

DEPARTMENT OF EARTH SCIENCES

Departmental Meeting

Monday, November 2nd, 2015 at 1:30 pm

In attendance:

Diana Allen, Shahin Dashtgard, Gwenn Flowers, Dan Gibson, Cindy Hansen, Dirk Kirste, James MacEachern, Dan Marshall, Brent Ward (Chair), Glyn Williams-Jones, Matt Plotnikoff, Tarja Vaisanen, Bonnie Karhukangas, Snowy Haiblen (Grad Rep), Carly Smythe (Undergrad Rep)

Absent: Andy Calvert, Kevin Cameron, John Clague, Robbie Dunlop, Doug Stead, Derek Thorkelson, Reid Staples

1. **Approval of Agenda:**

Motion to approve agenda

Approved unanimously

2. **Approval of Past Minutes:**

Motion to approve minutes of September 28th, 2015 with minor amendments Seconded: G. Flowers

Approved unanimously

3. **Business from previous minutes:**

5. New Hire Advertisement has been posted at all locations. Applications have started to come in.
6. New electrical lock out procedure is being formulated.

4. **Chair's Report:**

- i. CCSED Meeting Oct 15-16 Carleton University. Brent attended the meeting and it was interesting to see how our department compares to other universities. NSERC gave a presentation with lots of discussion around "open access" – and upon the next application you will need to sign an agreement. GSC and CFI also gave presentations.
- ii. Faculty absences – you should arrange to have lectures covered for any absences, and advise the chair.
- iii. ESSU Halloween Party – it was well attended with some great costumes.
- iv. CSPG Talk – Friday November 6th in C9051. We'd like to have a good turn out for the talk.
- v. Equipment for next year – we will need to submit an item list for our equipment, please forward any suggestions. As well, there is \$5,000 still remaining for 2015, let us know of any suggestions for spending.

5. **Strategic Research Plan:**

- i. D. Thorkelson proposed the following:

Earth, evolution, environment and resources.

DISCUSSION: Should we have a small paragraph following with more detail; perhaps including our potential synergies (Biology, Chemistry, REM, Physics, Math, Stats & Actuary, Geography, EVSC, Archeology, Anthropology, First Nations)

ACTION: The Chair will prepare our Strategic Research Plan and circulate to faculty for review.

6. **Undergraduate Committee:** S. Dashtgard

- i. Course Evaluations Departmental Questions: The Undergraduate Committee prepared 5 potential questions that were circulated to the faculty for vote *see attached.

DISCUSSION: rather than only use the top four, we should merge G-2 and P-6. The new question is: The course expanded my understanding of professional practices and/or new advances in Earth Science.

MOTION: to accept the new revised question.

Seconded: G. Williams-Jones

Motion Approved unanimously

7. **Graduate Committee:** G. Flowers

- i. Mental Health: Gwenn wants to let all the grad students know that there are lots of resources available

8. **Safety:**

- i. No issues to report

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

- i. EASC Grading Comparison – D. Allen had compiled a spreadsheet of faculty grading that was sent to the Undergraduate Committee.

DISCUSSION:

- The Undergraduate Committee should take this spreadsheet and come up with an average grading that the department could/should use.
- Our grading should be posted on our website.
- Grades could affect students when applying for scholarships etc, or could affect which school they may apply to (based on which ones may offer higher grading)
- Range most affected is the A range and D-C range.

ACTION: Chair will review with the Dean to find out if we can make a standardized grading in our department.

- ii. Christmas Party December 18 at Lochdale Hall – tickets \$29. The Undergrads will be organizing.

Motion to Adjourn: Unanimous

Open Meeting ended at: 2:40 pm