**SOCIAL SCIENCES FACULTY COUNCIL**

Friday, January 29, 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 | ✓ |  |
|  | **13** | |
| **Quorum = 10** |
| Recorder |  |  |
| Deanna McNaught Assistant to the Dean | ✓ |  |
|  | | |

**Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION:**  Wilson/Hopwood

That the agenda for this meeting be approved.

**CARRIED**

**Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION:** Swanson/Lafrenière

That the minutes from the January 15, 2016 Faculty Council be approved.

**CARRIED**

**Self-directed faculty evaluation – John Black**

In the VIUFA collective agreement negotiations, language was introduced for faculty to conduct self-evaluation in a totally confidential manner. The existing online evaluation is available to all faculty (mandatory or voluntary). John does not see the results of voluntary evaluations, unless specifically requested to do so. Do we, as a Faculty, commit to support self-evaluations? John suggested that we bring this to the All Faculty meeting on February 22nd.

Some faculty already self-evaluate. The Centre for Innovation and Excellence in Learning (CIEL) will come to your class to facilitate your mid-term evaluation and will report the confidential results to you.

Action: Deanna to send out blank evaluation form to FC members. She will also contact Andrew Speed to see who has access to these evaluations and how secure they are.

**Chair’s Report – John Black**

Tony Robertson will be returning to work. Darren Hannesson and Jeff Nicol are covering his classes in the meantime.

Philosophy Hire - A half-time Philosophy and Religious Studies professor has been hired to replace Janice Porteous in her retirement this summer. Dr. Warren Heiti will join us in August 2016.

SSFC Bylaw amendment – the bylaw amendment approved at the All Faculty last February has not been added to the Senate agenda as of yet. John is pursuing this with Marie Armstrong.

Open Education Resources – John attended a presentation about this. Electronic textbooks are free to BC students. Please refer to VIU’s library website for further information. This resource is being promoted by the Centre for Innovation and Excellence in Learning, and Chairs are encouraged to share this information with your departments. John suggested that faculty may apply to the Research and Scholarly Activity and Curriculum Development Committee for the purpose of developing Open Education Resources within their curriculum.

Senate – the proposal to change the formal grade appeal process is on the Senate agenda for this Thursday. VIUSU and Student Affairs appear to have brought this item forward and Marie Armstrong is working to have it implemented. John won’t be there to share our Faculty’s concerns, including his own view that formal appeals should happen only at the end of semester, not throughout. Ross MacKay, Sylvie Lafrenière (Senator), and Beth McLin (Senator) have similar concerns and will speak to this item at Thursday’s Senate meeting.

This proposal will allow anything to be re-marked during the semester. None of the Deans supports it wholeheartedly, but some parts are acceptable to many. The fair treatment of students is fully supported, but this new proposal may not be the vehicle to facilitate that. One assignment rarely makes the difference in the final grade. Our Faculty Council agrees that the current policy is satisfactory, as ‘in progress’ appeals don’t allow the cumulative process to occur.

There is always the informal process for students to appeal within the semester.

Addiction Studies Certificate – Final approval is going before Senate.

Task Force on Evaluation of Students – this task force comprises John Black, Pam Shaw, Carolyn Swanson, and Maureen Okun. They hope to have a draft of the preliminary guidelines ready to present at the All Faculty meeting on February 22nd. They are seeking input from the Faculty and hope for final approval at the August All Faculty meeting (date tba).

**Updates**

International Development Week – Catherine Schittecatte

Please encourage your students to attend this week. There is a lot happening.

25th Anniversary of the BA program at VIU – John Black

Liberal Studies was the first degree to be offered at VIU 25 years ago. Should this be celebrated and how? If anyone is interested in planning this celebration, please let John know. Should we have a reunion? Should we have the alumni association involved?

**Committee Reports**

Student Reps – bookstore issue:

The student reps have met to discuss the common occurrence of texts running out in the bookstore at the beginning of each semester, leaving students without. This sometimes causes students to fail the course. The bookstore should be approached to discuss policy around this.

Is it publisher driven? Students are suggesting that each text for each course be put in the library under “Reserve” so that everyone may have access to it, especially while waiting for the ‘next shipment’ to come in. It is understood that the library is pushing back on this suggestion. For instance, custom books may not be allowed to be placed on reserve. The student reps were encouraged to share with their fellow students the suggestion that if this occurs in the future to immediately speak with profs and Chairs of departments, as soon as problems arise.

Senate – Beth McLin

There is a new reiteration of the Aboriginal Education Plan going to Senate.

**Motion to adjourn:** Lafrenière/McLin

Next meeting, Friday, February 12 in room 209, bldg 356.