

*Faculty of Science and Technology*  
**Minutes – Faculty Council Meeting**  
Friday, September 6, 2013  
12:30 - 1:30 pm  
ICSS Boardroom – Building 395, Room 210

**Present:** Greg Crawford (Chair), John Amaral, Todd Barsby, David Bigelow, Eric Demers, Brian Dick, Don Furnell, Dustin Howie (Student Representative), Huizhu Liu, Paul Lucas, John Morgan (RMOT Representative), Dean Slonowsky (Vice Chair), Rae-Anne Savard (Recorder)

**Regrets:** Tim Stokes

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### *Provost Update*

- David Witty welcomed back the Council and gave an update on Provost activities. Some highlights are provided below:
- VIU has a new Dean of Trades and Technologies, Guy Ellis. Witty encouraged Science and Technology to consider working on with Trades on joint projects and programs.
- VIU is working on increasing Co-op education/experience and work practica.
- There is a new search underway for an Associate Vice President, Scholarship and Community Engagement. Liz Hammond-Kaarremaa will be stepping down as Director of Research Services RSAO (Research & Scholarly Activity).
- Witty commented on the opportunities for contract delivery. Such activities can provide funding not only for VIU, but also for the Faculties.
- Student numbers are up slightly, possibly due to retention rather than recruitment. Tina McComb, Office of Enrollment Management, has been focusing on both. (Some Council members noted the lack of majors in our Faculty, such as Chemistry and Math, to retain or recruit students.)
- Some Council members spoke to the lack of prerequisite checking for some Science and Technology courses, especially first year. (This is an action item for Enrollment Management.) Witty committed to looking into this issue.
- Cowichan Campus: A new academic administrator has been appointed – Warren Weir. Witty hoped there would be an opportunity to explore possibilities regarding the use of new science lab facilities.
- Fisheries and Aquaculture: Witty reviewed the process leading to recommendation of the B.Sc. program suspension, the review process, and the recommendation to redevelop the program as a Fisheries and Aquaculture B.Sc. minor and major. He noted the review committee also had a vision for a possible degree for Marine Science at some point (M.Sc. or B.Sc.). He thanked all members of the review committee.

- The new Science and Health Building remains the top capital priority. He noted the role of the new Executive Director of University Relations, Dan Hurley, is intended to play in terms of fund raising (e.g., through the Foundation Office, possible research partnerships).

### ***Approval of Agenda***

Motion to approve: D. Bigelow

Seconded: T. Barsby

All in favour: **CARRIED.**

### ***Approval of Faculty Council Minutes – June 5, 2013***

Motion to approve: D. Bigelow

Seconded: T. Barsby

All in favour: **CARRIED.**

It was noted that the word “housekeeping” was removed from the three Curriculum Committee submissions.

### ***Dean’s Report***

- **Budget Proposal**

Fisheries and Aquaculture Suspension Review: Greg carried on from Witty’s remarks. He is working on a process to create and develop the new curriculum for a B.Sc. major and minor in Fisheries and Aquaculture. When ready, the curriculum proposal will begin the usual approval process, so Faculty Council will be involved. Greg hopes the new proposed curriculum will be ready for review and discussion at Council in January. There will undoubtedly be some vetting within the Faculty before then. He also noted that the B.Sc. review committee promoted the notion of an Environmental Chemistry major.

Capital Requests: Call for proposals will go out shortly; expect a three-week deadline (approx. \$100K available).

Header House Space: Greg has begun to seek advice regarding a potential hazardous storage facility and/or a fenced area for boats where the Header House is currently located. He welcomes other ideas.

Budgets and Funding: The deadline for Greg’s 2014-15 budget submission is October 11. He also noted that the cross-BC post-secondary cuts that were planned for this year (\$20M) and next year (\$30M), ostensibly through savings we are supposed to be able to make by centralizing a variety of administrative services, have been shifted around but did not disappear. This year, there are overall BC PSE budget cuts of \$5M; next year, the cuts will possibly be \$45M. The exact cut to VIU is not known, but there is a general expectation of some kind of proportional cut to all PSE institutions.

Greg noted that our Faculty had been provided some carry-forward funds, although much of that amount has already been allocated for us. He is working out the numbers and the plan for this year. Based on remaining funds (if any), he will seek input on potential one-time investments.

**ACTION:** Greg Crawford to forward report on Fisheries and Aquaculture Suspension Review to Faculty Council members.

Greg to meet with Department Chairs to further discuss budget augmentation ideas (i.e, capital requests, possible requests for carry-forward funds, etc.).

- **Update on Off Campus Approval**

Greg repeated his general briefing from the Faculty Welcome meeting in August. He looks to reducing the onerous nature of faculty always needing to seek permission to be off campus, sharing instead the responsibilities. His approach is that, as professionals, faculty can determine when they need to go off campus for business reasons. Generally, they can go on their own cognizance. If they want to feel more comfortable that their travel is known and approved, they can let the Dean know. If they have teaching or other very specific prescribed duties that they will miss, it is important they communicate with the Dean's Office as to how those duties will be covered (e.g., Will a class be cancelled? Will another professor teach that class?). Course-related field trips need the Dean's approval. Out-of-country travel needs the Dean's recommendation, and ultimately be approved by the Provost Office before travel ensues. For such international travel, projected costs must be provided, along with the funding source(s).

- **Update on Teaching Awards**

Tabled for a future Council meeting.

### ***Senators' Report***

The Green Paper on quality assurance has been tabled by the BC Government.

### ***Curriculum Committee Submissions***

Course Change Proposal: MATH 362

Motion to approve: T. Barsby

Seconded: P. Lucas

All in favour: **CARRIED.**

New Course Proposals: MATH 371 and 372

Both are fundamental courses that have been taught successfully as Special Topics courses. They are offered sufficiently often that it was deemed appropriate to create these as individual courses. (If a Math major is created, these will be required courses.)

For both courses, change course duration from 14 to 15 weeks.

Motion to approve with revisions: T. Barsby  
Seconded: P. Lucas  
All in favour: **CARRIED.**

### ***RMOT Department Name Change***

The RMOT department name change was brought forward at the June 2013 Faculty Council meeting. Feedback was sought from other departments (input from some departments is still needed). There is a new policy on how to submit name changes through the Provost Office. Department members asked for Faculty Council endorsement. Tabled for the next Council meeting.

### ***Other Business***

Greg will approach the recruitment group with Marketing, Resource Management Environmental Science.

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Motion to adjourn: T. Barsby  
Seconded: D. Slonowsky  
All in favour: **CARRIED.**

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.