

Notes – Faculty Meeting

Tuesday, May 1, 2012

9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Building 355, Room 203

Attendance was taken and quorum was met.

Dean's Update

Action item from Faculty Meeting of December 6, 2011:

The motion to appoint Administrative Staff (CSR, NREP, etc.) as voting members of the Faculty was tabled at Faculty Council, as it is not a priority at this time.

Budget:

2011-2012: Greg Crawford summarized the surplus of \$160K as of March 31, 2012. The surplus was partially due to fringe benefits of \$100K not allocated (due to the VIUFA strike), and not posted until the end of March. Finance and Payroll will be reviewing their procedures. Greg will meet with Finance in May to go over what transpired, and to get their assistance with managing the budget.

Other factors that contributed to the surplus: capital allocations were not all spent, as the call went out late; open POs were closed at the end of March (the Dean's Office, in collaboration with all departments, is to re-evaluate open PO allocations); the VPAP Office did not draw on funds that were set aside, and funds for tuition-dependent sections were transferred over late; and there were not as much PD funds carried over as expected. More communication is needed between the VPAP's Office and the Dean's Office.

2012-13: Greg shared options for the 3.5% cut with Faculty Council and received feedback. The Consolidated Resource Plan is not yet finalized. \$65K is being allocated for ICSS Technician support to satisfy CCAC and ACC compliance. Greg currently has 0.25 FTE (Doug Corrin) to support the Dean, but he is looking at 0.50 FTE for an Area Chair. The Chemistry FTE funding is being used for our budget shortfall. Due to a retirement, the Biology Technicians are being reduced from 5 to 4.

2013-14: The annual process is expected to begin earlier than previous years, but this will depend on how Summative Assessment plays out. Greg to prepare modified cost-per-FTE for the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, ICSS, the Horticulture Department, etc., as cost-per-FTE determines program cost. The Dean is accountable for contracts, ICSS, and CSR.

Area Chair:

As part of the VIUFA agreement 0.50 FTE release time is allotted to support the Dean and department Chairs. Greg will prepare a job description, and faculty can notify him if they are interested in the position.

ACTION: Greg Crawford to ask Health and Human Services about the full-time external Area Chair in Nursing and report back to Faculty Council.

Summative Assessment:

Forestry, RMOT and Horticulture submitted their drafts to the Dean. Faculty Council members and Chairs will review these documents, and Greg will guide the departments with the assessments.

Future Directions Committee:

The Committee has partially completed the Faculty's "mission statement." Cobus Swarts resigned as Chair of the Committee, and we need a replacement. Greg Crawford will add this item to a future Faculty Council meeting agenda.

ACTION: Greg Crawford to address this at a future Faculty Council meeting.

Additional item – B.Sc. in Geoscience:

The Program Proposal will be submitted soon for Curriculum Committee approval. There will be no additional costs to the Faculty.

Additional item – Grade Inflation:

Greg discussed grade inflation and requested that the departments reflect on it and give him some feedback.

School Outreach Project – Speakers' Bureau:

Steve Earle received a grant of \$5K. Faculty, including Technicians, can receive an honorarium (up to \$50) to support this outreach project.

Additional item – Student Representatives:

Nominations and elections were held. We have three student reps (out of a possible 5) for the Faculty meetings, starting in August: Dustin Howie, Nathan Stefani and Ian Warbrick. Elections were held for Faculty Council and Nathan Stefani was voted in. (Other Faculties have one rep per department.) The Faculty is to determine if five reps is enough for the next election.

ACTION: Greg Crawford to address this at a future Faculty Council meeting.

To enable student reps to attend meetings, future meetings of the whole Faculty will be held in October or November and in February or March. Faculty Council meetings will also be planned to fit the students' schedules.

Additional item – Faculty Retreat:

The Retreat will be on Tuesday, August 21 at Tamagawa University. We need a head count, so faculty members are asked to please accept or decline the Outlook invitation ASAP.

Faculty BBQ – week of August 27:

Our BBQ will likely be held the week of August 27. The date and location will be determined in due course.

Update on Representation of Laboratory Demonstrators at Senate:

The issue of Lab Demonstrators being considered “equivalent to faculty” has been brought forward to Senate. Senate stated that a rationale must be included with the proposal; therefore, Rob will prepare this in collaboration with all other Lab Demonstrators.

ACTION: Rob Wager to prepare rationale for approval at Senate.

Senate Update

New Senators were announced: Dave Bigelow and Brian Dick.

Registration Priority:

The Biology department proposed registration priority at an Education Standards Committee meeting, and there was significant opposition to the proposal. (The entire Faculty of Social Sciences was against it.) Ed Standards and the Registrar have approved a pilot project for Biology to reserve seats for Fall 2012.

Eric Demers and Alexandra Weissfloch have stepped down as our representatives on Ed Standards. We still need someone to represent our Faculty on this Committee. Faculty are to contact Eric or Alexandra for more information.

Grade Inflation:

A motion to grant “Distinction” to the top 10% of graduates (i.e., 90% percentile) in degree programs was approved at Senate, effective June 2013. Currently, a graduate with a GPA of 3.5 or above is granted Distinction.

Animal Care Committee Update

Liz Gillis spoke to the changes with the institutional ACC, which are being implemented due to the CCAC tri-annual site visit. Operational changes will be made over the next one or two years. Liz is currently the Committee’s Chair and Sue Sanders is the institutional vet on campus. During the fall of 2012, the ACC website and resources will be updated and will be kept current. There will be an Animal Care Procedures workshop on May 23, for which faculty can sign up in VIU the Pro D calendar. The workshops are open to faculty and students, and 491 senior project student supervisors are to schedule a meeting with VIU’s ACC Committee to review the procedures on protocol.

Additional item – Academic Plan #5:

Todd Barsby reminded faculty that an Experiential Education Survey was emailed to the VIU Community. The survey is open for feedback for two weeks, but this will be extended if necessary; department Chairs are to coordinate responses. Todd is hoping to receive all the data in time for the report, which is due on June 15.

Additional item – Academic Plan #10:

Departments’ feedback on Faculty Scholarship, Evaluation and Recognition is needed for the next Faculty Council meeting. Council members will share this feedback, and the Dean will present a summary at Senate.

ACTION: Faculty Council members to seek feedback from departments. Greg Crawford to present summary at Senate.

Additional item – Extreme Science:

Ray Penner announced this event will take place on May 17 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

Additional item – Department meetings minutes:

Department Chairs were reminded to send all minutes to Christine Couture.

~~~~~

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.