**SOCIAL SCIENCES FACULTY COUNCIL**

Friday, January 26, 2018

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Bldg. 250, Room 402

**Minutes of the Meeting**

**Attendance:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Voting Members | Present | Regrets |
| Elizabeth Brimacombe Dean and Chair | ✓ |  |
| Deborah Matheson Vice-Chair/Chair of Psychology | ✓ |  |
| Dave Hopwood Chair, Anthropology | ✓ |  |
| Beth McLin Chair, Criminology | ✓ |  |
| Dave Cake Chair, Geography | ✓ |  |
| Laura Suski Chair, Global Studies | ✓ |  |
| Maureen Okun Co - Chair, Liberal Studies | ✓ |  |
| David Livingstone Co - Chair, Liberal Studies | ✓ |  |
| Carolyn Swanson Chair, Philosophy | ✓ |  |
| Alex Netherton Chair, Political Studies | ✓ |  |
| Sylvie Lafrenière Chair, Sociology | ✓ |  |
| Pam Shaw Director, MCP | ✓ |  |
| Robert Riggan (one vote between the two advisors) B.A. Advisor |  | ✓ |
| Lynda Patterson B.A. Advisor | ✓ |  |
| Linda Derksen Member at Large | ✓ |  |
| Michele Patterson Member at Large | ✓ |  |
| Tasha Scott Member at Large |  | ✓ |
| Jeff Nicol Member at Large | ✓ |  |
| Amanda Inglis (CRIM) Student Representative | ✓ |  |
| Imtiaz Taj (PSYC) Student Representative | ✓ |  |
|  | **18** | |
| **Quorum = 10** |
| Recorder |  |  |
| Debbie VanderHoek, Administrative Assistant to the Dean |  |  |
| Guests  Ben Hyman and Kathleen Reed (Library)  Laura Shanner, Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries Coordinator  Keomi Vance (CRIM student) and Amanda Wynn (SOCI student) | | |

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:12 a.m.

1. **Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION**: Shaw/Matheson

To approve the agenda as presented. **CARRIED**

1. **Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION:** Suski/Swanson

To approve the minutes from the November 24, 2017 Faculty Council as amended.

**CARRIED**

1. **Library Strategic Plan**

Ben Hyman, University Librarian and Kathleen Reed, Assessment and Data Librarian provided a brief overview of the Library Services and how it relates to the Strategic Plan which was approved at Provost Council.

* usage is going up; ½ million people have visited the library
* Library budget cuts are documented in the plan
* the challenge is to sustain a level of services with limited available funds
* good news - they have been able to sustain core investments
* some changes are coming to the physical space
* working on evolution of print collection
* working on more collaborative bookable space
* supporting students with technology and technology access (cell phones)
* working toward decolonizing library services
* reaching out to communities (ie. Museum)
* offering digital literacies (smartphones, tablets, laptops, etc.)
* open access – accessible to all students/places
* looking at all regional campuses as core providers
* working with scholarship and research departments

1. **Request for Program Change**

The program change for admission to Psychology Honours BA is to provide flexibility for students by allowing for more grade variation in the courses required for admission.

Faculty discussed the admission requirement and agreed to the proposed change: “*A minimum combined average of a 3.33 (B+) in the following courses: PSYC 204, PSYC 300A and PSYC 300B”.*

**MOTION**: Matheson/Lafreniere

To approve the program change proposal for Psychology Honours BA. **CARRIED**

**5. New Course Proposals**

PHIL 248: Special Topics

PHIL 335: Philosophy and Personal Relations – Advanced Chair’s Report

PHIL 446: Plato and Aristotle

The course prerequisites wording for PHIL 446 was discussed. It was agreed by faculty to change the wording to: *“Third-year standing. Completion of LBST 250 or POLI 260 or both PHIL 111 and 112”*. Carolyn Swanson will inform Robert Pepper-Smith about the proposed changes to PHIL 446 and to seek his approval for the recent change in prerequisites.

**MOTION**: McLin/Cake

To approve new course proposals PHIL 248 and PHIL 335 as presented.

To approve new course proposal PHIL 446 as amended.

**CARRIED**

**6. CBAIR Project**

Students Keomi Vance and Amanda Wynn spoke about Team TASK (a group of four Vancouver Island University student researchers participating in the Community Based Applied Interdisciplinary Research course - CBAIR). On behalf of Sharon Hobenshield, the group is conducting research by examining the opinions of teaching faculty in relation to Indigenization and reconciliation in the classroom at VIU. Team TASK is seeking Department Chair volunteers to participate in a survey and to attend their focus group(s). A handout was distributed to faculty with a list of dates and times when the focus groups will meet.

**7. Chair’s Report**

* 1. Staff Changes: Faculty Secretary, Tasha Scott has accepted a one-year term position with Student Affairs. Posting for Tasha’s replacement will be advertised shortly. Tara Cook will be joining us as a casual for the next few weeks until we hire a replacement. In Tasha’s absence, please bring matters to Janeane.

**Action:** Dean Elizabeth Brimacombe will follow-up with an email to faculty regarding office staffing until the new hire is in place.

7.2 New Geography Chair: Welcome to incoming Geography Chair, Dave Cake. And a huge thank you to Hannah Wilson for her role as Geography Chair for the past two years which was greatly appreciated.

* 1. Discovery Days: Discovery Days (a campus-wide student recruitment event for students in grades 10 – 12) will run February 27-March 1, 2018. Our faculty will host three one-hour open house to showcase what our Faculty has to offer (Building 356, Room 111, 11 am - noon) on Feb. 27, 28 and March 1. Faculty will be asked to participate and speak to potential students at these open houses running during Discovery Days. Dean Brimacombe will be present all three days. Several individual faculty members are also giving talks and there is room in the schedule to accommodate a few more offerings in this realm. Dean Brimacombe will follow up with Chairs with more information about the open house and faculty talks during Discovery Days. We will be tracking the number of students attending each day as requested by Laura Shanner. Please connect with Janeane McGillivray if you have any questions about the open house.

**Action**: Dean Brimacombe will email event details about Discovery Days to faculty.

**8. Department Updates**Chairs are to submit any department updates to the Dean’s Office for circulation to Faculty Council members.

**9. Updates from the Senators**

No updates.

**10. Student Rep Reports**

Student representative Amanda Inglis (CRIM) replaces Serena Klaver (MCP).

**Action:** Student Rep Reports will be placed higher on next week’s agenda.

**11. Graduate Attributes**

Dean Brimacombe will work on developing a report to senate on Graduate Attributes for Social Sciences. There will be more movement in weeks to come.

**12. Other Business**

CBAIR students are planning various focus groups to gather information from newcomers in Nanaimo. The information gathered will be presented to the Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society to better understand what newcomers require when they come to Nanaimo. The focus group sessions will be held downtown at the Vancouver Island Regional Library.

**Action:** Elizabeth McLin will forward a poster to the Dean’s office for circulation to faculty via email.

**13. Adjournment**

**MOTION**: McLin/Cake

To adjourn the meeting at 11:27 a.m. **CARRIED**

**Next Meeting:**

February 9, 2018 (10:00-11:30)