

Faculty of Science and Technology

Faculty Council Meeting

January 21, 2010

4:30 p.m.

CSR Conference Room, Bldg. 373, Room 206

Present: Greg Crawford (Chair), Doug Corrin, Debbie Hearn, Dave Wessels, Rosemarie Ganassin, Greg Klimes, Eric Demers, Sandy Patrick, Dave Bigelow, Michael Girard, Christine Couture (Recording)

Absent: Duane Barker, Mark Noyon, Jim Wilkinson

Approval of Agenda:

MOTION: David Bigelow/Greg Klimes. All in favour. **CARRIED.**

Minutes of December 15:

To be tabled until the next Faculty Council meeting.

Frequency of Faculty Council Meetings:

Greg Crawford wants to meet twice monthly for one hour to get business done more quickly. This will also keep meetings shorter. If there are no items, then the meeting will be cancelled.

Dean's Report:

Greg Crawford thanked the department Chairs for taking the time to meet with him. He is now looking forward to department meetings. He asked whether the Chairs found the meetings useful and everyone agreed that they were. He is open to suggestions and wants to keep the communication lines open. He wants to think and plan for the future, and to take a proactive rather than reactive approach. Greg wants to discuss not only the good stuff, but also the bad stuff.

Academic Planning Committee: This Committee meets twice a month. The first meeting was today, chaired by David Drakeford. The goal is to develop a plan to take to Senate for approval. The academic part is very important and should represent the Faculty. Greg will share anything of importance and will seek input when necessary. His homework is to comment on drafts such as the five important points on the learning experience for students and faculty members (e.g., should there be a global experience, an internationalization experience, etc.?) Greg wants the Chairs' input on this. For example, he believes there should be a science component in the education experience for students. This is not required from the Chairs, but it will shape the new University (if input is accepted). The role of Senate is another area for discussion. We can define who we are and there are many issues to resolve. Greg will keep everyone informed as much as he can. He will consider sending an email to Chairs with what he needs.

Greg mentioned that he was concerned about the budget. He wants to find out how it works in each department, especially during budget constraints. If we can manage our funds better, it will be easier to plan for essential needs such as new equipment, etc.

SAWS seems to have glitches and these are being addressed as they come up. Chairs are to report any anomalies to Christine Couture. She will follow up to make sure problems are fixed.

Senators' Report:

Duane Barker submitted his report in writing:

1. We haven't had a Senate meeting since our last Faculty Council meeting – nothing new to report here.
2. **Educational Standards Committee** (January 12, 2010):

The Graduate Degree Residency requirements were revised (as per Senate request) and will be forwarded for approval at the next Senate meeting. A common grade scheme for VIU was discussed (letter grades with percentages and categories of "First Class, Second Class, Pass and Fail"). It will be sent back to the Deans' and Directors' Council for review.

3. **Planning and Priorities Committee** (January 11, 2010):

The Carpentry and Mechanical Trades program review reports were discussed. Andrew Brown gave a brief update on the progress made on the Academic Plan. Several meetings will occur frequently now that all planning committees have been established. Andrew again stressed that an integrated and consultative approach will be used. P&P sub-committees are exploring options of 'non-faculty' representation at VIU Senate and have forwarded a proposal to Senate for discussion.

Eric Demers mentioned that the approval on Residency is in its final stage. There will be more to come on the Grading Scheme, which has been approved at the Deans' and Directors' Council, as well as at Education Standards. This is currently with Senate for approval. The UBC scheme will be used, as approved. Eric mentioned that there would be lots of discussion regarding the text.

Curriculum Committee Submissions:

Rosemarie Ganassin presented for approval two Program Change Proposals:

1. B.Sc. Major in Biology. Changes to the Years 3 and 4 program matrices for the Major in Biology: removal of the mandatory requirement of BIOL 491 – Undergraduate Research Project (6 credits). Instead, the requirement for upper-level Biology electives will be increased by 6 credits. BIOL 491 will now be optional.

2. B.Sc. Major and Minor in Biology. Changes to the Year 2 program matrix for the Major in Biology: replacement of the requirement for MATH 203 – Biometrics (3 credits) with MATH 211 – Statistics I (3 credits) for the Major and Minor in Biology. MATH 203 will now be optional.

MOTION: Doug Corrin/Dave Bigelow. All in favour. **CARRIED.**

Eric Demers presented for approval Course Change Proposals: BIOL 310, 315, 320, 322, 329, 351, 358, 357, 360, 365, and 456. They are basically housekeeping changes (adding prerequisites) to be more consistent. For upper-level Biology ecology-type courses, there is a prerequisite for Forestry students, which was previously missing. Students who carry on with their studies (e.g., B.Sc. in Biology) now have to take an additional course.

MOTION: Debbie Hearn/Dave Wessels. All in favour. **CARRIED.**

Department concerns/priorities for 5-year plan:

Greg Crawford is seeking input from department Chairs by February 8 for a meeting he has scheduled with Andrew Brown on February 10. Christine will contact Andrew's Assistant for more information. She will then pass this on to department Chairs. Greg's current understanding is that he is being asked for ideas on new programs, etc. for the next five years, as well as our vision and what might be our concerns.

Events Information for President's Office:

VIU's Board Members and the President want to be informed of any events (e.g., grad ceremonies, etc.), so that they can schedule their time accordingly. Information is to be provided to Lizz Franzen in the President's Office.

Alcohol Consumption Policy:

Faculty Council members were reminded of the policy – alcohol-related expenses must be pre-approved.

Department Meetings Minutes:

Greg Crawford highly recommends that minutes be taken. With minutes, issues that are brought up are documented (and not forgotten!). Minutes are to be given to Christine. She will read them and bring any important issues to Greg's attention. This will also keep Greg informed.

Department Chair Selection Policy:

Feedback from departments on the draft policy was handed out. The Dean understands that every department has their own way of passing on the role of Chair, but it's also important to standardize a Faculty "policy." Chairs are to discuss this with the other members of their department for more input. Christine will resend Dominique Roelants' draft to Chairs. A discussion will take place at the next Council meeting.

Best Practices:

The Dean mentioned that we will consider using recycled copier paper. This would be a cost-saving measure and in keeping with VIU's sustainability initiative. Scanning documents is preferable over photocopying handouts to students, and handouts and assignments can be put on instructors' websites. All faculty are encouraged to use Moodle, etc., as they deem appropriate.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.