

Faculty of Science and Technology

Faculty Council Meeting

September 21, 2009

8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

CSR Conference Room, Bldg. 373, Room 206

Present: Anne Leavitt (Chair), Jim Wilkinson, Debbie Hearn, Rosemarie Ganassin, Dominique Roelants, Mark Noyon, Greg Klimes, Eric Demers, Sandy Patrick, Dave Bigelow, Michael Girard, Tim Stokes, Christine Couture (Recording)

Absent: Duane Barker

Recommendations regarding the selection and terms of department Chairs: "How to proceed"

There was a discussion on the selection process at department levels. Department Chairs will ask the rest of their department for their input on policies and procedure on the selection of the department Chair. Currently, some departments base their selection on the number of years of service; other departments base their selection on seniority. A decision must be made on the length of Chairs' terms (two or three years). Dominique Roelants will write a draft proposal on the process. **CARRIED.**

Technician workloads: time in lieu of overtime and vacation balances

We are currently facing a \$200,000 liability in unpaid vacation time. Technicians are accumulating overtime and, rather than take vacations, they take time in lieu of overtime. At retirement time, unpaid vacation must be paid out. This would be an enormous financial burden for the Faculty. With the amount of time in lieu of overtime taken, it appears that we need more Technicians. At an earlier meeting, Technicians were asked to take holidays to bring down the amount of time owed to them. Department cooperation is essential in attaining this goal. For example, when courses are added, without Technician support, how can these be handled? There needs to be discussions at the department level.

Curriculum Committee submissions

Dave Bigelow intends to submit new course descriptions for upper-level MATH courses. Course changes are for: MATH 141, 145, 151, 154, 331, 345, and 360. Some prerequisites have been changed, and course descriptions have been revised. First-year courses had a slight loophole. For example, some students were taking courses in the wrong order. They would take calculus and then pre-calculus. **CARRIED.**

Dave also mentioned that, due to changes to the High School curriculum, VIU Calendar prerequisites “Principles of Math 12” will be replaced with “pre-calculus,” and “Applications of Math 11 and/or 12” will be replaced by “foundations.”

Additional item

Anne asked Council to pass on to students not to panic regarding the H1N1 virus. If students have a fever, they must stay at home until they are without fever for 24 hours. Faculty should be lenient as far as student attendance. The Health and Safety department can be contacted for more information.

Next meeting

Chairs will email Christine Couture with days for late-afternoon meetings, as well as the preferred start time of 4:30 or 5:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.