

# DEPARTMENT OF EARTH SCIENCES

## Departmental Meeting

Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012 10:00 am

In attendance:

Diana Allen, Andy Calvert, Kevin Cameron, Shahin Dashtgard, Robbie Dunlop, Gwenn Flowers, Dan Gibson, Cindy Hansen, Dirk Kirste, James MacEachern (Chair), Dan Marshall, Doug Stead, Derek Thorkelson, Brent Ward, Glyn Williams-Jones, Bonnie Karhukangas, Keith Baker (Undergrad Rep)

Absent: Corinne Griffing (Grad Rep), Tarja Vaisanen

### 1. Approval of Past Minutes

*Motion to approve minutes of March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012* D. Kirste, Seconded: G. Williams-Jones

- Approved unanimously

### 2. Committee Reports:

#### a) Undergraduate Committee – Glyn Williams-Jones

See Undergraduate Agenda attached:

1a) EASC 101: Discussion ensued. Is the Chemistry 11 prerequisite really required? How will the reduced lab hours affect TA ships?

Amend motion to remove Chemistry 11 Prerequisite. Moved: B. Ward; Seconded: S. Dashtgard.  
Approved (1 abstention)

Approve amended motion: D. Allen. Unanimous.

1b) EASC 103: Approve motion: R. Dunlop. Unanimous.

1c) EASC 303: Approve motion with the removal of the last sentence: D. Marshall. Unanimous.

2a) EASC 404: Approve motion: D. Allen. Unanimous.

2b) EASC 305: Tabled motion: D. Allen. Unanimous.

3a) EASC 301: Approve motion: D. Gibson. Unanimous.

4a) EASC 315: Approve motion: B. Ward. Unanimous.

4b) Approve motion: D. Gibson. Unanimous

5c) Field Schools: Motion to proceed with planning of EASC308 field school: D. Allen. Unanimous.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Unanimous

Meeting ended at: 12:25 pm

**Undergraduate Agenda**  
**Departmental Meeting, April 17, 2012**

**Faculty of Science Undergraduate Chairs Report**

1. The Faculty of Science (George Agnes) is developing mid-level Learning Outcomes to dovetail with those coming from the University and is currently requesting feedback from the Department UCCs.
2. George Agnes is developing a lower division W course for all science students that would be optional.
3. The Dean's office is "bringing forward options regarding new programming" – I don't know what this is exactly so stay tuned!

**Departmental UCC (from Mar. 27, 2012) – Curriculum Review Process**

The EASC UCC discussed the reports and suggestions from the four *ad hoc* committees looking into 1) Lower Division courses, 2) Petrology core, 3) the Environmental Stream, and 4) Field Schools. The EASC UCC proposals for formal vote (1, 2, 3) and for further discussion (4) are the following:

**1. Lower Division courses (Att. 1)**

- a. **MOTION:** EASC 101 – limit enrollment and add pre-requisite Chemistry 11
  - i. place enrollment cap of 80 students, with 40 seats initially held for BSc students in order to restrict mainly to Science/Fac. Env. Students, and rationalize lab use/fiscal issues
  - ii. add pre-requisite of Chemistry 11
  - iii. Bring through previously agreed name change to "Dynamic Earth"
  - iv. reduce lab from 3 to 2 hours
- b. **MOTION:** EASC 103 - Drop lab and convert to 3 hour lecture large enrollment course
- c. **MOTION:** EASC 303 - Change to 2<sup>nd</sup> year, EASC "209W", course required by all
  - i. Brent will expand the content to include more geomorphology
  - ii. Will initially be in program as "EASC 209W or GEOG 213" for prerequisites
  - iii. Becomes a Lower Division W credit which helps our students
  - iv. Glyn will check with APEGBC for equivalency with Geomorphology
  - v. **NB.** This will impact on Joint CHEM-EASC Major/Hons program
- d. **MOTION:** Standardise delivery of large enrollment 10X courses (NOT 101)
  - i. Standardize examination format (e.g., multiple choice exams and use of scantron for grading) and scheduling (at time of registration) of after hour midterms in amphitheaters. "Evening" mid-term should be *in lieu* of regular scheduled lecture for that week to limit any additional costs.
  - ii. Specifically for courses delivered by Sessionals, need to have a series of "canned" courses (e.g., 104, 108) which can be delivered with minimal changes/development. Would also ensure consistency.
  - iii. Requires development of honorarium fund for invigilators of mid-term/final exams
  - iv. *For information:*
    1. Scantron sheets cost \$0.11 per sheet and we can use the Scantron machine in Chemistry for free (\$0.18/sheet via ACS)
    2. For a 300 student course with 3 exams, it works out to \$100-\$260 (using ACS)

**2. House cleaning (Att. 4)**

- a. **MOTION:** EASC 404 – Change prerequisite: EASC 204, 301 and 309 to Prereq: EASC 204, Coreq: EASC 301 and 309

- b. **MOTION:** EASC 305 - EASC 305 (or CMPT 102) be required for both streams.
  - i. APEGBC now has a “box” for a foundational computing course. While there is also a “box” for Biology, our students would still benefit from having computing skills. Glyn will check with APEGBC to ensure that EASC 305 meets this requirement, but CMPT 102-3 Introduction to Scientific Computer Programming, certainly should.

### 3. Petrology core (Att. 2)

- a. **MOTION:** EASC 301 - Split EASC 301 into Igneous Petrology (301) and a new Metamorphic Petrology course (EASC 311)
  - i. This will allow a more in-depth treatment of the material and better align with APEGBC requirements for Geology stream
  - ii. Make 311 required for Geology stream
  - iii. Sedimentary Petrology (302) and Igneous Petrology (301) would be the pre-requisites for Metamorphic Petrology (311).

### 4. Environmental Geosciences stream (Att. 3)

- a. **MOTION:** EASC 315 – Make EASC 315 a W course
  - i. in response to 303W becoming 203W, will address Upper Division W requirement for the Environmental Stream
  - ii. Move into required core for Environmental Stream
- b. **MOTION:** Remove GEOG 311 & 317 from required in Environmental Stream
  - i. These courses are no longer required for APEGBC. Would remain as electives

### 5. Field Schools – For Discussion

The EASC UCC discussed a range of issues relating to timing, logistics and content of the 3 field schools and requests Departmental input prior to bringing back a formal proposal. As such, each field school “group” has agreed to give a short (5 min) presentation to initiate discussion.

Some points to consider

- a. EASC 206 – timing and content
  - i. Is there value in moving to the end of 2<sup>nd</sup> year? Pros/cons...e.g., students would have greater geological background going in
  - ii. Leave as is for the moment and revisit?
  - iii. Is there sufficient environmental content to give students early exposure to the material?
- b. EASC 306
  - i. Following from 206 timing, would there be merit in moving 306 to the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> year and allow for higher level treatment of the material?
  - ii. Leave as is?
  - iii. Reduce amount of time on hard rock content to enable greater treatment of environmental, quaternary, sedimentary material in one field school?
- c. EASC 406 / 416
  - i. The *ad hoc* committee proposed changing 406 to a 3<sup>rd</sup> year course (e.g., **308**) aimed at environmental, quaternary, sedimentary, hazards and app. geophysics material.
  - ii. To be run as 12-day field school following the Summer session (ending immediately prior to start of Fall classes)
  - iii. Required by all students
  - iv. EASC 416 would become an elective

- d. Keep 206 required for all, and have 1 of 306 / 308 required for either stream?