

SCIENCE FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES

Friday, September 8, 2023

Chair:	Michael Hitch, Dean
Present (In Person):	Ian Affleck, Carolyn Atkins, Jennifer Barrett, Cory Beshara, Almaz Butaev, Linus Chiang, David Chu, Karen Cooper, Karla Deschenes, Cherie Enns, Lauren Erland, Ali Fotouhi, Sandra Gillespie, Longlong Huang, J Hughes, Carl Janzen, Alida Janmaat, Ruwan Karunanayaka, Anna Kuczynska, Olav Lian, Cindy Loten, Mariano Mapili, Pedro Montoya-Pelaez, Janice Nagtegaal, Dina Navon, Lenore Newman, Kathy Peet, Stefania Pizzirani, Renee Prasad, Vanessa Radzimski, Afia Raja, Alan Reid, Greg Schmaltz, Jake Spooner, Mitra Tabatabaee, Marina Turlakis, Ben Vanderlei, Natallia Varankovich, Debbie Wheeler, Frank Zhang, Dylan Ziegler
Present (Virtual):	James Bedard, Nathan Bialas, Grant Fritzke, Kseniya Garaschuk, Justin Lee, Stan Manu, Gillian Mimmack
Regrets:	Robin Endelman, Steve Marsh
Recorder:	Caroline Majeau

1. WELCOME

Michael welcomed faculty to the first meeting of the academic year.

2. AGENDA and MINUTES

2.1. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION:

THAT the Science Faculty Council adopt the agenda as presented.

Ben V. / 2nd Vanessa R.; all in favour; adopted.

2.2. Approval of the Minutes - May 26, 2023

The minutes made note that the Indigenous Science Curriculum group had been formed but it has not officially been created. The minutes will be amended to reflect that.

MOTION:

THAT the Science Faculty Council approve the minutes of May 26, 2023 with the noted update to the Indigenous Science Curriculum group.

Stefania P. / 2nd Renee P.; all in favour; approved.

3. FSCC (Curriculum Committee) - Ben Vanderlei

For Decision: Nothing to report

4. **FSCC (Curriculum Committee)**
For Information: Nothing to report

5. **DISCUSSION / DECISIONS**

- 5.1. **Science Faculty Council - Terms of Reference (ToR) for discussion**
Michael will be reviewing the ToR and is looking for feedback on the possibility of a rotating Co-Chair. Discussion followed. The ToR will be revised and brought back for approval. It was requested that the membership criteria for the student representatives be included.

6. **REPORTS**

- 6.1. **Dean's Report - Michael Hitch**
- Michael thanked everyone for making him feel welcome.
 - He shared his personal, professional background and his vision for the faculty. He announced that the Science Dean's office will cover publication charges if faculty are interested in publishing journal papers. This will also include open access (Q1/Q2 Scopus).
 - Michael will be meeting one-on-one with everyone over the next few months. Janice has begun scheduling these meetings.
- 6.2. **Advising - Karen Cooper**
- Karen introduced Karla Deschenes who is now full-time in Advising joining Karen, Rilla, and Stan.
 - They are dealing with a full set of classes which has been very difficult for scheduling. There has been a record number of international students due to the opening of the Associate of Science for direct admissions as well as the addition of the Computing Science major in the BSc.
 - Discussion followed regarding waitlists. Karen advised that due to the recent change in Blackboard, students are not able to see where they are on the waitlist anymore. Michael will follow up with the Registrar regarding the waitlist issue.
 - Karen invited Michael to visit the Advising Team.
- 6.3. **BSc Committee - Stan Manu**
Due to technical difficulties, Greg S. provided the updates. The committee met the end of August. The focus was on the Scientific Literacy learning outcome regarding the Math requirements. The Math Committee is working on the calculus updates and what that course could look like.
- 6.4. **Indigenization and EDI**
- Stefania and Ian would like to continue to move forward in creating a formal Science Indigenisation Committee with a Terms of Reference. This informal discussion group began earlier in the year under the advice of Lorna Andrews.
 - Stefania and the Office of Sustainability received \$10K to run the 3rd Annual March for sustainable event. The SIF funding requirement is to bring in engagement, so if you have an event that fits their mandate, please contact Stefania. There is funding available to support these initiatives.

- Ian reminded faculty that UFV will be hosting 100 Indigenous students from Grades 10-12 on November 15. This began as a science initiative but has now grown to include Arts, Business and Computing.
- Ian is attending the National Indigenous Education Symposium Regina October 16-18. If anyone has something for him to share at this event, please let him know.
<https://www.collegesinstitutes.ca/event/national-indigenous-education-symposium/>

6.5. **Senate** - Pedro Montoya-Pelaez | Nathan Bialas
Nothing to report. Senate will be meeting on September 15.

6.6. **Students** - Nothing to report
The nomination deadline for the student representatives closes on September 15.

6.7. **Other Reports/Celebrations**

- Michael welcomed the new science faculty members.
BIOLOGY: Yvonne Dzal, Mitra Tabatabaee, Marina Tourlakis, Natallia Varankovich, Jennifer Barrett, and Dylan Ziegler (LTA).
MATH & STATS: Almaz Butaev and Serhii Myroshnychenko.
- Future of Cities: Role of the United Nations. Internship Event 4:30-6:30 PM, Evered Hall
- J Hughes will be performing at Mill Lake Kariton House Gallery on Sunday, September 10th at 3PM.

7. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

7.1. As part of a six -week consultation, the University Secretariat invites the UFV community to submit collaborative or individual feedback on the revisions to the Grading System (101) policy. Submit comments to policyconsult@ufv.ca by 4 pm Wednesday, Oct 4, 2023.

7.2. Referral to the Student Support Centre (formerly PASS): UFV faculty and staff may submit a referral to the Student Support Centre to connect you to the supports and resources that may help your academic persistence and resilience. Visit <https://www.ufv.ca/student-services/student-support-centre/> for more information.

7.3. ROSA Release Update: The ROSA program provides permanent teaching faculty the opportunity to apply to be released from one course section to complete original, meaningful research and other scholarly work. The program has now been revised and updated. ROSA will no longer be held in ROMEO and will now be submitted through email via ROSA.Release@ufv.ca. Applications will be due Oct. 31, 2023. Their website has been updated and outlines the program and application process.
<https://www.ufv.ca/research/faculty/rosa-support/>

7.4. Our annual **Science Social** is being held on September 28 from 5-7 pm on the K-Building Patio. Everyone is invited to attend. We are looking for a few volunteers to help us out the day of so if you can spare some time, please let Caroline or Janice know.

7.5. Monthly reports to the Provost from the Faculty of Science can be found here: <https://ufv.ca/science/deans-office/monthly-department-highlights/>. If you have news to share, please email Caroline so it can be included on our next report.

8. **ADJOURN – 2:04 PM**