

**SCIENCE FACULTY COUNCIL
MINUTES**
Friday, November 6, 2020 – Virtual

Chair:	Lucy Lee, Dean
Present:	Ian Affleck, Carolyn Atkins, Nathan Bialas, Margret Bollerup, Linus Chiang, Karen Cooper, Robin Endelman, Grant Fritzke, Golfam Ghafourifar, Sandra Gillespie, Longlong Huang, Jonathan Hughes, Alida Janmaat, Ruwan Karunanayaka, Anna Kuczynska, Olav Lian, Cynthia Loten, Pedro Montoya-Pelaez, Janice Nagtegaal, Jordan Penner, Stefania Pizzirani, Kabeer Poonia, Vanessa Radzimski, Afia Raja, Greg Schmaltz, Norm Taylor, Jane Webb, Frank Zhang
Regrets:	Jen Hetherington, Lenore Newman
Recorder:	Caroline Majeau

1. WELCOME

2. AGENDA and MINUTES

2.1. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION:

THAT the Science Faculty Council adopt the agenda as presented.
Norm T. / 2nd Afia R.; all in favour; adopted.

2.2. Approval of the Minutes - October 9, 2020

MOTION:

THAT the Science Faculty Council approve the minutes from October 9, 2020 as presented.
Afia R. / 2nd Vanessa R.; 1 abstention; 27 in favour; approved.

3. DISCUSSION / DECISIONS

3.1. MOTION to Senate to re-examine face-to-face final exams

Norm T. asked Science Faculty Council to prepare a motion to send to Senate requesting them to re-examine the possibility of holding face-to-face final exams in the winter semester. Lucy brought attention to Agenda Item 7.1 from the Online Task Force. Norm provided the rationale for the request as he has received a lot of feedback from students and faculty indicating they would like to move to face-to-face exams as soon as possible. As the winter exams are months away he would like to keep the possibility of winter exams open as long as possible. Lucy advised that if exams are to be face-to-face they

must be included in the timetable and registration begins in 2 weeks. Discussion followed.

As a member of the Online Task Force, Nathan B. noted how varied the opinions were and the Task Force had to come to a compromise. Discussion continued.

Some faculty have received heartbreaking emails about online testing in general during this pandemic. Students have expressed concerns with exams as many instructors are restricting review of questions and cannot go back. It has undermined students' confidence and all of their intentions to proceed with a degree - they feel they are not good enough. When rigid systems are created for assessing we have to try to set up the students up for success. It was stressed that health has to maintain priority above a perception of the possibility of cheating.

It was agreed that SFC will make the motion and then it can be discussed at Senate.

MOTION:

THAT the Science Faculty Council would like Senate to re-examine the possibility of holding face-to-face final exams in the winter semester.

Norm T. / 2nd Ian A.; 6 abstentions; 22 in favour; approved.

3.2. Draft – University-Wide Principles for the Establishment and Review of Standards for Tenure and Promotion

Lucy provided the background to the Draft. All comments to be sent directly to Lucy to collate and will be sent to Dr. Geller. Deadline for submission is November 27, 2020.

4. FSCC (Curriculum Committee) - Ian Affleck

For Decision:

4.1. Program change to Data Analysis Post-Baccalaureate Certificate (DAC)

Ian provided the rationale for the requested changes to the DAC. The revisions include changing the requirements for admission by adding an option to complete a COMP course at UFV or remotely during the summer semester prior to the student's first full-time fall semester to demonstrate preparedness in programming skills. Further updates include the student completing at least 21 credits of the program in 200 level courses and above at UFV. The typical program plan for each of the two pathways have also been revised.

MOTION:

THAT the Science Faculty Council approve the requested program revisions to the DAC as presented.

Ian A. / 2nd Karen C.; all in favour; approved.

5. FSCC (Curriculum Committee)

For Information:

Norm T. spoke to Agenda Items 5.1-5.6 and noted that these will go through FATS for decision. The changes to the ETP are mainly due to the result of an initiative through the Provincial

Engineering Articulation committee to align all courses and learning objectives for the ETP across BC, and possibly beyond. To facilitate this some courses have been given more of an engineering focus. Stefania suggested they consider the role of circular economy for 5.5 Design and Sustainability. Norm will pass the suggestion onto Peter Mulhern.

- 5.1. **Engineering Transfer Program Changes**
- 5.2. **New course proposal ENGR 114 Engineering Chemistry**
- 5.3. **New course proposal ENGR 115 Engineering Optics**
- 5.4. **New course proposal ENGR 123 Engineering Design I: Design and Drafting**
- 5.5. **New course proposal ENGR 124 Engineering Design II: Design and Sustainability**
- 5.6. **New course proposal ENGR 153 Structured Programming for Engineers**

6. REPORTS

6.1. Dean's Report - Lucy Lee

- Covid-19 has affected UFV's finances especially with the loss of internationals. The 2021/22 budget, university wide, is looking at a deficit. Lucy provided a few options for science - one being pausing science's unfilled positions that are on hold.
- The University understands that science does require their own unit. They are looking at repurposing A-West as the Faculty of Science. Each department will be consulted on future plans.
- With a surplus of funds in science last year, Lucy contributed \$5,000 to the Esposito Centre for a grant to be offered to student- faculty teams for Innovation proposals in the area of STEM. The application deadline is January 31, 2021.
- Lucy provided an update on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion at UFV.
- UFV Excellence Awards – The deadline for nominations for the UFV Excellence Awards is January 2, 2021.

6.2. Advising - Karen Cooper

- Advising continues to work with students to set them up for success. Karen asked faculty to encourage their students to contact Advising to find out what the resources are on campus and to assist them in their course plan.
- Karen provided some other helpful resources for students: Students should sign up for the weekly newsletter sent out by VP Students. It includes events that would be helpful for students; Counselling continues to host events; and peer leadership groups allows students to connect individually. The student associations have been hosting a number of events including one being put on by the Pre-Med Association Science Night Against Procrastination (SNAP) at 7pm tonight.
- Advising is aware of students' concerns over the reduction of testing time. She encouraged them to proceed to the next step if concerns continue.

6.3. Senate - Jonathan Hughes

Jonathan provided an overview of what was covered at the last Senate meeting. He also advised that Afia Raja is the Faculty of Science's other representative on Senate.

6.4. Student Report - Kabeer Poonia

The biggest concern for students revolves around testing, especially time constraints. Another concern raised was the use of Blackboard and how students are not able to

backtrack. It was noted that it would be helpful for students to know in advance how many marks each question is. Kabeer indicated that students' internet connection did not appear to be too much of an issue for most but had noticed that Zoom is much more reliable than Blackboard Collaborate. It was suggested by both Kabeer and Jordan that asynchronous tests set as a day period instead of having a specific time block better accommodates students' schedules. Discussion followed.

6.5. BSc Committee - N/A

6.6. Other Reports

- **Teaching & Learning** – Stefania Pizzirani
T&L are developing a student survey and they hope to have it completed within the next week.

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

7.1. Online Exam Task Force Recommendations to the Academic Continuity Committee.

The Online Task submitted their written report to provide guiding principles and best practices for online exams in the context of UFV's response to COVID-19.

7.2. Science Dean's Seminar Series with Canadian Senator Rosa Galvez

"From Science to Politics: Why Canada needs more science in Parliament" has been pre-recorded and can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/E9iOsrQZqXI>. Join us for a live Q&A on Nov 12 from 10-11 am where Her Honour will be joining us via Zoom to answer your questions. For more info - <https://blogs.ufv.ca/science/2020/10/30/honourable-rosa-galvez-nov-12/>

7.3. Faculty Excellence Awards - deadline for nominations is Friday, January 2, 2021. For more details on the awards (teaching, faculty service, research), including nomination forms, please visit: www.ufv.ca/faculty-excellence.

8. ADJOURNED - 2:26 PM