

VIU Forest Resources Technology

Advisory Committee Meeting

Feb 7, 2013 (9:00 – 1:00)

Bldg. 370, Rm. 105

Attendees:

Committee: Brooks Yancey (Chair, Advisory Committee), Ritchey Ivans, Dwight Yochim, Nancy Pezel, Blair Pigeon, Randy Trerise, Branko Samoukovic, Jeff Kerley, Jim Sears
Forestry Department: Paul Lucas (Chair), Bill Beese, Doug Corrin, Kathi Davis, Pat Hayes, Michel Vallee, Marise Wickman, Jim Wilkinson, Chris Leitao (student rep.), Paul Williams (student rep.)

Agenda & Minutes:

- Marise Wickman introduced new committee members, and introduced the new Chair of the committee, Brooks Yancey.
- The meeting agenda was approved.
- Minutes from May 25, 2012 meeting approved as distributed.

Old Business

- GPS: Paul Lucas reported that a new Trimble GPS unit was acquired for Woodlot use and classroom demonstration.
- Ethics: Brian Robinson from the ABCFP teaches two half-day workshops on professional ethics for our first- and second-year students.
- First Nations: Marise Wickman reported that we've expanded our coverage of First Nations values, including identification of CMTs, by moving from classroom sessions to the field. A trip to Port Alberni to visit the Tsechah FN is planned for this spring in the IRM course.
- FRST 121 – essential learning objectives from MATH 171 have been incorporated into FRST 121 – math concepts are introduced and discussed as required (e.g. slope conversions, ratios, algebra, etc.) Also Excel fundamentals have been incorporated into an additional 2 hour lab period with in this course.

New Business

- VIU Internal Review – Findings of the review were presented and discussed.
- Interior member recommended for the Forestry Advisory committee to be expanded to include more industry representation, including one from the interior.

ACTION: Marise to follow up to see if Interior Rep., can be found

ACTION: Island Timberlands, WFP and TW be approached to see if they will sit on advisory committee

- Transportation issues discussion; AC committee recommends the committee to look into paying 50% of bus cost.
ACTION: Advisory Committee member to do research on acquiring a bus. Follow up.
- More Instructor support is needed for field labs, for safety & instruction assistance.
 - Chair to discuss with Dean the subject of more Technician time for safety and instructional needs.
- A suggestion was made to ask experts to attend field labs. This suggestion was strongly supported by the committee.
ACTION: Forestry staff to contact outside guests for field labs
- Safety Check List -
ACTION: Create and laminate a safety field card for all incoming forestry students
 - It was recommended that students develop and deliver a safety check list
 - Safety process for lab – have class develop check list and hazard assessment process for specific labs.
 - Level I Occupational First Aid & Transportation Endorsement certificates required before attending field labs.
- Radios – recommend class sets as part of safety requirements.
- A question was asked if there is an appetite to take on forestry student for two practicums. A course with marks, credit, and all the details looked after by the Forestry department. It was asked if forest companies & government would like forestry faculty to pursue this idea, and, how it would work & then bring it back to the advisory committee.
ACTION: Forest faculty will check into how to make happen and find out if committee members are willing.
- There was a brief discussion regarding alternate sites for doing the FRST 242 spring project. Department will survey Island Timberland & TimberWest to help locate suitable areas
- Department thanked the TLA for their continued support of the program, including their invitation to their AGM. VIU hopeful to attend next year TLA in Vancouver.
- Michel Vallee described the Quebec trip.
- International – Two VIU students spent Fall 2012 semester in Czech Republic. One student from Czech Republic and one from Romania attended VIU.

Woodlot update

- Students raised monies for Quebec trip by planting & browse protection

- Wood prices are rising, Woodlot debt is being reduced

Biosolids update

- New contract will continue to 2017. VIU to concentrate on management & research and Sylvis Environmental to concentrate on operations.

WFP Research

- Bill Beese had a ¼ time research grant to conduct some research for WFP

Meeting adjourned.