

*Faculty of Science and Technology*

## **Notes – Faculty Retreat/Welcome Back Meeting**

**Tuesday, August 21, 2012**

**1:00 to 3:30 p.m.**

**Building 355, Room 203 (Lecture Theatre)**

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### *Welcome/Introduction*

Greg Crawford asked Chairs to summarize changes in staffing for their Department.

Biology: John Amaral announced that Wendy Simms is back from leave, that Holly Blackburn retired, and that Eric Demers is on leave for the year (Erick Groot is Acting BSc Advisor).

Chemistry: Duane Friesen announced that Christine Tong was hired as a full-time University-College Professor, that Alexandra Weissfloch is on leave for the year, and that Jessie Key, Kyle Duncan and Cameron Newhook were hired as a Sessional Instructors.

Computing Science: Gara Pruesse announced that Huizhu Liu is back from leave, that Peter Walsh will be on leave during the Spring term, and that Marina Barsky, Harpreet Kaur (Spring only), and Frank LoPinto returned as Sessional Instructors.

Earth Science: Steve Earle announced that Sandra Johnstone is on leave for the year, that Tim Stokes is on leave for the Fall term, and that Casey Brant and Del Ferguson were hired as Sessional Instructors.

Fisheries and Aquaculture: Don Furnell announced that Anne McCarthy was laid off, that Frank Dalziel retired, that Dan Fox was hired as a full-time, regular Technician, that Stefanie Duff is back from leave, and that Simon Yuan is a half-time, regular Technician (his other half-time job is to support the ICSS).

Forestry: Marise Wickman announced that Paul Lucas returned from leave.

Horticulture: No change.

Mathematics: Dave Bigelow announced that Dean Slonowsky was hired as a full-time, University-College Professor (starting in the Spring term), and that Jack Macki was hired as a Sessional Instructor for the Fall.

Physics, Engineering and Astronomy: No change.

RMOT: No change.

Greg announced that we have three student representatives: Dustin Howie, Nathan Stefani, and Ian Warbrick. They will be invited to all Faculty Meetings (excluding Retreats). In addition,

Nathan Stefani is the student representative on Faculty Council. He will be invited to all meetings.

Greg also mentioned that our new Senators are Brian Dick and Dave Bigelow, that Doug Corrin is now 50% Area Chair.

### ***Dean's Report:***

Budget Update: Planning will start earlier this year.

Summative Assessment Update: All Summative Assessment were submitted at the end of June 2012. Greg recommended that the GBET Program be cancelled, and that the Horticulture Program be moved to the Faculty of Trades. He recommended "maintain" for all other programs in the Faculty.

### Future Directions Committee:

Greg pointed out that this committee was originally set up to help provide some guidance and recommendations for what the Faculty might look like in the future, what directions and/or emphases we might want to consider. It was also intended to provide some guidance for the Dean in terms of the Summative Assessment process.

Doug provided a summary of the activities and accomplishments of the "Future Directions" In brief, the committee:

- Reviewed offerings of comparable institutions (VIU, TRU, UFV, Kwat., CapU, Mt. Royal)
  - All offered a variety of foundational science degrees (BIOL, CHEM, CSCI, MATH, PHYS), plus some unique "other offerings" (i.e. geology, horticulture, natural resources, engineering, etc.)
  - VIU's profile is in line with these institutions, recognizing that
    - not all institutions offer majors in all the fundamental sciences
    - the collection of "other offerings" is unique for each institution
- Reviewed VIU's Academic Plan. It was of limited help in that it is very general in nature. However, a few points did resonate:
  - commitment to continue to offer a range of credentials (from vocational through to Masters degrees)
  - commitment to serve the "coastal region"
- Considered (and struggled with) 2 perspectives on the future of S&T:
  - The idealistic view where we define where we would like to be in 10 years with no restrictions/ limitations. This view considers strongly what additional programs & credentials should be offered.
  - The pragmatic view where the current budget situation is recognized and that we will likely need to contract before we get to expand. This views considers strongly what we hold as core/critical values to ensure these are not lost.

- Discussed (at length) a mission statement, some examples of which are as follows:
  - The mission of the VIU S&T Faculty is to promote active learning in a range of pure and applied sciences that stimulates scholarly growth and promotes professional skills.
  - The Faculty of S&T is committed to providing high quality and engaging education experiences for students, so that:
    - Our graduates have the knowledge, skills and confidence to pursue careers in industry/research, or graduate studies;
  - The Faculty of S&T is committed to providing opportunities for faculty members to:
    - Improve and expand their teaching practice through professional development
    - Pursue scholarship in their discipline of interest
  - The Faculty of S&T is committed to fostering a sense of community both on- and off-campus, by:
    - Maintaining close interactions and collaborations between students and faculty members,
    - Supporting initiatives that promote science interest to the broader community (i.e. Not Rocket Science, Extreme Science Show, hosting school visits, etc.)

Greg indicated he would seek to have Faculty Council agree on a single mission statement, which would then be brought forward to the Faculty as a whole for ratification.

***Additional Item – Space Storage Committee:***

Greg announced that the Header House (Bldg. 390) will be demolished next summer (2013). In preparation for this, Greg established a space storage committee, comprising Sarah Greenway (RMOT), Steve Earle (Earth Sciences), Kathi Davis (Forestry) and Chris Gill (Chemistry). That team examined S&T storage spaces and interviewed key departmental representatives. They developed a summary of current needs and usage. Based on this report, efforts will be undertaken in Spring 2013 to find alternate space for equipment and materials in the Header House.

***VPAP Updates:***

Dave Witty listed his priorities as Provost:

- Major tool: Academic Plan
- Three additional Plans: Enrollment Management, Information Technology, and Regional Action Plan (all available on Provost website)
- Continued discussion on what sets us apart from the other universities and colleges in BC
- Enhancing roles for faculty members (e.g., discussions with Advisory Groups)
- Focus on quality of education (accountability to AVED)
- Outreach opportunities for K-12
- Reviewed all Summative Assessment submissions and discussion to follow on September 6 at Provost Council

A brief Q&A session followed, at which time two items were brought up: paying for recruitment dinners, and access to facilities for returning Sessional Instructors between May and August.

**ACTION:** Dave Witty agreed to pick up the cost for recruitment dinners and approved granting VIU Affiliate status to returning Sessional Instructors between May and August.

### ***Senate Updates:***

Laboratory Demonstrators on Senate: Greg Crawford and Rob Wager are strategizing on a rationale for Senate (next meeting is in early October). The intention is to try to bring all the S&T lab demonstrators forward in one go. Rob is working on a rationale, as requested by the administrative support for Senate.

### ***Student Orientation – Thursday, August 30:***

There will be approximately 100 new students attending. Our Committee Representative, Peter Diamente, needs volunteers for a Block Party from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. or so. A Faculty Tent will be erected in Parking Lot Q where students will be welcomed from 8:45 to 9:30 a.m.

### ***Funding for Scientists in Elementary Schools:***

Steve Earle received a donation to promote new students in attending university in this region. Steve called for interest: a \$50 honorarium will be paid out to anyone who would like to go to schools and give a presentation. A website will follow in September or so.

Steve will see about raising funds to keep this initiative as an on-going opportunity.

### **Announcements:**

- Procedure on reporting sick leave (email to follow)
- All teaching faculty to provide digital copies of Course Outlines to Rae-Anne Savard
- All faculty to put their schedules in Outlook, including teaching schedules
- Faculty BBQ – Friday, August 24 (Log Cabin)
- Donations needed to replenish the Faculty's Heart and Flower Fund – See Rae-Anne