

Faculty Council Meeting

February 5, 2010

4:30 p.m.

CSR Conference Room, Bldg. 373, Room 206

Present: Greg Crawford (Chair), Doug Corrin, Debbie Hearn, Rosemarie Ganassin, Erick Groot, Sandy Patrick, Dave Bigelow, Michael Girard, Tim Stokes, Duane Barker, Gara Pruesse, Jim Wilkinson, Greg Klimes (Recording)

Absent: Mark Noyon, Dave Wessels

Approval of Agenda:

All in favour. **CARRIED.**

Approval of Minutes – December 15, 2009 and January 21, 2010 meetings:

All in favour. **CARRIED.**

Dean's Report:

Greg has been meeting with various departments in the Faculty, working on liability and risk issues across various activities. More workshops are scheduled in the future with the Faculty regarding signing authorities and liabilities. Budget discussions will begin on Monday (Feb. 8). More on that topic to be shared soon as information is released.

Senators' Report:

Common Grading Scheme: The first reading was approved. The new scheme will not be put into effect at this time. It hasn't been determined when it will be in effect. There was discussion about whether or not the scheme would lead to inflated grades; the assumption seems to be that faculty will adjust their assignments, exams, and grading methodologies to compensate. Included is a conversion system among letter grades, percentages, and grade point value (a modified 4 point scale, where an A is worth 4.00 grade points and an A+ is worth 4.33). This will not be retroactively applied to prior courses.

Ralph Nilson continues to discuss funding issues for VIU as it relates in various government arenas to other post-secondary institutions.

There is \$50M worth of building projects underway at this time.

There were no Science students at the last Convocation; however, Greg was there to represent our Faculty.

Curriculum Committee Submissions:

No submissions at this time.

Department concerns/priorities for 5-year plan:

Andrew Brown will meet with Greg on February 10. At this time, Greg is looking for feedback from Chairs and other faculty members by February 9. Ralph Nilson mentioned that the new Science Building is still the highest priority, but no start-up date is known at this time.

Department Chair Selection Policy:

Most departments recommended two- to three-year terms for Chairs. Issues were discussed about Chairs teaching upper-level courses and switching to lower-level courses. Some departments discussed numbers of regular faculty vs. sessionals in their departments. Non-regular faculty voting issues were discussed. Most felt that each department has their own way of deciding who will be the next Chair. Each department has its own exceptions and uniqueness in choosing, while following the common Faculty guiding principles. The Dean's Office will keep past recommendations on file.

Guiding principles: Doug Corrin and Gara Pruesse will flesh out the principles. In two weeks' time, a draft will be presented to Faculty Council for comments.

Hiring Committees:

Greg will Chair the Math Selection Committee. There was a discussion on non-Canadians who apply and where they stand regarding HR and Immigration Canada. Chairs were given the link to the "Procedural Guide for Faculty Selection Committees" (July 14th, 2008), which is available for review.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.