

Faculty of Science

FACULTY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2015

Approved Minutes

Guest: Dr. Christine Bovis-Crossen – VP, Academic & Provost

1. Announcements:

- Welcome new faculty to Science at Kamloops Campus (new faculty orientation)
- Fall Convocation, Friday, Oct 16th at 2 pm (register for seating)
- New programs – 2nd year Eng. 4 year ARET – Building Science

2. Adoption of Agenda/Minutes:

- Addition of Dale Parkes to the list of names for Promotion and Tenure Committee for 2015/2016
- Thank you to Susan Purdy who has finished her term as Chair on the Science R & R Committee, Sheri Watson is the new Chair

3. New Business

a) Notice of Motion – upcoming Moodle vote

Motion: 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 2015/2016 academic year (Dennis Acreman, Chair of the Science DPTC):

Scott Mann, Deb McWade, Robina Manfield, Tom Dorval, Sue Purdy, Rick Brewster, Roger Yu, Lauch Fraser, Nela Mora-Diez, Bruno Cinel, Sharon Brewer, Richard Taylor, Karen Ross, Shane Rollans, Faheem Ahmed, Normand Fortier, Adriana Stefan, Mark Paetkau, Joanne Rosvick, Cindy Ross Friedman, Mohamed Tawhid, Nancy Van Wagoner, Louis Gosselin, Karl Larsen, Matt Reudink, Don Nelson, John Church, Wendy Gardner, Kevin O’Neil, Dale Parkes

b) Re-elect member from Science for the Academic Integrity Committee: Nancy Flood re-elected and approved by vote at meeting

4. Reports

i) Senate Report – Cynthia Ross Friedman (report attached)

Other Senate Committees:

(a) Budget Committee of Senate – Normand Fortier & Dave Tomkins (report attached)

(b) Senate Educational Programs Committee – Joanne Rosvick (report attached)

(c) Senate Instructional Development and Support Committee – Nancy Van Wagoner (no report)

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

ii) Committee Reports:

(a) **MSc Coordinating Committee** – Wendy Gardner (**report attached**)

(b) **Education Planning Committee** – Eric Littlely (no report)

(c) **Academic Standards Committee** – Linda Mueller (no report)

(d) **OL Report** – Bryan Daly (no report) – Gord Tarzwell is retiring in December

(e) **Recruitment and Retention Committee** – S. Purdy/M. Lemphers (**report attached**)

(f) **Science Health and Safety Committee** – C. Taylor/M. Lettinga (**see info below**)

In an attempt to continue to support a proactive approach to safety while also keeping everyone aware of the current issues the Health and Safety Committee are dealing with, monthly minutes will continue to be posted on the Faculty of Science website. However, monthly minutes will no longer be delivered directly to Faculty/Staff emails. Should there ever be any safety questions/concerns that you can't find answers to yourself, please funnel your questions/concerns through your committee representative who will ensure it is addressed at our next monthly meeting, tentatively on Sept 24th or contact either of us! Cheers! Colin and Marten (co-chairs)

(g) **Steering Committee** – Tom Dorval (**report attached**)

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

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

Tom: I encourage people to go to the research website and find out about new awards

iii) Dean's Report – Bean Counting, Problem Solving, Planning, and Rumours

Bean Counting:

- We were short \$5,000 out of \$15 million on last year's budget
- Enrolments: overall Science is up 7%. THANK YOU to all of you who handled waitlists so well, especially Chemistry, Computing Science, Math, Biological Sciences

Problem Solving:

- My biggest problem right now is that Eric is retiring. I have put a call out for anyone interested in being on the committee to select the new Advisor

Planning:

- We are still moving towards a site visit from the North West Accreditation people and we will be planning meetings with Chairs/Coordinators
- The government is looking at two new buildings, Trades and Nursing. We have made our way to the latter part of the planning stage (and this has consequences for our building), however, this is still in the planning stage and under discussion
- The Chairs, Dennis and I are now planning for next year's budget

REPORTS

Senators' Report from June 22, 2015 Senate Meeting (by: Cynthia Ross Friedman)

Items of significance for Science Faculty:

1) Policy Revisions.

- a) Proposed Revision to Policy ED 3-5 "Grading Systems".** Motion carried. One section of the revision is an update (reversion back) to the previous grad school grading scheme (i.e., the scheme is now back to being the same as the undergrad grading scheme for academic program areas); another section of the policy was deleted and moved to ED 3-11 (see 1b below).
- b) Proposed Revision to Policy ED 3-11 "Submission of Final Grades".** Motion carried. The policy now states that the Dean gives final approval for all grades after consultation with the Instructor if any grade changes are needed.
- c) Proposed Revision to Policy ED 3-6 "Scheduling of Course Conflicts".** This policy was repealed; and as a result, students trying to schedule themselves into labs/seminars that apparently (but do not actually) conflict with each other (e.g., the rotating Genetics and Cell Biology seminars) will be enabled rather than frustrated.
- d) Proposed Revision to Policy ED 3-8 "Course Subject Acronym and Numbering".** Motion carried. Course numbering policy was changed to reflect current practice for face-2-face and online courses (already ongoing; policy makes the practice official).

2) **Reports.** President will report in September. Outgoing Vice-President Scheck had nothing to report.

3) **Budget Committee of Senate.** Strategic investment funds were disbursed, although the names of recipients were not yet announced by the time of this Senate meeting. The Budget was presented to and passed by the Board of Governors just prior to this Senate meeting. The increase in operating expenditures (\$5,375k) has outpaced the increase in operating revenues (\$655k). There is a \$1.6 M surplus before reserves and capital assets. However, after reserves and capital assets are accounted for (all funds budget) there is a \$4.2M deficit. It is important for budget holders to manage within their budgets. Planning for the 2016/2017 budget was to begin immediately.

4) **Curriculum Governance Review Task Force Committee.** As was reported to you previously, there are plans afoot to change the process for new program approvals and program changes. Science as a whole was generally favourable to the proposed process, although other areas of campus see issues with a Dean being able to veto the program changes/approvals at the very early stages. The proposed process was to be voted upon at the September meeting of Senate, but the new Vice-President Academic, Dr. Christine Bovis-Cnossen, has paused the process for now so that she can familiarize herself with the processes already in place at TRU as well as any proposed changes to those processes.

Next Meeting of Senate: September 28, 2015

Christine Bovis-Cnossen discussed a new academic quality strategy group for BC.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM BUDGET COMMITTEE OF SENATE (BCOS) MEETING, SEPTEMBER 8

(by: Dave Tomkins)

(More detailed information is available by using your mytru and signing into the BCOS on the bottom right of the main page)

- 2014-2015 Financial statements approved by board - online for public viewing

- CAUBO Peer Group Comparators Presentation also available online. Gives comparison to our spending in different areas to other universities.
- 2015-2016 Budget. The government grant was reduced by 1.7% or 1.38 M this fiscal year. 2015/2016 Budget letter from provincial government can be found at http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/budget/15_16/budget_letters/TRU.pdf.
-Funding previously provided for Adult Basic Education (ABE) tuition compensation has been removed from institutions' budgets in 2015/16, representing a reduction of \$425K.

The budget is in a deficit situation of approximately 1.4 million dollars and we are required to put 3 million into reserves on top of that. Once the registration numbers are firmed up this will be worked on. Early results show a drop in the expected number of international students, while the domestic numbers are similar to what was expected. More detail can be found online.

- There is a proposal to change the way international tuition fees are charged. Currently international students pay a flat tuition and take from 3-7 course at the same cost. The new model will have a flat tuition for 4 courses and extra charge for each course above that. (Many students only take 3 or 4 courses so that will be an advantage for them. Those that take 5 or more will pay more (although the number of international students taking more than 5 is relatively small). More detailed information can be found online.
- Results from SIF applications can be found online.

Senate Educational Programs Committee - June 3 2015 Meeting (by: Joanne Rosvick)

The following English admission requirements were presented:

“For Programs where English 1100 remains a required course the existing admissions language will be updated to read:

- a. 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, the existing admissions language will be updated to read:

- b. 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, the admissions language will be updated to read:

- c. English 12/English 12 First Peoples (or equivalent)

The “equivalent” will be the 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.”

MSc Program – Sept 2015 Update (by: Wendy Gardner)

MSc Program Numbers as of September 2015

- We have had 41 students successfully complete the MSc program

- 5 were international, the rest domestic
- We currently have 42 students enrolled
 - 15 students in the 2015 cohort (6 started winter, 2 started summer and 7 started this fall)
 - 7 of the 42 are international students
- We have 38 TRU graduate approved faculty members and an additional 6 graduate faculty members that are adjuncts

TRU Graduate Student Award Opportunities

NEW FOR SEPT 2015 - TRU Graduate Student Research Mentor Fellowship (NEW FOR 2015!)

Application Deadline: Sept 23, 2015 to MSc Coord (Sept. 30, 2015 by 4 p.m. to RIGS)

These awards will go to TRU graduate students who are engaged in research and who wish to serve as mentors for undergraduate research, scholarship and creative enquiry for the 2015-16 academic year. Mentors will volunteer with the Research Office on a variety of projects related to the enhancement of student research, and will have the opportunity to work as a team, mentoring students from a variety of majors and backgrounds, pooling resources and collaborating with faculty. The graduate mentors will be encouraged to volunteer around 5 hours per week, or 50 hours per semester. Each graduate program has been allotted a minimum of three Mentor awards, valued at \$7,000 each (two installments of \$3,500).

Ken Lepin Graduate Student Award

Application Deadline: August 2015 (will be awarded shortly)

The Ken Lepin Graduate Student Awards are available to help students who are entering their first or second year of a full-time graduate studies program for students studying on campus or online. The awards will be given on the basis of outstanding academic achievement in course work, research, and will take into account leadership activities. Five awards valued at \$5,000 each are available to students entering or continuing in TRU's graduate programs.

Environmental Science and Natural Resource Science Fellowship Award

Application Deadline: Nov. 16, 2015 by 4 p.m.

The fellowship was generously created by an anonymous donor for the development of two awards; one for Environmental Sciences and one for Natural Resource Sciences. Recipients — either senior undergraduate or graduate students — will be selected based on their scholarly achievements, their commitment to research and their demonstrated potential for future contributions to our understanding of the environment. The fellowship is a prestigious award with a value of \$7,500 for each recipient.

TOM: Will Garrett-Petts announced that there are four new awards

ACTION: We will try to have someone come talk about these opportunities at one of the next Faculty Council meetings

Student Recruitment and Retention Committee (by: Mike Lemphers)

Orientation

Science hosted a huge interactive orientation event at the TRU orientation again this year, with over 300 students attending. With ARET, RT and AHT conducting their own orientations that means that over 450 students participated in Science orientation. Well done everyone who helped out with this!

Many people also staffed a “Welcome” table last week to greet students as they entered the Science building. Those who helped with staffing the table include: Steve J, Christina M, Christine P, Nancy F, Tom Dickinson,

Dennis A, Joanna U, Janice, Bunny Duggan, Joanne R, Ann C, Susan P, Colin T and Marten L. Thank you for helping show students that Science people are the friendliest on campus.

Upcoming event:

TRU Fall Open House

Science will be participating in the TRU Fall Open House. It will take place on Saturday, October 17. By hosting this event on a weekend, the goal is to attract more potential students from not only our local region, but also the Fraser Valley and Lower Mainland, as well.

Faculty of Science Steering Committee Report - September 17, 2015 (by: Tom Dorval)

Committee Chairs:

- Science Health and Safety Committee: Janine Chan has stepped down as chair of the safety committee in preparation for her upcoming retirement. The committee will be co-chaired by Martin Lettinga and Colin Taylor
- Academic Standards Committee: The standards committee was without a chair. Linda Mueller has agreed to take on that role again
- **Addition:** Susan Purdy has stepped down as co-chair of the student recruitment and retention committee and Sheri Watson has replaced her.

Evaluation of Student Survey Committee: A committee has been struck to “use existing course evaluation data to investigate statistical patterns and make recommendations regarding whether reliable baselines can be established”. The committee still needs representation from the following departments:

Dean's Office; AHT; ARET; Biology; Chemistry; Math & Stats (a statistician); NRS; Physics

Lyn: Does our existing evaluation stay in place?

Tom/Dennis: For most of it and then 4-5 questions that are TRU wide questions will be added, not anticipating a huge change and we'll have the Chair of this committee come to a Faculty Council

Please email TOM Dorval by Oct 1st if you are interested