

Faculty of Science Coordinating Council Minutes

Thursday, January 14, 2021

Meet via Microsoft Teams

Attendance:

Dean's Office	P	Chris Houser	P	Philip Dutton	P	Dan Mennill
Biomedical Sciences	P	Andrew Hubberstey	P	Martin Crozier	P	Hamza Serdah
Chemistry & Biochemistry	P	James Gauld	P	Drew Marquardt	P	Michael Ocheje
Computer Science	P	Ziad Kobti	P	Pooya Moradian Zadeh	P	Anish Sharma
Economics	P	Nurlan Turdaliev	A	Dingding Li	P	Xueting Li
Environment	P	Joel Gagnon	P	Cameron Proctor	R	Libby George
Forensic Science	P	Maria Cioppa		N/A	P	Deanna Fisher
Institute Directors	P	Lisa Porter	P	Mike McKay	A	Roman Maev
Integrative Biology	P	Isabelle Barrette-Ng	P	Barbara Zielinski	A	Niya Vanganur
Math & Stats	A	Richard Caron	P	Adrian Zahariuc	R	Penny Cardelli
Physics	P	Steven Rehse	P	Jeffrey Rau	P	Dimitri Shinas
Non-voting	A	Luke Strong	P	Laura McLean	P	Sharon Rasul
Non-voting	P	Sara Elliott	P	Dora Cavallo-Medved	A	Bob Hodge
Non-voting	P	Margaret Garabon				

R=Regrets, S=Substitute, G=Guest

1. Welcome and approval of Agenda

MOTION: To approve the agenda.

**Barrette-Ng/Gagnon
CARRIED**

2. Approval of Minute from December 3, 2020

- Add Chair of EDI to the list of positions in the Dean's office.

MOTION: To approve the amended minutes of November 5, 2020.

**Hubberstey/Turdaliev
CARRIED**

3. Report from the Dean

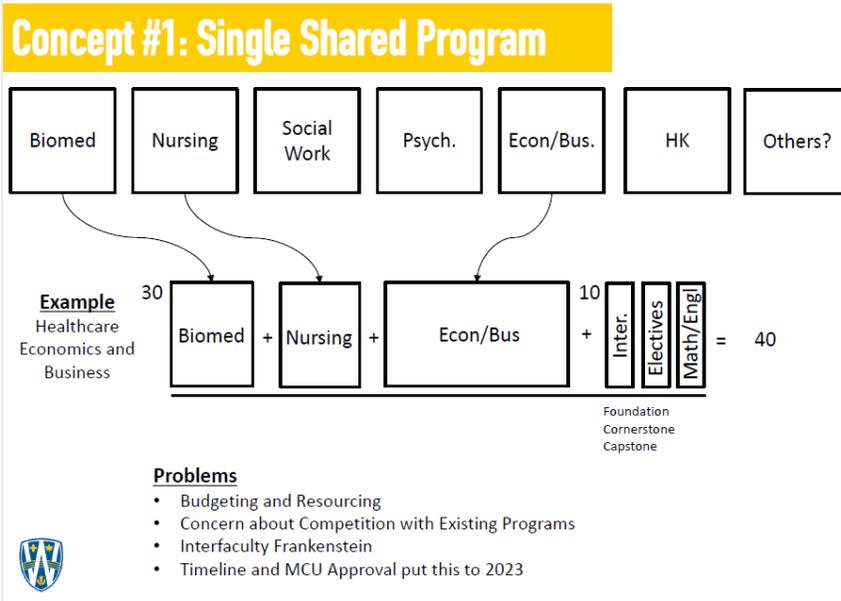
- Please actively report information from these meetings back to your Departments and use that as an opportunity for them to raise questions back up to Faculty Council.
- Stay at home order discussion:
 - All work that can be done at home should be at home. This includes teaching unless you have specific approval from Dean based on recommendation from Head/Director. It must be for an essential reason (limited, severely unstable or no internet signal, physical aspect of the office or lab space is essential to teaching).
 - Research is deemed essential by the Province and all previously approved (phase 1, 2, & 3) research will be allowed to continue.
 - Travel authorization letters have been distributed to approved research personnel. Electronic distribution will be considered starting Friday.
- Safety protocols for research discussion:
 - Use the safe Lancer App and ensure that all students and staff send their daily approval to their supervisor/chair. This must be done every time someone visits campus.

- Wear masks that always cover your nose and mouth. Only remove when alone in a private (not shared) space or to eat in designated area.
- Maintain social distancing
- Adhere to stay at home orders
- Limit time on campus
- Inform us if you experience symptoms
 - Inform supervisor and head of department/school
 - They will inform the Dean's office, who will work with Health & Safety
 - Follow all instructions provided by Health & Safety
- Responding to COVID-19 on campus:
 - If you or someone in your lab feels ill or have come in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 is being tested, please follow these steps:
 - Immediately contact Dean of Science
 - Contact your immediate supervisor (Faculty advisor, department Head or Director)
 - Have the following information ready when asked by Dean or Associate Dean:
 - Dates and times you were on campus in the last 14 days (or since you were in contact with the person who tested positive or is waiting for the results of a test)
 - Buildings and rooms that you used on campus
 - People you were in direct and sustained contact with during that time. This means less than 2 meters and more than 15 minutes of contact.
 - Do not come to campus
 - Continue to self-isolate until directed otherwise by Health & Safety
 - Follow the directions of Health and Safety and the Public Health Unit
- Enrolment discussion:
 - Our 101 applications are up over the last 5 years. Applications are on par with last year (transfer applications).
 - Total number of applications to Science over the last 5 years has increased by 60%. Sector wide across the province (all areas of Science) the average is only 20%. Our growth is 3x the provincial average.
 - Since 2017 at this time of the year we are up 256 students.
 - Up in 101 confirmations (+10 over 2020, +34 over 2018). On track to growing undergraduate enrolment by over 100 students this year.
 - Growth areas are Biology, Biomedical Sciences, Computer Science, & Forensic Science.
 - Province wide the average growth in confirmations in Science is about 17%. We are growing in confirmations by over 50% (3x the provincial rate).
 - Everyone's efforts in converting applications into confirmations is appreciated.
 - Departmental recruitment webinars have been a great success.
 - We have done a lot of advertisement on social media. Science is covering these costs. All the ads and videos have a high view rate.

- Prior Learning Assessment discussion:
 - Recognizing people with relevant work experience by granting up to 10 course credits to allow them to graduate
 - Former students who didn't complete their degree or potential students who have extensive industry work experience.
 - Assessed through challenge exams, learning portfolios, etc. Assessments would be individualized and at the discretion of the Department.
 - Since 2010, there are more than 150 students who left science in good standing who had less than 10 courses remaining in their degree.
 - We are going to review these 150 students and see if there is any way we can do to help them finish their degrees.
 - There is an old Senate policy on prior learning assessment, and we are moving to have it reinstated. Old senate materials are provided. Please review and send any comments to Chris Houser.

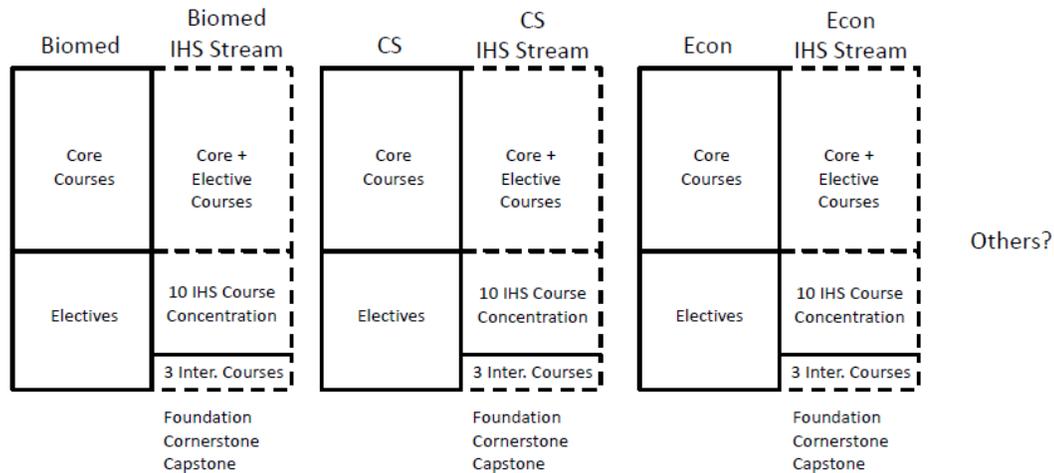
4. Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Program Discussion

- Need to balance and reverse continuing declines in undergraduate enrolment
- Research and academic program strength related to health science across campus
- Opportunity to be recognized as a destination for Health Sciences (multiple applications)
- Improve retention across complimentary programs through deflection pathways
- Shared program or identity requires coordination – remove silos
- History of the IHS Initiative
 - Concept meeting in October (Nursing, FAHSS, & Science)
 - Introduced as a concept at Provost Council in November
 - Reps from each faculty met in December
 - If you are interested in being part of the mapping exercise or discussion, please let Chris Houser know.



Concept #2: Multiple IHS Programs

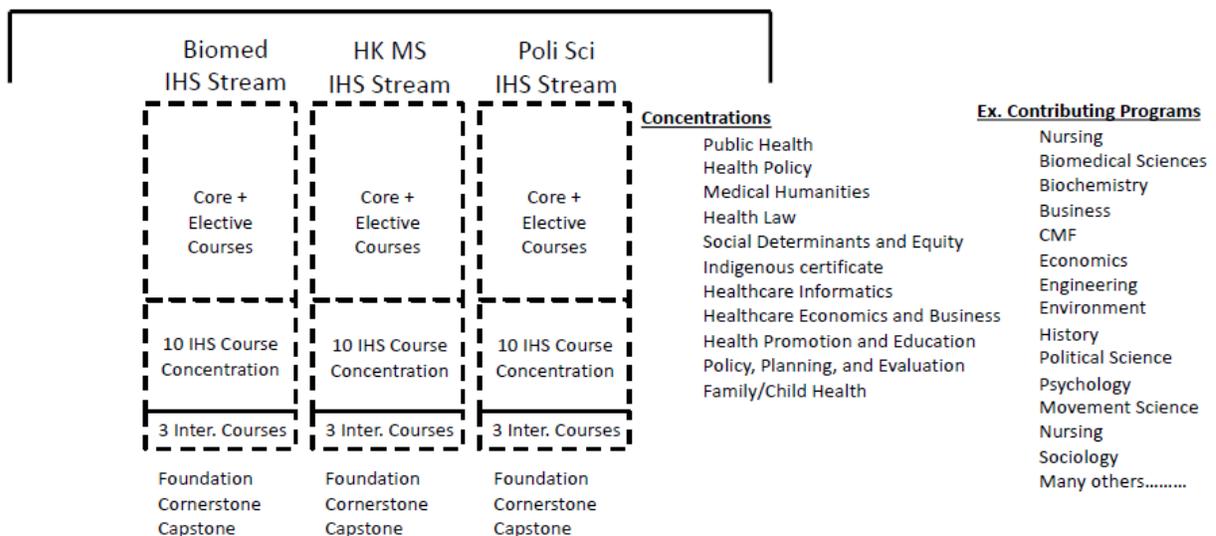
Example Concept



- Easier to budget
- No competition with existing programs
- No MCU approval required
- Early as Fall 2022 Start

Concept #2: Multiple IHS Programs

Interdisciplinary Health Sciences



- Focus on using existing courses and limiting the number of new courses to the 3 Inter. Courses

5. Undergraduate Update

- SPDC approved the Applied Forensic Stream in March.
- Bachelor of Arts Applied Economics Policy and Applied Environmental Science streams are going to Senate.
- Physics has done an excellent job making extensive curriculum changes to its program. They switched numerous special topics courses into permanent courses. Many changes were in response to student demand and IQAP recommendations. They staged the delivery of the new program so new courses are moving in and out as required without overlap. Great work!
- Chemistry looking at redesigning labs so that they are experiential learning qualified but running into challenges getting direction of what would hit the EL benchmark. Suggested that they check with CTL and Industry partners for ideas.
- Discussed that Heads aren't getting notifications of approvals required in PDC system or UWinsite Student so they don't know they are sitting there.
- We need to plan for a staged return to face to face learning and plan some hybrid options.
- Planning a meeting for academic advisors in Science. Danielle will be putting out a call for agenda items.
- Some areas reported a significant increase to the number of students requiring accommodation through Student Accessibility Services.
 - Faculty were reassured that these are real accommodations that have been assessed in an evidence-based manner. These accommodations are needed by the students.
- Drew Marquardt set up a shared spreadsheet of midterm exams in Chemistry & Biochemistry. Phil & Danielle will be creating one to use across Science.

6. Graduate Update

- Faculty are encouraged to continue to recruit graduate students for fall, with optimism that graduate training should return to a more normal pattern by end of 2021. If anyone needs help with graduate recruitment, please connect with Dan.
- Please work to support research based graduate students. They may have no classes or recurring opportunities for connection. Please encourage graduate supervisors to meet with their graduate students regularly. Help them to set goals for the semester ahead and establish opportunities for online interactions with other students.
- The OGS deadline was Monday. Applications are now with the Departments. An internal Deadline of Feb. 5 for the ranked list submitted to ADGSR office. An information session about the electronic process is scheduled for Monday, January 25th.
- Departments reported that Grad Studies is sending multiple documents to the Graduate Secretaries and expecting them to compile files. Feel that the files should have been compiled at Grad Studies first.
- Grad Studies and Payroll continue to have problems with paying GAs and RAs. A new system was developed to allow us to track the payments, but it is not working well. We expect them to be paid by Jan. 29th unless paperwork was submitted late. We continue to monitor this.
- Grad Faculty Status is up for review.

7. Research Update

- Received 15 applications for the RSF: Science XCELLERATE program. The following were approved for funding:
 - Dima Alhadidi (Computer Science) working with a collaborator in Engineering for a proposal called “Hardware-based approach for privacy-preserving machine learning”.
 - Sherif Saad (Computer Science) working with collaborators in Nursing, local medical authorities, and other universities for a proposal called “Towards accelerating aging in place solutions development and adoption”.
 - TJ Hammond, Steve Rehse & Ken Drouillard (Physics & GLIER) for a proposal called “Laser-based mask characterization for prophylaxis of COVID-19”
- There were many great proposals for cross-disciplinary research submitted. Dan continues to search for ways to support more of them in the future.
- Discussed that Evelyn St. Pierre from Finance has retired. She facilitated customs imports for research items. There is a bit of a backlog right now to clear these shipments.

8. Report from Heads

WE-SPARK

- Completed the adjudication of the grants program and have set up a very thorough and transparent review process that will be posted with the grants. 17 grants were funded for a total of \$335,725.
- Think Tank event scheduled for Feb. 5th.
- Quarterly reports are on the website. <https://www.wesparkhealth.com/our-impact>
- Infographics workshop scheduled for Jan. 29th. <https://www.wesparkhealth.com/conferences-and-workshops>
- WE-SPARK after Dark initiative to be announced soon.
- The first ‘ask the experts’ has been published.
- COVID screening lab is working on RSC and REB approvals.

9. Other Business

- N/A

10. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting.

**Gagnon/Hubberstey
CARRIED**