

Faculty of Science

FACULTY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, MARCH 19TH, 2015

MINUTES

Guest Speakers:

Larry Iles, Career Education Department **re: Don't Cancel that Class**

- If something comes up and you think you need to cancel a class, give Career Education a call and we'll come into the classroom and talk about our program

Tracy Penny-Light, Student Engagement and Learning Innovation **re: TRU Learning Web**

- We have a new website: <http://www.tru.ca/learning.html> check it out, come by for a visit or email us and tell us what you are working on so that we can insert into our newsletter

Rick Brewster **re: Accreditation Steering Committee draft #2**

- Two years ago TRU decided to seek the North American institutional accreditation with the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). You can read more about it at: <http://www.tru.ca/about/accreditation.html>

On the committee, we have to write a self evaluation of who we are, but it is mostly administrators on the committee, I'm the only faculty member. That is why I am presenting this document and information to you, to get more input from faculty. Remember that this is not the same process for a university as a whole as it is for a program.

Questions: 1) is the self-study factually correct? 2) Does it hit the right tone? 3) Are there any glaring omissions? Not everyone will answer in the same way, depending on who you are, for example: If you are a Chair of a department you will understand (have more knowledge) of how our Human Resources office works. How would the faculty of Science like to provide their feedback?

Motion: To read the accreditation draft document individually (to post on Moodle and email) and make comments on Moodle. The Faculty Council Chair will then collate the comments and send on to Rick Brewster, the representative on the Accreditation Steering Committee.

Moved by Nancy Flood and seconded by Cindy Ross Freidman, majority at this meeting in favour

1. Announcements:

- **Awarded Tenure from the Faculty of Science:**
Dr. Matt Reudink, Department of Biological Sciences, Tenure

- **Awarded Promotion from the Faculty of Science:**
Dr. Normand Fortier, Department of Physical Sciences, Promotion to Senior Lecturer
Dr. Louis Gosselin, Department of Biological Sciences, Promotion to Full Professor
Ms. Robina Manfield, Department of Animal Health Technology, Promotion to Senior Lecturer
Ms. Susan Purdy, Department of Biological Sciences, Promotion to Senior Lecturer
Dr. Matt Reudink, Department of Biological Sciences, Promotion to Associate Professor
Dr. Richard Taylor, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Promotion to Senior Lecturer

Matt Reudink was also awarded “Undergrad Mentor of the year”

- **UGRAD Conference** – Friday, March 27th and Saturday, March 28th
- **Spring Break Open House** – Friday, March 27th
- **Regional Science Fair** – Thursday, April 9th
- **Brew off** - April 2nd
- **Regional Undergrad Fair at UBC-O** - April 9th
- **Trivia Night (through BUGS) moved** - April 9th

2. Adoption of Agenda/Minutes

3. Old Business

- **Results of Moodle Votes from EPC Report at the Feb 19th meeting** – accepted by all who voted

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. **Nela Mora-Diez seconded and it will be posted on Moodle for voting.**

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. **Joanne Rosvick seconded and it will be posted on Moodle for voting.**

- **ACTION items to follow up from past minutes:**

- Awards Committee needs more representatives. Steering Committee to put a call out Tom Dorval (Chair of Steering Committee) will put a call out at the end of semester
- The Dean will ask the Awards Committee of Senate to review the criteria and process for the teaching awards – **Tom did do this**

4. Reports

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

UPDATE (from past minutes items): The Graduate Studies Committee of Senate has since proposed a modification to ED 3-5 for the Graduate Grading Schedule. Prior to proceeding with

these changes through the Senate process, APPC of Senate has been asked to send out the policy revisions to the TRU community for one last round of consultation. These proposed changes will be posted to Faculty-L. **Please send any comments that you might have to gtarzwell@tru.ca by March 23rd.**)

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 (no report)

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

(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 (no report)

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

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

Bean Counting:

For the last month or so we have been focusing a great deal of effort to understand the financial forecast to year end. There have been lots of ins and outs that have complicated the picture and the projections change constantly. It looks like we may come out within 0.4% of the actual target—\$56,000 short on \$13,500,000. Although I argue that this is not significantly different from zero, the Finance department argues otherwise. I appreciate everyone's cooperation in helping us steward our financial resources so carefully.

Problem Solving:

The reason why understanding our final situation is so important, is that this year's expenses are the basis of our next year's budget. I am still awaiting the approval of the draft budget I submitted Feb 27th. In it I built in a 4% increase in non-wage costs in anticipation of paying for supplies with more expensive US dollars, and to accommodate a 4% inflation on goods and services. I also put in lines requesting retirement replacements and sessional resources to manage the expansion of Engineering, the growth of the Bachelor of Building Science, and the completion of courses that would yield a Geoscience degree. I also submitted a proposal Ron Smith generated for a Brewing program and program for a certificate in Sustainable Ranching

that would include ourselves, with business, tourism, trades and others and be taught in Williams Lake.

Planning:

Planning has taken a bit of a back seat in the face of financials and budget, but existing projects forge on. I have been working on the development of a Canada Research Chair related to CODS, completion and expansion of the Wells Gray facilities, opportunities for Industrial research chairs in a couple of areas and...oh yeah, teaching a course. (No question the best part of any day.)

Two ideas I would like to discuss is whether there might be a better alignment of our Departments in Science. This comes about because of thoughts I have entertained about how Physics might be better aligned with ARET and Engineering. Take some time and discuss things in your departments. (I am committed to if it's not broken don't fix it, but when people don't step forward to be chairs of academic units, I take that as a sign of things being broken.)

I'm also trying to look to the next five years and anticipate the challenges we will have. In order to do that I'm trying to think through the retirements we may take in the near future. If you are willing to share your thinking in this regard I promise to keep it confidential.

Rumour Check:

You ask and (as I say) if I won't get fired, I'll tell you everything I know.

REPORTS

Senators' Report from February 23, 2015 Senate Meeting

(By: Cynthia Ross Friedman and David Sheets)

Items of significance for Science Faculty:

- 1) **Vice Chair.** C. Ross Friedman was acclaimed Pro Tempore Vice Chair of Senate for the February 23 meeting.
- 2) **Policy Revisions.**
 - a) **ED 9-0 "Entrance Scholarships."** Notice of motion to amend policy was given in January; at the February Senate meeting, the motion was referred back to the Academic Planning & Priorities Committee (APPC) of Senate so that APPC could incorporate some of the student senators' concerns around what a TRU Scholarship actual means from a broader policy perspective. To look over the revised policy (version to be presented at the March 23 Senate meeting), visit the current Senate Agenda for the March 23 meeting.
 - b) **ED 9-1 "Academic Achievement Awards."** Notice of motion served. Will be discussed at the March 23 Senate meeting, You may view the policy as presented here in the Feb Agenda: <https://tru.civicweb.net/Documents/DocumentList.aspx?ID=73661>
- 3) **Reports.** A Winter Enrolment Report and TRU Open Learning Update were presented. Overall, as of the stable enrolment date (January 28, 2015), for Winter2015, course enrolments are down 3.7% compared to Winter 2014. Domestic course enrolments are down 2.7% and International course enrolments are down 7.0%. Faculty of Science- decreased by 0.2%. Decreases in Agricultural Related; Architectural, Digital Art & Design; Electronics & Engineering; Allied Health; and the Mathematics and Statistics departments were offset by increasing course enrolments in Biological Sciences; Computing Science; Natural Resource Sciences; and Physical Sciences. Course enrolments for the Master of Environmental Science remained stable. Dean Dickinson can likely elaborate on these numbers. Open Learning seems to be doing very well

4) Provost's Report – Accreditation. The Accreditation Steering Committee's (ASC's) draft self-evaluation will be released on to Senate via its Agenda and the draft will be discussed at the March 23 Senate meeting. The draft self-evaluation will then be made available for university-wide review and comment via a moderated comment board on the accreditation website <http://www.tru.ca/vpacademic/accreditation.html> from March 23 to April 20. On Apr 27, 2015, the self-evaluation report will go to Senate for recommendation. Thus, Faculty Council of Science should endeavor to coordinate a response. Faculty Council Chair, M. Paetkau and ASC member R. Brewster will facilitate this discussion and response.

Budget Committee of Senate – update from March 10th meeting (by: Dave Tomkins)

The March 10th budget committee of senate was a long one basically dealing with Strategic Investment Fund presentations. (There was one other item regarding parking revenue which is on track to be down approximately \$60,000 for the year ending March 31, 2015).

The Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) requests are brought to the Budget Committee of Senate for advisory purposes only. Members of the can make comments on different items, but the decisions are not ours. The budget for SIFs is 2.35 million this coming year. A total of 5.0 million was requested. By the time we got the list that had been pared down to 3.66 million.

The ones proposed from Science were for 2nd year engineering, 4th year ARET, and 2nd year Geography/Geoscience (with Arts). All of the science ones appeared to be self-funding (ultimately cost-neutral) if the enrollments go as expected.)

Also likely of interest to Science is a proposal from FOSHED for research into the development of a twelve-month program for B.Ed. (secondary) STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) that will engage the interest of all students including students previously under-represented in science and math courses (female students, Aboriginal students and students from minority groups); combines Aboriginal and Eurocentric perspectives.

The complete listing is accessible on the BCOS site (accessible through mytru.ca).

Senate Educational Programs Committee - Mar 4 2015 Meeting: Report to Faculty Council (by: Joanne Rosvick)

The following general info topics were discussed:

1. Policy ED 2-4 revision: Transferability of University Credits
 - rearranging of wording, no changes to affect transfer of courses
2. Policy ED 3-1 revision: Student Attendance
 - changes to state that students may be deregistered from a course if they don't attend the first 2 lectures/labs (at the instructor's discretion)
3. Dealing with the changes to course programs regarding English requirements:
 - Kellee Caton asked if it would be possible to have each department submit a blurb for their programs and have it incorporated by the Registrar's Office, rather than having to go into CurricuNET and fill out forms to incorporate the change. Lindsay Harris (interim Registrar) will look into this.

Student Recruitment and Retention Committee Faculty Council Report for March 19, 2015

(by: Mike Lemphers and Susan Purdy)

Family Night of Science – February 17, 2015

325 people attended this event. Informal feedback from participants was extremely positive.

Career Fair – February 25, 2015

Career fair attendance was much improved over the previous year; however, some local schools chose not to participate. Those students who attended were engaged and had excellent questions.

Upcoming events:

Spring Break Open House – March 27, 2015

This event is aimed at promoting TRU to high school students and their families. Faculty will participate in a faculty panel discussion, staff a PR booth and run an interactive workshop. The workshop is a ‘Speed dating’ type session in S337 from 1:30 to 2:15 pm where a senior TRU science student will promote ‘their’ program with a 5 minute talk, and then afterwards the student and a Faculty member from that Department will participate in a “speed dating” type session where the high schools students will go to the various stations around the room to specifically to ask questions about the programs in which they are interested.

Regional Science Fair – April 9, 2015

Janice Karpluk is organizing this event. Students and faculty are helping as judges and tour guides. In addition, various departments are putting on half-day workshops for the kids while their projects are being judged.

Counsellor Conference – April 28th, 2015

TRU is hosting 80 to 100 high school counselors from the local region and the lower mainland and we are going to be offering three repeated 40 minute sessions (12:30, 1:20 and 2:10 pm) to promote the various departments in science. We need a faculty representative from each department to come and speak for 5 minutes in each session on their program (AHT, ARET, Resp, Math, Computing, Physics, Chem, Biol, NRSC). Your representative on the SRRC will be asking for volunteers to help with this!

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.