

Faculty of Science and Technology
Minutes – Faculty Council Meeting
Monday, April 22, 2013
4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
ICSS Boardroom – Building 395, Room 210

Present: Greg Crawford, Brian Dick, Duane Friesen, Gara Pruesse, Don Furnell, Dave Bigelow, Rosemarie Ganassin, John Amaral, Glen Pugh, Greg Klimes, Marise Wickman, Todd Barsby, Patricia Stuart (Recorder)

Regrets: Tim Stokes, Nathan Stefani (Student Representative)

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve: G. Klimes
Seconded: R. Ganassin
All in favour: **CARRIED.**

Approval of Faculty Council Minutes: March 4, 2013

Minor change to replace the word “recommendations” on page 2 under *Report on review of Faculty By-laws*, paragraph two, to read: The By-laws were presented to Council, and “suggestions for possible amendments” were made.

Motion to approve: G. Pruesse
Seconded: D. Friesen
All in favour: **CARRIED.**

Curriculum Committee Submissions:

CSCI 160 course change proposal

Discussion on the mathematics requirements for CSCI 160 resulted in a recommendation to change the prerequisites back to “Either Principles of Mathematics 12 or Foundations of Mathematics 12”. This will be submitted to Curriculum Committee for approval.

The substance of the change is to reflect the practice of class size maximum of 32, and not 48. This is a housekeeping change only.

Motion to approve: D. Bigelow
Seconded: T. Barsby
All in favour: **CARRIED.**

Review of By-laws:

a) Discussion on Findings: Faculty By-laws

Further discussion on the definition of faculty members (item 2 (e)) will be put on hold until the Dean gets clarity from Pam Shaw.

Regarding By-laws item 5.2 Composition of the Faculty Council, the Senate is discussing definitions. We will wait for their recommendations and bring any changes to the August Council meeting. We should also look into what is most effective in other Faculties.

ACTION: Senate representatives to obtain more information on Governance Committee's practices.

b) Faculty Council reporting requirements

ACTION: Greg Crawford and Christine Couture to make sure that Faculty Council dates are determined early and posted on our Faculty's website.

c) Distribution of Council dates and agendas to the whole Faculty

This information is to be determined and distributed in a timely fashion via a bulk email to the whole Faculty.

Dean's Report

Greg Crawford met with Greg Klimes and Darren Hebert to discuss course offering opportunities for RMOT and NREP – in collaboration with Coastal First Nations, non-credit courses on resource stewardship. Curriculum recommendations for non-credit course proposals will be discussed at their next meeting.

Senators' Report

Program changes to the Biology Major, Biology Minor and Bachelor of Natural Resource Protection have been approved at Senate.

Following a letter published in the *Nanaimo Daily News* and the response from the VIU Executive, forums are being held regarding the use of proper language for the First Nations' Community.

The Governance Committee is looking at a grading system for laboratory course work.

There is no new money, and block funding is provided to the Dean.

Honours Programs Discussion

Interest was raised in there being a required Honours/Thesis course, with the caveat that these courses are not exclusive to Honours Programs.

Concern was raised around both the possibilities of the 12 additional credits being new courses, regarding cost implications, and of the 12 additional credits lacking specialization.

It was pointed out that the foreign language requirement would need to be removed, and that the 3.50 GPA would not be effective.

ACTION: Greg Crawford to meet with Ross MacKay to discuss how their Faculty is looking at this, and what their suggestions and recommendations would be.

Undergraduate Degree English Requirements

There is no interest in pursuing ENGL 204 (Business and Technical Writing) as an eligible Degree English Requirement. Interest was raised in pursuing a focussed Scientific Writing course that resulted in an action item for a meeting between the Deans.

There was no consensus regarding the issue of broadening the current exemption to all programs, with some departments wanting the 6 credits and others supporting the 6 credits if one of them was a scientific writing course.

It was generally agreed that the use of a second class grade of B+ seemed too low as the minimum grade required to trigger the exemption path.

Priority Registration for Organic Chemistry

This has been approved by the Registrar.
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Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.