**SOCIAL SCIENCES FACULTY COUNCIL**

Friday, February 12, 2016

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Bldg. 356, Room 209

**Minutes of the Meeting**

**Attendance:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Voting Members | Present | Regrets |
| John Black Dean and Chair | ✓ |  |
| Pam Shaw Vice-Chair/Director, Community Planning | ✓ |  |
| Colleen McVeigh Chair, Anthropology | ✓ |  |
| Beth McLin Chair, Criminology | ✓ |  |
| Hannah Wilson Chair, Geography | ✓ |  |
| Catherine Schittecatte Chair, Global Studies |  | ✓ |
| Maureen Okun Chair, Liberal Studies | ✓ |  |
| Carolyn Swanson Chair, Philosophy | ✓ |  |
| David Livingstone Chair, Political Studies | ✓ |  |
| Deborah Matheson (one vote between the two) co-Chair, Psychology | ✓ |  |
| Darren Hannesson co-Chair, Psychology |  | ✓ |
| Sylvie Lafrenière Chair, Sociology | ✓ |  |
| Robert Riggan (one vote between the two advisors) B.A. Advisor | ✓ |  |
| Lynda Patterson B.A. Advisor |  | ✓ |
| Darren Hannesson Member at Large |  | ✓ |
| Dave Hopwood Member at Large |  | ✓ |
| Deanna McNaught Member at Large | ✓ |  |
| Tasha Scott Member at Large | ✓ |  |
| Jeff Nicol Member at Large | ✓ |  |
| Teunesha Evertse (MCP) Student Representative |  | ✓ |
| Elizabeth Prevost (PHIL) Student Representative | ✓ |  |
|  | **15** | |
| **Quorum = 10** |
| Recorder |  |  |
| Deanna McNaught Assistant to the Dean | ✓ |  |
| **Guests:**  Dana Collette, Law Professor  Alan Gilchrist, Geography Professor/Education Standards rep | | |

**Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION:**  Shaw/Lafrenière

That the agenda for this meeting be approved.

**CARRIED**

**Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION:** Lafrenière/Wilson

That the minutes from the January 29, 2016 Faculty Council be approved.

**CARRIED**

**Legal Studies Certificate Proposal – David Livingstone and Dana Collette**

There are many students going to law school upon graduating from VIU. Students in the Nanaimo campus Law Network have been asking for more law courses, both to introduce them to law to see if they like it, and to help them get in to law school. The Legal Studies Certificate proposes to provide students with courses around legal issues, legal reasoning, and primary source reasoning in an interdisciplinary fashion. The courses are offered in the Faculties of Management and Social Sciences to begin with.

It is intended for BA students and not as a stand-alone certificate. It was suggested to call it an ‘advanced’ certificate to give it more weight, as the term ‘certificate’ doesn’t show the greatness of this certificate. This certificate won’t help one get into law school, but it will help one once in law school, as it will be a challenging program.

**MOTION:** Okun/McVeigh

To approve the Legal Studies Certificate to move through Stage 1 of the process.

**CARRIED**

This certificate is also going before the Faculty Councils of Management and Arts and Humanities.

**(Un)Official Reading “Week” in the Fall – Sylvie Lafrenière**

Sociology, Liberal Studies, and Philosophy are departments that have been offering unofficial week-long study days each fall semester, with some offering study meetings, office hours, etc. to maintain contact with students. VIU has officially offered a Fall study day, the day after Thanksgiving. Some students have mentioned that this is too early in the semester and they would prefer the break in November. Departments are seeking guidance from the Dean as to what guidelines they must follow for these breaks. The Dean supports the departments’ decisions around breaks in the fall and asks that students be informed that breaks apply specifically to departments and they are expected to attend all other classes.

**Degree Breadth Requirement: Implementing VIU Graduate Attributes – Alan Gilchrist**

A list of graduate attributes (once known as learning outcomes) has been passed by Senate in Spring 2015. Alan, our rep on Education Standards, has been asked to seek input from our Faculty on how to implement these attributes.

A number of questions arose:

How are attributes measured?

Is it necessary for each student to have every attribute?

What is the core minimum requirement for graduation?

Does our BA breadth requirement need to be expanded?

How are students tracked, as we can only report on them when they are in our courses?

Who synthesizes the tracking of students between Faculties?

How do ‘we’ ensure this breadth?

It was suggested that Program Reviews may be the mechanism to measure these attributes. Others thought these should be reported in the Summative Assessments.

John suggested that Alan host a meeting open generally to faculty so he may get feedback.

**Reports from Senate – Sylvie Lafrenière and Beth McLin**

Summative Program Assessments – Dave Witty suggested that ANTH and CRIM be enhanced.

Appeal Process Proposal – a working group has proposed to Senate that the policy and procedure on grade appeals be amended so that there will not only be a final grade appeal, but also the opportunity for students to appeal each assignment during the semester. The fee will be eliminated and there will be one reassessor, not two.

The purpose for these changes is to empower the students; however, it must be said that there are no faculty on the task force that developed this proposal. Faculty are raising concerns about this proposal, and a lot of discussion happened at Senate. The task force meets on a weekly basis and you are encouraged to send your concerns directly to Marie Armstrong. At this point, the proposal is being reworked and will be brought before Senate for final approval.

Points raised at Faculty Council:

-The ‘no fee’ invites students to appeal casually and takes the formal processes away and could damage the class.

-students no longer have to talk with instructors regarding appeals

-how can there be a task force on this without Faculty representation?

-should we write a letter from the Faculty Council?

The points made today have also been brought up by others and John has shared these with Marie Armstrong and Senate (via email).

ACTION: John to send wording of new proposal to all faculty.

Academic Plan – this plan is being reworked as 75% of the existing action items have been completed.

Aboriginal Education Plan – a new reiteration of the Aboriginal Education Plan was presented at Senate.

The Certificate in Addiction Studies has passed at Senate and is now on the Ministry website for review/comments.

Curriculum Ctte – all pending proposals have passed.

**Report from Student Reps – Elizabeth Prevost**

The student reps met with the Dean (Dean’s Advisory Council) and discussed how the students were traumatized by the lockdown (shelter in place) event on February 4.

**Chair’s Report – John Black**

If you have any feedback regarding the Shelter in Place event on February 4, please send it to John. He will send all feedback to Carrie Chassels (Student Affairs) and Mark Egan (Health and Safety).

Pam Shaw received another MABRRI grant in the amount of $38,000 to develop a community mapping app. She will be hiring students with this money.

Helene Demers has been included in a SSHRRC grant application.

There were five VIURAC grants awarded to Social Sciences faculty.

RSACDC have awarded funds, with many going to Soc Sci faculty, including 1 release.

Registration is seeking information on courses for upper level students in other faculties. There should be no prereqs except for 3rd year standing. Registration will advertise these courses.

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – they collaborate with academic institutions on seeking research grantes, and have been successful. John will put their paper on their magazine on the faculty lounge table for your review.

Compass Rose – this student journal has just gone live and is taking submissions. There are also positions available to students (writers, editorial board – voluntary) and three copy editor positions paying $150 stipend each. A call will go out to Chairs and will be posted on the LBST Facebook page.

The Feb 26 Faculty Council meeting will be cancelled, as the All Faculty meeting in on February 22.

**Motion to adjourn:** McLin/Okun

Next meeting, Friday, March 11 in room 209, bldg 356.