

## **Minutes – Faculty Council Meeting**

**January 11, 2011 – 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, Laura-Jean Kelly (HORT rep.), Dave Bigelow, Mark Noyon, Christine Couture (Recording)

**Regrets:** Michael Girard

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### ***Approval of Agenda:***

Motion to approve: Dave Bigelow

Seconded: Doug Corrin

All in favour. **CARRIED.**

### ***Minutes of October 19/10 and November 16/10:***

Will be approved electronically.

### ***Dean's Report:***

Since our Faculty Meeting on December 21, Greg Crawford said there was not much to report. At this last meeting, Rob Wager expressed a concern about Technicians' roles on Senate. Rob is preparing a presentation for the next Faculty Meeting on February 22. Other Technicians should contact Rob for any concerns they may have.

**ACTION:** Christine Couture to email all Technicians to contact Rob.

Budget: At the January 10 Planning & Priorities meeting, Dave Witty announced that the Executive was reviewing the Deans' budget presentations. Pat Eager said there were 35 hours of meetings scheduled for this month to discuss the presentations. There will be more information coming from the Executive at the end of February or early March.

It was mentioned that Dave Witty should be invited to the February 22 Faculty meeting.

**ACTION:** Greg Crawford to contact Dave Witty and invite him.

On January 10, P&P met and there were revisions made to the methodology for program planning, and a new flow chart was developed. P&P also recommended a draft policy for Senate's approval, including procedures for program elimination and suspension.

The policy should be presented at the next Senate meeting on February 3. There will a need for clarification on reinstatement of suspended programs at Senate.

**ACTION:** Senators to bring this issue to Senate's attention.

Greg Crawford will find out if he can email the P&P draft to the Faculty.

Gara Pruesse will ascertain the availability of the documents on the web document server for the Senate/Planning and Priorities agenda and attachments.

In this proposed set of procedures, the decision to recommend suspension or cancellation of programs resides with the Vice President of Academic and Provost. Block Transfer programs don't seem to have been addressed, so this should be brought to Senate's attention.

**ACTION:** Debbie Hearn to discuss PHYS's and FRST's perspective on draft policies and procedures for program review, and in particular, definition of program vs. transfer program.

***Senators' Report:***

None.

***Curriculum Committee Submissions:***

None.

***Grade Scale Descriptors:***

Eric Demers announced that a motion was made at the Educational Standards Committee meeting of September 14, 2010, and it was approved by Senate on October 7, 2010: "Moved that Senate encourage departments or programs to develop their own detailed letter grade descriptors to be used consistently within the department or program. The departments or programs shall aim to be consistent with the institution descriptors."

Eric suggested that, if the Faculty wishes to, a subcommittee could be formed to develop detailed letter grade descriptors to be used within the Faculty.

This item will be brought forward at the end of April or so.

***Admissions Requirements for B.Sc. and 1<sup>st</sup> Year Courses Prerequisites:***

Greg clarified that currently the requirement is a C+. There was a concern regarding the language which should be clarified. Beyond English 12, it was questioned whether there should be an admission requirement for a B.Sc.

### ***SCIE Curriculum Development:***

Greg mentioned that work has been put into the development of a couple of science-related courses, as there was interest in this from First Nations. New course proposals, under the SCIE designation, may be discussed at the next Faculty Council meeting. Greg plans to create an ad hoc subcommittee to review the course proposals, in lieu of a department, before these come forward to Faculty Council.

### ***Breadth Requirements (update):***

At the May 2010 Faculty Meeting, Senators Eric Demers and Duane Barker indicated that the Senate may, in the near future, be reviewing the English and breadth requirements at VIU. Although there is currently a breadth requirement, there is no official enforcement of the policy. In addition, while attempting to standardize wording and requirements for English requirements among Faculties, it has been suggested that the requirements be changed to allow students who achieve a high mark in one English course be exempt from taking a second English course. To be proactive, a working group (John Amaral, BIOL; Elizabeth Gillis, RMOT; Huizhu Liu and Gara Pruesse, CSCI; and Eric Smiley, PHYS/ENGR/ASTR) was established to research and compare the English and Breadth requirements at other similar institutions and make recommendations as to what requirements the Faculty may want to support when the Policies are reviewed at the institutional level. The working group met twice in May 2010 and started a detailed draft report. The proposed action was to encourage the working group to continue its work and present its report/findings at a future meeting of the Faculty (when ready for dissemination).

This is an important issue that will be the subject of an institution-wide review over the next 1-2 years. Eric believes it is important for the Faculty of Science and Technology to develop its position on this issue in advance of the institution-wide review process.

Eric also thinks that the Faculty should be ready before this happens institution wide. If the Faculty thinks that there should be more science courses, then this should be clarified.

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

Since there was no time to cover this item and this is such an important issue, Greg Klimes proposed that it be discussed at the next Faculty Council. He feels that the current fleet of vehicles at VIU is a disgrace.

### ***Additional Item:***

Eric Demers mentioned the upcoming Information Sessions next week. He encouraged everyone to make sure their department is represented.

Motion to adjourn: Jim Wilkinson  
Seconded: Greg Klimes

All in favour. **CARRIED.**

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.