

MINUTES
ACADEMIC PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE

December 11, 2013
2:30 pm - Room A225/229

Present: E. Davis, G. Palmer, J. Hogan, J. Ilsever, J. Todrick, Z. Dennison, N. Weinberg, M. Rhodes, G. Schlitt, C. Bell, M. Brosinski, S. Brar, D. Griffiths, A. Chan, W. Burton, V. Dvoracek, P. Wilson, S. Murray, A. Wiseman

Regrets: S. Pattridge, C. Slavik, J. MacLean, C. Gillmeister, D. McGuire,

Guests: P. Geller

Recorder: J. Nagtegaal

1. CALL to ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:40 pm.

2. ITEMS for ADOPTION

2.1. Agenda – 2013 12 11

MOTION:

THAT APPC approve the 2013 12 11 agenda as presented.

G. Palmer/M. Brosinski

CARRIED

2.2. Minutes – 2013 11 13

MOTION:

THAT APPC approve the 2013 11 13 minutes as presented.

G. Palmer/M. Brosinski

CARRIED

3. BUSINESS

3.1. Provost's Report

- At a previous BCAIU meeting, the idea of 3 year degrees was discussed. Currently BC is the only Province to not allow 90 credit degrees. The committee supported the idea of 3 year degrees with the understanding that not all programs would suit a 3 year degree. The BCAIU President, Ruth Wittenberg, will be speaking to the Assistant Deputy Minister on this topic and an update will be circulated when available.
- Eric had a conference call with the Assistant Deputy Minister where he informed everyone that there will not be any new legislation on Quality Assurance in the near future. However, more work will be done on this topic in the coming year.

- In June the Ministry mandated all Boards initiate a Core Review of their programming to ensure students seats are being filled and are contributing to students' career success. The review should be completed by the end of March.
- In December, the Education Plan Update was approved by the Board of Governors.

3.2. Program Changes

3.2.1. Geography Major Concentration Changes

The Geography major concentrations are popular with students as they help to prepare for particular fields of work and study. However, the number of concentration has proven cumbersome from the standpoint of program revision, timetabling, and student scheduling.

Following the external reviewers' recommendations, the Geography department is proposing to streamline the existing concentrations from four options to three options, as follows:

- Environmental Science concentration: a revision of the Environmental Studies concentration, with more coursework in Physical Geography required.
- Global Studies concentration: a revision of the International Studies concentration, which will include a specific emphasis on development, culture, and environment.
- Urban Studies concentration: carried forward from the previous structure.
- Physical Geography concentration: discontinued.

The three concentrations cover sufficient course selection in the department in order to ensure that these concentrations can be completed more easily than most of the existing options can be. Thus, while the number of options for students is being reduced, the means of meeting these concentrations' requirements has been loosened.

MOTION:

THAT APPC recommends Senate approve the changes to the Geography major Environmental Science concentration (formerly Environmental Studies concentration), Global Studies concentration (formerly International Studies concentration), and Urban Studies concentration in Arts, effective September 2014.

M. Rhodes/Z. Dennison

CARRIED

MOTION:

THAT APPC recommends Senate approve the discontinuation of the Geography major Physical Geography concentration in Arts as presented, effective September 2014.

M. Rhodes/Z. Dennison

CARRIED

3.2.2. Physical Geography Honours in Science

The Physical Geography Honours in Science program, implemented in 2008, has had approximately a dozen students graduate from it. Since its implementation, many other students have completed independent studies research projects equivalent to, in some cases, the calibre of Honours research projects. The most significant barriers to completing the Honours degree remain time and cost of completion. Removing the extra 12 credits required for an Honours degree would help the department to organize more student research under the umbrella of the Honours program, and reward high-achieving students who cannot otherwise complete the additional coursework. Students will still be required to complete GEOG 354, GEOG 491 (or approved alternative), GEOG 492 or GEOG 493, and STAT 315 (BSc only), none of which are required for non-Honours students.

MOTION:

THAT APPC recommends Senate approve the changes to the Geography Honours in Science program requirements as recommended by APPC, effective September 2014.
M. Rhodes/Z. Dennison

CARRIED

3.3. Request to Review the Program Approval Process

SBC had questions about program changes that impact other faculties and how to ensure consultation was done with all affected faculties (for example: a Science degree adds a requirement of a CMNS course for their program). There is no step that requires cross-faculty consultation now, but when the program and course approval policy is revised, it would be beneficial to include a step addressing this issue. Mark Brosinski and Sylvie Murray are currently working on how to address this issue and any changes should be brought to UEC and APPC for information.

3.4. Common Program Review Recommendations

Given the Core Review the Ministry has mandated all Boards initiate, a review of the common Program Review recommendations was suggested with a focus on a few themes: the elimination of the proliferation of courses and programs; undertaking course mapping to reduce the numbers of options and overlaps in the curriculum; mandating departments to produce 3-year timetables; and to put courses on a 2- (maybe 3-) year rotation.

There was much discussion on the common recommendations with the main discussion around benefits of creating pathways for students to complete their schooling and the different ways pathways could be created.

ACTION:

THAT a proposal for a Task Force with a clear mandate, a timeline, a set of goals, and a list of key readings on the topic be brought to the next APPC meeting for the committee to consider. Choosing the membership for this Task Force should be deliberate and thoughtful. – Eric

3.5. Student Engagement Report

Item tabled to an upcoming meeting

4. ADJOURNMENT and NEXT MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Eric recognized that this was Wendy Burton's last APPC meeting as the Director of Teaching and Learning. Eric thanked Wendy for all of her contributions to the committee and acknowledged her work in establishing the office of Teaching and Learning.

The next meeting is January 22, 2014, 2:30 – 4:30 pm, A225/229

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

5.1. Geography Department Name Change

5.2. APPC website: <http://www.ufv.ca/senate/standing-committees/appc/>