University of the Fraser Valley – BCCEC Report October 2011

Enrolments

Degree enrolments are up about 15% over last year; diploma and certificate applications are the same as last year. We have wait lists again in most Fall courses, and no way to properly handle them, given ministry funding freezes. We are seeing more students come in with Principles of Math 12, and our student advisors tell us there is an upswing in the number of students now planning to enter the software and security concentrations.

Programs & Courses

Our proposed post-graduate data analysis certificate in partnership with Math is close to approval. As part of this we are moving through the approval process two new courses cross-listed with Math: COMP/MATH 331 Data Quality and COMP/MATH 431 Data mining. We have had to adjust a few pre-reqs for non-CIS people in this program.

We expect to begin a program review in the next year.

Labs

We are running Windows XP and Office 2010 in the labs. We will not see Windows 7 (or its successor) in the labs until Fall 2012. Moodle is being used as a front end for some CIS virtual lab environments, while UFV has decided to stay with Blackboard institutionally.

On-line and "Hybrid" Courses

Some of us are still having discussions about what works and how much of our curriculum should be online.

Coop

We have an increase in CIS coop positions; the majority are now filled by international students, and many of these positions are now in other provinces as far away as Ontario. This does pose some problems for students hoping to complete CIS courses while on coop.

Faculty

Former CIS Department head Ora Steyn is still acting Dean of Science. I go on sabbatical in January and have stepped down as acting department head. Our new acting head for the Fall is Lynn Kirkland Harvey from Communications. We are choosing a new dept head for January.

Our new Fall 2011 faculty hire in the software area is Leon Pan. Our selection advisory committee has begun to meet to select another new faculty member for Fall 2012. Both are retirement replacements. There are three or more of us who will also retire over the next 4-5 years.

Budget

UFV is operating at about 104% of its funded capacity this year, so budgets are tight. We are in a no-growth situation, despite increasing enrolments and wait lists. Our institution has told the provincial government that we cannot increase the number of international students without more funding.

Paul Franklin.