

Faculty of Science and Technology

Faculty Council Meeting

December 15, 2009 at 4:30 p.m.

CSR Conference Room, Bldg. 373, Room 206

Present: Anne Leavitt (Chair), Doug Corrin, Jim Wilkinson, Debbie Hearn, Dave Wessels, Mark Noyon, Greg Klimes, Eric Demers, Sandy Patrick, Dave Bigelow, Michael Girard, Duane Barker, Christine Couture (Recording)

Absent: Rosemarie Ganassin

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to adopt Agenda. All in favour. CARRIED.

Minutes of September 21 and October 13:

Motion to adopt Minutes. All in favour. CARRIED.

Dean's Report:

Anne reported that budget meetings with the Executive have been going on all week. It looks like decisions will be made in a timely fashion – they're sticking to their schedule.

Anne will no longer be Interim Dean, effective December 21, but she will be available at Greg Crawford's request – faculty should not contact Anne directly, but only through Greg.

Greg will be trained by Anne, Doug Corrin and Christine in SAWS, FRS, SRS, and on-going initiatives. Anne will be available to help him and give any advice needed. Anne asked the Chairs to be patient and understanding.

Extra sections should be identified with as much detail as possible to help on the financial side of these. Anne mentioned that a hiring procedures handbook is available from HR, as there have been cases where protocol hasn't been followed. In a nutshell, all hirings must be approved by the Dean.

Anne said that it was a pleasure to work with our Faculty and it's been a privilege. She enjoyed meeting and getting to know everyone.

Senators' Report:

Duane Barker mentioned that the province is setting up an educational quality assurance program (EQA) to which VIU will apply. The program is intended to certify the quality of BC's programs internationally. Anne said the process should not be too difficult.

The VPA Academic search will begin soon.

One of the standing committees' hot topics was the issue of residency for students. How many courses must be completed at VIU? How do we define exchanges?

Duane also mentioned that Andrew Brown is helping with the Academic Plan as chief facilitator. The first draft will be presented in early February. Andrew stressed the importance of an integrated approach.

Eric Demers mentioned that Ed Council discussed the English requirement. The issue is that most programs require two English courses, whereas some programs only require one if students have a good grade in the one English course. Should there be a new English course for sciences?

Eric mentioned that he will be on leave during the Spring term and that Erick Groot will be taking over his responsibilities as Advisor.

Curriculum Committee Submissions:

Tim Stokes talked about the program change for the Minor in Earth Science. Upper-level courses were added to first- and fourth-year offerings. Nine credits should be taken from the upper-level GEOL courses.

GEOL 200 changed title and description to make it closer to what's actually taught. This will help with transfer changes.

GEOL 302 and 412 have been added to the course matrix for the Minor.

Eric Demers is questioning the entries in the matrices for the program change – Minor in Earth Science. It must be revised before submission for Curriculum Committee approval.

ACTION: Eric and Tim will work together to finalize the program change.

Motion to submit once revised. All in favour. CARRIED.

Eric Demers mentioned that the course changes for BIOL 435 and 465 are prerequisite changes. The current calendar entries are redundant, so it's basically housekeeping. BIOL 457 hasn't been offered in three years. Two course changes have been made: a revision to the course description and the one-hour seminar will be dropped and the course will become three-hour lecture. There's a possibility that GEOG students might be interested in this course.

Motion to approve course changes. All in favour. CARRIED.

Department Chair Selection Policy:

Discussion postponed until January Faculty Council meeting. All in favour. CARRIED.

SAWS:

Chairs were asked to review SAWS data prior to Greg Crawford's arrival to ensure he has the most accurate budget/workload information. Chairs were also asked to keep SAWS as accurate as possible on an on-going basis. This will ensure that appointments are accurate and that salary recoveries can be processed (e.g., assisted leaves, sick leave, etc.).

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.