

DEPARTMENT OF EARTH SCIENCES

Departmental Meeting

Monday, May 16, 2011 12:30 pm

In attendance: Diana Allen, Andy Calvert, Gwenn Flowers, Dan Gibson, Cindy Hansen, Dirk Kirste, James MacEachern, Dan Marshall, Derek Thorkelson (Chair), Brent Ward, Glyn Williams-Jones, Bonnie Karhukangas, Matt Plotnikoff

Absent: Kevin Cameron, John Clague, Shahin Dashtgard, Robbie Dunlop, Corrinne Griffing (Grad Rep), John Mayer (Undergrad Rep), Doug Stead, Tarja Vaisanen,

1. **Business from Previous minutes**

- Action items completed. No business arising from previous minutes.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve minutes of March 21st, 2011

- Approved unanimously

3. **Chair's Report – Derek Thorkelson**

a) *Department Vehicles*

- Currently we allow for a 2 week use of the department vehicles. Now that we have more vehicles should this time period be extended to a longer amount?

ACTION: Derek will follow up with the ad-hoc committee¹ to consider the time length for the usage of the department vehicles – Tuesday May 17th at 2:30 pm.

b) *Department Review*

- Review of Derek's preliminary draft responses to the External Review Report.

ACTION: Derek will finalize comments and distribute to faculty for review by email. After review he will prepare the Action Plan document and meet with the Dean and VPA office.

4. **Committee Reports:**

a) *Graduate Committee – Andy Calvert*

- Leaves of Absences: there was discussion regarding what constitutes a leave of absence

¹ Diana Allen, Dan Gibson, Brent Ward, and Matt Plotnikoff comprise the ad-hoc committee.

b) Undergraduate Committee – Brent Ward

i. Undergraduate Chairs Report

The Faculty of Science is examining the General Science Degree. I agreed to sit on the sub-committee to develop this. There is also talk of setting up some sort of a General Studies program, partly for Academic underachievers and partly for people who want true interdisciplinary degrees. This came about since Arts and Science have closed the door to science students getting a general degree. They now require at least 50% of the courses to be in Arts and Science.

Changes to the Majors program (Physics, stats) passed SCUP.

Forgot to add wording to the course number change for EASC 315 about students not being allowed to take EASC 412. Jo Hindcliff will just make the changes to the calendar but will inform SCUP before she does so.

ii. Joint Degree with Chemistry (Attachment A)

We discussed this last meeting. Here is the most recent version that Danny Leznoff (Chemistry DUGS Chair) and I have come up with. I met with their undergrad committee and there were a few minor changes that this version reflects. I don't think that this has gone through the Chemistry Department yet. Before this heads up the line a Letter of Intent needs to be submitted. Danny was going to work on that but hasn't completed anything yet. Danny and I will be meeting Friday, May 13 to get the ball rolling.

ACTION: Brent will circulate the Notice of Intent by email for faculty to vote.

Things we need to consider:

Require changing pre-requisites for EASC 206 (Attachment B)

Requires a new Course EASC 316-1 Geochemical sampling

ACTION: Brent will prepare a course description/outline to incorporate soil / rock / water sampling.

iii. EASC 206 pre-requisite change (Attachment B)

As mentioned above we need to change the pre-requisites. Making the pre-co-requisites EASC 201 or 210 will mean the students have more than just 101 before taking it and allow the joint major students to take it.

iv. EASC 201 and 204 pre-requisite change (Attachment C and D)

This is partially triggered by the joint major but also for students who are transferring into the program part way through their studies to give students greater flexibility in scheduling their courses. Students who take EASC 101 in the fall as an elective and decide to transfer into Earth Sciences are limited in what courses they can take in the Spring term, which then limits the courses they can take the following fall.

v. Course description of EASC 101 and EASC 210

There was discussion about changing the description of EASC 101 to “Dynamic Earth” and EASC 210 to “Evolving Earth”.

Motion: To approve the changing of the course description of EASC 101 and EASC 210.

Moved: Brent Ward Seconded: James MacEachern Approved: Unanimous

c) Other Committee Reports

i) Website –

- There was discussion to update the website and make it more exciting. If anyone has any ideas please bring forward to Matt/Glyn.

5. Any other Business

a) Earth Sciences Articulation Meeting

- Cindy Hansen attended the Earth Sciences Articulation Meeting on May 12th. There was much discussion about 1st year courses and 2nd year field schools. She came away with lots of ideas to hopefully incorporate into our programs.

b) Outreach Events

- May 26 will be an Info Evening at Burnaby campus in Convocation Mall at pm.
- May 28 will be an Open House at Surrey campus – Derek will give a 20 min talk.
- Fall recruitments events?

Motion to Adjourn: Unanimous

Meeting ended at: 2:15 pm