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# FACULTY OF SCIENCE

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## COUNCIL OF THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE

**Notice of Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 8, 2014**  
**at 3:00pm – 4:30pm**  
**306 Lumbers**

### **Agenda**

1. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda
2. Chair's Remarks
3. Minutes of March 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
10. Other Business



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## COUNCIL OF THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE

**Tuesday, March 11, 2014  
at 3:00pm – 4:30pm  
306 Lumbers**

### **Minutes**

**Attendance:** N. Madras, J. Amanatides, N. Balaskas, S. Benchimol, P. Cribb P. Delaney, M. McCall, D. Hastie, S. Martelli, R. McLaren, T. Cuddy, D. Golemi-Kotra, P. Hall, T. Da Sylva, P. L. Lakin-Thomas, W. Taylor, J. Janse VanRensburg, G. Lovoie, A. Mills, W. A. van Wijngaarden, G. Yin, G. A. Monette, S. Juris, R. G. Tsushima, S. Siyakatshana (Assistant Secretary)

#### **1. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda**

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

#### **2. Chair's Remarks**

There was no Chair's Remarks.

3. **Minutes of February 11, 2014 meeting**

Minutes were approved.

4. **Business Arising**

There was no Business Arising from the Minutes.

5. **Dean's Report to Council**

Dean Hastie updated Council on the AAPR. The Task Force selection for the academic programs had been completed and the announcement was yet to be made. The Task Force for administrative programs was not yet complete. The Program Information Forms and the Supplementary Data Forms was currently being test driven by the potential authors before they are released at the end of the month.

He informed Council that the University Deans had approved the new budget model in principle. The new budget model is an activity based budget in place of the current expense based model. Faculties will get shadow budgets for 2011-2012. This was problematic because then we were the Faculty of Science and Engineering. The 12-13 budget will also come out and this will allow units to prepare for the 2015-2016 budget.

He announced that Friday is Pi Day and he and Provost Lenton will be distributing pies in the link between Vari Hall and the Rose Building. This initiative was started by the Mathematics Club Infinity. The objective is to help them raise the Club's profile.

He reminded faculty members to encourage students to continue participating in the *NSSE Survey (National Survey on Student Engagement)* until end of the month. In the past, York had lagged behind on this survey.

A discussion ensued on the implications of the new budget model. Space was singled out as a concern for all faculties. The Dean clarified that faculties will continue to pay for utilities. He noted that we will get more revenue per student in the new model. He added that the University had set up a fund to alleviate financial difficulties normally associated with the implementation process. Faculties will need to identify Units that will need to be subsidized during this process.

Lastly, the Dean informed Council that an online travel expense claim process was being introduced. The Finance Department is conducting training for everyone who will be using the system. This new system will be in place in May 2014. He urged faculty using the new system to keep their original receipts for auditing purposes.

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

Associate Dean Tsushima had the following announcements;

NSERC USRA program deadline had been delayed at the request by some units. He noted that Jessica Vaisica found a lot of errors by departments in their calculation of the student GPA, for example, students with straight 8.0 plus average GPA somehow their GPA had been calculated to 8.8 instead of 9.0. Consequently, a number of students had been disadvantaged. They are looking into the matter. He added that his office will conduct a training session to make sure all units understand how they should calculate the student GPAs. He noted that the results will be sent out to students within a week or so.

YUFA Minor Research Grant, his office has not received the call yet from the VPRI's office. A call will be sent out as soon as the announcement is made.

York Research Chair: VPRI is developing the protocol, the template for applications but there are some deadlines that are already in place;

July 15<sup>th</sup> - the faculty to submit their nominations two one at each level, Tier 1 and Tier 2 – if we submit more than two applications they must rank the applications and the Awards Advisory Committee will recognize and take that into consideration.

They will combine two competitions two Tier 1, two Tier 2 senior and junior level and have a single competition on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 and July 1<sup>st</sup> 2015. He outlined the timelines.

Associate Dean Cribb requested Council members where possible to provide employer contacts that could be approached by the Career Centre for the placement of students who are on the Co-op program.

He informed Council that he was currently working on a curriculum project with other departments to develop a neuroscience undergraduate program and he would welcome any comments or suggestions from other faculty members.

Professor John Amanatides informed Council that he will be going on sabbatical leave. The current Academic Advisor will be the interim Master for a year. He is currently looking for an Academic Advisor and he appealed to faculty who might be interested in this position or if they knew anyone who might be interested.

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

There were no reports.

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

There were no reports.

#### **9. Inquiries and Communications**

*Presentation on the Teaching Commons by Celia Popovic, Director, Teaching Commons*

Celia Popovic informed faculty on the services that they offer to facilitate and assist in raising the profile of teaching and learning at the university. She encouraged faculty to take advantage of these available services that ultimately enhance teaching and learning.

#### **10. Other Business**

There was no Other Business.

P. Hall, Chair of Council

T. Cuddy, Secretary of Council

S. Siyakatshana, Assistant Secretary of Council