

Faculty of Science and Technology
Minutes – Faculty Council Meeting
Monday, November 26, 2012
4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
ICSS Boardroom – Building 395, Room 210

Present: Greg Crawford, Brian Dick, David Bigelow, Duane Friesen, Gara Pruesse, Glen Pugh, Greg Klimes, John Amaral, Michael Girard, Paul Lucas, Rosemarie Ganassin, Steven Earle, Rae-Anne Savard (Recorder)

Regrets: Todd Barsby, Don Furnell, Nathan Stefani

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve: D. Bigelow
Seconded: S. Earle
All in favour. **CARRIED.**

Approval of Faculty Council Minutes – October 22, 2012

Motion to approve: G. Klimes
Seconded: D. Bigelow
All in favour. **CARRIED .**

Dean's Report

Greg Crawford spoke to Council on how the Faculty fared during the two-day CUPE labour action. He will meet with the Animal Care Committee Veterinarians, Sue Sanders, to discuss their essential services needs during labour disruptions.

Senators' Report

Currently, the Faculty doesn't have a representative for the Governance Practice Committee, so the Dean asked Pam Shaw in Social Science to provide an update:

Pam reported that, recently, the major issue is the Academic Emeritus nomination process. Dave Witty sent an email on this topic and, hopefully, there will be some interest in nominations, and that recent retirees will be recognized. A controversial item at the next Senate meeting will be a new policy on on-campus surveillance. The Facilities Department is proposing a policy and procedure with rules on the placement of cameras around campus. It is expected that there might be a heated discussion at Senate. The Faculty By-laws are under review; therefore, comments or proposed amendments would be welcomed.

Brian Dick reported that, with the exception of the CSCI diploma recommendation, Summative Assessment was approved at Senate. The CSCI diploma recommendation will be revisited at a future Senate meeting, presumably after discussions between Gara Pruesse, the Dean and Dave Witty. Gara is working with the University Planning Analysis and the Provost Offices to obtain additional data.

Rosemarie Ganassin presented a report on the Biology Priority Registration to the Ed. Standards Committee. She stated that the pilot project was a success and mentioned that Biology would be interested in increasing the percentage for high GPA filter from 25% to 50%.

A discussion followed between the Ed. Standards members. There was concern with regards to low GPA students and their access to courses. Some members asked if the Faculty of Science and Technology would be interested in applying this high GPA filter to the entire Faculty.

ACTION: Greg Crawford to forward Biology's guidelines for preferred registration to the rest of the Faculty for consideration.

Brian announced that, at Planning & Priorities, a report was presented on how to perform program reviews and the lack of institutional resources to handle mandated requirements. The resources issue was returned for further analysis. The portion regarding how to provide feedback to the review process was approved. Essentially, instructors would be allowed to give individual feedback in addition to that of the department's consensus.

Draft: Science and Technology Mission Statement

Council reviewed, discussed and voted on five draft versions that were obtained from our departments. The following draft version was approved and will be brought to the Faculty:

The mission of the Faculty of Science and Technology is to stimulate scholarship in sciences and to encourage scientific literacy in the wider population. We achieve these goals through teaching and learning, facilitated by close student-faculty interactions, through research and through a strong connection to our community.

Curriculum Committee:

Response from Suzie Nilson et al.: SCIE 101 and 301 (Western and Indigenous science courses)

Council members received written answers to a list of questions and concerns they provided regarding these two proposed courses. Both proposals revolved around courses that brought together western science and indigenous science (in a roughly 50-50 split).

Council reviewed the answers and a lively discussion ensued.

In summary, Council saw merit in these courses, but did not feel they were appropriate for delivery through our Faculty. Some Council members offered a few suggestions. For example, to have the proponents explore the possibilities for interdisciplinary programming at VIU, or to explore the options of having these courses listed through another Faculty.

ACTION: Greg Crawford to respond to Suzie Nilson.

Course Change Proposal: ENGR 121

Proposal to correct class size from 20 to 16 seats (only 16 workstations are available).

Motion to approve: B. Dick
Seconded: D. Bigelow
All in favour. **CARRIED.**

Course Change Proposal: CSCI 311

Proposal to correct lab contact hours from 1 to 2. This is not a change in actual practice; it is only for housekeeping.

Motion to approve: G. Pruesse

Seconded: B. Dick

All in favour. **CARRIED.**

Next meeting: December 10, 2012.

Motion to adjourn: S. Earle

Seconded: G. Pugh

All in favour. **CARRIED.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.