

DEPARTMENT OF EARTH SCIENCES

Departmental Meeting Monday March 8th, 2010 2:30 P.M.

In Attendance: Derek Thorkelson (Chair), Bonnie Karhukangas (Secretary), Diana Allen, Andy Calvert, Shahin Dashtgard, Gwenn Flowers, Dan Gibson, Dirk Kirste, James MacEachern, Kevin Cameron, Doug Stead, Brent Ward, Tarja Vaisanen (Departmental Assistant), Nathalie Vigouroux-Caillibot (Graduate Student Rep.), Matt Plotnikoff.

1. Approval of Minutes

Motion to Approve Minutes of September 23, 2009 D. Thorkelson, Seconded: K. Cameron. *Unanimous with numerical correction.*

2. Business from Previous Minutes

- a) No business from previous minutes

3. Chair's Report – D. Thorkelson

a) New University President

- The new university president will be Andrew Petter.

b) Dean of Science Search

- 1st candidate (external) has been presented, and 2 additional candidates will be presented (internal). Faculty should provide the search committee with any input/recommendations.

c) EASC New Dept Chair

- New chair will take over in Sept, 2011. Nominations should be considered.

d) Budget

- TA budget down 10% and Department budget down 5% - this should be manageable and not have too much effect on the department.

e) EASC Vehicles

- Cheap vehicles could be available at auction provided the university purchasing department approves. We are looking at getting a crew cab pick-up and we may purchase one vehicle initially from a dealer until the proposal to purchase from an auction is approved from the university purchasing department.

f) Digital Mapping Course

- Pilot course to be offered at Harbour Centre provided enough students register.

h) BCGS Money

- Large funding has been allotted to the University of Victoria in the past. The Minister has been made aware of this and will revise funding allotments in the future to include all Universities.

i) Acknowledgement of Risk Form

- Suggestion to change the title to 'Field Safety Hazards so as not to include the word 'risk' which alludes to legal issues. Hoping to have all students fill this form in one time only at the beginning of a field school.

j) EASC Curriculum Revision

- Robbie has been working on a flow chart based on 4 courses per year. The undergrad committee will review and hopefully we can post around the department as reference for the students.

k) GEOG 213

- Process needs to be reviewed and changed – difficulty dealing with Geography.

4. **Committee Reports**

- a) Graduate Studies Committee Report – Dan Gibson
 - i) The grad committee proposed a wording change for the course calendar entry.
Motion to Approve Proposed Changes to Course Calendar D. Gibson, Seconded: K. Cameron. *Unanimous*.
 - ii) Offer letter wording change. Discussion on how the letter should be worded.
Paragraph 3 will be revised and sent around to faculty for comments.
Motion to Approve Paragraph 2 revisions to offer letter D. Gibson, Seconded: D. Allen. *Unanimous*.
- b) Undergraduate Studies Committee Report – Brent Ward
 - i) EASC 405 has passed and is now on to senate to approve.
 - ii) Academic Dishonesty issues – more instances are happening. Suggestion to have at least one female & one male proctor for final exams.

5. **Other Committee Reports**

- a) Petroleum Chair Search Update –Shahin Dashtgard
Still in the works – having trouble as most companies have already been approached.
- b) Equipment Committee – Kevin Cameron
\$7-8,000 spent to date – mostly on computer replacements in the labs.

6. **Any other business**

- a) Thesis Binding Costs: Dan Gibson
 - \$25 binding
 - \$.06/page Black & White
 - \$.29/page Color
 - Approved* (1 abstained)
- b) Graduate Committee: Nathalie Vigouroux-Caillibot
The Grad Committee has received a grant of \$1,500 from GAC Cordillera for a field trip. They have narrowed it down to 3 sites and would like faculty input to determine which site would be best.

7. **Closed Meeting**

- Handicapped student: preparations and development of an alternative program.
- Lengthy discussion on the ability for wheelchair bound students to enter Earth Sciences programs (field work issues)

8. **Motion to Adjourn** *Unanimous*

Meeting ended at 4:30p.m.