

Faculty of Science and Technology
Minutes – Faculty Council Meeting
Friday, February 19, 2016
12:30 – 2:00 p.m.
ICSS Boardroom – Building 395, Room 210

Present: Don Noakes (Chair), Brian Dick, Todd Barsby, Bill Beese, Stephanie Duff, Sandra Johnstone, Huizhu Liu, John Morgan, Aubrey Robertson (Student Representative), Venessa Sheehan (Recorder)

Guest: David Witty

Regrets: David Bigelow, Caroline Josefsson, Erik Krogh

Provost Update

Dave Witty gave an update on several items from the last Senate meeting.

Summative Program Assessment (SPA): All recommendations were accepted through Senate on February 5, 2016. The September 28, 2015 SPA report included some general recommendations and 22 specific recommendations for programs to be maintained, reviewed or enhanced. Our Faculty had five programs to be enhanced, two to be maintained, and one to be reviewed.

Cultural Climate Survey: The Faculty of Management undertook a Cultural Climate Survey a few years ago. This year, the survey will be sent out to a few departments in March (Education, Human Resources Administration, and Career and Academic Preparation).

Academic Plan: After several meetings, it's apparent we need to provide an online opportunity for people to engage. A student is helping to create an online questionnaire/survey. Senate was to create a working group and formalize a statement of academic values and that group has now provided a statement for Senate's review.

Aboriginal Education Plan: Sharon Hobenshield and Steve Lane have worked on this plan for 14 months and presented it to Senate. There are 49 recommendations in support of 17 Strategic Priorities. Senate gave first reading and notice of motion to the Aboriginal Education Plan.

New Health and Science Building: No decision yet on funding for VIU's H&S building but there is over \$200 million set aside for this kind of investment through the Province. Discussions are ongoing on defining our specific needs for the new building. Ottawa has also identified funding for infrastructure which may be another opportunity to seek funding.

Mount Arrowsmith Region: We have 10 Work-Op students this summer and external funding is available. Pam Shaw can be contacted for suggestions on the research institute attached to the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region.

VIU Graduate Attributes: Senate approved changing “Learning Outcomes at VIU” to “VIU Graduate Attributes,” effective immediately, as recommended by the Education Standards Committee.

Successful Student Learning: Liesel Knaack and Tina McComb held a number of courses/sessions on Successful Student Learning. The outcome provided useful information on designing student learning in a supportive way. The final report is available online.

Deep Bay Marine Station: David Leverton has been retained to review the structure and delivery of programs/research at Deep Bay. There are significant opportunities and the goal is to see this facility grow to its full potential to assist faculty, students, programs and research.

Space Allocation: The group is going to identify areas on campus that are not being utilized to their full potential. Brian Dick requested that the process be more open than in the past. If there are to be changes, could there be more communication and time given to the departments to go over the changes, rather than a final reconfiguration report from the committee? Huizhu Liu requested rooms be updated to the actual capacity and correcting the listing of some.

Fulbright Canada: Fulbright, one of the most prestigious scholarship programs in the world, has chosen VIU to be the home of their newest Research Chair, the Visiting Research Chair in Aboriginal Studies. VIU was the right institution because of the consistent commitment and ability to support Aboriginal education.

Earthquake Drills: This is now a mandatory annual requirement for post-secondary institutions. Shake Out BC is held Province wide on Thursday, October 20 from 9:45 to 10:05 a.m. Faculty and students are expected to follow through with the Earthquake drill procedures.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve and seconded.
All in favour: **CARRIED.**

Approval of Faculty Council Minutes – February 5, 2016

Motion to approve and seconded.
All in favour: **CARRIED.**

Dean’s Report

Associate Dean Search: The process is ongoing and nothing has been finalized.

Strategic Plan: A meeting will be held at the end of term for the Faculty to develop a Strategic Plan.

BC Open Textbook Stats and New Study: Exploring Faculty Use of OER at BC Institutions:

There has been some concern about cost to students regarding textbooks. If there is an opportunity to use an Open Textbook to reduce the cost to the student, it would be much appreciated. A discussion ensued about the handouts and quality of online content. It was noted that students are able to find portions of the textbooks at the Library for free.

Deep Bay Marine Station: The consultant has started interviews. In March, a preliminary report will be submitted to the Provost's Office by our Business Analyst, Brandon Nelson. A Public Educational seasonal, part-time CUPE position has been advertised.

Interdisciplinary Workshop: As the key speakers and others were unavailable, the workshop was postponed and it will be rescheduled after the end of term.

Several Grants from CFI: Trevor Davis is reorganizing unused grants and allotting the funds to new priorities and projects.

Woodlot: Our lease/contract with TimberWest will expire at the end of May 2017. A number of questions and points of clarification must be addressed regarding a new contract. The intent is to finalize it before the start of negotiations on the Biosolids contract with the RDN and SYLVIS. The Biosolids contract will expire in March 2017.

Agriculture and Centre of Excellence: A network meeting was held in Chilliwack yesterday. It is expected that the University of the Fraser Valley and UBC will contact VIU regarding our programs and opportunities for collaboration in the areas of aquaculture and aquaponics.

Senator's Report

Summative Program Assessment: The recommendations have been adopted by Senate. A group will look at the current process and make recommendations for future SPAs. The group includes Senators and members of Program Planning & Priorities (approximately 15 members).

Educational Standards: Jessie Key emailed the Faculty, requesting feedback on Graduate Attributes and how to implement them into the breadth requirements in which there are about 20. A lengthy discussion followed.

Strategic Plan for Science and Technology

Item discussed in Dean's Report above.

Curriculum Committee Submissions

Course Change Proposal: CHEM 140

The prerequisite wording was changed for clarification.

Motion to approve and seconded.

All in favour: **CARRIED.**

Course Change Proposal: ENGR 121

The prerequisite was increased.

Motion to approve and seconded.

All in favour: **CARRIED.**

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Motion to adjourn the meeting approved and seconded.

All in favour: **CARRIED.**

Meeting adjourned at 1:46 p.m.