



FACULTY OF SCIENCE

COUNCIL OF THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Notice of Meeting

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

at 3:00pm – 4:30pm

306 Lumbers

Agenda

1. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda
2. Chair's Remarks
3. Minutes of February 11, 2014 meeting
4. Business Arising
5. Dean's Report to Council
6. Associate Deans' and Bethune Master's Remarks
7. Reports from Science Representatives on Senate Committees
8. Reports from Standing Committees of Council
9. Inquiries and Communications
 - Presentation on the Teaching Commons by Celia Popovic, Director, Teaching Commons
10. Other Business

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**Tuesday, February 11, 2014
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Attendance: N. Madras, S. Morin, S. P. Delaney, M. McCall, W. Taylor, Bergevin, M. Caplan, D. Hastie, T. Cuddy, G. Audette, T. Da Sylva, J. Elwick, P. Hall, E. Hamm, E. J. Janse VanRensburg, E. Jones-Imhotep, T. Kelly, G. Lovoie, K. R. Maltman, J. Mamow, A. Mills, G. A. Monette, S. Juris, W. P. Tholen, J. Chan, R. G. Tsushima, M. N. Yousaf, S. Siyakatshana (Assistant Secretary)

Minutes

1. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

The Chair of Council, Patrick Hall called the meeting to order. The Agenda was adopted as presented.

2. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed Council to the first meeting of 2014.

3. Minutes of December 10, 2013 meeting

A motion was moved, seconded and carried to approve the Minutes.

4. Business Arising

There was no Business Arising from the Minutes.

5. Dean's Report to Council

Interim Dean Hastie welcomed Council to the meeting. He expressed his condolence and sadness on the sudden death of Professor Richard Jarrell. He paid tribute to Professor Jarrell as a faculty member who had made tremendous contribution to the Faculty of Science.

According to him, this was a huge loss to the Faculty as Professor Jarrell carried the banner for STS for the longest time including founding of the department.

Furthermore, he contributed towards the introduction of a new program and many groundbreaking courses.

The Dean announced that Professor Jarrell's friends and family were organizing a celebration of his life on February 12, 2014, at the Winters College Dining Hall. This event will provide faculty, staff and students with an opportunity to share the rich legacy of his professional life.

The Dean made the following announcements:

- The new Dean of Science, Professor Ray Jayawardhana is from the University of Toronto where he is a Professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics in the Faculty of Arts and Science. He currently holds the Canada Research Chair in Observational Astrophysics. Professor Ray Jayawardhana is to commence his appointment on July 1st. He will visit the Faculty of Science to meet with key members of the faculty prior to commencing appointment.
- Faculty Searches: Canada Research Chair, Environmental Biology; Search is complete and the Chair's report has been finalized and will be submitted to the Office of the VPRI. The Tier I Cardio Vascular Search is not as far advanced but candidates have been shortlisted.
- Actuarial Math; the Search is almost complete and the Search Committee report is being finalized.
- The shortlist is being processed for the Canada Research Chair in Theoretical Physics and interviews will be conducted in the near future.

- Academic and Administrative Program Review (AAPR): The Dean announced that the deadline for nominations of the Task Force had been extended by a week. In order to deal with scheduling conflicts normally encountered during the summer, members of the Task Force will be grouped. This will ensure that the Task Force continues to work during the summer.
- Dean Hastie informed Council that the draft for the Program Information Forms which used to be called the Templates was now complete. The draft differs substantially from the one originally posted on the website. The forms are now being test driven and it will take some time to get responses from those who have done the test. They are on track to be released and sent to the authors beginning of next month. In addition, training was being organized for those who had been identified as authors for completing out the Program Information Forms.
- Call for CVs; Dean Hastie thanked faculty who had submitted their CVs to his office. A reminder had been sent out to faculty whose CVs were still outstanding. He informed Council that if these CVs were still outstanding by the beginning of May, their progress through the ranks (PTR) will not be actioned by the Faculty Relations Office.

6. **Associate Deans' and Bethune Master's Remarks**

Associate Dean Robert Tsushima announced that the Junior Faculty Fund had been adjudicated and faculty can expect feedback within a week of the allocation of funds. YUFA has not forwarded a call for the Minor Research Grant and he did not have information as to when the call would be made. For NSERC USRA, the deadline for submission of applications was February 14, 2014. Faculty Relations Office has developed and sent out an official document on post-doctoral fellows and post-doctoral visitors.

He announced the results from the fall CIHR operating grant competition. Out of the 12 applications only 1 application was successful. He noted that our success rate was about 8% across campus and this was below average. Consequently, he was in conversations with his partner in the Faculty of Health and VPRI, Robert Hache in an effort to discuss ways to increase our success rate.

7. **Reports from Science Representatives on Senate Committees**

Professor Janse Van Rensburg provided Council with an update on the Academic and Administrative Program Review (AAPR). He outlined the overview, process and timelines related to the AAPR. Data collection was currently underway until May 2014. Analysis and Assessment of data will be conducted from June to August while the Review and Response will be done in September.

Professor Janse VanRensburg reiterated on the need to have committed faculty to complete the templates in a thorough and rigorous manner. This will ensure that the information compiled is most valuable to the rating of our programs.

8. **Reports from Standing Committees of Council**

8.1 Curriculum Committee – Consent Agenda items

The Consent Agenda was deemed approved by Council.

8.2 Committee on Teaching and Learning (COTL)

A motion was moved, seconded and unanimously carried to rename the Faculty Level Graduate Student Teaching Award after Dr. Richard Jarrell.

Resolution concerning Integration of eLearning and Experiential Education in the Faculty of Science

Professor Tamara Kelly informed Council that our Faculty was expected to survey all courses to find out what they are using in terms of eLearning. The administration wants courses that can go completely on line identified. COTL was being proactive by having a strategic initiative in place in order to come up with guidelines for eLearning by conducting the survey. Information sessions would be conducted on other options for eLearning and some experiential education that could be added to courses. The COTL will assist faculty with the investigation of courses as well as the implementation process. A discussed ensued.

The Dean commended members of the Committee on Teaching and Learning for their hard work and dedication in establishing what it is that matters the most to our faculty.

A motion was moved, seconded and unanimously carried for Council to approve the Resolution Concerning the Integration of eLearning and Experiential Education in the Faculty of Science presented in the Council Agenda package for the meeting: briefly, each Unit is to undertake a curriculum review with the aim of identifying appropriate eLearning and experiential education approaches, developing a plan for their integration into the curriculum, and specifying the support and resources needed to implement the plan.

Council suggested that a forum be held to continue this discussion with UPDs and all other relevant parties. This will assist the survey process.

8.3 Executive Committee's Vacancies Report on Senate and FSc Committees

Council noted that Professor E. Hamms was now the new director for STS.

A replacement had to be found for the STS Representative on the Tenure and Promotions Committee.

A motion was moved, seconded and carried to ratify the revisions to the 2013 – 2014 Executive Committee Report of Vacancies on Senate and FSc Committees.

8.4 Academic Policy & Planning Committee: Proposal to change 101 admission criteria

Associate Dean Sylvie Morin spoke to the Proposal to change 01 admission criteria. Council was informed that an analysis of first year performance, students who repeat high school performed poorly compared to those who do not.

The proposal is recommending that admissions average for 101 applicants be calculated using the average of the first two attempts for any repeated courses. Presently, the highest grade is used regardless of number of attempts. Consequently, we have had a situation whereby students struggle and they end up transferring to other programs after the first year.

Council discussed the matter in depth. They concurred with the proposal as this would make our programs more competitive among other universities.

A motion was moved, seconded and carried unanimously to change 101 admission criteria.

9. Inquiries and Communications

Council noted the Senate Synopsis of December 12, 2013 and January 23, 2014.

10. Other Business

10.1 NSSE (National Survey on Student Engagement)

Trevor Cuddy, the Director of Student and Academic Services announced to Council that the University was conducting a National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). This is normally done every 3 years. The survey will be conducted online starting February 11, 2014 – March 31, 201. First year and fourth year students at York will be surveyed on their student experience and this information will be used strategize the future direction of York.

Trevor Cuddy was asked to send all relevant information to the faculty members in order that they may encourage students to participate in the survey.

10.2 High School Enrichment Program

Justin Chan, provided Council with information on the High School Enrichment Program. The program was targeted at gifted and high performing high school students to choose Science at York. The objective of this program was to position our Faculty as a top science university and highlight York's research's strengths. His office was looking for course proposals and theme proposals they were hoping to run starting this summer. Faculty members who had an interest in this program were encouraged to contact Justine.

Council requested that an email be sent out to faculty with relevant information about this initiative.

A motion was moved, seconded and carried to extend the Council meeting by 5 minutes.

10.3 Coop Program

The Director of Student and Academic Services updated Council with information on the Coop Program on behalf of Associate Dean Cribb.

Eighteen students were engaged in the first phase of coop which is a mandatory course with the hope they will go out and do the coop placements starting this coming summer. Students start coop after their second year. Students are expected to be on 12 months minimum of placement. He noted that currently there is no funding commitment beyond April 30, 2014 but they were optimistic that the program will continue to be funded.

Council was provided information on the Regenesi@York a student run, grassroots environmental and social justice organization. The President of the organization enlightened Council on their mandate and initiatives. He requested Council to support their referendum by notifying Science students on the upcoming referendum in on March 17 – March 20th.

A motion was moved, second and carried to send notification to Science students on the upcoming referendum in March.

Council adjourned.

P. Hall, Chair of Council

T. Cuddy, Secretary of Council

S. Siyakatshana, Assistant Secretary of Council