

**SCIENCE FACULTY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

Friday, April 3, 2020 – Virtual via ZOOM

Chair: Lucy Lee, Dean

Present: Ian Affleck, Carolyn Atkins, Cory Beshara, Nathan Bialas, Margret Bollerup, Linus Chiang, Karen Cooper, Aisa Dobie, Robin Endelman, Cherie Enns, Grant Fritzke, Kseniya Garaschuk, Sharon Gillies, Longlong Huang, Jonathan Hughes, Alida Janmaat, Ruwan Karunanayaka, Anna Kuczynska, Hongfei Li, Olav Lian, Cindy Loten, Pedro Montoya-Pelaez, Lenore Newman, Vanessa Radzimski, Afia Raja, Alan Reid, Greg Schlitt, Greg Schmaltz, Isabelle St-Martin, Terry Starr, Norm Taylor, Ben Vanderlei, Jane Webb, Noham Weinberg

Regrets: Allan Arndt, Michelle Rhodes, Frank Zhang

Recorder: Caroline Majeau

1. INTRODUCTIONS

2. AGENDA and MINUTES

2.1. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION:

THAT the Science Faculty Council adopt the agenda as presented.
Nathan B. / 2nd Grant F.; all in favour; adopted.

2.2. Approval of the Minutes - March 6, 2020

MOTION:

THAT the Science Faculty Council approve the minutes of March 6, 2020 as presented.
Cory B. / 2nd Grant F.; all in favour; approved.

Lucy advised that UFV does have first aid on campus, however, now that the campus is closed only essential personnel are on site. The buildings are still open and working hours have been reduced to 8 am - 4 pm.

3. DISCUSSION / DECISIONS

3.1. COVID-19 Updates

Lucy provided updates on UFV and the Covid-19 situation. Science faculty and staff are now working remotely. She thanked everyone for their hard work getting courses set up online so quickly. When the crisis began senior admin met daily but are now only meeting Tuesday and Thursdays. Lucy will continue to keep the faculty informed during this fluid situation. She also recommended that everyone continue to watch UFV News for announcements.

3.2. Completion of the winter term, upcoming summer term and planning for the fall.

- Teaching and Learning has been assisting faculty to get their courses online.
- There will be no face to face exams this term, all will be done remotely. Exams will continue to follow the schedule originally set. Those who are doing synchronous exams should be doing it at the time the registrar set.
- The summer term will be remote as well. Courses that cannot be fully offered online have been cancelled and replaced with new ones. Currently registration has been put on hold and will open on April 6.
- The fall term course offerings have not changed from face to face, however, there is a possibility that it could go remote as well. Lucy advised that faculty need to have a contingency plan in place for the fall.
- The online program, Labster <https://www.labster.com/> was discussed as a possible option for labs. Lucy advised that if the faculty find Labster beneficial, the Science budget would cover the subscription.
- Lucy indicated that if faculty have already planned their course to be taught online and the fall and/or winter term then becomes face to face, the course could continue to be taught remotely providing that all of the learning outcomes can be met.
- Aisa and Isabelle spoke on behalf of the students about the challenges and concerns they face. It was suggested that all students could be polled so they could be given the opportunity to provide recommendations and voice their concerns. Lucy is considering hosting a Town Hall with the students so they could share their thoughts on what is working and what isn't and then relay the information back to the faculty.
- Learning styles of students has changed. Some are thriving with this mode of delivery and others are struggling. Students do have the option to withdraw from courses by May 8.
- A discussion followed regarding the preparation that is being done for incoming first year students for fall 2020 courses. Orientation will be going ahead online in May.
- A suggestion was made that if the intent is to go online for the fall or if there are options to run courses online then it may be a good opportunity to restructure things differently, ex. offering a one credit catch up course in precalculus that fills in the gaps for those students who need it. It could be a pass/fail. Discussion followed. This would need to go through the correct channels but it could be expedited.
- Concern was raised regarding exam security. Discussion followed.
- Super sections for first year courses being team taught was discussed.
- Cory B. suggested forming a committee to discuss options available of online assessment strategies and what might work best for us. Cory will reach out to those faculty members who showed interest (Greg Schlitt, Cindy Loten, Nathan Bialas, Kseniya Garaschuk, Alida Janmaat, Afia Raja).
- Lucy encouraged faculty to take necessary action to make sure each platform they are using is as secure as possible.

4. FSCC (Curriculum Committee) - Ian Affleck

For Decision: N/A

5. FSCC (Curriculum Committee)

For Information:

5.1. 10-year graduation exception

FSCC discussed a request from a student who wants to continue their degree in the fall even though it will take them more than 10 years to complete. After FSCC discussed the request, they recommended that the student could continue.

6. REPORTS

6.1. Dean's Report – Lucy Lee

- The monthly Provost Report has been submitted and will be posted online.
- The results for the Student Research Day have been posted. Our science students did very well. <https://www.ufv.ca/research/student-research-day/>
- Congratulations to Aisa Dobie on being accepted into the Optometry program at the University of Waterloo in the fall.
- LIYSF is still set to proceed the end of July. The top 4 finalists have uploaded their presentations. The Dean's office will be inviting volunteers to join the selection committee.
- The BSc Program review that was discussed at an earlier meeting is now not necessary. However, departments will continue with their own program reviews.

6.2. BSc Committee – Greg Schlitt

Nothing to Report

6.3. Advising – Karen Cooper

- Advising appointments are still being offered. Virtual appointments are available through Blackboard Collaborate, email or phone.
- The number of graduates are starting to come in. The grad deadline is being extended due to the course drop deadline extension of May 8.

6.4. Senate – Jonathan Hughes

Jonathan provided an overview of the Senate meeting held on March 13.

6.5. Library – Hongfei Li

The library is now closed due to Covid-19 and the return of library materials has automatically been extended. The Library has been trying to purchase more e-books. Discussion followed regarding purchase of books from the bookstore for the summer term.

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

7.1. Lucy would like to offer the science faculty and staff the opportunity to talk to her face to face through a weekly open door drop in through Zoom. She will be available each Wednesday starting April 1 from 1-2 PM and each Wednesday following until we are back in the office. This will be the equivalent of having her office doors open (albeit virtually). Chats can be had with groups or singly according to preference of users which can be controlled by the dean, if more than one person arrives at same time.

7.2. Science Rocks! 2020 camps have been cancelled and will resume in 2021.

- 7.3. The URE Awards are going ahead as planned – nominations due by April 24. The dinner is on hold for now and may be rescheduled if necessary. Information and nomination forms are available here: <https://ufv.ca/research/undergraduate-research-excellence-awards/> Please contact Deborah.Block@ufv.ca if you have any questions.
- 7.4. Grade Reporting (109) Policy - The original deadline for this consultation was March 30th – this has been extended to April 9th. The University Secretariat invites the UFV community to submit collaborative or individual feedback on the Grade Reporting (109) policy, a copy of which is attached. Please submit your comments to policyconsult@ufv.ca by the extended deadline of April 9, 2020.
- 7.5. University Secretariat invites the UFV community to submit collaborative or individual feedback on the Prerequisites and Co-Requisites (84) policy, a copy of which is attached. Please submit your comments to policyconsult@ufv.ca by the deadline of May 9, 2020.

8. **ADJOURNED – 1:40 PM**

Next Meeting: May 1, 2020 @ 1:00 PM