

# DEPARTMENT OF EARTH SCIENCES

## Departmental Meeting

Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 1:30 pm

In attendance:

Diana Allen, Andy Calvert, Kevin Cameron, Shahin Dashtgard, Robbie Dunlop, Gwenn Flowers, Dan Gibson, Dirk Kirste, James MacEachern, Derek Thorkelson, Brent Ward (Chair), Tarja Vaisanen, Matt Plotnikoff, Oliver Friesen (Grad Rep), Carly Smythe (Undergrad Rep)

Absent: John Clague, Cindy Hansen, Dan Marshall, Reid Staples, Doug Stead, Glyn Williams-Jones

### 1. Approval of Past Minutes:

*Motion to approve minutes of September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014* Seconded: S. Dashtgard

Approved unanimously with grammatical corrections

### 2. Business from previous minutes:

- i. No conflicts with the GSA conference
- ii. EASC Alumni Reception a success. Thanks to all who helped organize.
- iii. Student Social October 3<sup>rd</sup> went well. ESSU ok to host future events.

### 3. Chair's Report:

- i. Budget constraints – may affect TA/Sessional Budgets for the upcoming year.
- ii. New Hire – The Dean approved our application for a new hire, but it was turned down by John Driver (may be based on enrollment numbers) Possibly to request a CRC position in the future.
- iii. VP Research – Joy Johnson is the new VP of Research. Brent will present a brief EASC presentation at an upcoming meeting.

### 4. Undergraduate Committee: Shahin Dashtgard

- i. **MOTION:** Unit changes to 209W and 499 (**Att**)  
Discussion: Too much subject to cover in the allotted time – using some lab time for lectures. Will more 200 level courses be looking to make this same change? Could end up with too many credits in lower division.  
*7 in Favor, 4 abstentions - Motion Approved*
- ii. **MOTION:** Description changes to 306 (**Att**)  
*All in Favor - Motion Approved*
- iii. **MOTION:** Unit changes to Honours Program (**Att**)  
*All in Favor - Motion Approved*
- iv. **MOTION:** Changes to Majors, joint majors and joint honours program (**Att**)  
*All in Favor - Motion Approved*

5. **Graduate Committee:** Andy Calvert

- i. NSERC – CGSM nominations coming up
- ii. MYF – 4 years of funding awarded over next 12 months. Submit any nominations
- iii. GF's – awarded this semester.

6. **EASC Grades:** Brent Ward

- i. Tabled until next meeting due to time constraints

7. **Safety Committee:** Derek Thorkelson

- i. New Field Safety Form (**Att**)

Discussion: Derek presented a new Assumption of Risk Form that has been approved by Stephen Caine in Risk Management. A new form will need to be complete by students for each field school. The instructor will need to fill in Course specific information on the form. Could this same form also apply to field work? What if a student refuses to sign? Send any feedback to Derek.

8. **Academic Integrity:** Gwenn Flowers

- i. Due to time constraints, Gwenn will circulate information by email.

9. **A.O.B.** (any other business)

- i. Departmental Retreat – Doodle poll sent around about availability during the February reading break. Too many people will be away that week. Suggested that we conduct the retreat over several weeks during our regular meeting time slot on Mondays, or later after the Spring Semester.
- ii. Vehicle renewal – We will be looking into trading in one of the department trucks for a newer used vehicle.
- iii. Learning Garden – the Learning Garden could be moved to the front of TASC 1 Building for a temporary time. There are also a few other sites that are being looked into.
- iv. Library – Dirk Kirste library update tabled due to time constraints.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Unanimous

Meeting ended at: 3:10 pm