School of Physical Sciences Executive Committee Annual Report, 2019-20

This report summarizes the activities of the School of Physical Sciences Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) starting from July 2019.

The committee members during this period were: Alex Guenther (Department of Earth System Sciences), Hamid Hezari (Department of Mathematics), Vladimir Mandelshtam (Department of Chemistry), Sasha Chernyshev (Department of Physics and Astronomy), and Mike Pritchard (Department of Earth System Sciences).

Prof. Chernyshev was elected a Chair of FEC for 2019-2020 on July 26, 2019 by email vote.

The communications between committee members throughout the year took place by email.

The primary actions of the committee were to allocate CORCL funding to faculty in the School and to discuss and respond to a request from the Task Force on Student Supplemental Costs reduction. For the first item, several discussions took place on the modifications for the current year allocation, ranking and discussion of the conferences proposals to be funded by CORCL funds, and what modifications for the processes will be needed in the future because of the COVID-19 pandemic. For the second item, FEC has discussed and individual committee members have subsequently met and discussed the issue of supplemental cost reduction with their respective Department Chairs, Vice Chairs of Undergraduate Studies, and Chairs of Undergraduate Education. As a result, the response letter from the School was sent to the Task Force.

Prof. Chernyshev’s term as representative in the Divisional Senate Assembly has ended on June 30, 2020 and with it his role as Chair of the FEC.

Moving forward, the new and remaining members of the FEC should hold elections for a new Chair.

Prepared by Sasha Chernyshev, August 1, 2020