**DSS Executive Meeting**

Oct 12, 4pm – 8th floor Life Sciences Center

1. **Roll Call**

* Raph, Shauna, Tora, Melanie, Michael, Adele, Patricia Laws, Nikki Comeau, Chris Moore, Sandy Walde

1. **Science For Presentation by the Faculty of Science**

* Faculty of Science: Strategic Plan for Teaching and Learning
* Present here and engage in discussion on how we can get more student input on the program to meet the undergraduate needs of programs
* Would we have found this attractive as high school students?
* Academic mission: teaching and learning, research, and service
* What degree options and services can we offer to attract students and to help them complete their programs?
* How do we get students interested in research?
* Reframing the discussion: what are you doing this degree for? How is this going to help in life?
* Pathways approach to the entire undergraduate experience
* Goal: Allow students to better imagine what they can do with a science degree and how to optimize their education and reach goals  
  Science for: Discovery, Solutions, Health and Wellness, Communication, Education, The World
* Development of a minor in entrepreneurship
* Retention from first to second year
* Advising to understand what their science degree is for - to increase degree completion
* Feedback into program design and modifications
* Feedback
* Mike: we already have a bit of test data on medical sciences program - of students enrolled - 60% from away applied because of this specific program - this channel is attractive to people who know what they want to do - how easy is it to switch between the streams? - How closed off would the events be for people in other streams?
* Chris: still do a degree program, this would be more around support and advising. You are not fixed in a pathway, it's about helping you think through why you are doing your science degree. Provision of a whole bunch of support, not a formal thing
* Patricia: not everyone has the benefit of going through the medical sciences program, providing students with opportunities - be aware of facts, how to make sure you get the right amount of credits etc.
* Chris: all about why am I doing this, most degree programs not like medical sciences
* Tora: what would this look like in my day to day life? Is it emails? Is it advising services, etc?
* Chris: there is no science for… class, but what would be helpful is that if you think we are on the right track, how would you like to be helped? Sessions with alumni? What are the right ways of giving you this information and finding your path?
* Sandy: think about yourselves but also your friends, would I have felt that I fit somewhere in this framework?
* Shauna: one professor mentioned communication and teaching should be combined - please don’t do that, there is a difference. From a visual perspective - there is a bias for research for discovery, but as you continue on, there are fewer options - if there is some work we can do to beef up the other options and give more substance to them.
* Chris: we got science for discovery, we need to work on the others and get them to the same level as we have for medical sciences - the Mount program collaboration
* Raph: want everyone to be comfortable: keep in mind international students - NSERC are very exclusive, there are opportunities, but most things I was looking for I had to do independently
* Melanie: really good idea if this can be projected to prospective students. For people who are unsure, this gives people a great opportunity to experience first year courses, but then get some ideas to other pathways they can take, personalize their degree. Hesitation: requirement aspect: some med sci requirements are sent in stone, and a lot of nesc and psych courses pretty strict. Are there going to be specific things that you have to do to follow that pathway?
* Chris: relatively few requirements - will not constrain ability to complete degree on time - not forcing additional program requirements, why am I doing this?
* Melanie: holding info sessions of specific pathways in first year - check it out, talk to this advisor - so people can go to different ones and then follow guidelines to see if they are interested in it
* Chris: Science for sessions would be in second term of first year
* Mike: hesitation: it is just a tool, how do we get them to use the tool? How do you best convey that this is something that you wish you would have explored. How open are the departments for opening up space for exploration in other fields?
* Chris: others are only thinking of a certain pathway, not personal
* Mike: adress gap between departments and how to specifically target first year students?
* Sandy: this will help departments pay attention to other pathways. Does not make departments do it, but they will be forced to start thinking where the students could end up
* Chris: math/stats are very concerned about the high school math curriculum - improving the cycle
* Shauna: acknowledging these are not the only pathways - you can do things any way you want to, but here is a tool = wondering if you could talk to prospective students and see if these are things they would enjoy? When you preface these routes, ask questions about what they are interested in - buzzfeed quiz?? (Nikki) - aptitude test type thing
* Tora: In line with Shauna and Melanie - info sessions - some merit to combining the different subjects - other interests - we give status to certain things in our society - so being forced to run into these things and see people being successful
* Chris: we shouldn't be in any way putting these in a hierarchy
* Shauna: do not start with discovery
* Raph: bridge connection between upper year students and alumni - if alumni can send mentor email to 4th years
* Shauna: to know that there is light at the end of the tunnel
* Chris: how do we scale up the FIGS experience? Do you see a way that we can engage science students at different levels?
* Shauna: Focus groups that we would be happy to run
* Melanie: we will talk about it at the next council meeting and provide the slide show to the reps and from there they can reach out to see if they support it
* Mike: ask each departmental society rep to round up students
* Sandy: also target for international students
* Tora: useful would be specific feedback you would like
* Chris: what would you want to hear about if making the decision? How to keep in touch with the pathways as you start moving onto the next phase.

1. **New Business**
   1. Science for...

* Brief discussion of presentation
* Decided that should be presented to Reps who could then present it to their societies
  1. Open House (Oct 21st)
* Woman named Annie reached out via Facebook asking if we wanted a table at the open house
* Everyone is busy, but we will try to make it work
* Will follow up with Annie when she contacts society via dss email

1. **Old Business**
   1. Support the report check-in

* Mike hasn’t heard back from Grad student organizations he reached out to… will send follow up emails
* Tora met with Nikki + Jocelyn - communicated notes to Shauna + Mike
  + They suggested that a date in late November would fit best with the FoS calendar
  + Shauna and Mike feel that it is best not to rush this - don’t necessarily have to schedule around FoS
  + Mike will go ahead and contact Evidence for Democracy
  + Shauna meeting with Chris on Tuesday (?), Mike will go along. Goal is to run idea by Chris and then hopefully present to the Faculty of Science Committee on October 25th
  1. Instagram Photo Comp
* Is a thing… exec should submit photos
  1. Sticker order update
* Tora contacted sticker companies used by DSU and DMCRT to get estimates
* Canadastickerking.com quoted us $480 for 1000 stickers
  + Gave the go ahead to order the stickers
* Tora: Do we still want mugs since we have like 50 old ones in the office?
  + Exec interested in having mugs with new logo (Mike: we have the logo, why not use it) so go ahead with a small mug order
  + This can wait until next semester if need be
  1. Message board collab during Council Meeting?
* Yes, you can do the thing Tora.