

Faculty of Science and Technology
Minutes – Faculty Council Meeting
Friday, April 25, 2014
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
ICSS Boardroom – Building 395, Room 210

Present: Doug Corrin (Acting Chair), John Amaral, Eric Demers, Brian Dick, Don Furnell, Todd Barsby, Glen Pugh (MATH Representative), Liz Gillis, Greg Klimes, Huizhu Liu, Tim Stokes, Lynda Ladret (Recorder)

Regrets: Greg Crawford, Dave Bigelow, Dean Slonowsky, Dustin Howie (Student Representative)

Approval of Agenda

Request to move RMOT Admissions ahead of Dean's Report.

Motion to approve amended Agenda: G. Klimes
Seconded: B. Dick
All in favour: **CARRIED.**

Approval of Faculty Council Minutes – February 21, 2014

Motion to approve: G. Klimes
Seconded: T. Barsby
All in favour: **CARRIED.**

Discussion: Science and Technology Department Feedback on B.Sc. MATH Requirement Proposal

Glen Pugh indicated that the department is still considering the requirement that Math 12 with a minimum B grade be a prerequisite for admission to the B.Sc. The B.Sc. General Degree Calendar page currently states that students need Grade 12 Math with a "B" grade to take calculus, but it is not a formal admission requirement at this time. Only English 12 is required, which is low in terms of other institutions' admission requirements.

The Biology, Chemistry and Physics departments were in favour of the proposal.

Pre-calculus courses (MATH 151) cannot be used for B.Sc. credit – do other institutions have a first-year stream for credit? A prerequisite might be seen as a block to admission and might discourage applications, particularly from international students. A new exploratory admissions category could be useful for non-admitted students until prerequisites are completed. If students don't take calculus in first year, their schedule often doesn't allow them to take these until their final year, or during an additional semester.

Further discussions will take place at the May 9 Council meeting, at which time Lorna Millard from Advising will join the group.

Curriculum Committee Submissions:

RMOT Admission Requirements Change Proposal:

Greg Klimes and Liz Gillis introduced the proposal and provided a rationale. There are no changes to the prerequisites, but the admission process will be more efficient, applicant ranking more quantifiable, and admission decisions more defensible.

RMOT has 90 applications for 24 seats; the current process is extremely time-consuming for the department and for Admissions. The basic changes are: replace the resume with a “personal profile” (see Appendix 6), and replace the letter of reference with an online, confidential referee report that is submitted directly to VIU. The referee reports and personal profiles will be quantifiable, the Calendar description changes will outline the new application requirements and the RMOT website will be updated to outline the new process. The expected dates for applicants to be told if they have been accepted, if invited for interview, or if they will need to re-apply the following year will also be on the RMOT website. Top-ranked applicants will be offered admission to the program without an interview. Low-ranked applicants will be sent a letter of regrets. Those in the middle-rank will be invited for an interview in early May.

Recommendations included that the department interview everyone for the first year to test the rankings of the new process, and that, regarding top-ranked applicants, the department get rid of the numbers to ensure flexibility from year to year. Another recommendation is for RMOT faculty to review whether Biology 12 should remain a recommendation for admission.

Motion to approve: G. Klimes

Seconded: T. Barsby

All in favour: **CARRIED.**

Deans' Report

On behalf of Greg Crawford, Doug Corrin stated that the Registrar is proposing that co-curricular activities be included in Transcripts. Recruitment and Retentions put forward two items for feedback/participation:

1. A one-day Student Shadow Initiative from October to February, with faculty volunteers. This event might require Student Ambassadors.
2. Does faculty want to be more engaged with the community? (For example, visit schools or community groups to offer a lecture.)

A discussion followed: Why doesn't Recruitment and Retentions ask faculty how they are engaged with community now? A great deal of this activity is unreported and unrecognized.

The community engagement activities have been centralized/decentralized over time. Currently, it appears that it is becoming the responsibility of departments and Faculties.

Senators' Report

No report at this time, as there hasn't been a Senate meeting since the last Council meeting.

Todd Barsby mentioned a New Program Proposal for a Business Certificate for Aboriginal Communities that was presented to Curriculum Committee, with seven-week section of MATH 151. He was curious whether the Math department was consulted regarding concerns about workload. On behalf of Dave Bigelow, Glen Pugh indicated that workload and the budget were addressed at Planning & Priorities, but that the process for Senate approval needs to be refined, particularly the consultation with other stakeholders.

Transfer for Red Seal Certification

Doug Corrin stated that this is a General Studies Degree requiring 60 credits. Surprise was expressed, as diplomas only get half-credits at VIU (i.e., 30 credits). The number of credits proposed appears to be very high, particularly for programs that do not carry credits. Many degrees have only 5 to 13 general electives, so The Red Seal Certification could be problematic.

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Motion to adjourn: B. Dick  
Seconded: D. Furnell  
All in favour: **CARRIED.**

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.