

DEPARTMENT OF EARTH SCIENCES

Departmental Meeting

Monday, September 14th, 2015 at 1:30 pm

In attendance:

Diana Allen, Kevin Cameron, Shahin Dashtgard, Robbie Dunlop, Gwenn Flowers, Dan Gibson, Cindy Hansen, Dirk Kirste, James MacEachern, Dan Marshall (for the last half), Doug Stead, Derek Thorkelson, Brent Ward (Chair), Glyn Williams-Jones, Matt Plotnikoff, Bonnie Karhukangas, Carly Smythe (Undergrad Rep)

Absent: Andy Calvert, John Clague, Reid Staples, Tarja Vaisanen, Grad Rep

Congratulations to Tarja Vaisanen for 20 years of service with SFU!

1. **Approval of Agenda:**

Motion to approve revised agenda

Approved unanimously

2. **Approval of Past Minutes:**

Motion to approve minutes of March 23rd, 2015 Seconded: R. Dunlop

Approved unanimously

3. **Business from previous minutes:**

- i. Environmental Science did not have a mass increase in enrollment, and enrollments remain stable.

4. **Chair's Report:**

- i. Earth Science lab rooms move/reconfiguration: this has mostly been completed to better utilize space. Thanks to Dan Marshall for facilitating this. As we get more grad students, we may need to again revisit the organization situation and slowly evolve as needs arise.
- ii. EASC 308 Field School: the Dean of Science, Claire Cupples accepted an invitation to attend the field school. She spent 2 days in the field, one day of terrain mapping and one day modern environments. She seemed to enjoy the experience and collected rocks on Sombrio Beach. Travis Ferbey from BCGS attended as well with a 3D Mapping Program on his tablet that allowed all the students to view in 3D (with goggles)
- iii. Science Open House November 21, 2015: it would be good if the department was to set up a few displays for the open house – the 3D Mapping program would be good. Perhaps some grad students could help out.
- iv. Alumni Event: should we do another event this year to coincide with the University's 50th Anniversary? It is also the 20th anniversary of the department or we could tie in with Round Up. (funds would be a concern) Brent instructed to explore funding options.
- v. New Earth Science Award – Alexis Clague Award: this award is a \$2,000 minimum that is offered 2 times per year, looking at students with academic and volunteer standing. This year the awards are for \$2,500.

- vi. TSSU Social: this Friday September 18th will be the “Back from the Bush” Social. Pizza and light alcohol will be available, as well as the return of the EASC Photo Contest.
- vii. TA’s: negotiations still in process. TA’s may still withhold marking as part of their job action. Due to the TSSU job action, some final grades from non-EASC courses this summer have not been entered, and this may have an effect on determining if students have met all the pre-req’s for some courses.
- viii. Finances: the department finances are tight, and it is requested to carefully assess all field school supplementary fees. It was also noted that phones and photocopying are the biggest expenses. Grad students currently have photocopy codes and in some instances are using extreme amounts. Supervisors should reiterate to the students what the photocopier is used for.

5. Procedure for New Hire:

- i. Search Committee will be: Gwenn Flowers, Dan Gibson, Dan Marshall, Derek Thorkelson, Brent Ward (chair). Next Departmental Meeting will be on September 28th, 2015 to discuss job ad and placement.

MOTION: Agree to form a search committee to prepare the job advertisement and to review candidates to bring short list forward for the department.

Moved: D. Allen Seconded: S. Dashtgard

All in favor – Motion Approved unanimously

6. Undergraduate Committee: Shahin Dashtgard

- i. Physics 131 (now PHY 132/133) – we will need to change all pre-reqs on EASC courses.

7. Graduate Committee: Gwenn Flowers

- i. New Grad Course EASC 626 Geochronology (**Att**)

MOTION: Accept new EASC 626 course with wording amendment

All in favor – Motion Approved unanimously

8. Safety:

- i. D. Thorkelson advised that the Assumption of Risk Forms and instructions on how to fill them out are available on the EASC Intranet.
- ii. M. Plotnikoff reminded all that there is a Lab Safety Training scheduled for September 21-25, 2015. Deadline to register is September 17.

9. Secure Storage/Keys:

- i. Secure Storage - Discussion:

Currently some items are stored in the back room of Matt/Rodney office – benefits are that the items are signed out for use and there is someone there during the day. Perhaps secondary locking could be put on the shelving units as added security. Possibly alarms? Would be nice if there was another secure storage that was available after work hours/weekends. Long term/short term storage. Possibly create some secure storage in Glyn’s old lab.

ii. Keys – Discussion:

Suggestion to give sub master keys for common labs to faculty members rather than have to carry a pocket full of keys to each room that they would need to access. Fobs and card access systems are very expensive as building not wired for it.. Maybe we could check with the Dean to see if other departments are having same issues and any other solutions that may be available.

ACTION: Create sub-committee (G.Williams-Jones, D. Stead, G. Flowers, D. Allen, M. Plotnikoff) to evaluate the needs of the department and options available for secure storage and keys.

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

- i. SCI 191 Seminar Series – is starting this fall. Brent has signed up to give the first talk from EASC. It would be a good idea for us to keep a presence in this course as could attract keen students.
- ii. Online Course Evaluations - the department will need to come up with up to 4 questions that can be added to the questionnaires that are specific to Earth Sciences.
- iii. Excess donated materials/samples – Matt has some excess materials. He will arrange a day when it can be perused by the department to see if there are any items that can salvaged.
- iv. Adobe Creative Suite – is now available for faculty and staff. Grad students will need to be on a managed machine with sign in to access.

Motion to Adjourn: Unanimous

Meeting ended at: 3:10 pm