

Faculty of Science and Technology
Minutes – Faculty Council Meeting
Friday, February 5, 2016
12:30 – 2:00 p.m.
ICSS Boardroom – Building 395, Room 210

Present: Don Noakes (Chair), Brian Dick, Todd Barsby, Bill Beese, David Bigelow, Stefanie Duff, Caroline Josefsson, Erik Krogh, Huizhu Liu, John Morgan, John Amaral, Sandra Johnstone, Aubrey Robertson (Student Representative)

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve.

All in favour: **CARRIED.**

Approval of Faculty Council Minutes – November 20, 2015

Motion to approve.

All in favour: **CARRIED.**

Dean's Report

- Associate Dean Search: Interviews have been completed and the Committee met to review input on the candidates, including feedback from faculty and staff. The Committee expressed their preferences, and we are in the process of checking references prior to making a recommendation to the Provost.
- Deep Bay: The end of the first 5-year strategic plan is approaching (March 31, 2016) and a review of its mandate, mission and operation is under way. A consultant has been retained to assist with the three phases of the review.
 - *Phase I* will include a review of current operations and interviews with stakeholders, both inside and outside of VIU, with a completion date of around the end of March 2016.
 - *Phase II* will see the development of a new draft strategic plan with further input from stakeholders, with a completion date in early fall.
 - *Phase III* will involve the development of detailed business plans and budgets for the next 4 to 5 years.

It is anticipated that the Associate Dean will be in place sometime during *Phase II* of the process.

- Summer Session: Four MATH courses will be offered this year. MATH 123 – Logic and Foundations was added to address long waitlists for this course, which has limited enrolments in upper-level courses (Computing Science in particular).
- Strategic Plan for Science and Technology: The Faculty of Arts has just completed a strategic planning exercise. Based on discussions, there appears to be interest in a similar exercise for Science and Technology. This will be a topic for further discussion.

ACTION: Dean's Office to add this item to the next Council meeting's agenda for further discussion.

Senator's Report

Recommendations from the Summative Program Assessment were presented to Senate, and a summary will be distributed to Faculty Council for review. There were 10 general recommendations, as well as specific recommendations and supporting reasons for each program reviewed. Some of the general recommendations make specific reference to Science and Technology, and there were also some program-specific recommendations. These will need to be addressed and action plans developed in the coming weeks and months.

Phase I for the B.Sc. and B.A. Major in Mathematics was passed at Senate, and the proposal was placed on the 3-year plan. The Mathematics Department has already started work on *Phase II*.

There was considerable discussion regarding proposed changes to the grade appeal process. Information on the proposed changes will be distributed to Council members for review. Departments are encouraged to provide comments to the Committee responsible for drafting the proposed changes.

Interdisciplinary Opportunities in Science and Technology

Sandra Johnstone is in the process of meeting with all departments to get feedback on opportunities for interdisciplinary courses and programs involving Science and Technology. This is an area that was specifically identified in the Academic Plan and was highlighted in the recommendations from the Summative Program Assessment. A workshop on this topic is also being planned during Study Days (February 22 to 26). The intent is not to replace existing programs, but to provide new options for students to complete their studies at VIU, addressing the issues of retention and recruitment. Information on the workshop will be forwarded when available.

ACTION: Dean's Office to forward information once available.

Curriculum Committee Submissions

Program/Course Change Proposals: Forest Resource Technology

The proposed change switches two courses between the fall and spring semesters. The change is being proposed to better balance instructional hours and has no impact on credits or other program requirements. The change was approved.

Motion to approve.

All in favour: **CARRIED.**

Motion **to adjourn.**

All in favour: **CARRIED.**

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.