

DEPARTMENT OF EARTH SCIENCES

Departmental Meeting

Monday, September 23rd, 2013 at 1:30 am

In attendance:

Andy Calvert, Kevin Cameron, Shahin Dashtgard, Robbie Dunlop, Gwenn Flowers, Dan Gibson, James MacEachern (Chair), Dan Marshall, Derek Thorkelson, Brent Ward, Glyn Williams-Jones, Bonnie Karhukangas, Tarja Vaisanen, Matt Plotnikoff, Andrew La Croix (Grad Rep), Joshua Wiebe (Undergrad Rep), Claire Cupples (Dean of Science)

Absent: Diana Allen, John Clague, Dirk Kirste, Doug Stead

1. **Dean of Science, Dr. Clair Cupples:**

Dr. Cupples talked about Policies and Procedures in the appointment of a new department chair (A.13.02)

2. **Approval of Past Minutes:**

Motion to approve minutes of March 14th, 2013 Seconded: B. Ward

- Approved unanimously – minor grammatical corrections

3. **Chair's Report:**

- i. The new bus has arrived and is being put into service. Thanks to the Dean for paying for the new bus. We will not be retaining the old yellow bus; it is being donated to Bamfield Research Station. I've asked Matt to look into the cost of painting SFU and EASC identifiers on the bus or the design and purchase of magnetic decals to the same effect. I will ask for departmental recommendations as to which route we should go, once I have costs determined. We can then have a formal vote via email.
- ii. The new teaching lab is nearly completed. Remaining issues are finishing some storage in the adjacent K7658 room, finishing the electrical connections to the tables via the floor, and installing the overhead projector for teaching. These are expected to be completed in the next week or so. So far, we have been unable to secure new office space for graduate students uprooted by the renovations. I will continue to lobby the Faculty of Science for additional office space. Again, thanks to the Dean for finding the funds for this renovation.
- iii. The 15 new petrographic scopes have been received and cabinetry finished in TASC 2 7530. We will begin paying back to the Dean's office every second microscope out of our Departmental Operating funds starting this fiscal year.
- iv. The break-in to the Chair's office this summer is worrying. Break-ins at the university appear to be on the rise. At some point soon, we as a department will need to decide how to secure departmental confidential data. I would recommend that either we store this data on the SFU server or invest in some sort of data encryption program for departmental files. In the next month, I will circulate some suggestions, which will form the basis for discussion at the next departmental meeting. I would also make it clear to department members that course grade information, student names and student numbers are also considered by the SFU and the BC Provincial Government to be private information that must be reported to the student should there be any breach in security.

To that end, I have instructed Matt to secure a work order to put security panels in place for all doors in the EASC areas to deter (or at least inhibit) future break-ins – security informs me that no matter the security measures in place, a motivated thief will find a way to gain access. In the meantime, faculty and graduate students should endeavour to make sure that offices are locked when vacated and suspicious activity be reported to the EASC office.

- v. The Dean will soon (this semester) be asking science departments to bring forward requests for new hires. As a department, we have discussed this several times over the last number of years, and we have determined that a hard-rock faculty to augment the PT group (petrologist, mineralogist or economic geologist) is the best fit for providing sufficient overlap of course coverage and augmenting ongoing research expertise. So far as I can tell, the make-up of the department has not changed since the last time we've discussed this and the department needs have not shifted. As such, I would expect that we will make the same faculty hire request this year that we made last year (and the 3 years previous). The hiring priority was given in the 5-year plan the department endorsed last year. Again, I'll circulate this list and ask for faculty comments. If the issue appears contentious, I will convene a departmental meeting to discuss it. If consensus appears to be reached, I will ask for a departmental vote to move the request forward to the Dean's office.
- vi. I'm pleased to inform you that the department has secured a new university award for undergraduate Earth Sciences majors. The award stems from a \$3,000.00 donation from Jambo Geoconsultants Ltd. to set up the award, as well as faculty donations and matching funds from the department (\$5,000), the Dean's office and an anonymous donor. In total, \$26,698.70. Twenty thousand dollars is the minimum amount needed to allow payout, so the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee will be asked to bring a recommendation to the university this year for its first offering. The award is named the "Edelmayer Undergraduate Award in Earth Sciences" and is designed for lower division majors. The award is not a scholarship and so does not carry a minimum GPA requirement – it will instead rely on a combination of academic merit and activity in departmental outreach within and beyond the university. The terms of reference are being finalized by the university advancement office and will be circulated to the department once signed. The award is named for my grandparents, who engendered broad interest in mineralogy and paleontology to their community. In addition, when the department first started, they donated their mineral and fossil collection to our department, contributing to EASC 202, EASC 102 (now EASC 106 and EASC 210), EASC 103, EASC 201, and EASC 203 (now EASC 310)..

4. **Undergraduate Committee Report:** Glyn Williams-Jones

- i. Course change Housekeeping (**Att. 1**)
 - a. **MOTION:** Reword EASC 408 calendar description to allow for sup fees
All in Favor - Motion Approved
 - b. **MOTION:** Rename EASC 405 and change associated seminar to one 2 hr lab
All in Favor - Motion Approved
- ii. Forestry Geoscience Certificate – last awarded in 2007 and no longer viable since 2 courses no longer offered. There is NO appetite in the Faculty of Science for new Certificates that only target students from within the same department (e.g., the revamped Resource Geoscience & Geotechnics proposed in Sept 2012) and it would receive little support at Senate.
 - a. **MOTION:** Terminate certificate and remove from program.
All in Favor - Motion Approved

- iii. EASC Program Learning Outcomes (**Att. 2**) – these were brought to the department for discussion/information on Mar 4th 2013. Only minor comments were received. There is continued, though slow, movement within and outside the university towards implementing LOs.

a. **MOTION:** Accept Learning Outcomes as proposed.

All in Favor - Motion Approved

5. **Safety Committee:** Matt Plotnikoff

- EASC Field Safety Guidelines – we are looking at changing the guidelines to policy. Any comments or suggestions should be forwarded to Matt.

6. **AOB:**

- Derek Thorkelson brought up the issue of our Field Safety/Hazard form (see attachments):

- Current hazard form acknowledges risks – students fill out once for all field schools. Bonnie keeps a record of all submitted forms.
- Waivers are legally valid and may provide protection against instructor/department. Should the department have a policy that all field schools/off campus trips have waivers? (Including Grad students research) Could this be part of the on line registration process?
- An ADHOC committee will be created to help decide what would be best for Earth Sciences.

CLOSED MEETING

7. **Adjunct Proposal:** MarcAndre Brideau (see attachments)

- Doug Stead put forward a submission to consider offering adjunct status to Marc Andre Brideau.

Motion to approve adjunct Marc Andre Brideau Seconded: B. Ward

-Approved unanimously

Motion to Adjourn: Unanimous

Meeting ended at: 3:00 pm