

Faculty of Science

FACULTY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH, 2015

MINUTES

Guest Speaker: Lian DuMouchel, Director of Global Engagement
Re: their mandate and how they can support the Faculty of Science

(Her attachments are posted on Moodle and emailed out as a pdf document to all faculty)

1. Adoption of Agenda/Minutes

Agenda moved to be adopted by: Nancy Flood, Seconded by: Matt Reudink

Minutes moved to be adopted by: Lyn Baldwin, Seconded by Janice Karpluk

2. New Business

NEW - Notice of Motion:

"In accordance with approved Operating Procedures of the Educational Programs Committee (EPC) of Senate, which classify course section capacity as a 'Category I' change, the Science Faculty Council acknowledges its responsibility to approve section capacities as proposed by Departments." Moved by Cindy Ross Friedman.

Notice of Motion:

"Be it resolved that the Faculty of Science establish a committee that will use existing course evaluation data to investigate statistical patterns and make recommendations regarding whether reliable baselines can be established." Moved by Tom Dickinson.

A new forum has been set up on Moodle for discussion. In addition, this topic will be discussed at both the February 19th and the March 19th Science Faculty Council meeting.

Tom: I would like there to be a committee made up of Statisticians and others to take a look at the right way to use these evaluations. When we do this ourselves, we have more confidence in the ways they may and may not be used (not a university wide analysis, but for Faculty of Science use).

3. Reports

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

There was a Notice of Motion regarding Policy ED 9-0 (ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIPS) to approve changes to entrance scholarships (nothing

contentious). Another policy (ED 3-5 GRADING SYSTEMS) will likely be brought forward to Senate in a Notice of Motion very soon, wherein changes to graduate requirements are being proposed (min. pass being a B (see below in report) 93 or 94 to get A+ not a 90) – there was nothing different for undergraduates.

Other Senate Committees:

(a) **Budget Committee of Senate** – Normand Fortier & Dave Tomkins (**verbal report and other document attached**)

Highlights of the meeting:

- BCOS voted in favour of a motion to increase domestic tuition for the next academic year as per Ministry guidelines (estimated at 2.0%)
- Enrolment presentation
- Head counts on campus (Kamloops and WL) compared to a year ago is down by 1.9%; in Science we are up by 3% (1767 up to 1821). However, budget is not controlled by head counts but by course enrolments. Course enrolments were down by 3.7% (those that show up are taking less courses). In Science, course enrolments were down by 0.7% (6278 down to 6235)
- It's a universal trend and it's being discussed in BCOS as it affects the budget
- Budget forecast: for this year (as of now) there is a deficit of 1.86 million (about 1% of total annual budget)
- Discussions around historical trends, international issues, and areas where there are increases

(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 (no report)

(b) **Education Planning Committee** – Eric Littlely (**report attached**)

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

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

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

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

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

(h) **Awards Committee** – Nancy Flood (**verbal report**)

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

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

Bean Counting:

- Enrolments, up – very positive
- In my budget asks, I asked for an increase of 1.5 million dollars

Problem Solving:

- At some point with the new model, we need to say, this area is growing so we need to give more money to that area
- I've been working with the Geography and Geology areas to combine them (they both have been going down in enrolments, these two areas are mutually supportive in that) so we've put together on paper a GeoScience program. With 4 or 5 courses, we could get certification. I did a market analysis and if we can get students through the program by 2018, these graduates will be in demand

Planning:

- We are also exploring other areas to have a cross-disciplinary program with Science. Sandra Vermeulen from Psychology and I have started discussing a Bachelor of Science for Neuro-Science and this is attractive as a new degree

Rumours?

- None

REPORTS

Senators' Report from January 26, 2015 Senate Meeting

(By: Cynthia Ross Friedman and David Sheets)

Items of significance for Science Faculty:

- 1) **Vice Chair.** Congratulations to D. Sheets, who was acclaimed Pro Tempore Vice Chair of Senate for the January 26 meeting.
- 2) **ED POLICY16-0 and 16-1 (Types of Graduate and Undergraduate Credentials).**
 - a) In response to the letter sent by Science Faculty Council (M. Paetkau/J. Rosvick), the policy subcommittee (of APPC) adjusted ED 16-0 prior to it being moved/seconded at Senate; the policy as adjusted was carried. The policy in its entirety is accessible at http://www.tru.ca/_shared/assets/Types_of_Undergraduate_Degrees5670.pdf. Notable are the additions to the first paragraph under "policy" as well as to the first paragraph under "regulations II"; regulation II-1) and II-2) have also been re-ordered. Special thanks to E. Littlely for his diligence in this matter.
 - b) Former Registrar A. Saweczko and policy subcommittee (of APPC) chair G. Tarzwell noted they were aware that the new policy excluded credentials from certificates in ESL, ESTR *and other areas on campus* as well as excluded the JD credential, noting an additional policy change would be looked at and would come later.
- 3) **Section Capacity/Expected Enrolment.** Discussion regarding the disappearance of the "Section Capacity" field in/from the new CurricUNET was effectively shut down, with Legal Counsel J. Sparks citing that the setting of section caps is not in the purview of Senate (but rather lies with the Board), with G. Tarzwell stating that ED POLICY 8.0 "Educational Standards in Credit Courses & Programs" places "section caps" in the hands of the Vice-President Academic in consultation with Departments, and with A. Saweczko asking Senators "why do you want this change?" Faculty Senators are currently discussing this matter.

- 4) **POLICY ED 3-5 “Grading Systems” and ED 3-0 “Withdrawals”**. Changes to these policies are expected at Senate, although no formal notice of motion was given; the policies were mentioned in passing as something “upcoming”, but an e-mail was sent to Faculty-L regarding the proposed changes on Tuesday January 27, 2015. Items of interest might be (a) the grading scheme and dropping of the minimum “pass” requirement for Graduate Programs, and (b) a language change that states “Faculties, Schools and Departments reserve the right to correct or adjust unofficial grades in order to maintain consistent interpretation of the Letter Grade Definitions set out below with the approval of the Vice-President, Academic and Provost or designate.”; i.e., our grades can be changed. Comments should be made in writing to G. Tarzwell (gtarzwell@tru.ca) immediately (deadline was Feb. 6, 2015).
 - 5) **Branding Exercise**. L. Gnansihamany, Associate Vice-President of Marketing and Communications presented Senate with an update on the “branding”. Phase 1 has been completed, and the “branding committee” has generated four broad themes: Community/Connection, Diversity, Open, and Opportunity. Phase 2 is from January – June 2015 in which there will be a request for proposals made for an “agency partner” to help develop the “brand”.
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Senate Educational Programs Committee - Feb 4 2015 Meeting: Report to Faculty Council

(by: Joanne Rosvick)

The following Faculty of Science items were approved:

1. New Course: MDLB 1991 Laboratory Practicum
 - practicum course held at a laboratory or clinical facility: technical and non-technical aspects of Med Lab Assistant program as per the criteria developed by the Canadian Society for Med Lab Science for the National Certificate Program
2. Major Course Change: BIOL 3220 Field Ecology
 - field course: course originally was a 2nd year course but since the 2nd year curriculum has little room for electives, the course was modified to be suitable for 3rd year (students have more room in their timetables for electives in 3rd and 4th year)

A note of interest: a one-course release per academic year for Senate EPC chair was approved.

Faculty of Science Educational Programs Committee - Report to Faculty Council for February 2015 (by: Eric Littlely)

The committee recommends approval of the following:

Program Changes, BSc in Computing Science and Mathematics: Changes to this major were approved. The changes brought the discipline requirements for both Math and Computing Science into line with recent changes to those majors.

Program Changes, Diploma in Computing Science: Changes to this diploma were approved. The changes brought the discipline requirements for Computing Science into line with recent changes to the major.

New Course Comp 2920 Software Architecture and Design: The Academic Program Review (APR) external review suggested curriculum revision, including this new course. It was devised from IEEE/ACM standard curriculum guidelines and software industry skill set requirements.

Minor Course Revision Comp 2680 Web Site Design and Development: Again, the Academic Program Review (APR) external review suggested revision of this course. It was guided by IEEE/ACM standard curriculum guidelines and software industry skill set requirements

New Course Math 1650 Mathematics for Computing Science: Again the Academic Program Review (APR) recommended a course like this as part of the curriculum changes. This course will replace Math1380, and Math1390 will be deleted. It will be a service course for the BSc Computing Science, the BCS and the Diploma in Computing Science.

Student Recruitment and Retention Committee - Faculty Council Report for February 19, 2015 (by: Mike Lemphers)

Family Night of Science – February 17, 2015 -- 325 pp for this night (Janice)

There is no data to report at this point from this event since this report was prepared prior to that date. In any case, kudos to Christine Petersen, who did an outstanding job organizing this amazing event.

Upcoming events:

Career Fair – February 25, 2015

This major recruiting event targets grade 11 students from throughout the district. Members from various Science departments will staff the Science information table at this event taking place in the Grand Hall.

Spring Break Open House – March 27, 2015

Science will be represented by faculty from various departments within Science. Faculty will participate in a faculty panel discussion, staffing a PR booth and running interactive workshops.

Regional Science Fair – April 9, 2015

Janice Karpluk is organizing this event. Students and faculty are helping as judges and tour guides.

Day of Arts and Science – April 29, 2015

This event also targets grade 11 students and draws students from throughout the district and as far away as the Fraser Valley.

Faculty of Science Awards Committee Report (by: Nancy Flood)

The committee met on Friday, Feb 13 to consider 8 nominees for the Ken Lepin Award for Science; all departments in the Faculty of Science were invited to submit nominees and names had come forward from Biology, Chemistry, Physics and NRS. The committee considered these individuals in light of the criteria for the award and decided to put 4 names forward for consideration. The 4 students will be invited to highlight their qualifications and this and other documentation will be submitted to Ken Lepin, who makes the final decision.

The committee also noted that most of those who had previously volunteered to serve on this committee have either withdrawn their names or failed to respond to numerous invitations to attend. I will be asking the Steering Committee to find new members from various departments.

ACTION: Awards Committee needs more representatives. Steering Committee to put a call out.

The committee also began consideration of its mandate, which has been previously restricted to helping choose winners of various student awards. The dean has requested that this committee take on the job of initiating nominations for at least some of the several awards for faculty (service, teaching, etc.). The committee decided to deliberate on this further, but first pass on to the dean its opinion that (a) it is students who should be initiating the nomination for the teaching award and (b) the nomination process required for most of the awards is too onerous and it would be nice if he could do something about it.

ACTION: Tom will ask the Award Committee of Senate to review the criteria and process for the teaching awards

Next Faculty Council meeting is Thursday, March 19th