

Faculty of Science

FACULTY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH, 2014

MINUTES

Introduction and welcome to our new student representative – **Michelle Tshimanga**

1. **Adoption of Agenda/Minutes**

- Moved to approve the agenda and minutes by: Dennis Acreman and seconded by Lyn Baldwin

2. **Old Items**

- **Results of Moodle Votes for new courses/programs or changes to the following courses/programs:**

BIOL 1110/1210/3800/3010/3110/3220; MATH 1300; Brewery Certificates; COMP 4910; Information Technology and Management Diploma OL; MDLB 1191; Comp 1130, 1230, 2130, 2230, 2160, 2210, 2230, 3260, 3270, 3410, 3450, 3520, 3540, 3610, 3710; BCS, BSc Computing major, BSc Computing minor and ASc Computing

They all were approved by majority vote.

3. **Reports**

- i) **Senate Report** – Dave Sheets & Cynthia Ross Friedman (**November is attached at the end of this document and December is verbal, below**)

We **just** had our December meeting:

- 1) Regarding ED 16-0 policy – it was not mentioned and we had a response that it was already approved which caused some concern. Usually it will come to Senate as a “Notice of Motion” but it didn’t and no one from Science remembered there being a discussion or vote at Senate.

ACTION: It was suggested that the Chair of Science Faculty Council send a letter to Senate (rather than the Senators). The letter is to communicate the concerns that Science has with the proposed changes to the policy. Eric Littlely provided Science’s concerns with the initial draft during the subcommittee’s consultative process. It appears that the final proposed policy wording did not change (at least

substantially) from the initial draft. Concerns were not necessarily all about the wording, but of the interpretation of policy and potential implications to degree quality and amount of upper level credits required.

Motion: That the Chair of Faculty Council will send a letter (content to be forwarded by Dave Sheets, Senator to the Chair) was moved by Lyn Baldwin and seconded by Cindy Ross Friedman, unanimously approved at this December 17th, 2014 meeting.

- 2) Another item that came up was the issue of section capacity on the new CurricUNET system: Marion Oke wrote a letter regarding the issue that with the new online system, it changed the “section capacity” to “expected enrolments” which is different.

The following questions came up at Senate: How was the decision made to change the wording? How are we going to apply that in the decision making process? It became a discussion about who is responsible for these decisions, and should it be at a policy level (APPC) or educational policy level (EPC) or is it board or management policy? It was referred to the TRU Lawyers to discuss.

ACTION: Tom/Joanne to bring up for the February agenda for Senate EPC (no meeting in January)

Other Senate Committees:

- (a) **Budget Committee of Senate** – Normand Fortier & Dave Tomkins (verbal by Dave Tomkins)

If you go on “myTRU” you can see all the documents from the meetings, so it is available to the campus community. We are running about a \$700,000 deficit. There is roughly \$2 million that is set aside for the reserve fund that we cannot use (it is mandated by the board). The board has now changed the amount for future years so that it will only be \$1 million we must put aside in the reserve fund. Matt did mention that the government is open to change the fact that we are not allowed at the moment to transfer this reserve money to put towards any deficit. We are not allowed to run a deficit and that is what we are working on.

- (b) **Senate Educational Programs Committee** – Joanne Rosvick (**verbal report**)

The committee will be putting forward a request that the Chair of Senate EPC be granted a one course release per year for the duration of their time as Chair. The committee is also hoping to restructure the terms of reference for continuity (Chair, Vice Chair and a past Chair). It is hoped that this will make the Chair position less demanding.

(c) **NEW: Senate Instructional Development and Support Committee** – Nancy Van Wagoner (**verbal report**)

I am a new representative on this committee and at our first meeting the entire focus was a standardized campus wide teaching evaluation (FYI: their web page is out of date, Tracy Penny Light is the new Chair).

Discussion of how the Academic Standards sub-committee of Science Faculty Council developed and validated a new evaluation tool (which was voted in by the Science Faculty Council) that Science is currently using and would like to continue to use.

Further discussion ensued around the pilot project and the way it was administered.

ACTION: Nancy Van Wagoner to obtain the document from the Chair of the Instructional Development and Support Committee to discuss with Science faculty

(d) **Senate Promotion Committee** – Norm Reed (no report)

ii) **Committee Reports:**

(a) **Research Committee** – Surinder Dhanjal/Sean McGuinness (no report)

(b) **Awards Committee** – Nancy Flood (no report)

(c) **Steering Committee** – Tom Dorval (no report)

(d) **Science Health and Safety Committee** – Janine Chan (no report)

(e) **Recruitment and Retention Committee** – S. Purdy/M. Lemphers (no report)

(f) **Academic Standards Committee** – Troy Welch (no report)

(g) **OL Report** – Mike Looney/Dave Sheets (no report)

(h) **Education Planning Committee** – Eric Littlely (**next meeting is on Mon., Dec 15th therefore, report to be at the Faculty Council meeting on Wed., Dec 17th**)

(i) **MSc Coordinating Committee** – Wendy Gardner (no report)

iii) **Dean's Report** – no formal report, this is an opportunity for you to ask the Dean specific questions.

Bean Counting & Problem Solving: I laid out the budget in our last meeting which consists of three major parts: 1) Service Plan; 2) Financial Plan, and; 3) Strategic

Investments (Sustainability). It's been critiqued now and as soon as I get it in January, I will put it up as public document.

Planning: We have set up discussions and possible collaborations with other universities in Europe - Belgium, Spain, Sweden, and Slovakia. This will increase mobility for our students to move and exchange, our students can take courses in English (because of European Union and attempts to increase this student mobility). I am working on putting together a slide show and will give it to the faculty and students. If anyone wants to talk to me further about this and possible faculty exchanges, please email me.

Rumour Check: Is it true that Nursing will get an expansion to this building?

Tom: There are two capital proposals that the government may grant, but no guarantees. The first is for the Trades and Advanced Technologies building (larger centre to include Engineering and ARET, also making room for research and research support (Math & CODS, etc.). The second, being the "Health Sciences" expansion (increase to their accreditation) and what the government is most interested in. To replicate that new wing put in 1990 (office space, labs, simulation, etc.), these have both been put forward as requests and it is in the early stage of discussion, so I don't know if they are thinking expansion or stand alone

TOM: I had my review and I thank you everyone for their input

Dennis: I would like to acknowledge how much time, effort and work went into the budget by our Dean.

REPORTS

Senate Report for Faculty Council, Faculty of Science (by: D. Sheets and C. Ross Friedman)

Faculty of Science Senators in attendance: C. Ross Friedman; D. Sheets; Tom Dickinson

Senate meeting agendas and approved minutes can be accessed through:

<http://www.tru.ca/senate.html>

Senate did not meet in October. At November 24th meeting:

Under business arising, there was long discussion on the notice of motion for policy revision ED 2-1 Special Courses. This revision would replace current policies 2-2 & 2-3, combining them into one policy. Senate heard opposition to revised policy related to Service Learning courses, as the new policy would restrict Service Learning courses to 3000 and 4000 levels only. Currently Service Learning is offered as both lower level (1000 and 2000) and upper level (3000 and 4000) options. New policy proponents stated the original and current intent is for service learning to be a course in which application of TRU gained competencies occurs and should be at upper level only. Senate voted to refer the policy revision back to the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee to have a further look at the issue.

Under business arising, Policy Revision ED 5-0 Academic Integrity passed. This policy revision looks to provide more consistent application of academic integrity policy.

See the October & November President's Report for mention of some awesome Faculty of Science Faculty, students, and staff achievements and publications.

The Fall Enrolment Report included the following related to the Faculty of Science – increased by 2.0%. Decreases in Architectural, Digital Art & Design Electronics & Engineering; Master of Environmental Sciences; and the Mathematics and Statistics departments were offset by increasing course enrolments in Agricultural Related, Allied Health, Biological Sciences, Computing Science, Natural Resource Sciences, and Physical Sciences.

W. Garrett-Petts presented the Strategic Research Plan. The five major research themes are: 1. Technology and Optimization; 2. Sustainability, Environment, and the Physical World; 3. Aboriginal Understanding; 3. Community and Culture; and, 5. Education, Health and Diversity. The overarching “Academic Plan Themes” are (1) Health, well-being and leisure; (2) Power, politics and social justice; (3) Science, technology and applied skills in society; (4) Sustainability: environmental, economic, social and cultural.

Under the APPC report, the proposal to offer the second year of the Engineering Transfer Program in conjunction with the University of Victoria was approved.

Senate received notice of motion of the following Policy revision and deletion. Senate will discuss and vote on these at Dec 15, 2014 meeting.

i. Policy ED 16-0 Types of Undergraduate Degrees – REVISION

ii. Policy ED 16-1 Double Programs – Degrees and Diplomas - DELETION

Revision to Policy ED 16-0 is required because:

- the focus of the old policy is on arts, science and professional programs and does not include graduate programs;
- the revised policy is inclusive of all undergraduate and graduate level credentials;
- the minimum upper level credits for a degree will be 45 versus 48.

Revisions to Policy ED 16-0 encompass the content of Policy ED 16-1, so Policy ED 16-1 can be repealed.

EPC and APPC recommend that Senate forward Policy ED 16-0 revision and ED 16-1 deletion to the Board of Governors with Senate's recommendation for approval.

Convocation Spring 2015 at the TCC

SCIENCE & TRADES is **Wednesday June 10th at 2:00pm**

Science EPC Minutes - December 15, 2015 (by: Eric Littlely)

Math Prerequisite Changes: Math brought forward housekeeping changes to 7 courses to update prerequisites, and to add a couple of exclusions. These were:

- Math 1070 – update prereqs in line with current high school curriculum, and add Math 1100 as an exclusion, as there is too much overlap with this course.
- Math 1100 - update prereqs in line with current high school curriculum, and add Math 1070 as an exclusion, as there is too much overlap with this course.

- Math 1170 and 1900 - update prereqs in line with current high school curriculum.
- Math 2120 – change prerequisite from Math 1240 to 6 credits of first year Math. Calculus is not required for this course. Add an exclusion for Math 1300, as there is too much overlap.
- Math 3000 – change prerequisite from Math 3170 to a corequisite of Math 3170.
- Math 4430 – change prerequisite from Math 2220 (which no longer exists) to Math 2700 (which is the new version of Math 2220)

These changes were approved unanimously.

MLDB 1521: This OL Medical Lab Assistant course was updated to reflect other changes approved for this program. The change was approved unanimously.