

Faculty of Science

FACULTY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16TH, 2014

MINUTES

Guest Speaker: Lucille Gnanasihamany **re: Branding at TRU**

- Lucille and her team will be giving our Science suggestions to the committee and coming back in the new year to discuss the overall TRU responses. In the meantime, you can go to: tru.ca/branding to find out more information on this initiative and the committee

1. **Introduction of Mike Looney** (reporting on Science OL, replacing Bryan Daly for the interim)

2. **Announcements: TRUly United campaign** (powerpoint slide and handouts coming)

3. **Adoption of Agenda/Minutes**

Nancy Flood moved to accept the Agenda, Mairi Mackay seconded – approved. Linda Mueller moved to accept the minutes, Eric Littlely seconded – approved.

4. **Old Items**

- **Results of Moodle Votes for: Promotion & Tenure Committee 2014/2015 Academic year:**

The motion passed at the Sept 18th meeting: “By way of this email I am submitting the following list of faculty for approval by Science faculty council to serve on the Science promotion and tenure committees. I would like to nominate this entire slate of colleagues as our Promotion and Tenure Committee for the 2014/2015 academic year (Dennis Acreman, Chair of the Science DPTC):

- Scott Mann, Deb McWade, Sharon Brewer, Tom Dorval, Mairi Mackay, Mila Kwiatkowska, Bruce Crofoot, Adriana Stefan, Shane Rollans, Nancy Flood, Lyn Baldwin, Brian Heise, Faheem Ahmed, Joanne Rosvick, Dave Tomkins, Jon Van Hamme, Ann Cheeptham, Lauch Fraser, Mohamed Tawhid, Nancy Van Wagoner, Rick Brewster and Roger Yu” **was voted on and passed.**

5. **New Items**

- English Admission Requirement Update (**see email below**)

ACTION: We will pass this on to Science EPC, a better venue to discuss this issue.

From: Joanne Moores

Sent: October-07-14 4:20 PM

Subject: English Admission Requirement Update for Faculty Councils - EPC Action Item

Dear EPC Members:

As a follow up to the EPC meeting of October 1st, I am forwarding information on the English admission requirement update that was addressed under 5 (a) New Business.

In an effort to bring consistency and clarity to English/Communications admission requirements we would suggest you consider bringing forward to your Faculty Council's the following updates:

- For Programs where English 1100 remains a required course we would recommend the existing admissions language be updated to read:
 - o English 12/English 12 First Peoples with a minimum of 73% (or equivalent).
- For Programs where a Communications course is utilized rather than an English 1100 course, and where this Communications course is void of a pre-requisite, we would recommend the existing admissions language be updated to read:
 - o English 12/English 12 First Peoples with a minimum of 67% (or equivalent).
- For Programs where there are no required English or Communications courses within the Program, we would recommend the admissions language be updated to read:
 - o English 12/English 12 First Peoples (or equivalent)

The "equivalent" will be determined by the prerequisites for the required courses in the programs. This will help address changes to prerequisites that are currently tied to admission requirements.

Currently, these updates are in effect under a provisional approval granted by the Provost's Office. In order to make the permanent updates, faculties are asked to make this change to affected programs by submitting program changes through CurricUNET. The timeline for minor program change approval is approximately 6 months, therefore please submit the program changes by no later than January 1, 2015 to EPC so they can meet Senate approval timelines.

Joanne Moores
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6. Reports

i) **Senate Report** – Dave Sheets & Cynthia Ross Friedman (**see attached**)

Other Senate Committees:

(a) **Budget Committee of Senate** – Normand Fortier & Dave Tomkins (**see attached – separate document**)

(b) **Senate Educational Programs Committee** – Joanne Rosvick (**see attached**)

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

ii) **Committee Reports:**

(a) **Research Committee** – Sean McGuinness (no report)

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

- (c) **Steering Committee** – Tom Dorval (**see attached and updated Standing Committees membership list**)
 - (d) **Science Health and Safety Committee** – Janine Chan (no report)
 - (e) **Recruitment and Retention Committee** – S. Purdy/M. Lemphers (no report)
 - (f) **OL Report** – Mike Looney/Dave Sheets (no report)
 - (g) **Academic Standards Committee** – Troy Welch (no report)
 - (h) **Education Planning Committee** – Eric Littlely (**see attached**)
 - (i) **MSc Coordinating Committee** – Wendy Gardner (**see attached**)
- iii) **Dean's Report** – Bean Counting, Problem Solving, Planning, and Rumours

Bean Counting:

- 3% higher enrolments overall for this semester
- We have a balanced budget for the end of 2nd quarter
- Fiscally we are ok, but we have to constantly be doing recruiting types of things

Problem solving

- Exam scheduling: some issues in areas were flagged by faculty to the Dean, and the faculty followed up with the Dean's approval and issues were resolved; unfortunately apparently other problems were created
- There is a new exam schedule posted – please look at it

Planning

- There is a new budget methodology coming forward, and it is hard to predict what we are getting year to year, but the Dean (with the help of the Chairs) delivers a service plan, cost of running all different programs
- What I have to do is justify all of the positions in that service plan and show work plans that shows our efficiencies and how we are maximizing our people, space
- Big item coming is the replacement of equipment, departments need to do comprehensive inventories and build it in to their budget

Rumours

- Is it true that there is a proposal for a Masters from Economics that would be a Science degree?
- Yes, Economics has put forward a Masters of Science (so has Nursing)

REPORTS

- i) **Senators' Report from September 22, 2014 Senate Meeting** (By: Cynthia Ross Friedman and David Sheets)

Items of significance for Science Faculty:

- 1) **Notice of Motion - ED 5-0 (Student) Academic Integrity.** Changes to Policy ED 5-0 are proposed. Many of these changes deal with the newer climate of online cheating, and also very clearly spells out examples. The changes seem very good, and the student Senators are in favour of the proposed changes.

- 2) **Presidential Review.** A survey will be coming to faculty and other stakeholders. Gordon Randolph has been appointed by the Steering Committee as the only faculty member (and faculty Senator) to the review committee. If anyone knows who Gordon Randolph is, please let us know.
- 3) **Master of Science in Economic Sustainable Management (SoBE).** A course-base Master's degree with a thesis option has passed Senate. It now goes to the Degree Quality Assessment Board (DQAB). Economists do publish in science journals and use the scientific method, and so this degree makes sense for those students wanting a strong economics degree. The external reviews are very favourable.

Next Meeting of Senate: Monday October 27, 2014

i) a) **Budget Committee of Senate** (Normand Fortier & Dave Tomkins) – **see agenda as a separate document** (66 pages)

i) b) **Senate Educational Programs Committee**
October 1 2014 Meeting: Report to Faculty Council (By: Joanne Rosvick)

The following Faculty of Science items were approved:

1. ARET and DAAD Course Deletions:
 - ARET 2110 AutoLISP Programming
 - course no longer offered since program has been changed

ii) c) **Faculty of Science Steering Committee Report - October 16, 2014** (By: Tom Dorval)

Faculty Council Terms of Reference

As requested by faculty council last year the terms of reference have been rewritten by the steering committee to encompass the principles of collegial governance. The proposed changes are highlighted in the attached terms of reference.

Faculty of Science representative on ACTAC

Three faculty members have expressed interest in serving on the Academic Computing Technology Advisory Committee (ACTAC) so an electronic vote should be held. Mindy Marshal, John Church and Faheem Ahmed are the 3 candidates.

ii) h) **Faculty of Science Educational Programs Committee** (By: Eric Littlely)
Minutes of September 22, 2014

Biol 1110/1210 Course Changes: These were considered together, as the changes requested were identical. Ron Smith provided a brief summary of the change, which was to allow students re-taking the courses to be exempted from re-taking the labs provided they had achieved at least a 70% grade in the lab within the previous 2 years. The change was approved.

Math 1300: The only change requested for this course was to add an exclusion that students could not get credit for both Math 1300 and Math 2120, which has been de facto practice for years in any case. The change was approved.

MDLB 1191: Dave Sheets provided us with a summary of the intent of this new course for the distance Med Lab program. The change was approved.

Brewery Maintenance Certificate and Brewery Technologist Certificate: Ron Smith explained that these two new programs were subsets of the previously approved Brewing program, and would allow qualified students to come for a shorter period of time for an upgrading of their credentials. This would help bolster numbers in the program, and provide a useful service to the industry. After some discussion of process, the committee approved both programs to move forward.

Proposed Changes to Policy ED 16-0: Eric Littley presented a summary of the proposed changes as they affect the Faculty of Science programs (appended below). After a spirited discussion, there was a very strong feeling among committee members that many of the proposed changes were a significant move in the wrong direction that would serve to dilute our degrees and our reputation. Eric Littley will produce a summary document for the Dean, and will attend the open meeting on this issue on September 24.

Proposed Changes to the BSc in new policy ED 16-0

| Current | Proposed | Change |
|--|--|--|
| Associate of Science – generic ASc plus 6 discipline-specific options | Generic ASc only | Loss of 6 options for students |
| Honours Degree – minimum 54 upper level credits, minimum 36 in the discipline | Minimum 39 upper level credits, minimum 24 in the discipline | 15 fewer credits in total, 12 fewer credits in the discipline |
| Major – minimum 48 upper level credits, minimum 30 in the discipline | Minimum 30 upper level credits, minimum 15 in the discipline | 18 credits fewer upper level courses, 15 fewer in the discipline |
| Minor – minimum 30 credits in the discipline, minimum 18 upper level | Minimum 9 upper level credits in the discipline | 21 fewer credits, half as many upper level credits |
| Multiple majors – minimum 30 credits over and above a single major, meet all upper level requirements in each discipline | Meet all specific upper level requirements of each major | Depending on the majors, fewer courses required |
| Laddering programs for entry into BSc from AHT, Respiratory Therapy, Med Lab | No laddering | Loss of potential BSc students from these programs |
| BSc in General Science with concentrations in 2 or 3 disciplines | No General BSc | Loss of a degree |

These proposals signify a significant watering down of the academic standards in TRU degrees, as well as loss of options for students. While we would not be required to revise our current degrees, it is possible that when we choose to update those degrees, there will be pressure to reduce the expensive upper level courses and replace them with lower level courses taught by cheap sessionals in massive classes with low per-student costs.

As a new university, TRU cannot afford to do anything that harms the reputation of our degrees, just as we are beginning to establish that reputation. I can see no possible benefit for academic programs in this proposal, and no rationale for the university to propose this, other than misguided cost cutting.

ii) i) Masters of Environmental Science Program – Information for Faculty Council Meeting Oct 16, 2014

Wendy Gardner is the new chair/coordinator for the Masters of Environmental Science Program and Marcy Desrosiers is acting as a part-time administrative assistant (0.25).

As of September 2014 the Masters of Environmental Science has a new program in place. The changes drop the course load slightly from the previous program but increase the thesis credits and add in a required dissemination/outreach component. The new program is outlined below.

| Course | Title | Term | Instructor | Replaces |
|---------------|---|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| ENVS 5100 | Environmental Science I: History, Philosophy and Concepts | Fall (3 credits) | Lauch Fraser | ENVS 5010 |
| ENVS 5200 | Environmental Science II: Conducting Science | Winter (3 credits) | TBA | New |
| ENVS 5300 | Environmental Science: Topics and Case Studies | Winter (2 credits) | Louis Gosselin | ENVS 5000 |
| ENVS 5400 | Environmental Science: Dissemination and Outreach | (2 credits) | Supervisory Committee and MSc Chair | New |
| ENVS 5990 | Thesis | (18 credits) | | ENVS 5990 |

For the fall 2014 start we have 6 new students (5 domestic, 1 international) and for the winter 2015 start 5 students (all international) have been accepted. We have a total of 33 continuing students with 17 of these being in their first 2 years of the program.