

Faculty of Science and Technology

Faculty Council Meeting

November 17, 2009

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 by Dave Bigelow to adopt Agenda. Seconded by Duane Barker. All in favour.

Minutes of September 21 and October 13:

Motion by Greg Klimes to adopt September and October minutes. Seconded by Duane Barker. All in favour.

Dean's Report:

Anne Leavitt confirmed that funds for the Chemistry Major will be available to mount the program starting next fiscal year. The challenge is that renovations will have to be made to existing facilities before the program can be implemented. The VPA has given support in principle to a renovation plan, and Chemistry has met with Facilities to have some preliminary discussions about what those would entail and how much they would cost. The proposal is to use the funds allocated to offer the program to do the renovations first. How this would work requires considerable discussion and thought.

There needs to be an 8% net reduction to the VIU budget over the next three years, given that money from the Ministry will remain the same each year while each year costs are expected to increase by more than 2%. The Vice-President of Finance is looking at an institutional reduction of 2.1% for this coming year, which she thinks is achievable. This won't be an across the board budget reduction. Rather, Deans are to look at their respective budgets and spell out, in early December, the implications of a 3% cut for their Faculties. The Executive will consider all of the submissions and decide where reductions will actually occur. It appears that if any cuts happen in our Faculty, they will not be as major as the Interim Dean had once feared.

David Drakeford will take over any institutional initiatives started by Leslie King who has now resigned as Vice-President, Academic.

Senators' Report:

Eric Demers presented a proposal that is being considered at Education Standards. The proposal is to look at the English requirement at VIU. A sub-committee was formed and this is under discussion. VIU's common grading scheme was referred to the Deans' Council. Discussions are in underway.

Duane Barker reported that we need representation of non-instructional faculty on Senate. This is in Planning and Priorities' hands right now. They are working on a definition of what constitutes a faculty member. They are also looking into a possible interim solution, such as an ad hoc committee to address this issue. A report is available on the Senate website. Consultation was also an issue and under discussion.

Curriculum Committee Submissions:

Michael Girard explained that there's a need for Horticulture to have a third-year apprenticeship program on the Island (currently offered at Kwantlen). Other organizations would like VIU to offer this program starting in January or February. More instructional staff will be needed to run it and funding is available from the ITA to do this. The program change proposal is an addition to the existing program. Michael also created a new course (HORT 203 – Landscape Horticulturist Level 3), for approval at Curriculum Committee. All in favour.

Sandy Patrick created a new course (CHEM 333 – Natural Products Chemistry). It will cycle with CHEM 312 which is offered every other year. It was hoped to be offered in the Spring, but this will be postponed to next academic year. It will replace another course which is now obsolete. Sandy also prepared a program change proposal. All in favour.

Tim Stokes mentioned a meeting with the Geography Department to discuss a Major in Geoscience combining skills from both departments. He circulated a brief outline that he hopes can go to MaCo for approval in principle. Once that happens an official program proposal will be prepared for the approval of the Faculties of Science and Technology and of Social Sciences that will, in turn, be sent to the Curriculum Committee and Senate. Right now, Tim is looking only for approval in principle from each Faculty's Faculty Council. As not everyone at Faculty Council had had a chance to read the proposal, it was moved that Tim's brief be circulated to all department Chairs for approval in principle and that, only if there were significant objections, would the proposal come back to Faculty Council for approval in principle. All in favour.

Department Chair Selection Policy:

Chairs presented Dominique Roelants' draft to the rest of their department for input. Chairs are to submit comments to the Dean's Office. Christine Couture will compile and present at the next Faculty Council meeting. All in favour.

Additional Items:

Eric Demers mentioned that the brochures for minors and majors are incorrect. He will ask the Communications Department to make the changes. He also mentioned that Chairs should review their websites to identify any errors or omissions.

Mark Noyon mentioned a discussion with Forestry and RMOT to integrate programs by offering courses that would be of interest to students. This is at the preliminary stage and more discussions will follow.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.