroom issues, contact facilities management, and also let P. Dold know.

-The Dean encouraged everyone to use the MUNS SAFE App for any formal reports, as it creates a record, whether it be accessibility, access problems, etc.

-A Notice of Motion to amend CPC by-laws is included in today's meeting package, as per the notice period required under the Faculty Council Constitution. This motion will be on the Agenda for voting at October Faculty Council.

8. Update from Acting Associate Dean, Research (M. Burchell)
 - Dr. Burchell extended congratulations to M. Stoddart and C. Brown who were recently elected as two new members of the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars.
 - The lecturers for George Story and Henrietta Harvey were announced: Dr. Barbara Barbosa-Neves (nominated by the Department of Sociology for George Story, Fall 2023), and Dr. David Armitage (nominated by the Departments of Political Science, History, and Anthropology for Henrietta Harvey, Winter 2024).
 - Tri-council grad award winners will be announced soon.
 - Grant winners were recognized and information on upcoming grants and funding deadlines for grant applications was provided. Dr. Burchell thanked the Grants Facilitation Officers for their continued work on behalf of the faculty.

9. Announcements, other business, questions
 - Renee Skinner, Registrar's Office representative for HSS presented information that was submitted to Faculty Council members Sept 12. It was recognized it should have been added to Regular Agenda at start of meeting: Information presented for Faculty Council Approval: Statement of Approval of Degree and Diploma Candidates to members, including the list of candidates. (Moved/Seconded. R. Skinner/M. Burchell). Carried.

10. Adjournment (Moved/Second: P. Dold/M. Burchell)
 - Meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

Next Faculty Council: October 4, 2023, 1:00 p.m. (Webex Only)

LIST OF ATTENDEES:

Attendees:

Anne Thareau (MLLC), Arthur Sullivan (Philosophy), Denzel MacDonald (Economics), Adrienne Peters (Sociology), Alec Brookes (Anthropology), Nat Hurley (Dean's Office/English), Dominique Bregent-Heald (History), Daniel Peretti (Folklore), Emil Francis , Heather C. O'Brien (Dean's Office), Holly Everett (Folklore), Jeff Howard (Classics), Cory W. Thorne (Folklore), Joshua Goudie (Dean's Office), Julie Kavanagh (Co-operative Education), Karin Thomeier (Digital Learning Centre), Kathryn Simonsen (Classics), Kelli Durdle, Ken Hopkins (Dean's Office), Lisa-Jo van den Scott (Sociology), Luke MacIsaac (English), Luke Roman (Classics/Religious Studies), Lynn Gambin (Economics), Maria Mayr (MLLC), Mariya Lesiv (Folklore), Meghan Burchell (Dean's Office/Archaeology), Melanie Doyle , Mark Stoddart (Sociology), Michelle Rebidoux (Religious Studies), Mona Asadian (Gender Studies), Myriam Osorio (MLLC), Patricia Dold (Dean's Office/Religious Studies), Neil Kennedy (History), Nicole Power (Sociology), Rebecca Newhook (Co-operative Education), Renee Skinner (Registrar's Office), Robert Ormsby (English), Roberto Martinez-Espineria (Economics), Sadie Mees (Anthropology), Sara Mackenzie (Linguistics), Sarah Thorne (English), Sebastien Rossignol (History), Sharon Roseman (Anthropology), Stephanie Field (Human Kinetics and Recreation), Sumangali Rajiva (Philosophy), Theresa Mackenzie (Co-operative Education), Vaughan Grimes (Archaeology), Walter Okshevsky (Education), Wendy Mosdell-Wadman (English), Renee Mercer (Dean's Office), Rose Frew (Dean's Office), Sarah Penney (Dean's Office), Amanda Bittner (Political Science), Amanda Tiller-Hackett (Queen Elizabeth II Library), Anasophie Vallee, Dave Wilson, Jay Foster (Philosophy), John Sandlos (History), Matthew Milner (Dean's Office/History), Renée Shute (Dean's Office, Seamus O'Neill (Philosophy), Stephan Curtis (History).

REGRETS:

M. Boothby, S. Cadigan, S. Vallis