

Faculty of Science and Technology
Minutes – Faculty Council Meeting
Friday, March 18, 2016
12:30 – 2:00 p.m.
ICSS Boardroom – Building 395, Room 210

Present: Don Noakes (Chair), John Amaral, Todd Barsby, Bill Beese, Brian Dick, Stefanie Duff, Sandra Johnstone, Erik Krogh, Huizhu Liu, John Morgan

Guest: Jessie Key

Regrets: David Bigelow, Caroline Josefsson, Aubrey Robertson (Student Representative)

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve and seconded.

All in favour: **CARRIED.**

Approval of Faculty Council Minutes – February 19, 2016

Change time of earthquake drills to 9:50 to 10:10 a.m.

Motion to approve and seconded.

All in favour: **CARRIED.**

Dean's Report

The search for an Associate Dean was not successful. Another attempt will be done in the Fall using a search firm to manage the recruitment process. It was suggested that the job description be modified, as it is too broad. Don will keep the committee up to date on the search and if any changes are made to the job description.

Don reported that Darren Hebert (NREP) is leaving VIU at the end of March after 15 years of service. NREP staff reports to Professional Development and Training (PD&T), but the program falls under Don to administer the finances.

VIU continues to receive positive feedback from ADVET regarding the Health and Science building, but we are still waiting for final approval.

Currently, there are active searches for full-time, regular positions: Biology (Professor – 1 FTE and Technician – 1 FTE), Forestry (Professors – 2 FTEs), and RMAP (Professor – 1 FTE). There are also searches for temporary Instructor positions in Mathematics (1.5 FTEs), in Computing Science (1.5 FTEs), and in Earth Science (1 FTE).

Brian Dick will be on assisted leave for 6 months.

The Deep Bay review is underway, and Brandon Nelson (Finance) submitted his report to Dave Witty.

The ICSS has canned smoked sturgeon. Also, spawning is to take place during the first week of June.

Senators' Report

Program Planning and Priorities: P&P and Senate have reviewed the budget (environmental scan). International enrollment numbers are up and domestic numbers are down slightly.

No new cuts are expected and the budget is in a steady state. All capital projects have to find 10% of the budget from existing VIU funding, which can prove challenging.

IT continues to upgrade networking and making technical improvements. They are looking at options to upgrade the aging telecommunication system.

Educational Standards: See Program Breadth and Graduate Attributes below.

Discussion: Proposed New Grade appeal Policy

A discussion/debate of the first reading was held at Senate, and it was determined that more consultation from the community was needed. All concerns, questions and issues are to be brought up at Senate. A lengthy discussion followed and the Dean asked Council members to articulate the points and to accumulate feedback from their departments. Council members are to bring their finding for discussion at a future Council meeting. The current appeal process/policy can be found online.

<p>ACTION: <u>Council members</u> to send their department's feedback to the Dean. The information will be collated and discussed at a future Faculty meeting for a consensus statement.</p>

Program Breadth and Graduate Attributes

Jessie Key, Ed Standards Committee Representative, reported that Steve Lane wants to tie our existing or create new program breadth requirement to the new graduate attributes (which have already been accepted and released), and he would like feedback from our Faculty. Students are now being asked to take new literacy and civic courses to graduate. A lengthy discussion followed on how departments and Faculties must structure their breath requirements and to loosen non-major requirements. The next step for our Faculty is to give feedback to Jessie for Ed Standards.

Signing on to the B.C. Science Charter (<http://sciencecharter.ca/>)

The question was raised whether our Faculty should sign on to the B.C. Science Charter. The Charter is organized through Science World. This is one way to reach out to the K-12 system.

Revisions to the B.C. 10-12 Science Curriculum

There are changes in the K-9 curriculum, and changes in the 10-12 curriculum are ongoing. Faculty are asked to review the curriculum, and to provide feedback to the articulation committee.

Feedback and Discussion on SAP Process

Council members are to ask for feedback on the process from the department, and to pass on the information to Brian Dick by next month.

ACTION: Council members to email Brian Dick with their department's feedback by next month.

~~~~~  
Motion to adjourn the meeting approved and seconded.  
All in favour: **CARRIED.**

Meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m.