

DEPARTMENT OF EARTH SCIENCES

Departmental Meeting

Monday, February 11th, 2019 at 10:30am

In Attendance: Diana Allen, Andy Calvert, Kevin Cameron, Robbie Donald, Dan Gibson, James MacEachern, Jessica Pilarczyk, Doug Stead, Eileen Van der Flier-Keller, Brent Ward, Glyn Williams-Jones, Aspen Anderson (Graduate Student Rep), Kenya Franz (Undergrad Student Rep), Matt Plotnikoff and Tarja Vaisanen

Guest: Mohammad Abbassi (For introduction at beginning)

Regrets: Cindy Hansen and Derek Thorkelson

Introduction of Visiting Faculty Member Mohammad Abbassi from Tehran University. He is a structural geologist who is now working on the neotectonics of Tehran. He is visiting until October 2019.

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes from January 14th, 2019.
Item #3 new projectors for TASC 2-7530 not 7036. Closed meeting January 14th minutes were missing Robbie Donald's name from attendance.
Moved by K. Cameron, seconded J. MacEachern, and approved unanimously with minor corrections.
3. Business Arising
 - (i) Jessica Pilarczyk was selected as departmental representative on the Dean of Science 'Research Committee'
 - (ii) Academic Plan due to Dean mid-February, a draft was circulated prior to today's meeting.
4. Chair's Report
 - (i) Dean of Science has provided funding for a Limited Term Lecturer to deliver and continue the development of SCI 192 "Science Around Us" Interdisciplinary Science for Pre-Service Teachers. The course will be offered each Fall and Spring term, beginning in Fall 2019.
 - (ii) The technician posting closed, 14 applications received. Review will begin this week.
 - (iii) 25th Anniversary of the Earth Sciences Program is in 2020. We should plan ahead for various events. Ideas include Alumni Seminars, alumni gathering at RoundUp 2020, university presentation during Earth Science Week (October), Shake Out, 'Back from the Bush', curling bonspiel and annual hockey game and other events.
 - (iv) Pilarczyk and Dyck have negotiated combined lab space in TASC1-7211. Lab would house Jessica's CFI funded ITRAX and Brendan's SEM. Minor modifications needed, including chiller line.

5. EASC Academic Plan 2018-2023

The Dean wants to submit a 'new' Faculty of Science Academic plan for VPA that would be his vision for the Faculty. A draft copy of EASC academic plan was circulated prior to the meeting is open on the floor for discussion and suggestions/feedback requested for the final draft. Allen stated that some of the goals require a large time commitment, and due to the small component of the department could be difficult to accomplish without some kind of support. Discussion regarding a course based M.Sc; could be problematic, due to faculty teaching loads/study leaves; should a market-survey be completed. Other universities have these programs and struggle to attract applicants. Suggestion of a blended format, or a graduate certificate; students could complete one course at a time at their own progress. Noted that many firms are looking for graduands with an additional set of skills in addition to their degrees. Many new hires are on a consulting basis, roles that require administrative and financial skills not necessarily obtained in a MSc/PhD. Practicing professionals also seek opportunities to 'brush-up' and obtain 'advanced' knowledge on specific content/subject whether for professional development or acquire skills not obtained in previous academics. UBC runs full-time grad programs that are intended for professionals who seek to further advance their careers. Examples of potential study discussed – Sustainable Resource Technology, CNHR and Risk Assessment.

The grad rep was requested to solicit graduate students initiatives on how the department could 'engage' and improve the student experience.

Suggestion to include international research and Adjunct contacts/projects, as well as emphasis more research in the academic plan.

Planning ahead, what is our optimal graduate program; what numbers that are healthy, achievable and sustainable.

Space, the lack of continues to be problematic. Security of space has become an issue with recent break-ins and theft.

6. Graduate Curriculum Committee

With the creation of the "Graduate Research Seminar Day", guidelines for Research Seminar to satisfy the PhD course work requirements will see two changes 1) instead of 45 minutes to "at least 30 minutes long" and "alternative venue"

7. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (nothing to report)

8. Outreach

Today, February 11th is Women in Science Day. WWEST Westcoast Women in Engineering, Science and Technology develop 'white papers' and resources to support post-secondary community to encourage diversity in Engineering, Science and Technology. They have offered to prepare a leaflet/brochure for Earth Sciences @ SFU.

9. Safety

University has a new contractor for Security Patrol, you may notice the new personnel in Guarda World uniforms. Reminder to complete your Field Safety Plans, you may also register your trips with SFU Safety & Risk Services, and if you have international travel the Government of Canada has a service 'Registration of Canadians Abroad'. Upcoming roadwork now through to August will see temporary road closure and detours along Tower and the South Campus Road.

10. A.O.B

TPC Composition, department is required to provide the Dean with one or two suggested nominees (from outside the unit – an external member) by March 1st. Suggestions on table are Danny Leznoff (Chemistry), Jeremy Vendetti (Environmental Science) and Karen Kohfeld (REM).

New (digital) display board ordered and received, this will be placed outside the General Office where current Personnel Directory is. This project is a 'work in process' and will require content. The departmental web page design is being revamped, please forward any items (published articles, visuals (field photos) and send to Matt and/or Glyn.

Adjournment 11:40 am. J. MacEachern (M), K. Cameron (S)