

VIU Forest Resources Technology

Advisory Committee Meeting

Feb 7, 2013 (9:00 am to 1:00 pm)

Location: Bldg. 370 Rm. 105

Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of minutes of last meeting-May 25, 2012

Old Business

3. Review May 25 minutes, action items:
 - a. GPS Units- purchase of used units or seeking “loaners” and/or rental units. [Paul]
- GPS and smart devices [Doug, Bill]
 - b. Ethics-Inclusion of an Ethics workshop by ABCFP. [Marise]
 - c. First Nations-teaching more than an “awareness”- [Marise]
 - d. Math- Explore avenues that ensure math skills are built into the program with the cancellation of Math 171 [Doug, Bill]

New Business

4. External Program Review and Self Report
 - a. Introduction-Past and Present [Doug]
 - b. Self Report -Key Recommendations¹ [all]
 - i. To maintain a good working relationship with our Advisory Committee and the Centre for Innovation and Excellence in Learning with the goal of continued improvement.
 - ii. Faculty to continue to assess and adjust the volume of assignments to allow students “quality” time to work on projects that foster more critical thinking, develop improved writing skills and teamwork.
 - iii. Transportation limitations have been significantly reduced due to the purchase of 2 additional buses to the VIU vehicle fleet. However, the one bus that is allowed to travel “off-road” is periodically removed from service due to its age. Ideally, the purchase of a new bus suitable for logging roads would further reduce concerns over lack of transportation to field lab sites.
 - iv. Forestry Faculty to meet with the English Department to discuss the one critical outcome that was rated lower than the VIU average.
 - c. External Report- Key Suggestions
 - v. Consider broadening the FRTD program content.

- vi. Consider removing the requirement for one of the two English courses and strengthening the communication requirements offered within the FRTD program.
 - vii. Endeavor to support field labs with a technical assistant.
 - viii. Evaluate the technical equipment/instruments used in the program and ensure that students are kept current with current industry standards.
 - ix. Provide a structured safety orientation at the beginning of each field exercise that is targeted to the specifics of the location, weather, and the field exercise itself. Provisions for what to do in the event that the instructor is injured should also be included in the orientation.
 - x. Seek more active participation by representatives of the major coastal licensees on the Forest Department Advisory Committee and ensure student representation at meetings of the committee.
 - xi. Maintain or enhance student recruitment efforts.
- d. Review remaining recommendations if Committee deems relevant.(Refer to Appended Table)
5. Additions to the Agenda by Advisory Committee
6. Program Focus on Critical Skills [Doug]
7. Integrated Spring Project [Bill]
- a. Update
 - b. Request for study areas near VIU
8. Trips and Activities
- a. TLA Convention [Paul, Chris]
 - b. Quebec-Interior Field Trip [Michel]
 - c. International [Michel]
9. New Ideas
- a. Forestry “practicum” [Pat]
10. Updates
- a. Woodlot [Marise and Jim]
 - b. Biosolids [Paul]
 - c. WFP Research [Bill]
