

Notes – Faculty Meeting

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

10:00 a.m. to noon

Building 355, Room 203

Welcome/Announcements

Greg Crawford introduced our Faculty's Student Representatives in attendance: Tess (M) Letourneau, Charles-David Clayton and Dustin Howie.

Wendy Simms thanked the Faculty for donations and for their support at the Museum Silent Auction Fundraiser.

Faculty Website:

Doug Corrin spoke about the Faculty website and asked that he be informed of any pages or links that should be added or removed. Faculty can provide any additional comments to Doug or to the Dean.

It was suggested that Faculty Council agendas and minutes be posted more often, if possible.

It was mentioned that, at Arts and Humanities Faculty meetings, Council motions are brought forward. Greg committed to summarize such issues at the next Faculty meeting.

ACTION: At Faculty meetings, Greg Crawford to summarize key issues and motions discussed at Council meetings.

Possible Teaching and Learning Symposium, May 2014:

The Dean spoke about the Faculty hosting a Teaching and Learning Symposium next May to engage and to share what we do. A call for a small number of volunteers will be sent in early January to establish an agenda. Liesel Knaack, CIEL Director, offered resources and support. There is also an opportunity to find external resources.

ACTION: Greg Crawford to call for volunteers in early January.

Conflicts of Interest

Janine Reed and Megan Bailey, Human Resources Office, made a presentation on Conflicts of Interest Related to Employees and Students (Policy 21.06) and on Ethics in Teaching: Principles & Expectations (Policy 31.12), which include dual-relationships and the perception of fairness. Faculty asked several questions and voiced their concerns. They were told refer to VIU Policies for guidance in identifying potential dual-relationships, and to disclose any issues to either their Department Chair or to the Dean. If possible, they suggested faculty recuse themselves from the situation. If there are any concerns or questions, faculty were asked to contact the Human Resources Office.

Dean's Report

Greg spoke about the budget process for next year and the 3-year Strategic Resource Plan. He explained the prioritization of “asks” for the Faculty and how they came about. He also explained that, due to extenuating circumstances, Council did not get a chance to reflect on the prioritization before the budget submission; however, senior management gave him additional time to meet with Council and resubmit the order of priority.

Greg should have more on the budget before Christmas or in early January.

Vote: Science and Technology Mission Statement

“The mission of the Faculty of Science and Technology is to stimulate scholarship in sciences and to encourage scientific literacy in the wider population. We achieve these goals through teaching and learning, facilitated by close student-faculty interactions, through research and through a strong connection to our community.”

Motion to adopt the Mission Statement: D. Corrin

Seconded: D. Friesen

All in favour: **CARRIED.**

Senators' Report

Senators Brian Dick and Dustin Howie reported on wording issues with other Faculty By-laws. Council is awaiting feedback from the Governance Practices Committee before making recommendations for our By-laws.

Senate is also working on the Summative Assessment framework. The terms “suspension” and “enhancement” must be clarified. In addition, Senate is reviewing the framework for prioritization of new programs.

Brian reminded the Faculty that Planning & Priorities (P&P), a Senate sub-committee, is governed by the Faculties and makes recommendations for VIU as a whole. P&P is following up and being more proactive with the Program Review Committee.

Brian also reported that Council members make recommendations for the whole Faculty and to pay attention to Council agendas and minutes.

Doug Corrin is the new Science and Technology representative on the Education Standards Committee.

Awards & Honours Committee: Dave Bigelow reported that nominations are open for Honorary Doctorates, former students and Emeritus faculty. Dave will forward the link to the Faculty.

It was mentioned that there is still a Member-at-Large position to fill on our Faculty Council.

Institutional Learning Outcomes

At a Council meeting, members discussed the Learning Outcomes draft document and what scientific literacy meant. Todd Barsby was asked to provide a definition and present it to the entire Faculty. Once approved, it will be forwarded to the Learning Outcomes Committee.

“Scientific Literacy, an understanding of the scientific method, including the roles of experimentation and reproducibility, sufficient to make evidence-based conclusions and to participate in informed civic debate.”

Motion to recommend the definition as amended: E. Demers

Seconded: D. Bigelow

All in favour: **CARRIED.**

Revising the Vision for the Faculty of Science and Technology

Greg will revisit the Vision with the Faculty next spring. He wants to get back to Future Directions and Faculty prioritization.