**SOCIAL SCIENCES FACULTY COUNCIL**

Friday, January 15, 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 (via David Livingstone) 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 | ✓ |  |
| To be elected Student Representative |  |  |
|  | **16** |
| **Quorum = 10**  |
| Recorder |  |  |
| Deanna McNaught Assistant to the Dean | ✓ |  |
| **Guests:**Bruce Cornwall and Matthew Finlayson, Instructors, English Language and MBA English Support |

**English Language Support for Social Sciences’ International Education Students – Bruce Cornwall and Matthey Finlayson, English Language Support, International Education**

There are 2000 International students on campus, and 180 of these are ESL students. Bruce and Matthew work with International students in the Writing Centre to help them with their language skills.

If you have International students in your class, please connect with Bruce or Matthew for English language support for these students. They are happy to attend one of your classes or will provide workshops for students on areas such as academic integrity (plagiarism) or classroom engagement. They are finding that students are too busy to attend workshops, so they are looking at providing online workshops to students. Bruce and Matthew are here to help students who may not be language-ready for their academic courses. They are available for students to bring them course assignments to get help with the entire process of writing, and students are encouraged not to wait until the last minute. Bruce does language coaching, which helps students to develop obtainable goals.

Don’t hesitate to refer students, the earlier the better.

The Writing Centre works with International and domestic students. Sylvie Lafrenière and Jeff Lewis to connect with Bruce and Matthew to include this service in their University Essentials course that is being piloted in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

**Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION:**  Lafrenière/Okun

That the agenda for this meeting be approved.

 **CARRIED**

**Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION:** Lafrenière/Nicol

That the minutes from the December 11, 2015 Faculty Council be approved, as amended.

 **CARRIED**

**INTR 104 New Course Proposal – Beth McLin**

INTR 104 combines CRIM theory with applied theatre (theatre of the oppressed) to delve into social justice issues. Beth is working with Eliza Gardiner on this course and is hoping it will be offered in Fall 2016.

**MOTION:** McLin/McVeigh

To approve INTR 104 new course proposal.

**CARRIED**

**Social Sciences and Experiential Learning – Beth McLin**

The Department of Criminology is looking to change its practicum model and is looking for suggestions from Faculty Council about different successful models. Is there a way to provide a cross-department course to prepare students for Social Sciences-based practicum? Is there any interest among departments to do this?

It was suggested that there is already a generic prep course possibly being offered by the Co-curricular and Experiential Learning Centre. They want to provide both prep courses and placements.

GIS and RMOT have their own practicum models. Beth will connect with Dave Cake (GIS) and John Morgan (RMOT) to discuss these.

**Redeemer University College Transfer Credit – Carolyn Swanson**

Carolyn Swanson had been asked about transfer credits for a course, Introduction to Philosophy, from Redeemer University College in Ancaster, Ontario.  Her concern was that the course didn’t cover enough core philosophical theories or philosophical questions, but rather, promoted a particular (Christian) worldview and set of tenets, based on biblical teachings and scriptures.  A lot of the required readings came from the instructor’s own books, published by a Christian publishing house, preaching against, for example, homosexual relations, evolution, female leadership, and material explanations for the soul.  This was in line with the institutional objectives of “preparing students to reflect a distinctive worldview” and “providing them with a post-secondary education that is grounded in Scripture” (<https://www.redeemer.ca/about/mission-and-vision>).   The concern was that this course and institution were not trying to promote students to think independently or critically, or to assess evidence or ideas objectively.  Rather, the course and institution were approaching “education” with a strong preconceived agenda.

While the course did not translate to any PHIL course at VIU, it will still be granted unassigned transfer credit, i.e., credit as a general elective.  However, Carolyn wasn’t sure that it should be granted transfer credit at all.  Others shared her concern, and this raised a general discussion on transfer credit.  John suggested (1) raising the issue at a Philosophy Articulation Meeting and (2) recommending to Registration that the Chair or Dean approve any transfer requests from Redeemer University College (even for unassigned credit).

**MOTION:** McVeigh/Matheson

That any transfer credit requests coming in from Redeemer University be vetted by the Chair of the appropriate department, and not by the Registration clerks.

**CARRIED**

**Chair’s Report – John Black**

The Gerontology Diploma (HHS) has been approved at Curriculum Ctte and is going before Senate for final educational approval.

The Inside/Out Prison Education Program is doing extremely well. It is funded the Vancouver Foundation for three years.

The Political Studies Department has received funding from Elections BC and is creating a course to promote youth involvement in the election in May 2017.

Working Group for Evaluation of Students – this working group will come up with guidelines for professors regarding how to evaluate students, how to have grade parity between departments, etc. This group comprises John Black, Pam Shaw, Maureen Okun, and Carolyn Swanson. John hopes that the first draft of these guidelines will be presented to Faculty Council before February, and then brought to the All Faculty meeting on February 22.

The grade appeals policy is under review. In the present proposal it is to be more applicable to an array of appeals and will allow any assignment to be appealed. Chairs will be responsible for this process and the application fee will be abolished.

Questions arose from Faculty Council about whether Faculty were consulted about this change in procedure. It was also suggested that if Chairs become responsible for the new process that they be provided with training.

John will be on holiday for one week beginning January 29, he will be at a conference in Toronto mid-April re: fostering partnership agreements, and he will be in Italy for Liberal Studies Abroad for 5 weeks beginning in May.

**Updates**

There is a WUSC fundraiser planned. Thursday, February 4 “Requiem for Syrian Refugee” will be hosted at Worldbridger. The film maker will be Skyped in from New York for Q&A. Please promote this off-campus. Colleen McVeigh will send the information out to you.

Stories of Migration will be happening on Tuesday, February 2 in the Shaw Auditorium.

**Motion to adjourn:** Shaw/Lafrenière

Next meeting, Friday, January 29 in room 209, bldg 356.