

DEPARTMENT OF EARTH SCIENCES

Departmental Meeting
Monday, April 15th, 2019 at 10:30 am

In Attendance:

Andy Calvert, Robbie Donald, Brendan Dyck, Dan Gibson, Cindy Hansen, Dan Marshall, James MacEachern, Jessica Pilarczyk, Derek Thorkelson, Brent Ward (Chair), Doug Stead, Glyn Williams-Jones, Aspen Anderson (Grad Rep), Crey Ackerson (Undergrad Rep) Bonnie Karhukangas, Tarja Vaisanen, Elilan Ganesathas

Not attending: Diana Allen, Kevin Cameron, Shahin Dashtgard, Dirk Kirste, Gwenn Flowers, Doug Stead, Eileen van der Flier-Keller, Matt Plotnikoff

1. **Approval of Agenda**

2. **Approval of Past Minutes:**

Motion to approve minutes of February 11th, 2019

Moved by D Gibson, seconded by B Dyck

Approved Unanimously with minor correction

3. **New Staff:**

- i. Introduction of Elilan Ganesathas, new Resource Specialist

4. **Chair's Report:**

- i. NSERC – all who applied were successful.
- ii. EGU: Brent met with Adam Switzer from University of Singapore, to pursue closer ties and possibly facilitate an exchange system with SFU. We could start with an undergrad exchange - would need to coordinate with the undergrad chair. Brent will send an email to start the process. They already do to a lot of exchanges with other universities and are very well funded. They are very helpful with facilitating permit/paperwork etc for people working in the area. Some of our field schools would be good for them to attend during an exchange as their bedrock is highly weathered.
- iii. University of Washington: recently Jessica and Glyn visited with members from VPR and International to explore possible collaborations for a Cascadia corridor initiative. They are keen to collaborate. There is interest to have cross border workshops for Cascadia research.
- iv. Life Sciences is trying to set up an Ecology Major. The Dean is pushing to have included an EASC 100 level course in their program. This could be good news for our numbers to increase, but it is in the very early stages of planning. The Dean is also looking into trying to set up a coastal marine sciences program that would include EASC courses as well.
- v. Cheryl Bosley is the new Director of Advancement in the Dean of Science office. She is keen to help bring in more money. Being a relatively young department, we don't have many alumni that could contribute.
- vi. Joan Sharp is trying to put together a Dream Colloquium, and would like us to be involved along with other departments. This could be an opportunity to help raise the profile of EASC.

5. **Strategic Planning Committee Report:**

- i. The document of the 2018-2028 was circulated for review – with information about increase online presence, FTE's, space, strategic hiring plan.
Discussion: We need to think about who is coming up for retirement and how to replace. Increasing enrollments could have an effect on getting these replacement positions. Suggestion to include all of our research groups in the document. The 3 research areas were a result of the external review to present a more cohesive research message; they include everyone in the

Department, with people usually in at least two of the groups. Possibly try to have all the research groups represented in the text below? We should also have a brief description of what each of the research areas mean.

Action: D. Gibson and J. MacEachern will look into how to incorporate all the research groups into the document and write a brief description of the 3 research areas.

Further Discussion: We need to have someone to take on our social media presence in a more formal capacity. Twitter and Instagram are the more popular. We have plenty of images that we could post on Instagram. Could this be budgeted under outreach? No, Suzanne from the Dean's office will need to see what the job description would entail to ensure the posting wouldn't infringe or override any other position. Volunteer options?

Action: B. Ward will explore some ideas.

6. Statistics Proposal for Joint Hires:

- i. Statistics is finding themselves overwhelmed with requests for collaboration, and would like to explore the possibility of paired hires in which a new hire from STATS is paired with a new hire from another department in such that research interests coincide.

Discussion: How would this type of joint hire affect our current hiring plan? Possibly we can combine this with replacing upcoming retirements. Our priority should be to replace our core retirement openings.

Action: B. Ward will proceed to indicate that we are interested in following up with this.

7. TPC Composition:

- i. Brent made a motion for a proposed change to the EASC TPC Policy and Procedures to include: "Where possible given requirements of gender and faculty types and levels, the election for member of the TPC would preclude faculty members who were up for salary review". Rational: this would reduce the number of people that have to leave the salary discussion at various times and removes any unconscious bias when giving recommendation for other people review.

Discussion: Good idea. Do any other departments to this? Any downside? We would leave it up to the Dean to make the decision if we request to exempt someone from the committee if they were the only one in that rank available to sit on the committee.

ALL IN FAVOR

8. Graduate Committee:

- i. Nothing to report.

9. Undergraduate Committee:

- i. FIC Earth Sciences Stream: they are working on getting EASC 101 included. This could be a way to tap into international students to feed into our dept.
- ii. CODE courses branded into flex, with an emphasis on blended courses (online and in person) migrated out Fall 2019. Currently we will stay with offering EASC 104 online only and will be updating the course to include videos, etc. Possibly looking to have EASC 103 as CODE in the future. As CODE is now having the dept involved with the courses teaching credits will need to be assigned with more dept interaction expected. Could be issues with lab time, out of town students, etc.
- iii. New Associate Dean, Academic: David Hik is working on duplication of course breadth offerings.

10. Outreach:

- i. Highschool Outreach Day on April 24th.
- ii. 12 EASC Science In Action (SIA) and other community events, and 4-5 more planned into May/June and August. Thanks to all of our SIA graduate and undergraduate students.
- iii. Diana Allen, Aspen Anderson, and Stephanie Hunt did a Girls Exploring STEM Discovery Day

iv. Glyn, Eileen, Brent, Diana are working on an Earth Sciences Career Infographic with WWEST

11. Safety:

- i. Tick awareness – EASC 411 Field Trip incident of ticks. Improve awareness among students.

12. A.O.B:

- i. Seminar Series: Reminder that guest lunches are for external visitors only up to a maximum of \$50 for the host and guest only. If consuming alcohol, permission from the Dean's office is required prior to submitting your expense claim. The seminar time slot for Fall 2019 will be Thursdays at 3:30pm.

Closed meeting to follow

Meeting ended at 12:10 pm