

SCIENCE FACULTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
Friday, April 26, 2024 - D213

Chair:	Michael Hitch, Dean
Present: (In Person):	Ian Affleck, Cory Beshara, Margret Bollerup, Almaz Butaev, Robin Endelman, Lauren Erland, Sandra Gillespie, Javad Hadian, Semir Hasic, Longlong Huang, J Hughes, Alida Janmaat, Ruwan Karunanayaka, Caroline Majeau, Stan Manu, Mariano Mapili, Steve Marsh, Gillian Mimmack, Pedro Montoya-Pelaez, Serhii Myroshnychenko, Stefania Pizzirani, Renee Prasad, Talha Qadri, Vanessa Radzimski, Afia Raja, Alan Reid, Greg Schmaltz, Ben Vanderlei, Natallia Varankovich, Dylan Ziegler
Present: (Virtual):	Randal Arsenault, Nathan Bialas, David Chu, Cherie Enns, Grant Fritske, Kseniya Garaschuk, Anna Kuczynska, Cynthia Loten, Debbie Wheeler
Guest:	Joanne MacLean, President and Vice-Chancellor
Regrets:	Carolyn Atkins, Jennifer Barrett, Karen Cooper, Olav Lian, Lenore Newman, Marina Turlakis
Recorder:	Janice Nagtegaal

1. WELCOME, TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

1.1. Dr. Joanne MacLean, President and Vice-Chancellor

Dr. Joanne MacLean expressed her gratitude for the support shown over the past while and thanked those who filled in while she was away. Dr. MacLean went on to thank faculty for sharing their knowledge with students and for providing unique experiences for students to connect with the work and research being done here. Dr. MacLean also talked about the current budget climate and the new admitting regulations for International students.

Dr. MacLean invited everyone to attend Convocation on June 11 – 13, 2024. It is critically important for us to attend and celebrate the achievements of our students. Dr. MacLean also encouraged everyone to consider nominating individuals for [Honorary degrees](#) and the [UFV Excellence Awards](#). More information on the process is on the website.

2. AGENDA and MINUTES

2.1. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION:

THAT the Science Faculty Council adopt the agenda as presented
Vanessa R / 2nd Afia R; carried.

2.2. Approval of the Minutes – February 2, 2024

MOTION:

THAT the Science Faculty Council approve the minutes of February 2, 2024, as presented.
Alan R / Ben V; 1 abstention; carried.

3. FSCC (Curriculum Committee) - Ben Vanderlei

For Decision:

3.1. Proposal for new course AGRI 495: Special Topics in Horticultural Science

3.2. Proposal for new course AGRI 496: Special Topics in Livestock Science

3.3. Proposal for new course AGRI 497: Special Topics in Agrology

OMNIBUS MOTION:

THAT the Science Faculty Council approve AGRI 495: Special Topics in Horticultural Science; Proposal for new course AGRI 496: Special Topics in Livestock Science; and Proposal for new course AGRI 497: Special Topics in Agrology, as presented.

Almaz B / 2nd Alan R; carried.

4. FSCC (Curriculum Committee)

For Information – N/A

5. DISCUSSION / DECISIONS

5.1. Student Accountability

A discussion was had around student accountability focusing on the following topics:

- Students missing tests due to illness;
- Late assignments;
- Attendance; and
- Grade grubbing.

Faculty shared the various ways they deal with the discussion topics. It was suggested the Faculty may want to consider creating some standardized language or internal policy on some topics to provide faculty with a bit more support and protection.

If faculty have students who continue to pester about changing grades, feel free to tell the student to connect with the Associate Dean for further requests. Please share any background information on the situation with the Associate Dean as well.

6. REPORTS

6.1. Dean's Report - Michael Hitch

- Michael thanked everyone for all the work they have done over the year and expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome to the University over the year.
- Michael asked for input on how the Faculty of Science shapes the Faculty Council meetings in the future.
- The Chancellor's Installation will be on Thursday, May 9, 2024.
- Convocation is on June 11 – 13, 2024. The Faculty of Science will be part of the June 11 ceremony at 9:30 am. All are encouraged to attend.
- Both Agriculture and Geoscience are going through program redevelopment.
- Kyle Baillie, Liana Thompson, and Michael are working on a 1st year course for Science students designed to equip first-year university students with essential skills and strategies for success in a Sciences program. The course aims to bridge the gap between academic expectations and student readiness.
- There is a working group looking at the campus plan for the Chilliwack Campus. This will likely include the OneHealth concept focusing on animal health, human health, and environmental health. We are also moving ahead with creating a first-year Science timetable for CEP starting Fall 2024.

6.2. Advising – Stan Manu

- We currently have 129 applications for Winter graduation: 24 for Agriculture programs, 2 for the Associate of Science, 3 for the GIS certificate, 1 for the Engineering Physics diploma, 10 for the Bachelor of Environmental Studies, and 89 for the Bachelor of Science.
- Workshops for new students will be running at the end of May/beginning of June.
- Faculty were reminded that if they have late grades to let Karen Cooper know as there may be impacts to graduating students.

6.3. BSc Committee - Stan Manu, Chair No report

6.4. Indigenization A meeting is scheduled for May 6 and will be discussing the Terms of Reference.

6.5. EDI - J Hughes J is connecting with Continuing Education to offer microcredentials.

6.6. Senate - Pedro Montoya-Pelaez | Nathan Bialas No report

6.7. Students - Sanchit Arora | Semir Hasic Offered a few Biology drop-in events which went well. Semir will be working with the WEST Student Group to coordinate an event in the summer. There seems to be enough interest in the drop-in events and Semir would like to offer more.

6.8. Other Reports Robin Endelman asked for Faculty Supervisors for the Science Rocks! Summer Camps. If faculty are interested, please contact Robin Endelman for more details.

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

- 7.2. 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 science@ufv.ca so it can be included in our next report.

8. ADJOURNED: 3:00 PM

Next Meeting: May 24, 2024 @ 1:00 PM, D213