FACULTY OF SCIENCE

FACULTY COUNCIL OF SCIENCE

MINUTES OF MEETING OF APRIL 17, 2013

A meeting of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science was held on Wednesday, April 17, 2013, at 1:00 p.m. in room C-2004.

FSC 2183  Present
Biochemistry
Mulligan, M.

Biology
Chapman, T. Marinno, P.

Chemistry
Pickup, P.

Computer Science
Bungay, S.

Mathematics & Statistics
Goodaire, E. Pike, D. Radford, C.

Physics & Physical Oceanography
Morrow, M. Saika-Voivod, L.

Psychology
Martin, G.

Dean of Science
Abrahams, M. Foss, K. Foster, A. Rideout, J. Zedel, L.

Economics
Waples, M.J.

Geography
Catto, N.

DELTs
Hickey, R.
FSC 2184  Regrets
Shannon Sullivan       Nathan Cook       Dorothy Vaandering
Brad de Young         Bill Schipper

FSC 2185  Adoption of Minutes
Moved: Minutes of the March 20, 2013, meeting be adopted as circulated
(Mulligan/Pike). There were suggested changes to the minutes for FSC 2180,
second paragraph. The paragraph stated:
   It was also asked whether the Canadian Council of Deans of Science
had made a recommendation regarding the experimental lakes area.
The Dean confirmed that a recommendation has not yet been made.
This has been amended to:
   It was also asked whether the Canadian Council of Deans of Science
had made representation regarding the Experimental Lakes area. The
Dean confirmed that such representation has not been made.
Carried as Amended.

FSC 2186  Business Arising: None

FSC 2187  Correspondence: None

FSC 2188  Reports of Standing Committees:
A. Undergraduate Studies Committee:
   Report presented by Andy Foster, Associate Dean (Undergraduate
   and Administration).
   a. Moved: Department of Biology, proposal for new course, BIOL
      4607, Models in Biology (Foster/Chapman). Carried.
   b. Moved: Response to Senate Committee on Undergraduate
      Studies, Review of Honours Regulations (Foster/Morrow).
      Carried.

C. Nominating Committee: None

D. Library Committee: None
Reports of Delegates from Other Councils: None

Report of the Dean:
Presented by Dr. Mark Abrahams, Dean.

Planning Update on the Core Sciences Building
Preliminary planning for the Core Sciences building continues. The functional space planning analysis is complete and is now proceeding to architectural concepts and finally cost projections. We are hoping to present the report to government in the next few months with the hope we can then proceed to full architectural plans.

The Budget
The budget for the university has now been announced and we have received an operating grant that is roughly equivalent to that for the preceding year. However, it should be noted that the Auditor General is now conducting a review of registration data and all operations. Simultaneously, the government is conducting a 10-year sustainability plan that includes a review of the academic operations of the university, specifically looking for how we use our resources and what efficiencies in operations exist. Combined, that does suggest the university will be looked at very closely in the next budget.

The First Annual Science Graduation Reception
Science students have decided that there is too great a challenge selling tickets for the graduation reception planned for June 1. This event was to be subsidized by the Dean's office and we are now examining the feasibility of hosting the event with the planned date May 27 or 28. If the project is feasible, all will be welcome to attend and congratulate this year's graduates.

CRC Proposals
A call for proposals for CRC chairs was received today. They include 3 Tier 2 CIHR and one Tier 2 NSERC chairs. The Dean will be working with Department Heads to develop proposals that are due to the VPR by 4:30 pm on June 3.

Scientists Without Borders in Brazil
It is in the early stages of negotiations but we are looking at an agreement with Brazil that will provide their Ph.D. students with full funding to attend Memorial.

Last Meeting of the Academic Year
As a reminder this is our last regularly scheduled meeting of Science Council for this academic year. Council executive will continue to meet over the summer and the Dean looks forward to the resumption of Science Council in September.
FSC 2191  Question Period  
The Dean was asked if he was aware that Housing and Conference Services will be charging for the rental of space on campus for conferences and events. It is feared that these fees will make the cost of hosting such events prohibitive and therefore limit the number of events occurring at Memorial. The Dean was not aware of this change in policy.

It was also asked whether new teaching facilities will be included in the new Science building and, if not, where classrooms will be located. The Dean confirmed that the new building will not house classrooms and that existing classrooms will be used.

An email was recently circulated throughout the university requesting suggestions for ways to increase efficiencies in our operations. Erika Mershrod suggested that FM should model itself more like Technical Services which seems to be more efficient in its operations. She is interested in joining others to forward comments to this effect. The Dean noted that, hopefully, the new Associate Vice-President (Administration) will be able to make improvements in this area.

FSC 2192  Adjournment:  
The meeting adjourned at 1:17 p.m.