

**Faculty of Science and Technology  
Faculty Council Meeting**

Friday, March 10, 2017

12:30 to 2:15 pm

ICSS Boardroom – Building 395, Room 210

**Present:** Don Noakes (Chair), Todd Barsby, Liz Gillis, Eric Demers, Brian Dick, Gara Pruesse, Jerome Lesemann, Stefanie Duff, Erik Krogh, Christine Holt (Student Representative)

**Regrets:** Doug Corrin, Dave Bigelow, Caroline Josefsson

**Guest:** Daniela Fisher Russell, Sarah Dudas

---

***Approval of Agenda***

All in favour. **CARRIED.**

***Approval of Faculty Council Minutes – February 10, 2017***

All in favour. **CARRIED.**

***Dean's Report***

**Retention and Recruitment:**

There has been a decreasing trend in enrolments across all faculties over the last 6 or 7 years particularly for domestic students and this past year for international students as well. The result is a decrease in revenue for the university that was highlighted in the recent consolidated revenue plan presentation to PP&P. The Provost and VP Finance and Admin have asked three working groups to examine ways to increase recruitment, retention, and to guide our web redevelopment. I am on the Retention Working Group that is chaired by Ross MacKay. Our first meetings have focused on reviewing data prepared by the Office of University Planning and Analysis. There is a need to identify where opportunities exist for improving student retention (such as peer support and mentoring, early intervention, etc.) I will provide some additional information and request any input. There are no quick fixes but recognition that action is required. The group's report is due in mid-May.

## ***Dean's Report Cont'd.***

### **Math Major**

The proposal has been reviewed by Curriculum Committee and will be presented at Program Planning and Priorities meeting on March 13, 2017. No substantive comments from Curriculum Committee. The proposal will likely be presented to Senate in April.

The AERL Van will be at the BC TECH Summit in Vancouver next week as well Gara Pruesse from Computing Science. Some VIU students will also be attending.

### **Forestry**

The Biosolids agreement with the Regional District of Nanaimo has been extended to May 31, 2017 to coincide with the end of the lease for the Timber West lands. We are actively working towards ensuring VIU can continue logging the Crown land in the future.

### **Health and Science Building:**

Work is progressing and some tenders closing shortly and others being prepared. The final tender for interior finishing is expected in July 2017.

### **Deep Bay:**

We recently received a 30 year License of Occupation for Deep Bay.

## ***Senators' Report***

The Consolidated Resource Plan presented by Shelley Legin. Financially, the budget for 2017/18 is balanced but the budget will be very tight.

### ***New Course Proposal – BIOL 363 – Coastal Resource Use*** – Eric Demers

Attachment: BIOL 363 Coastal Resource Use – New Course Proposal

Overlaps were identified as an issue with respect to content with a number of courses in Fisheries and Aquaculture. Concerns were also raised that the timing of the course may limit courses or activities that other departments may wish to offer at Deep Bay given space limitation. It was also suggested to be more specific to as to the pre-requisites (i.e. list the specific programs such as is done for Biological Oceanography).

Moved and **CARRIED**.

***Fisheries and Aquaculture – Admission Change Proposal*** – Stefanie Duff

Attachment: Credit Program Change Post Degree Calendar 2017

The change is being proposed to deal with an increasing number of applications for the program. Resource Management and other programs have dealt with similar issues and there were several suggested for changes. If specific criteria will be used to rate the applicants for admission there is a need to clearly articulate and communicate how the various criteria will be used (i.e. GPA will be ranked not just used as a threshold). It was suggested that wording used for screening applicants to the Engineering program would be useful as a guide. It was also suggested to include a hyperlink to specify what is required (for additional information check the RMOT personal profile link) as this information may be changed as required and would avoid having to request a program change for minor changes. Also, it was suggested to remove permission of Department as the meaning was not clear for the request. Unlike permission of the instructor what does permission of the Department entail or imply. The changes were viewed to be extensive enough (not just editorial) to require the revised document to be reviewed by Faculty Council so the motion was tabled pending a revision of the proposal.

***Proposed Strategic Plan Process*** – Daniela Fischer Russell

Attachment: DRAFT Strategic Plan Process & Timeline V.03

Tabled