

Faculty of Science and Technology
Minutes – Faculty Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 8, 2012
9:00 to 10:00 a.m.
ICSS Boardroom – Building 395, Room 210

Present: Greg Crawford (Chair), Duane Friesen, Glen Pugh, Gara Pruesse, Don Furnell, Greg Klimes, Michael Girard, Tim Stokes, Todd Barsby, Ray Penner, Jim Wilkinson, John Amaral, Christine Couture (Recorder)

Regrets: Doug Corrin, David Bigelow, Eric Demers, Rosemarie Ganassin

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve: G. Klimes.
Seconded: R. Penner.
All in favour. **CARRIED.**

Approval of Faculty Council Minutes: April 24, 2012

Motion to approve: G. Pruesse.
Seconded: T. Barsby.
All in favour. **CARRIED.**

Dean's Report:

Follow up: Action Item from April 24, 2012 Faculty Council Meeting: MATH 212 course change (D. Crawford / D. Bigelow)

Since MATH 212 is no longer offered, the course change proposal was removed from the Course Management System.

Follow up: Action Item from March 27, 2012 Faculty Council: New courses ENGR 112 and 212, and their impact on Computing Science Department (R. Penner / G. Pruesse)

Due to a change in UVic's Engineering program, first year Engineering transfer students who are planning on transferring to UVic will no longer be taking CSCI 161. Given past enrolment in this option, it is anticipated that the enrolment for this course might be 12 to 15 students fewer in Spring 2013 than in previous years. One impact could be a drop from four sections to three in CSCI 161.

Follow up: Action Item from March 27, 2012 Faculty Council: Discussion on BIOL 201 and 342 course changes (R. Ganassin / D. Friesen)

Two issues were raised. The first issue was whether the BIOL 201 co-requisite of CHEM 231 with a letter grade requirement was enforceable. This issue was resolved with Eric Demers agreeing that the letter grade requirement was not necessary.

The second issue was whether other avenues had been explored regarding the scheduling of BIOL 201 and 342 to address the issues of articulation for admission requirements to health professional programs. This was resolved through reviewing how biochemistry is offered in other BSc Biology courses within the province. VIU's approach was found to fall within the current norm. While historically the topics covered in biochemistry may have been deferred to 3rd year, all programs reviewed (UBC, UVic, SFU) now offer biochemistry in the 2nd year, with some variation as to during which semester it is offered. The suggestion of resolving this issue by moving BIOL 301 to Year 3 proved to be unfounded and grounded in an out-of-date understanding of the needs of a modern BSc Biology program. In the discussion, it was also revealed that the current scheduling of BIOL 201 was a keystone of the BSc Biology program and that moving it was not feasible.

The Biology course changes will facilitate articulation.

Financial Adjustments to 2011-12 Budget

Greg Crawford reminded the group of his presentation at the May 1, 2012 Faculty Meeting. He will send this information to Faculty Council members.

ACTION: Greg Crawford to provide budget information to Faculty Council.

Representation of Laboratory Demonstrators at Senate

Greg contacted Kyla Bruce, requesting that this item be put on Senate's agenda. Kyla mentioned that Senate would require a rationale. Greg approached Rob Wager and asked him to prepare this in collaboration with other Lab Demonstrators.

Summative Assessment

Greg forwarded drafts of the RMOT and Forestry submissions to other Faculty Deans. He didn't get anything in return, but he will ask again.

ACTION: Greg Crawford to contact other Faculty Deans and request drafts from their departments.

Senators' Report

No report.

Funding Models for International Transfer Programs in Science and Technology

Gara Pruesse reported that a Transfer Program Partnership was established with Chitkara University in India; however, it was determined that the current funding model means that the addition of new sections could actually result in a net loss for our Faculty.

ACTION: Greg Crawford to meet with Graham Pike to negotiate a new funding model for science-related international education efforts.

Academic Plan, Item #10: Faculty Scholarship, Evaluation and Recognition

Faculty Council discussed the draft documents provided by Steve Lane. There was concern expressed over the sentence: "New knowledge may be viewed with skepticism by some peers, and therefore processes must be in place to protect faculty from being dismissed or even attacked for their scholarship, especially if the review of that scholarship is going to be used to assess one's performance of advancement." First, the term "advancement" was deemed to be a typo, but Council members want clarification from Senate. Second, it was unclear as to the purpose of the sentence. Some Council members questioned where this was leading VIU. It was suggested that the sentence be removed from the document.

It was also felt that clarification on the terms "Professional Development" and "Scholarship" is also needed.

Questions were also raised regarding the relationship between this effort and Union/Administration negotiations.

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Meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.