

***Faculty of Science and Technology***  
**Minutes – Faculty Council Meeting**  
**Friday, October 24, 2014**  
**12:30 – 2:00 p.m.**  
**ICSS Boardroom – Building 395, Room 210**

**Present:** Don Noakes (Chair and Recorder), Brian Dick, Dave Bigelow, Dean Slonowsky, Don Furnell, Jane Watson (Biology Representative), Greg Klimes, Huizhu Liu, Todd Barsby, Aubrey Robertson (Student Representative)

**Regrets:** Bill Beese, Tim Stokes

**Guests:** Chris Foote, Duane Barker

---

This was a special meeting to consider the proposed redevelopment of the current B.Sc. in Fisheries and Aquaculture, which was suspended in October 2012.

Don Furnell provided a brief overview of the process involved in developing a proposal for a B.Sc. Major and Minor in Fisheries and Aquaculture. The process included surveys of students, graduates and potential employers, the creation of an internal stakeholder group chaired by an external facilitator, the establishment of a Program Advisory Committee, as well as consultations within the Faculty of Science and Technology and associated research centres and institutes.

An environmental scan of fisheries and/or aquaculture programs delivered elsewhere was also undertaken. There appears to be demand for graduates from VIU's current diploma and degree in Fisheries and Aquaculture, although student demand is higher for the diploma. While a number of options were considered, the option chosen was a B.Sc. Major and Minor in Fisheries and Aquaculture. This will provide students with options to pursue combinations of majors and minors within Science, as well as (potentially) minors in other non-Science disciplines. Laddering from the existing diploma to the new degree is certainly possible, but will likely require an additional year of study compared to the current programs. The B.Sc. Major and Minor might better prepare students for pursuing graduate studies in fisheries and/or marine science, or a related discipline.

Council's submission included details of the review and development process, as well as course/program curriculum matrices. Additional resources (approximately 3 FTEs) will be required to implement the proposed program.

Moved: B. Dick  
Seconded: D. Bigelow

**Motion:** Council recommends the development of a Bachelor of Science Major and Minor degree in Fisheries and Aquaculture.

A number of questions and concerns were raised about the proposal:

- Program cost: High costs were one of the factors contributing to the program being suspended, but the proposed B.Sc. Major and Minor represents an even higher costs.
  - While this is true, the extra costs are associated with delivering new courses, which eliminate the dual-level courses in the existing system. An extra cost is also associated with delivering courses at the Deep Bay Marine Field Station. Dual-level courses were also a significant factor in the decision to suspend the current degree, and some additional expense is necessary to address this issue.
- The additional program costs are significant and it is not clear they represent the highest priority “ask” for the Faculty of Science and Technology.
  - True, but the request is in response to a directive/request from Senate and the Provost to explore options for the redevelopment of the suspended Fisheries and Aquaculture degree. This (funding) is an issue that may need to be reconsidered, based on feedback received as the proposal progresses through the next levels of review and approval.
- Why were other options such as creating a major and/or minor within Biology, creating a Bachelor of Technology degree or simply revamping the existing B.Sc. in Fisheries and Aquaculture not explored in more detail (or proposed)?
  - The creation of a B.Sc. Major and Minor in Fisheries and Aquaculture was viewed as the option that provided students with the most flexible program choices. Creation of a degree option within Biology would not have eliminated the need for upper-level FISH courses (i.e., little or no cost saving), and the different lower-level courses were designed to enhance students’ ability to succeed in their upper-level courses (much the way the unique lower-level courses in Biology do for their students). Some course duplication was eliminated through discussion with Biology. Revamping the current degree may have perhaps been a more cost effective route, but the result would have been another specialized (revamped) B.Sc. degree, providing fewer program options to students and likely attracting a similar number of potential students. The Bachelor of Technology option would strengthen laddering options from the diploma program, but would also limit students’ choices at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.
- Why not establish a Minor and add a Major when demands warrant?
  - The Major in Fisheries and Aquaculture is viewed as necessary to attract and retain students to/at VIU. In particular, the Minor is not viewed as an attractive option for recruiting international students, which could be a growing market for this program. While it is unclear if the target of 20 students for the new degree will be realized, the demand is likely to be less if only a Minor in Fisheries and Aquaculture is offered.
- Concern was raised, and shared, about the discrepancy between the UOPA Labour Market Report that lists International Student demand for this program will be minimal and the earlier reports from International Education of a high demand from International Students for a redeveloped Major/Minor.

- It was suggested that the department work with UOPA and International Education to clarify International Student demand.

Council commended everyone involved on the thought and effort put into this process to date, and they recognized that more substantive discussion would be required as the proposal moves forward. In particular, feedback on the direction and requested resources is essential and anticipated.

Following a full discussion of the issues noted above, the question on the motion to approve the proposal to develop a B.Sc. Major and Minor in Fisheries and Aquaculture was called.

Motion: **CARRIED.**

Meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.