

Notes – Faculty Meeting

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

10:00 a.m. to noon

Building 355, Room 203

Attendance was taken and quorum was met.

VPAP Update – Dave Witty

- He has coffee meetings with instructors at least once a semester. He has an open-door policy. He supports Science and Technology initiatives such as the Applied Environmental Research Laboratory.
- His Faculty Advisory Committee will meet on Dec 7, 2011. Any concerns should be brought to Greg Arkos' or John Amaral's' attention. They represent our Faculty on this Committee. Questions were raised: Are we a teaching University? How do we define ourselves? More conversations on this to follow in the New Year.
- He meets with Camosun and North Island College at least once a year for shared input.
- The Senior Management Group members are Ralph Nilson, Pat Eagar, and Dave Witty, with Diny van Beers as their Administrative Support person. Their focus is on Academics.
- He is currently exploring the role of Area Chair (support for Deans).
- He urges faculty to attend meetings on the Integrated Planning Process and the Academic Plan.
- The Enrollment Management Plan Committee is wrapping things up. In the New Year, the Committee will report their findings (how to work with students before they come to VIU, when they're here, and when they leave).
- The Regional Plan is complete. He will report to VIU in the New Year.
- He wants to ensure long-term financial support for the Deep Bay Marine Station.
- He announced that Senate approved Summative Assessment, which will be reviewed in the New Year. He will inform everyone about the 2013-2014 budget.
- He is exploring scholarship opportunities and how he can assist.
- He is developing protocols for Aboriginal initiatives.

- The Ministry of Advanced Education was on campus for an unannounced visit, and was shown areas that need upgrading such as the Chemistry labs in Bldg. 360. We need to be better prepared with a presentation for the next impromptu visit. The Science and Health building is still top priority.

Laboratory Demonstrators as “Equivalent to Faculty”

ACTION: Greg Crawford and Rob Wager to present to Senate for approval.

Motion: To appoint Administrative Staff as voting members of Science and Technology

The Faculty was asked whether they approved appointing members such as staff members of the Natural Resources Extension Program and of the Centre for Shellfish Research. Reference was made to Section 2e) of the Faculty’s Bylaws.

ACTION: Faculty Council to discuss at their next meeting.

Budget Update: 2011-12

Greg Crawford summarized as follows. He still expects to end the fiscal year on budget.

Budget envelope: 4.5% “permanent funding” reduction from previous year.

Budget cuts:

- PHYS/ENGR/ASTR – 2 instructional staff layoff; GBET suspended (currently subject to Summative Assessment).
- FISH – 0.5 FTE Technician layoff (yet to take place due to many complicating factors; expected to be completely offset by identified requirements in ICSS).
- BIOL – 0.5 FTE instructional staff layoff (no layoff to this point; mitigated by leaves/releases).
- BIOL – reduction from 5 to 4 Technicians (no layoff to this point; mitigated by leave).

Greg clarified that the 4.5% cut for this year was greater than he expected. Also, the GBET funding reduction was “planned,” but not reflected in the 2011-12 “deployed” budget.

Greg made a call for Capital Requests. He expects to make more money available for capital this year, funded partially by CHEM FTE funds.

Budget Submission: 2012-13

Greg Crawford summarized as follows:

- Proposing a 2.5% cut (averaged to 3.5% across two years).
- “Cleaning up” some accounting issues from this year (GBET funding plus “shortfall” in making permanent cuts).
- Proposed cuts and additions (net \$252K for 2012-13, plus “shortfall” for 2011-12):
 - Return of CHEM FTE funds (\$293K)
 - BIOL Technician staffing: expect one layoff
 - FISH – add 0.5 FTE Technician (VIUFA) to ICSS
 - Area Chair – add 0.25 FTE (VIUFA)
- (The Dean’s budget proposal presents the information in a somewhat different way [CHEM FTE \$ vs. GBET] because the numbers “work out” more clearly).

Senate Update – Doug Corrin and Eric Demers

Summative Assessment: Presented at Senate and approved, with the exception of Transfer Programs. This was discussed at Planning & Priorities, and Dave Witty said that the methodology did not work for these programs; however, he gave his verbal commitment to support Transfer Programs.

Proposal to change student course registration priority: The current registration date is based on the number of credits a student has completed. The proposal to include GPA has been presented to Senate and to the Education Standards Committee. Some consultation is still required, as some of the other Faculties are disturbed by the proposal; however, some Faculties think it is a positive change. Students agree to a combination of grades and credits, as is the practice at other universities. It was suggested whether registration priority could be done at the Faculty or even at the departmental level.

<p>ACTION: <u>Greg Crawford</u> to discuss with the Registrar in early December.</p>

Academic Plan Action Items: Faculty can request performance evaluation on a voluntary basis, which can be done without sharing results with Administration. A formal call for volunteers will be sent shortly.

ACTION: Doug Corrin to send link to website to Faculty.

Future Directions Committee Update – Cobus Swarts

Cobus explained that the Committee should be responsible for a written (public) report to the Faculty within a year. The report will include our Mission Statement, our Vision Statement, a snapshot of where departments are now, and a suggested direction of where to go. It will be used as context for the Faculty's responsibilities for the implementation of the Academic Plan, and as context for the Summative Assessment of departments.

The Committee will also articulate the importance of science in the university and beyond (the importance of scientific and numeric literacy in society).

The Dean will use the report in the larger context of the University; it will be transparent to the Faculty.

The Mission Statement currently reads: "The mission of Science and Technology is to stimulate scholarly growth and professional competencies in the pure and applied sciences. We achieve this through active teaching and learning, as well as through close student-faculty interactions. Furthermore, we aim to facilitate scientific literacy in the broader community."

The Faculty thinks that the Statement needs a bit of fine-tuning (drop or change adjectives, etc.). The Committee will work on this at future meetings.

ACTION: Cobus Swarts (Chair) to present revised Mission Statement at the next Faculty Meeting.

Summative Assessment Update

Greg Crawford summarized as follows:

- Process to start in January 2012.
- Certificates (1), diplomas (5, including HORT Therapy?), degrees (including 2 B.Sc. Majors, 5 B.Sc. Minors, 5 B.A. Minors, plus B.Sc. in Fish/Aqua, as well as BNRP), Post-degree diplomas (1), and Masters (none).

- Criteria:
 - Context
 - Relevance (e.g., FTE information, credential award rate)
 - Quality (e.g., student satisfaction survey information, number of faculty, faculty-student ratios, program completion rate, average class size)
 - Financial performance (e.g., tuition and other revenue information, cost per FTE, program delivery vs. capacity)
 - Access (e.g., Aboriginal students, disabilities)
 - Institutional priorities (e.g. international FTEs)