

Faculty of Science and Technology

Notes – Faculty Meeting

Tuesday, April 15, 2014

10:00 a.m. to noon

Building 356, Room 109

Professional Development and Training

Susan Allen gave an overview of her department. They work with employers such as Marine Harvest (aquaculture). They also have contracts for various organizations such as B.C. Ferries, Corrections Canada, and the RCMP. They develop programs at VIU (for example, NREP). They can work with faculty members who want to explore new opportunities, and assist with budgets and marketing. They also offer advice for new opportunities.

Susan encourages inter-collaborative programs between Faculties.

Greg Crawford mentioned shrinking budgets and how this might bring opportunities to our Faculty.

Aboriginal Education Plan

Steve Lane and Sharon Hobenshield presented the Aboriginal Plan. (A handout was provided.)

Steve gave a general overview and asked faculty to think about Aboriginal learning.

Sharon talked about the Coastal First Nations Technician Program, with feedback from Marilyn Funk on her time at Hakai Institute.

There was a discussion around funding sources to deliver these programs and potential future ones throughout the province.

Recruitment / Conversion / Retention

Tina McComb led a discussion on recruitment, retention, and enrolment management. The last FTE level was at around 88% of our target, from a high of 97% in 2009-2010. There was some concern for financial sustainability if enrollment numbers continue to drop.

Tina showed trends in attrition over the last 4 years from 2008 to 2012. Some faculty felt there were lost opportunities in Biology due to a lack of funding to support the increase in applications, especially in Years 3 and 4.

There was a general discussion on the students' lack of basic skill sets, where many are not ready for university and do not have the needed university skills from high school.

It was noted that the Student Ambassador Program, which was tried out for the first time this year, was a huge success.

Dean's Report

Greg Crawford said that there are no cutbacks in our 2014-2015 budget.

A CSCI regular, half-time Technician will be hired (\$12K augmentation).

AERL Enhancement: The Provost Office will be providing funds to assist in this enhancement.

The new fencing around the Header House site was discussed. The proposed gasoline / hazardous storage container has not been funded yet, but it is in the planning stage.

New Health and Science Building Update: A new effort is being framed through Dave Witty's Office. At this time, the challenge is to obtain funding at the provincial level to invest in this new building. There was a discussion on what opportunities for multi-use there might be in this building, which would help make this happen.

There is no new funding promised; a 2% tuition increase is planned for next year.

Fisheries and Aquaculture Update: In the Fall, there will be a working document available for the Faculty's review. Weaving the diploma with the degree needs was also discussed. It is hoped that this will be ready for the fall of 2014.

Faculty Council Motions: Greg summarized motions arising from Faculty Council meetings since the last Faculty meeting in December.

Senators' Report

A Senate request to update our Faculty By-laws is expected in the next few months. This will provide an opportunity for any outstanding Faculty-driven By-law changes to occur.

An update on Summative Assessment was discussed at Senate.

There was a discussion around the “Future Opportunities Workshops” and how our Faculty was poorly represented at those meetings.

Brian Dick, Dave Bigelow and Greg Crawford all spoke enthusiastically about Dustin Howie, who is graduating this semester. They acknowledged his significant contributions to VIU and to the Faculty. All three noted Dustin’s strong voice in key committees, and speaking on behalf of students, departments, the Faculty and VIU as a whole.

Motion by Brian Dick: To commend Dustin for his extensive contributions to VIU’s Governance through his roles on the VIU Senate, Senate Standing Committees, and our Faculty’s Council.

Seconded: Dave Bigelow.

All in favour: **CARRIED.**

Doug Corrin’s Report on Education Standards:

A Bachelor’s Degree in General Studies is being proposed and details will follow at future meetings.

The Biology Department has had success with their registration procedure for second to fourth year courses that uses a combination of seniority and GPA. They will continue with this process next year. Other departments may wish to consider utilizing a similar approach – most likely Chemistry and Mathematics.

VIU is looking to create greater ties between the Trades and other academic Faculties. The proposal is for those graduates who have attained a Red Seal to be eligible to get a block of 60 credits in a degree program at VIU. All admission, residency, course prerequisites, and any other degree requirements must still be met.

The draft Institutional Learning Outcomes now includes scientific literacy: “Scientific literacy entails an understanding of the scientific method, including the roles of experimentation, numeracy, and reproducibility, sufficient to make evidence-based conclusions and to participate in informed civic debate.”

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Meeting adjourned at noon.