

## Faculty of Science Coordinating Council Minutes

Thursday, March 4, 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	R	Deanna Fisher
Institute Directors	P	Lisa Porter	P	Mike McKay	P	Roman Maev
Integrative Biology	P	Isabelle Barrette-Ng	P	Barbara Zielinski	P	Niya Vanganur
Math & Stats	P	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	R	Sharon Rasul
Non-voting	P	Sara Elliott	P	Dora Cavallo-Medved	P	Bob Hodge
Non-voting	P	Margaret Garabon	G	Jessica Bona-Mensah	G	Camisha Sibblis
Non-voting	G	Marium Tolson-Murty				
R=Regrets, S=Substitute, G=Guest						

### 1. Welcome and approval of Agenda

**MOTION: To approve the agenda.**

**Mennill/Kobti  
CARRIED**

### 2. Approval of Minute from February 4, 2021

**MOTION: To approve the amended minutes of February 4, 2021.**

**Barrette-Ng/Mennill  
CARRIED**

### 3. Update from Anti-Black Racism Taskforce

- Co-Chairs of the Anti-Black Racism Taskforce provided an update on the Taskforce.
- To combat anti-black racism on campus, the University has created:
  - Anti-black racism taskforce of 20 members (Faculty, Staff & Students)
  - Race-based data collection framework
  - Education framework
  - External Review of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
  - Anti-black racism initiatives fund
  - Ani-oppressive pedagogies teaching leadership chair
  - Black scholars hiring initiative
- Anti-Racism Pedagogies Teaching Leadership Chair
  - 2 year term
  - 2 course releases per year
  - 10,000 project funding annually

- CTL hosts/supports
  - Co-chairs may be possible
  - Proposals due March 1
  - <https://www.uwindsor.ca/antiblackracism/316/anti-racism-chair>
- Black student scholarship Initiative
  - \$250,000 goal
  - University will match the first \$125,000 donated
  - Scholarships available to entering and continuing students in graduate and undergraduate programs
  - Progress so far: >\$90,000 fundraised, >\$180,000 total
  - To donate: <https://www.uwindsor.ca/supportuwindsor/black-student-scholarship-initiative>
- Leadership Training sessions
  - Anti-Black Racism and Implications for Organizational Change
    - Dr. Joy, Mighty, Carleton University
    - November 3, 15
  - Anti-Black Racism Training and Education
    - Senator Dr. Wanda Thomas Bernard
    - January 23, 2021
  - Anti-Black Institutionalized Racism
    - Dr. Joy deGruy
    - March 5, 2021
- Anti-black racism initiatives fund
  - Student leadership grants, up to \$10,000 (March 1 call)
  - Teaching, learning and curriculum grants, up to \$5,000/\$10,000 (April)
    - 5 available
    - For anti-black racism projects
    - Must be a student led project.
  - Research Grants up to \$10,000 (May)
  - Professional Development Funds, up to \$2,000 (ongoing once launched)
- Discussed ways for faculties and individual programs to ensure that we are supporting and combating Anti-black racism.
  - Curriculum is often taken from a Eurocentric perspective. Don't take this for granted.
  - Use difference lenses to frame your problems and query things we already know.
  - Think about cultural strategies.
  - Realize that science itself isn't objective.
  - Ensure samples are collected from all demographics
- Discussed the need to better connect with black student alumni.
- Not many black scholars coming through our graduate programs. What could we do proactively in addition to scholarships to build that capacity in the system?
  - Need to focus on the student experience of our undergraduate students so that they want to stay here to pursue graduate studies.

- Representation matters. The hiring initiative could help in this respect. Representation will affect the content of the focus and interpretation of the curriculum. When that is reflected to students in ways that they can relate to, it goes a long way in their sense of belonging in the institution and in academia.
- The Anti-black racism co-chairs will be invited back to our April meeting. All Heads are encouraged to continue this conversation with their Councils.

#### 4. Recommendation from Associate Dean, Research & Graduate Studies Search/Renewal Committee

**MOTION: To renew Dan Mennill as Faculty of Science Associate Dean, Graduate Studies & Research without a search.**

**Porter/Kobti  
CARRIED**

#### 5. Report from the Dean

##### a. Enrolment Update:

- +8 over 2020, +37 over 2018, 2021=2020 intake.
- >50 with flowthrough.
- Need to focus on conversions.
- International registration is back to a steady state in graduate enrolment. The MAC program offered to increase enrolment for spring & fall intake to continue with a +80 graduate enrolment over the next couple of years.
- 2+2 transfers were recently approved by Senate. (Applied Forensic, Applied Economics, Applied Environmental Science, Applied Chemistry, Applied Computer Science)

##### b. Budget Update

- We have moved into a surplus position for the first time. We have eliminated \$6 million in deficit.
- Surplus means that we will have to start paying back our historical debt, make transfer payments to those in deficit positions, provide program support and research investment.
- We are slowly transitioning all research centres into the science budget (GLIER, WE-SPARK, IDIR). We will need to increase our net revenue by \$2.4 mil/year in new revenue to cover these costs.
- Target is \$18 mil of revenue increase over 5 years.

##### c. Fall Semester:

- Planning to maximize on-campus activities with a goal to have 1 on-campus opportunity for all students.
- Discussed faculty, staff, & student willingness to return to campus, hybrid model options, accommodations, and screening.
- The first step is to identify who is willing to be on campus and then figure a scheduling plan and scale back as necessary.

#### 6. Undergraduate Update

- Discussed the possibility of having SET scores done during lecture time for online courses, similar to how it is done when courses were face to face. Instructors would need to arrange for a neutral person to attend to manage the process.
- Different types of assessment strategies:
  - Mix with smaller stake exams during the semester;
  - University is testing the better examinations software (built into blackboard). Allows you to build more complex exams into blackboard;
  - No final, but a major paper that they work on and get partial assessments over the semester;
  - Design a capstone project that are handed in at the end of the term.
- Pass/no pass and VW plan for winter term is being planned. Students will be able to VW after getting grade and can take one pass/no pass course. Will be handled through Registrar's and UWinsite Student.

## 7. Graduate Update

- Thanks to graduate chairs and committee members who supported them with the scholarship work (SSRCH, OGS, QESSII, etc.). Ranking process is ongoing but nearly complete.
- GA Payment issues remain problematic. Anticipate an overhaul to the system to avoid this in future. Will need Heads and Grad secretaries to anticipate earlier submission of GA contracts for September.
- Recruitment for fall 2021. Faculty are encouraged to continue to recruit for fall 2021.
- The University will be instituting a "friendly neighbour" tuition rate for Americans (dropping tuition from \$24K to \$18K/year).
- University is going to move to a plan of fixed cohort tuition starting in fall. International student tuition in year 1 will be capped and it can't rise during the student's future years.
- Working on a Science plan/approach to bring international PhD tuition down to same level as domestic PhD tuition. Proposing that International students pay the full tuition and then we create a scholarship that will give them back the difference. We must meet our domestic PhD targets to afford this. Dan Mennill is looking for feedback.
- NSERC announcements will come shortly (discovery grants).
- Heads please be prepared with strategies to support faculty who have unsuccessful applications. Dan is available for consultation if needed.
- Resumption of research forms. Continue to follow phase 2 & 3 plans. A new form is coming for people with approved phase 3 for each field expedition and research taking place off campus within the field. Details to follow.

## 8. Report from Heads

### Chemistry & Biochemistry

- Working on conversions. Wrote to every student to answer any questions they may have (Same for Math & Stat, School of the Environment, Integrative Biology, & Physics)

### WE-SPARK

- Please see the WE-SPARK website for their quarterly metrics report
- Grant funding announcements are coming soon. Look for them on social media. Next round of funding will be due in May.
- Upcoming:

- RedCap training (tomorrow)
- Think Tank (April 9)

**Environment**

- Ontario Geological Survey will be delivering a student presentation tomorrow. If you have students who might be interested, contact Joel Gagnon and he will send the link.

**BCN**

- Students are working with Michelle to do virtual elementary school visits for Brain Awareness Week.

**Physics**

- Initiated discussions about an Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Stream.

**9. Adjournment**

**MOTION: To adjourn the meeting.**

**Gagnon/Kobti  
CARRIED**