

*Faculty of Science and Technology*

**Minutes – Faculty Council Meeting**

**May 3, 2011 at 8:30 a.m.**

**CSR Conference Room, Bldg. 373, Room 206**

**Present:** Greg Crawford (Chair), Doug Corrin, Duane Friesen, Jim Wilkinson, Debbie Hearn, Rosemarie Ganassin, Greg Klimes, Gara Pruesse, Tim Stokes, Eric Demers, Michael Girard, Dave Bigelow, Mark Noyon, Christine Couture (Recording)

**Guest:** Ric Kelm

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***Approval of Agenda:***

Motion to approve: Dave Bigelow.  
Seconded: Debbie Hearn.

All in favour. **CARRIED.**

***Approval of Minutes of March 8 Meeting:***

This item will be discussed at the next Faculty Council meeting.

***Dean's Report:***

Greg Crawford invited Ric Kelm to talk about the future Science/Health building. Facilities and the two Deans will be working on a concept plan for this building, which will be presented to the Ministry (replace all science buildings from Bldg. 315 to 380, plus space in Bldg. 180 for Nursing). A five-year “high level” plan will be completed in 2-3 months. Information put together by the Faculty in the past will be used, although details will be left until funding is more firm. The University recognizes the hard work put in by the Faculty during the previous proposal and the frustrations at the lack of a result. Faculty input will be critical, but the Deans and Facilities want to be sure there is a strong likelihood of funding before asking too many faculty to spend more time on this project. Greg mentioned that updates will be forthcoming as they become available.

Greg said workloads and budget cuts were submitted by Chairs and that, in a couple of weeks, he will begin to reconcile these with the budget (which isn't yet available). No layoff notices will be given until at least May 21.

The suspension of 2<sup>nd</sup> year Physics is still not finalized. Debbie Hearn expressed concern that the department was not being consulted. Greg acknowledged that he wanted to talk to the department as soon as possible to get their opinions.

With respect to summative assessment and program elimination, Greg thinks that Dave Witty seems to want to restart the process with a lot of faculty engagement and discussion at Faculty Councils and Senate. More details are expected soon, perhaps at the next Faculty Council meeting, when Dave Witty is expected to attend.

***Senators' Report:***

There was an emergency meeting of Senate to reschedule important dates due to the labour dispute.

***Curriculum Committee Submissions:***

Chemistry:

Duane Friesen said that the Course Change Proposals were to amend the course descriptions, as well as make minor changes to prerequisites.

Motion to approve: Dave Bigelow.

Seconded: Greg Klimes.

All in favour. **CARRIED.**

Fisheries and Aquaculture:

Mark Noyon explained that his Fish/Aqua Course Change Proposals adjusted the contact hours in two courses, with no net loss or gain overall.

Motion to approve: Doug Corrin.

Seconded: Jim Wilkinson.

All in favour. **CARRIED.**

Biology:

Eric Demers spoke to six Course Change Proposals – renumbering due to Chemistry changes, as well as some changes in prerequisites.

Motion to approve: Duane Friesen.

Seconded: Mark Noyon.

All in favour. **CARRIED.**

### ***Revisit Approval of Course Proposals – SCIE 101 and 301:***

Dave Bigelow mentioned that SCIE Course Proposals were vetted for Curriculum Committee approval at the last Council meeting, but there are still serious outstanding issues. He recommended rescinding the approval, pending a broader discussion. He has a number of concerns. Is the course really a good fit as a science course? Are the topics that will be presented truly science topics? The topic “Evolution vs. Creation” is another reason. Also, since we are in a budget cuts situation, new courses such as these don’t seem to be a priority, especially in the Faculty of Science and Technology. Dave believes a thorough discussion must take place before these courses are approved.

Greg Crawford agreed and acknowledged that approval was rather rushed and that further discussion would be appropriate. Furthermore, the proposals have been put on hold at Curriculum Committee until other concerns can be addressed. Greg believes the proposals won’t be discussed again a Curriculum Committee until at least September. Greg added that funding is also a concern, as there would be two instructors at all times.

Clearly, more discussions are needed on whether to approve the SCIE course proposals. Greg will inform Suzie Nilson of this Council decision. He will ask to get a copy of handouts for each course and of the PowerPoint presentation that was given that day, so these documents can be forwarded to Council members. Suzie will be invited to answer questions at a later date, and a list of concerns will be forwarded to her to give her a chance to prepare responses.

Motion to inform Curriculum Committee to hold course proposals until further notice from the Faculty Council: Gara Pruesse.

Seconded: Dave Bigelow.

All in favour. **CARRIED.**

### ***Transfer options and grade descriptors:***

This item will be discussed at the next Faculty Council meeting.

### ***Bus Replacement Update:***

Greg Klimes reiterated that the fleet is deteriorating slowly and that we need new vehicles. Concerns were expressed about the safety of the old vehicles. Another good reason to get new vehicles is that, given on-going budgets cuts, there might not be any funds for maintaining the old vehicles. There’s a lack of campus planning. It appears that International and Physical Education have priority, but where does this leave the other Faculties? Greg Klimes will forward numbers as far as our Faculty’s use.

ACTION: Greg Crawford will bring this item forward at VPAP Council.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.