

Faculty of Science and Technology
Notes – Faculty Meeting
Monday, March 11, 2013 – 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Building 200, Room 203

Summative Assessment Update

The niche paper is posted on Provost Website. The paper will be used as a guiding document, as well as for the Academic Plan.

The provincial Quality Assurance Framework document, released by the Ministry of Advanced Education, focuses on private and post-secondary promises that were made, but not delivered. BC Institutes and Universities will be responding. Greg will take the Faculty's feedback to Planning & Priorities in early April.

ACTION: Greg Crawford to send out an email link to Framework document to the Faculty.

The Fisheries and Aquaculture B.Sc. Degree is under review. There will be an external assessment/environmental scan, which will include an employer survey. A meeting between an internal (VIU) stakeholder group, with representatives from the Department, the CSR/Deep Bay/ICSS, the Biology Department, and International Education will be set up for mid-late May. The group will be tasked with creating alternatives; for example, a Minor rather than a Major, etc.

The Computing Science Diploma cancellation has been postponed for three years to assess its relevance. A report to Senate will be submitted by November 2016.

Budget Update

The budget proposal for 2013-14 went to Senate and is now with university Board. The Dean was notified that the budget would remain status quo, with additional approved requests for an increase to the supplies budget for Fisheries and Chemistry (Greg will ask again next fiscal year for increases for other departments). Also, funding was granted for extra Chair release time for Chemistry (2.5 hours to support coordination issues associated with the AERL) and Physics/Engineering/Astronomy (2 hours to support Engineering transfer programs).

Approval was obtained to move the Dean's Office to Building 360 this summer, although the funding is expected to come from cost recovery activities within S&T (i.e., no additional funding was provided).

The Computing Science half-time Technician position was not granted for 2013-14, but will be in the plan for the 2014-15 budget year.

The university's consolidated budget plan proposes to recruit and retain 500 student FTEs. The "Grade

First Aid Program”, which was created to retain students with low grades and to help them find resources, was implemented at the beginning of the Spring semester.

Senate Update

Discussions at the last Planning & Priorities meeting included the budget, continuation of Biology’s Priority Registration process, the five-year Capital Plan, and the new Science and Health Building. The proposed Surveillance Policy is now with the university Board.

The Awards and Honors Committee is looking for nominations from Science and Technology, from former students, or from fellow colleagues or whoever might be suitable to nominate. For those who are interested, they can get more information from Dave Bigelow.

Our Education Standards representative, David Gaumont-Guay, announced that the Committee approved Biology’s Priority Registration increase from 25% of waitlisted students to 50%. Priority Registration is not applicable to all Faculties; if there are no waitlists, this means there’s not enough demand. The Chemistry Department foresees a problem for Organic Chemistry in not having priority registration, as the course is required for Biology students.

ACTION: Greg Crawford to bring Priority Registration for Organic Chemistry to Faculty Council for consideration.

David Gaumont-Guay to get formal approval from Ed. Standards to increase Biology’s Priority Registration to 50% of waitlisted students.

Our Curriculum Committee representative, Todd Barsby, will present to Faculty Council a blanket policy on offering Honours Degrees. Council will revisit the English Degree Requirement and get feedback from the rest of the Faculty. (For more information on this document, please contact Liz Gillis.)

ACTION: Faculty Council to discuss blanket Honours Degree Policy and English Degree Requirement at a future meeting.

Election: Faculty Vice-Chair

The role of the Faculty Vice-Chair is to facilitate Faculty and Faculty Council meetings when the Dean is not available. Brian Dick and Dean Slonowsky were nominated; therefore, an election is in order.

ACTION: Dean’s Office to organize Faculty Vice-Chair election.

Storage Space

The RMOT, Fisheries and NREP Departments currently store materials in the Header House, which will be demolished following the International Symposium on Sturgeon (ISS7) in July. Space for the materials is available in the CSR, but storage in this building will need some organizing.

The storage room in Building 359 requires reorganizing to add space. The same applies for the “boneyard” behind the ICSS Building.

It was suggested that we keep the Header House’s concrete slab for boat and hazardous material storage.

ACTION: Greg Crawford to form a new committee to coordinate storage requirements. The committee will include members of the RMOT, Fisheries and Earth Science Departments, as well as a member of NREP.

Greg Crawford to get approval from the Space Allocation Committee to keep the Header House’s concrete slab. The area would be used for additional storage, with a few alterations to make the space secure.

Announcements:

Aquaponics Greenhouse

Don Tillapaugh obtained funding for a new greenhouse for aquaponics research. It will be located beside the ICSS building. Don also arranged for funding for a postdoc (currently in the process of being hired) to help direct the research efforts.

HORT Transition: Move to Faculty of Trades & Applied Technology, effective April 1, 2013

In April, Horticulture will move to the Faculty of Trades & Applied Technology. The Dean wished all the best to Michael Girard, Kevin Jones, Laura-Jean Kelly and Anne Kivari and expressed hope that inter-departmental collaborations would continue between Horticulture and S&T Departments.

Sick Leave Procedure

Greg reminded the Faculty about the procedure:

- Instructional faculty must email all three support staff (Christine Couture, Rae-Anne Savard and Sarie Cooke-Yarborough), with a copy to the department Chair. Alternatively, faculty can call in; however, they must connect with at least one person.

- To avoid any misunderstanding, if an email was sent to students, support staff must be informed; otherwise, one of them will email the students.
- A class cancellation(s) will be posted on the classroom(s) door.
- When faculty return from sick leave, they must email all three support staff.

Student Assignments, Exams, etc.

Greg reminded the Faculty they cannot leave student assignment, mid-terms or exams outside their office doors for students to pick up. Doing so goes against the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act. Alternatively, if not available to hand out personally, faculty members are to arrange with students to pick up their material from Rae-Anne, our Faculty Secretary, in Bldg. 360, Room 317.

Information Item:

Possible Faculty name change: Faculty of Pure and Applied Science? Faculty of Science? This will be put on a future Faculty Council agenda and possibly returned to the Faculty with a recommendation.

Additional Item:

Composition of the Faculty of Science and Technology

Faculty Council currently consists of Department Chairs, plus Todd Barsby and Glen Pugh, Members at Large, as well as one Student Representative. There are five Student Representative positions for our Faculty; however, only three students serve - Nathan Stefani, Dustin Howie and Ian Warbrick. (Student Representatives serve a one-year term.) It was discovered in our By-laws that Advisors are also non-voting members on Faculty Council.

The Dean asked the Faculty to encourage their students to self-nominate or nominate another student(s) for the upcoming Student Representative election (term starting in late August). Rae-Anne emailed eligible students asking for nominations by March 22.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.