PPBC Minutes for 3/4/14

Present: Edoh Amiran, Alejandro Acevedo-Gutierrez, Bob Mitchell, Amanda Murphy, Phil Nelson, Arunas Oslapas, David Patrick, Takele Seda.

Absent: Jeff Young

Visitor: Clint Burgess

Items from the Council

- Edoh Amiran will meet with the CBE governance to discuss faculty governance at Western.

Agenda Items

- We met with Clint Burgess to discuss Scientific Technical Services. He briefly described the structure and history of SciTech, which is comprised of two sections: instrumentation (housed in the Huxley building) and the shop (housed in the basement of Bond Hall). SciTech reports to Academic Affairs.
- SciTech has been without a director for a few years and in Clint's opinion the arrangement is working out fine. However his administration duties are limited to day-to-day tasks and supervising. There is no advocacy, search for funding and long-term planning.
- The challenges he views are:
  a) The need to replace the old equipment in the instrumentation section because it is considered legacy and not supported by the vendor anymore.
  b) The need for one technician in each of the two sections because the workload of SciTech has increased considerably over the years.
  c) Replacements of future retirements.
  d) Tight on space.
- PPBC believes that without direct action SciTech might eventually fizzle out.

- We will keep discussing SciTech.

Voted and passed to approve the minutes of February 4, 11 and 18.

Respectfully submitted, Phil Nelson (with thanks to Alejendro for typing up his notes.)