

DEPARTMENT OF EARTH SCIENCES

Departmental Meeting

Monday, April 10th, 2017 at 2 pm

In attendance:

Andy Calvert, Shahin Dashtgard, Dan Gibson, Dirk Kirste, James MacEachern, Doug Stead, Eileen van der Flier-Keller, Brent Ward (Chair), Glyn Williams-Jones, Matt Plotnikoff, Bonnie Karhukangas, Laura Desaunoy (Grad Rep), Miranda Walters (Undergrad Rep)

Regrets: Diana Allen, Kevin Cameron, Robbie Donald, Gwenn Flowers, Cindy Hansen

Absent: Dan Marshall, Derek Thorkelson

1. **Allison Brennan – MITACS** - Allison reviewed the MITACS Accelerate Program.
MITACS – SFU: industry collaborations (not for profit organization) 20+ years across all disciplines.

List of other projects included for review from other universities – examples of what MITACS does.

ACCELERATE Program: Supports collaborative research between universities and non-academic partner. It is a student internship program providing matching funds with non-academic partner. Smallest would be 4 months with \$7500 by MITACS and industry partner. Student intern paid \$10k out of the fund with the remainder \$5 can go towards any other expense (travel costs, assistant, PostDoc)

- Three components – Faculty, Student, Non-academic partner. Student spends time at both facilities for the projects.
- Can grow from 4 months...up to 3 yrs. Not just one off internships. No deadlines, non-competitive – very high success rate. Allison is available to help with applications/proposals.
- Cannot work directly with government agencies – needs to be an arms length away for non-profit government sponsor.

MITACS Canadian Science Policy Fellowship (new 2 years) work with government that they would like projects worked on for up to a year (recent grads, postdocs, etc) developing connections through academic and government agencies.

GLOBAL LINK Fellowships – international link to the program

- Global link intern research program – to bring international undergraduates to SFU (like NSRA's) 40 % success rate. Opens April 19 –closed in June

ELEVATE Program: Dedicated postdoc training program, a call based application cycle – next one opens in the summer for January start date (3 yr program) industry partner provides \$25 MITACs \$30 for up to \$55

Discussion – What kind of reporting? Progress reports every 4 months (minimal with all 3 parties)

Discussion: Consulting firms out there to get hands on students first. Allison can help organize and contact firms to set up initial arrangements.

2. **Approval of Past Minutes:**

Motion to approve minutes of February 27th, 2017 D. Gibson, Seconded: G. Williams-Jones

Approved unanimously

3. **Chair's Report:**

i. Dean's Office:

- There will be some minor reorganization in the Dean's office to enhance budgeting.
- The Dean's Seminar Room TASC 2 – 9705 has new LCD screen and speakers and is available for booking any meetings (call Dean's Receptionist – approx. 15 capacity)
- Equipment budget has been approved - still waiting for remaining to be approved
- John's replacement has been approved and will be going forward – could be a little complicated with CRC. We could start to work on the description now.

ii. Director's Meeting Update:

- Nancy Johnston from student services has a pamphlet available supporting students in distress.
ACTION: Brent will try to get a copy for all faculty for reference.

iii. Scheduling:

- Prime time scheduling – our labs shouldn't technically count. (2011 documents to registrar are being brought forward again to help with scheduling)

iv. Industrial Chair Cannabis:

- Industry partners concerned with purity, quality, etc...this could be a possibility.

v. Virus:

- 3 people have been affected by ransom wear virus. Beware of phishing (approx only 60% of people will actually recognize phishing)

4. **Graduate Committee:** L. Munoz

i. Progress Reporting:

- How do the external's get email? How do the faculty find that it is working – any questions? Everything is online now – from start date the reporting will be automated. Student gets email to fill out report, then to supervisor, then to student to review, then to committee, then to faculty, then to grad chair. So many steps – trying to streamline. Reminder emails will be sent. Similar format to old progress report. Should coincide with progress meeting.

5. **Undergraduate Committee:** G. Williams-Jones

i. Glyn was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting due to illness. Students have been trying to 'game' the system with Physics courses – they would sign up for a course, but would not have completed the lab portion of the physics courses. EASC 205 and EASC 207 proposed changes that would now require the lab to have been completed.

DISCUSSION:

- There were some concerns about some of the pre-reqs, and it was decided to have the UGCC revisit at their next meeting.

6. **Safety:** M. Plotnikoff

i. New Young Worker Safety Orientation (NYWSO): reminder that any volunteer would also need to complete.

ii. Call out for summer vehicle booking.

7. **AOB:**

- i. Grad Student Survey (Colloquiums) – Laura Desaunoy
 - 26 students responded to the survey
 - 81% were in favor of colloquiums, 15% undecided and 4% against
 - The main points made for colloquiums
 - forces you to understand the material
 - practice for your defense
 - get an idea of what everyone in the department is working on
 - good opportunity to get your committee together
 - get feedback from your committee before progressing too far
 - The main point made against colloquiums
 - contributes to the ongoing problem of 'too long' finishing times for M.Sc students
 - 62% in favor of having an open question format, 31% in favor of closed and 7% undecided
 - The main point made for an open format
 - beneficial for the audience to prepare for their own colloquium
 - The main point for a closed format
 - awkward and unnecessary to have people sitting in on what is essentially a committee meeting

Motion to Adjourn: Unanimous

Meeting ended at: 3:07 pm