MINUTES OF DEPARTMENTAL MEETING

Mathematics and Statistics
Faculty of Science and Engineering
Tuesday, May 26, 2009
N620 Ross

PRESENT:  S. Chen  P. Gibson  J. Grant
          M. Haslam  J. Heffernan  H. Huang
          H. Joshi  S. Kochman  A. Kuznetsov
          V. Michkine  P. Peskun  A. Pietrowski
          I. Poliakov  I. Raguimov  S. Rainey
          T. Salisbury  B. Van Rensburg  W. Whiteley
          M.W. Wong (Chair)  Hm. Zhu

REGRETS:  R. Ganong, P. Szeptycki, Y. Wu

Meeting commenced at 4:00 p.m.

1. Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Motion: M/S (S. Kochman / T. Salisbury) that the minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, April 28, 2009 be accepted as circulated.

   carried unanimously

2. Business arising from minutes

   There was no business arising.

3. Chair’s remarks / announcements

   (a) The interview of candidates for the position of Operations Manager is currently taking place.

   (b) Approval has been given from the government for the new Life Sciences Building.

   © The consolidation of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics into the Ross Building is underway. It may take place over the summer and will encompass the 6th, 7th and 8th floors. There will be a meeting with the administration to discuss the details on June 10.

   (d) Closely related to the move is the relocation of Ann-Marie Carless from the TEL Building to Ross. A plan is being mapped out by the AO of FSE.

   (e) A reminder to members that most FSE strategic hirings for 2008–2009 have been postponed. Our department was approved a position in Mathematical Biology. To
reactivate this position we need to update our request. A proposal must be submitted by September should we agree to continue with this position. The Applied Mathematics section will then be asked to update the proposal as they see fit.

(f) The request for five CUPE-Excludee half courses for postdocs has been approved. We have also been given two half courses for teaching by PhD students in their final year of study.

4. CUPE conversions

There are three applicants for conversion to begin on July 1, 2009 in the department. The timeline is to make recommendations to the Dean by June 15, 2009. The Chair gave a rundown of the main points that have been considered by the Executive Committee:

- An excerpt from the Collective Agreement concerning the CUPE conversion pool states that interested parties are cautioned that, as always, the authorization for any appointment is contingent on that appointment being in one of the areas articulated as a current academic priority for the hiring unit, the Faculty and the University. Success then, in the competition for a conversion appointment will depend on the relative priority of the hiring unit, the quality of the candidate, and the fit between the two.

- An article from the Collective Agreement states that the employer shall provide incentive funding to a hiring unit recommending an affirmative action pool member to a tenure stream position. This funding will normally cover the differential between the starting salary of the appointment and the cost of three full course directorships.

- The departmental perspective is as such: A priority of the department is to provide YUFA true visitors, postdocs and PhD students teaching tickets. The number of such tickets confirmed for next year totals eight half courses. With all these built into the planning exercises, there are only two half courses not yet staffers. Up to nine back-up sections are estimated to be opened. These can be filled in easily by last-minute swaps due to cancellation of courses with low enrolments. They can also be taught by full-time faculty members on a voluntary overload/onload basis and/or CUPE II faculty members. This gives us more flexibility in coping with the real-time situation than a permanent and rigid conversion in the few years ahead with budget cuts and uncertainties looming. There is more room and flexibility for courses in Summer 2009, which have been posted for CUPE II teaching.

Based on these considerations, it was moved, seconded and carried unanimously with two abstentions by the Executive Committee on June 19 that no conversion to begin on July 1, 2009 be recommended to the Dean.

Since the decision was made, there have been some email messages about funding for conversion. Funding is not certain at this time.
The Chair continued by informing the members that given the uncertainties, not the least of which is the relative priority of the conversion in the department and the timelines in the next three years, the conversion to begin July 1, 2009 is premature.

**Motion #2:** M/S (S. Kochman / A. Pietrowski) that the motion of the Executive Committee to not grant any CUPE II conversion to begin on July 1, 2009.

9 in favour, 1 opposed, 7 abstentions — motion carried

5. **Fudan-York joint program in Financial Mathematics**

H. Huang gave the members background information on his proposal regarding a joint program in Financial Mathematics between York University and Fudan University. Feedback was invited and a lengthy discussion took place.

**Motion #3:** M/S (T. Salisbury / H. Huang) to approve, in principle, the joint Fudan-York BSc proposal subject to review with the Curriculum Committee.

unanimously carried

6. **Other business**

None.

Meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.