

Minutes – Faculty Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 25, 2011

8:30-10:00 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: Todd Barsby

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve: Duane Friesen.
Seconded: Greg Klimes.

All in favour. **CARRIED.**

Minutes of October 12/10 and November 16/10:

Motion to approve: Doug Corrin
Seconded: Dave Bigelow

All in favour. **CARRIED.**

Minutes of January 11/11:

Will be approved electronically.

Dean's Report:

Greg Crawford announced that the ad hoc committee on the Faculty's future directions met yesterday. The committee will again next Monday. At the first meeting, there was a lively discussion focusing on budget and its impacts. The topic for discussion at next Monday's meeting will be to identify core principles. It was suggested that the group concentrate on what is core and where the focus should be. More information will be provided to the Faculty as the group progresses in their discussions.

GBET Program: Greg informed Council that Dave Witty told Senate that he wants to suspend the program for another year.

Gara Pruesse said that both the Summative Assessment of Programs (Framework), which contains the reference on page 1 to decanal discretion regarding the applicability of the assessment procedures to block transfers, and the proposed Policy 35.15.003 on Summative Assessment of Programs are available

to faculty from the VIU website under Senate/Planning and Priorities/10-Jan-2011/Attachments. Greg pointed out that, while calls for any program elimination as a result of the summative assessment process won't be announced until March (when the budget costs roll out), the plan is to extend the GBET suspension for now, so that we do not mislead prospective students. (This was a significant problem last year, when the suspension was first invoked.)

Greg was asked to find a representative to sit on the Academic Support Review Committee. He asked Council members to pass on a call for representation. Discussions would likely cover concerns such as: is VIU using resources wisely in support areas such as IT, Advising, etc. Greg believes this is a real opportunity for Science and Technology to find out what's going on at VIU in greater detail. Greg will forward an email which contains more information. Nominations for this committee should go to Greg first. Greg thinks it would be quite valuable to have our Faculty's representation.

Information Sessions: One session is being offered this evening, and two sessions have already taken place, at which time attendance was very poor. None of these attendees were from high schools. Attendance was also poor for recent sessions offered by other Faculties. There will be a discussion at Provost Council to examine what happened. Lack of advertising? Exam week? It was suggested that emails be sent directly to High Schools to announce these events, including reminder emails. One of Council's agenda items for the next meeting will be "Follow up on Information Sessions." It was mentioned that high school counsellors are good contacts to get the word out.

Senators' Report:

The Education Standards Committee removed from their agenda the item on including a Study Week during the fall term at VIU, as there was no interest in doing so at this time.

Block Transfer: A draft document is in progress that outlines policies and procedures for suspension and cancellation of programs. Block transfers of courses do not have a VIU stamp, and it appears they are not considered to be programs to which these policies and procedures will apply. Instead, the Dean of the Faculty will make the decision about suspension or cancellation of the courses in these blocks. This seems inconsistent because transfer programs have their own matrix in the VIU calendar, and students check this matrix very carefully when they choose their courses. Any changes to this matrix require the approval of Senate. When the decision about cancellation is made by the Dean, there is no procedure to inform those in the university and in the community who might be affected; for example, when 2nd year engineering was suspended, this wasn't communicated properly within and without VIU. Greg agrees and thinks that block transfer should be part of the program cancellation/suspension policy. Senators will bring this up at their next meeting.

Curriculum Committee Submissions:

Changes to 1st Year Chemistry Courses: The Chemistry Department is proposing that the spring courses be offered during the fall term, and that the fall courses be offered during the spring term. These courses will also be renumbered; for example: CHEM 121 will become CHEM 142, and CHEM 122 will become CHEM 140. Prerequisites remain the same, except for the new Math requirements due to the change in the high school curriculum. These course changes will ensure that VIU is in line with all other universities. This will also address students' concerns that calculations were taught before concepts.

There are more and more students choosing to attend VIU, so this is a problem. Greg showed a concern regarding resources. Is this an affordable model? More discussions will take place between the Dean and members of the Chemistry department.

Motion to approve: Doug Corrin
Seconded: Dave Bigelow

All in favour. **CARRIED.**

Information Update – Learning Outcomes: A number of new course proposals were not approved at Curriculum Committee, as course outlines didn't include learning outcomes. A suggested format for course outlines will be available to ensure that these are stated. To avoid any delays in approval, faculty members are asked to provide learning outcomes on their course outlines. Greg will discuss this issue with Liesel Knaack, Director, Innovation and Excellence in Learning at VIU.

Bus Replacement:

Greg Klimes mentioned that this is an issue that needs to be addressed now and not swept under the carpet. In his opinion, current vehicles should have been replaced years ago. They are relied upon heavily for field trips. A year ago, a request was made to Facilities for a plan of action, but we are still waiting for the outcome. It would be appreciated if we were told whether the vehicles will be replaced. Council members are concerned about accidents due to deteriorating vehicles – it is a huge liability. Would a 20-passenger van be more adequate? Should the Faculty have a dedicated vehicle – leased rather than purchased? Greg Crawford will bring this issue forward at Provost Council.

Michael Girard mentioned that reducing our carbon footprint is another important reason to replace the fleet with younger vehicles. By having a dedicated vehicle, this would eliminate the time restraint in returning it, which often proves difficult.

Greg Crawford asked for a list of all field trips in Science and Technology. Greg Klimes will take this on and will follow up at a future Council meeting.

It was suggested that vehicle costs could be covered by student fees. The Dean wants the Faculty to come up with ideas that he can present to the VP of Academic and others.

Tours:

Greg Klimes thinks there should be discussions on organizing and advertising tours to avoid the problem we currently have with multiple tours. The demand for tours is increasing every year, but there's a lack of organization. It was suggested that we could involve students, if possible.

Motion to adjourn: Greg Klimes
Seconded: Dave Bigelow

All in favour. **CARRIED.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Next meeting: February 8, 2011.