

follow. If confirmation is received of 0% increases beginning in 2010-11, the budget committee will reconvene.

453.4.2 Dean of Education Search

The Dean of Education search committee has made a recommendation and an offer is being discussed with the recommended candidate.

453.4.3 Vice-President Research Search

The Vice-President Research search committee has completed a review of candidates and has pared the list to three, who will be interviewed March 24 and 25. Those interviews will not be public but selected candidates will be brought back to campus for interviews and presentations of a more public nature and the C.V.s will be made available.

453.4.4 Presentations to Rotary from U of L

The Lethbridge Rotary has been favored with several presentations from University of Lethbridge people, including Bryan Kolb who spoke today about the Canadian Centre for Behavioural Neuroscience (CCBN).

453.4.5 Pronghorn Men's Hockey

The President reported that Pronghorn Men's Hockey had a good year under the direction of Coach Greg Gatto. Although the team did not prevail in the most recent playoff games, they had a strong showing and forced triple overtime.

453.4.6 Markin Hall

The 10,000 square metre Markin Hall is progressing slightly behind schedule and is expected to be at or under budget.

453.4.7 Government Relations

Bill Cade, Dennis Fitzpatrick, Richard Westlund and Chris Horbachewski recently returned from Ottawa where they attended an Alumni reception with about 50 Alumni. Rick Casson helped with the arrangements as well as assisting with 17 meetings with various Government officials. At the last meeting there were questions related to the recently announced Federal Government economic stimulus package. It will require a submission, with support of the Province, due by the end of the month. The project being proposed is Phase 2 of the Water and Environmental Science Building, since it is "shovel ready", a requirement for the Federal funding.

453.4.8 Management Scholarship Dinner

This year's Management Scholarship dinner is Friday, March 13, 2009. Dr. Yosh and Florence Senda are being honoured for their lifelong dedication to the sport of Judo. This is an event that raises funds for student scholarships.

453.4.9 Jim and Heather Steacy

Bill Cade reported that U of L student-athlete, Heather Steacy will receive the top female performance award for Canada West. Jim Steacy, Heather's brother, is the male athlete of the year and top male performance award winner for Canada West. Jim Steacy will leave to compete at the CIS Nationals tomorrow where he

is expected to do extremely well. Their coach, Larry Steinke, was also a hammer throw athlete.

453.5. ITEMS FOR ACTION

453.5.1 School of Health Sciences Faculty Council Report

MOTION:

Hosgood/Piquette-Tomei

That General Faculties Council approve the appointment of the following (voting) members to Health Sciences Faculty Council until May 2010:

Arts & Science – Gail Hepburn
Fine Arts – Daniela Sirbu
Education – Brian Titley
Management – vacant
Library – Lorelei Harris
Health Sciences Students Society – MacKenzie Jones
Students' Union – Ioulia Devenney

MOTION: CARRIED

453.5.2 Faculty of Education Faculty Council Report

MOTION:

Magnusson/Wasiak

That General Faculties Council approve the following voting members of the Education Faculty Council for the balance of the 2008-09 academic year:

Arts & Science – Craig Monk & Scott Allen
Management – Bruce Thurston
Fine Arts – Desmond Rochfort & Nicholas Wade
Health Sciences – Karen Ander
Registrar – Leslie Lavers
Library – Mike Perry
Undergraduate Student Representative
- Teena Cormack & Andrew Doyle
M.Ed. Student Representative
- Candice Vercillo
Teacher Secondments
- Jeff Davis, Maurice Hollingsworth,
Sherrie Nickel, Guy Pomahac,
Tom Wilson

MOTION: CARRIED

Nancy Walker described the budget process, indicating that it is a very open process. Budget committee members come from various constituencies but represent the University, not the constituency from which they are appointed. The budget committee makes a recommendation to the President who carries it to the Board of Governors. The Board is ultimately responsible for approving the budget. It will go to the Board for approval at their March 19 meeting in order to have it in the financial system for April 1. Nancy Walker noted that the amount of the Government grant will likely not be confirmed until June. The University is required to present a balanced budget to the Government or have a plan for bringing it into balance in the following year.

It was noted that the Strategic Plan is kept in mind as budget priorities are identified as shown in the agenda material.

The budget is a four-year rolling budget based on the assumption of grant increases of 6%, 3%, 3%, and 3% over those four years. There are rumours that perhaps 3% in the first year and 0% in the following three years may be more realistic. This would mean a reduction by \$4 million in 2010-11 and \$7 million in 2011-12, which would cause significant reductions. Budget stresses mean finding ways of increasing revenue and decreasing expenses. Nancy Walker expressed the view that the U of L is in good financial shape now. Administration is definitely concerned, but is not panicking. Senior Administration and Executive Directors have met several times to discuss budget matters and scenarios, depending on various levels of grant increase. It was pointed out that approximately 90% of department budgets are salaries and benefits and significant budget reductions would mean position reductions. Administration will work with units to find the best way to manage any budget reductions. There is not a campus-wide hiring freeze at this time and critical positions will be replaced. Several Deans indicated that they have a moratorium on filling all but critical vacant positions.

Continuing and one-time funding initiatives were reviewed as identified in the agenda materials.

There was some discussion on the \$45,000 allocated from the Quality Initiatives Program (QIP) for a tutoring program. Brodie Pattenden felt the Students' Union had not been consulted on this allocation. Leslie Lavers explained that she had spoken with Brodie Pattenden and the preliminary proposal for an undergraduate peer tutoring program was presented to the budget committee last November. In developing the proposal, a large number of tutoring programs at other institutions were considered. The Registrar's Office and Student Services reported to the Budget Committee on what other institutions are doing differently in this area and how that impacted retention. It was pointed out that U of L ranked last in the MACLEANS rankings for retention from year one to two and each year after year one, attrition rates are approximately 50% of what they are the previous year. The focus initially will be on tutoring in first-year courses, which are Arts and Science. Counselling Services has some experience running tutoring programs and coordination and liaison with existing programs is intended. It was confirmed that the intent is to allocate \$600,000 to QIP next fiscal year.

Nancy Walker explained that the marked increase in utility costs is largely due to new buildings coming on line. The University has had a long-term contract and it is anticipated that the new contract will improve the rate of increases.

Some Deans reported that there is a moratorium on hiring within their faculties. The School of Health Sciences programs are Enrolment Planning Envelope (EPE) funded so in short term, it is business as usual.

It was noted that caution needs to be exercised in order to avoid commitments that can create a crisis in future years. In addition to potential reduction in the Government grant, weak student enrolment numbers also impact the revenue stream. It is important to manage expectations; however, the use of the word "crisis" is premature. Major decisions, such as completing Markin Hall, will continue and construction of the Daycare will begin when the ground thaws. The President remarked that the work of building a university of the first class will continue but recognized it is important to anticipate and plan for budget reductions. The President indicated that the future is mapped out by the Strategic Plan but the degree to which the Strategic Plan can be realized is budget based. The budget is a policy document for the University. The President did not feel the presentation was particularly rosy and that the decisions need to be made in faculty councils. Dean Nicol reported that at the Arts & Science Dean's Advisory Council, it was determined that the capital equipment replacement funds will be used for budget adjustments next year. The 2009-10 tenure track advertised positions have been shortlisted but candidates will not be brought for interviews until the budget is resolved. The Provincial budget will be announced April 7 and the detail will not be known until some time after that.

Credit hour assumptions were provided by Deans in their presentations to the Budget Committee. The Deans explain how they arrive at the assumptions, identifying factors as other institutions becoming degree granting, declining applications, size of pool shrinking, etc. There have been intense efforts in the areas of recruitment and retention to address weak enrolment numbers.

Leslie Lavers added that there is a tremendous amount of data available to them and weekly detailed recruitment, admission, and enrolment reports are prepared. The Strategic Enrolment Management Committee includes the faculties and schools. Students were phoned in late January rather than in the spring, as has been past practice. There were a number of events to help applicants convert to enrolment and recruitment activities in the fall.

There was some discussion on the possibility for growth in graduate programs. Historically, enrolment in two-year programs tends to increase in difficult economic times, especially Masters degrees. Dean Fiske reported that recruitment to graduate programs has been a priority and a full-time and some part-time assistance has been hired to address this area. There are currently 73 applicants waiting for May 1 and September 1 entry. There are more than 100 inquiries. Dean Fiske reported that there has not been this rate of application before and serious inquiries continue to come in. She expressed optimism that

the enrolment numbers in graduate programs will go up. A scholarships officer will be hired in graduate studies to administer Tri-Council scholarships and other scholarships previously housed in Research Services. Other sources of funds for students in graduate programs will also be sought. Dean Nicol noted that EPE numbers are behind targets and those numbers need to be achieved before moving to a growth stage.

Kris Magnusson reported that the Department of Advanced Education and Technology (AET) is being lobbied hard to maintain the EPE dollars but they have asked the University to look at alternative programs to reallocate those dollars. This will take a couple of years. There is persistent work being done with AET to get them to understand the impact of naming colleges as universities and to get them to provide bridging funds while we react to those changes. Within graduate programs, there is a pretty aggressive plan in place for growth in areas where we do not have a lot of presence or in areas where there is a market. This will likely not come to fruition for 18 months to two years.

A GFC member reported on a visit from Mount Royal College which drew two applications to the U of L. He felt there was some opportunity for recruitment to graduate programs from the degree granting colleges. It was confirmed that there is work underway to recruit Mount Royal College graduates to the U of L.

In addition to student attraction, retention is also an issue. The President said the University needs to continue offering a quality education and improve wherever possible.

Recession sometimes boosts enrolments but it is unpredictable and more likely in larger urban centres.

453.6.2 **Academic Staff Count**

This document was received as information.

453.6.3 **Minutes of GFC Executive email vote**

These minutes were received as information.

453.7 **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND OTHER BUSINESS**

Eric Hawthorne, who was attending on behalf of Jenn Prosser, asked if there was a program for instructors on use of classroom technology. Dean Nicol explained that the Curriculum Redevelopment Centre is available as a resource for academic staff to learn new technology in the classroom. Difficulties with routine matters, such as use of existing technology, are handled by the Information Technology Solutions Centre. Kris Magnusson added that a pan-University committee called Centre for Advancement of Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CAETL) provides orientation for new faculty and regular invitations to faculty to take advantage of new technology. He remarked that it could be explored how that committee could work with specific faculties to address deficiencies. Eric Hawthorne identified the switch panel in Anderson Hall classrooms that switches from laptop to central source as a specific problem. A Council member felt

that emergency I.T. service for classrooms has improved considerably. The CRDC and CAETL have grown together and initial mentoring has also improved. The Faculty of Management has its own I.T. support and a plan is being created for informing their faculty, in anticipation of new technology.

It was suggested that specific matters be brought to the attention of the appropriate Dean.

453.8 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

Rochfort/Baranyay

That the March 9, 2009 meeting of General Faculties Council be adjourned.

MOTION: CARRIED