

Minutes Chemistry Innovation Council

September 24, 2004

Chair: David Wardlaw
Co-Chair: Mr. Kingsley Ward

Attending: Kingsley Ward, Jan Oudenes, Cory Johnston, Dinesh Vyas, David Thomas, Din Lal, Bob Young, Walter Chan, Dale Cameron, Iain Trevena, Arig Girgrah, Patty McHenry
Regrets: Burton Branch, Bruce Chernoff, Paul Matteau, Barry Robins, Wayne Schnarr, Darwin Wilson, Ron Zelonka, Richard Devereaux, Randy Gossen, Ken Reucassel, Shirley Tilghman

MORNING SESSION:

Kingsley Ward provided welcoming remarks and introductions. He expressed regret on the resignation of Nick Darby and how much he will be missed by the Council.

David Wardlaw welcomed the participants and reviewed the activities of the Chemistry Department and the good work that is being done with Council members. He outlined the recent teleconference calls and personal visits with members. New sponsorship activities were outlined and the work with respect to a new program on industry placement for undergraduate and postgraduate students was discussed.

The terms of the Council were reviewed and it was noted that the terms of reference could be revised in the fall of 2005. These terms are actually finalized by the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science. David announced that Jan Oudenes from Alphora Research Inc. would be taking on the role of Co-Chair of the Council and that Kingsley Ward will welcome Jan at the end of the day's session.

New Member: Din Lal from Gamble Technologies was introduced and Din provided us with an overview of Gamble Technologies' work with nuclear technology, specific to dirty bomb technology in airport corridors. He discussed their new initiatives in photonics and light measurement (detecting terrorism and biological weaponry).

A staffing strategy was discussed with the announcement of three new appointments to be filled by 2005, including two retirements pending in 2006 and the new Bader Chair to start in 2006. The Department is attempting to secure a joint position with the Physics Department (a Tier 1 CRC – Canada Research Council Chair). Any additional new positions from 2006 to 2008 will require external funding. With respect to technical/administrative staff appointments, there is a need to find external monies to support these initiatives. The number of Emeritus Faculty is increasing within the Department and David outlined that this was a beneficial scenario.

Undergraduate Studies: There are new courses being offered in the second and third years and a review of the fourth year courses is underway for implementation in 2006/7. The goal will be to integrate communication skills and career awareness in to these programs.

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Laboratory Equipment: There is a real need for more funding.

Program Enrollment Objective: The numbers are increasing and this can be attributed to many factors, including the new building and an improved curriculum.

Graduate Studies: Currently at 95 with an anticipated growth to 110 by 2008. There is a need to raise the admission standards. There are an increased number of students with major scholarship needs and there is a greater degree of diversity in the student population, which is very positive.

Financial Support for Students: Discussed the need to remove differential tuition fees and to provide targeted funding for students. There was a great deal of discussion by Council members with respect to fees, access to programs and our own ability to be able to successfully market our own program.

Presentations:

Guojun Lieu, Professor and CRC Chair in Nano Research, Senior Faculty Member

David Zechel, Junior Faculty Member, Chemical Biology

Bob Lemieux, Senior Faculty Member – Organic Chemistry

-this presentation also provided the group with an overview of pending NSERC Research Network grant applications and a report on the proposed dual Queen's/Lund MSc degree program. The presentation also included budget issues, in particular:

-the department's need to secure \$1.0 to \$1.2 million per year for five years.

-the preliminary application for NSERC is due December 6, 2004. The full application is within six months of proceeding forward.

Research Presentation:

Bin Wang, Graduate Student

Dary Allen, Graduate Student

Heather Husch and Theresa McCormick, Undergraduate Student

Andrew Burke, Undergraduate Student

Bob Lemieux, as well, made a presentation to David Zechel and presented him with The Boehringer-Ingelheim Award.

AFTERNOON SESSION:

- Arig and Patty
 - represent Advancement team for Arts & Science
 - goal of committee “*to achieve vision of excellence*”
 - by facilitating, securing and recognizing donations from alumni and friends
 - recognize that communication needs to be enhanced between committee and council members
- Arig (new role/position) to primarily build relationships with alumni and friends through improved communication, outreach, and engagement ...
 - offer advice on website, newsletter, events
 - assist with quarterly reports, department highlights
 - link Department with other Alumni Relations activities, like career networking
- Speaker Donal Macartney
 - Comments and discussion
 - (David) Get description from Faculty members about “*what they are looking for?*”
 - Create a booklet for students
 - Provide links for students to reach Industry people and find out more about possible summer projects/opportunities
 - (Diane Beauchemin) Inform students about the Professional Internship Program
 - Council members interested in how many students pursue Industry positions
- Speaker Bill Newstead
 - Comments and discussion
 - Suggestion was made to put teaching models on web for TA's
 - Response was given that help is given more on a 1 – on – 1 basis
 - IDC (Instructional Development Centre)
 - Suggestion made that it be made mandatory to complete the three certificates from the IDC
 - Reply and suggestion given that a TA certificate be given out from the Chemistry Department for completing TA training
 - Question asked “Has completion of certificates affected / made competition for TA selection?”
 - Requests are taken but not guaranteed
 - Suggestion made to post council members comments on the web for TA's to read:
 - Awesome ... department should be commended
 - Provides a lot more weight on a CV to show TA experience
 - Ensures a base skill set is taught
 - Think it's important
 - Employers recognize certificates
 - TA training provides great opportunity to enhance skill area

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- David spoke about
 - Career night
 - QCIC luncheon
 - Lab Equipment and departments plan on expansion and updating systems
- Council Ideas (Moderated by King Ward)
 - Council is a huge help to department
 - Difficult to get council members to attend sessions
 - *Interest? ... too busy?*
 - Value of sessions to encourage attendees attendance
 - Goal to find a format to benefit council members
 - Challenge put forth to council members to say what they would have liked to hear
- Old items ... revisited
 - Short courses for professionals
 - Item on hold
 - Survey students and their interests in talks/seminars
 - QCIC luncheon a success and will continue
 - Classes are more successful settings than the success of career nights
 - Suggestion to continue surveying students
 - (Dale) Re: Career Luncheon
 - Students had great comments
 - Broadened their horizons about the industry
 - Provide link on website for students which would provide similar options
 - Grads and Undergraduate Recruitment
 - Suggestion made that council members become recruiters in their own cities
 - Advertise in local area
 - Advertise through their alumni
 - Arig
 - Queen's Alumni Relations currently pursuing such options
 - Din Lal
 - Local area is important, but other areas (ie. Japan) should still be pursued
- General Discussion
 - (King) Problem is not getting students, but what to do once they are here
 - As a group ... "how can we help?"
 - Suggestion continue to bring council members as speakers to students
 - (Cory) Provide list of types of jobs with 4 yr undergrad
 - Degree obtained vs. Job obtained
 - List of opportunities available

- (Jan) Focus is to ensure that university offers connectivity with the industry
 - monthly seminar series?
 - Would like to see a more structured program
- (Walter) List of past students (6 – 8 years since graduation) made available for current students where they could seek advice and mentoring
 - (Patty) will look into in
 - Permission issues will have to be considered
 - (Arig) Suggested to draw list from NETWORQ (on-line)
 - List of individuals who have offered to be mentors
 - List can be pulled by department
- Patty to send out questionnaire to council members about how they can further help David
 - Why are you hear?
 - Because of your *heart* or to *learn*?
- Welcome to Jan (new incoming chair)
 - Planning committee will be a small group
 - Compile report for Chemistry Department
 - What has been achieved?
 - Include a statement from each member
 - What have they gotten from the experience
 - Answering “*What can we do?*”
 - Expansion of industry academia
 - Enhance connectivity with students
- Impressed with TA training
 - TAs actually get something from the experience
- Training may come in a diffused manner
 - A lack of basic training was done
 - Important to ensure that department wide training is done
 - (David) Safety grad course in place ... could be better no doubt

Adjournment:

David Wardlaw thanked King Ward for his leadership and dedication to the Council, the Faculty and the University. We have been so fortunate to have had King serve the Council in this leadership capacity and we hope he will continue to stay involved with the Innovation Council.

King thanked David and provided on behalf of the Council a warm welcome to Jan Oudenes and provided introductions.

Jan spoke briefly and thanked King and David for this opportunity to serve as Co-Chair and how pleased he is to take on this responsibility.

The meeting concluded and the group gathered in the reception area for a farewell reception.