



GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL MEETING #489

Approved Minutes

Monday, November 4, 2013

3:00 p.m. in W646

- Present:** M. Mahon (Chair), L. Ambedian, L. Brown, C. Cooper, J. Copeland, L. Elias, B. Ellis, S. Glydon, K. Haight, A. Hakin, M. Hawkins, M. Helstein, C. Hollingsworth, C. Horbachewski, C. Hosgood, L. Jacobs, C. Jorgenson, E. Jurkowski, K. Kalmar, M. Kawchuk, L. Kennedy, J. Lapadat, J. Laurendeau, P. Loewen, A. Long, C. Malacrida, K. McCallum, C. Nicol, D. O'Donnell, W. Osborn, J. Poulsen, L. Robison-Greene, A. Siaroff, D. Siminovitch, T. Spagnolo, S. Talbot, J. Usher, P. Visentin, J. Vokey, K. Vos, N. Walker, M. Wiens, S. Wismath, J. Youngdahl, W. Yuan
- Regrets:** P. Asaana, T. Babalola, G. Bedard, B. Boudreau, J. Dobbie, B. Goodwin, Thelma Gunn, P. Henzi, L. Hildebrand, P. Hodd, C. Kingfisher, B. Lee, M. Lindsay, C. Loewen, I. MacLachlan, F. Naeem, N. Peters, M. Pijl Zieber, N. Piquette, I. Townshend, D. Weeks, R. Westlund, P. Wilson, R. Wood, R. Yalamova-Usher
- Other:** J. Gallais (recording secretary), L. Corbiere, V. Grisack, S. Sproule, Carly Adams

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: gfc.2013.11.01

Kalmar/Jurkowski

That the Agenda for GFC Meeting #489 held Monday, November 4, 2013 be approved and no post-agenda was sent for the study leave policy.

Motion: Carried with Amendment Below

MOTION TO AMEND: gfc.2013.11.02

Usher/Laurendeau

That Item for Discussion 5.2 be removed from the agenda.

Motion to Amend: Carried
(18 approved, 10 against, 10 abstentions)

J. Usher indicated that a grievance is filed about this. A. Hakin indicated that this was only coming forth as a discussion item and it is an opportunity to provide

information and have discussion, and this would not go against the grievance that is filed about it but it would need support from ULFA to do this.

MOTION TO AMEND: gfc.2013.11.03

Jacobs/Vokey

That the Strategic Plan be moved to an item for approval.

Motion to Amend: Withdrawn

M. Mahon noted that the strategic plan is only scheduled for discussion today and it will be coming back in December in a more final form.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: gfc.2013.11.04

Jurkowski/Osborn

That the Minutes for GFC Meeting #488 held Monday, November 4, 2013 be approved.

Motion: Carried

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

M. Mahon reported:

- Demonstration of Pro-life group on campus – created challenges on campus and related to balance of freedom of expression and safety of members of the internal and external community. It was an aggressive group of individuals and there were challenges for how we managed their presence on campus. The location rectification took longer than necessary and we recognize this. We need to work harder to find the correct balance with how we engaged through those 3 days and what could have been done better. A communication will be sent later today expressing what happened and he apologized to those people who did not feel safe. Dr. Mahon commits that he will do better.
 - M. Hawkins. Question on if they will be given a permit again since they violated? We will look at this situation and how we manage it as they most likely will plan on coming back.
 - D. O'Donnell – Question on if they were filming people passing by and is there a policy on that? People need to ask permission and yes, there is a process, as well as a policy on how students and non-students engage.
 - J. Vokey – Security stopping vehicles and warning them about graphic displays on pro-choice – yes we need work to ensure response is appropriate. We are looking how everyone responded in all areas.
 - L. Ambedian – are we looking for input or suggestions? Yes, we are open to all of them.

- M. Hawkins – someone said one faculty member was physically grabbed. If there were concerns in those regards they need to be reported to campus security. This is a serious issue that needs attending to.
- C. Malacrida – This club has been engaged in ill behaviour and graphic displays over time. Is there discussion on if that club is appropriate to have on campus – problematic values based. S. Talbot indicated many clubs are value or opinion based and that must be balanced delicately. M. Mahon indicated we will work closely with SU to manage this.
- Destination Project – Consultants on campus this week – individuals encouraged to attend the activities. Opportunity to see the work and to provide input.
- Had successful convocation – thanks to outgoing Chief Marshal Jon Doan and incoming Shelia McManus as it is an important role
- Another town hall meeting in early December on Budget
- Congratulations to:
 - Nominees: David Naylor and Dr. Igor Kovalchuk ASTech Award for 2013 Innovation in Agricultural Science, and the Canada Wide Science Fair was also highlighted. In addition, iGem students were there and did a marvelous job.
 - Finale for Music in the Making campaign and raised \$600,000 to purchase instruments. Enrolment is up 10% with moving downtown. Congrats to Fine Arts and Music Conservatory.
- Community Town hall at Penny Building to discuss and allow community to give input on the Destination project. This is important as community support is instrumental to the project.
- Congratulations to everyone as the University of Lethbridge maintains top-three standing in Maclean's 2014 University Rankings – lots to do with amazing ability of UofL to be a high quality research university that does a marvelous job.
- Question Period: J. Laurendeau – wanted public acknowledgement of the work of students and faculty responding to the display last week and as this was a positive thing that happened. M. Mahon heard lots of how we managed some of these things, so thanks to those who provided that support and this will be expressed to the community.

4. ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1. Senate Honorary Degree Committee Update

J. Gallais reported that at last GFC we approved dissolving the GFC Honorary Degree Committee pending composition changes by Senate. The process is going forward. Once the changes are approved by them our bylaws will be updated. M. Mahon indicated that he foresees no challenges as Senate Exec is supportive of this.

4.2. Letter of Expectation Update

M. Mahon indicated that after the GFC Discussion, the letter moved to the Board and he recommended to Board Executive and the Board that they consider a cover letter to express the key sentiments about the government responsibility section expressed by GFC. The Board was very supportive of GFC and the letter went signed to the Minister, with the strong encouragement by the Board Chair within the cover letter to look at the key points raised

last time by GFC. The Vice-Chair will be attending a meeting and the final signing of the letter of expectation will occur there. We will see if our encouragement has any affect this year.

4.3. Blackfoot and First Nations Metis and Inuit Protocol Handbook Update

J. Lapadat gave a quick update to the Handbook that was passed last month. It has received lots of positive press and much attention across the country as it was very innovative. Question on reference to the research ethics committee and how feedback is given to them. J. Lapadat indicated that ongoing discussion is needed. It is a living document so will be changed as needed.

As an update, Roy Weasel Fat, who worked on this, is now President of Red Crow College so we have a great opportunity to grow our commitment and collaboration with FNMI community.

5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

5.1. Strategic Plan - Draft

M. Mahon provided an overview of the draft Strategic Plan and stated the process of consultation started one year ago using forums, websites, and whiteboards. The strategic planning and steering committees were used and through forms of consultation began to develop a draft document. As a draft, the document went out to units on campus and they had discussion in various forms. The document in draft form was the one forwarded by strategic planning committee and the changes that were noted are the ones recommended by the community. The plan is for GFC to provide additional feedback, before it will come back to GFC in December and then for final approval to the Board of Governors that week. It was emphasized that the writers are doing a good job but it is hard to see the words for them at this point.

Discussion occurred on the following points: the emphasis on FNMI, the definition of Liberal Education and where it should appear, soft language and ordering of bullet points. Any other changes should be forwarded to Laurel and Paul for the final draft which will come back in December.

5.2. Faculty Work Assignments Report

A. Hakin explained the process and work behind the nine-budget sub-committees that were formed after the significant reduction in our operating grant. One of the committees formed was tasked to look at faculty work load. Questions were asked as to why we want to do this considering we are moving forward as a comprehensive university and there are so many things we are doing that we need to continue? The main consideration is the sustainability of academic staff and limited continuing funds available for continuing academic positions. This was exacerbated by the uptake in the academic voluntary retirement package that was done prior to the budget being reduced. The recommendations were directed at ways to save money so we can then reinvest into continuing positions. No blanket statements are being made about everyone teaching five classes. We do not have money for tenure track positions, we have suspended programs and we need to look at everything.

C. Nicol, the sub-committee co-chair (along with C. Loewen, Dean of Education), agreed to speak to this. He indicated the idea was not a one size fits all, but instead allows for

variations in units and maintains research as best as possible. They were looking to do the best with all the resources and maintain our strengths. Some individuals who have more passion in teaching could be encouraged there, but it is up to individual units to solve the problems themselves.

Significant discussion arose on the logic of the finances, how going to teaching four classes was the single biggest change in our institution, the ensuing poor morale caused by this position, and the use of research and graduate students. Questions also arose on how service loads can be achieved, the role of quality assurance in this process, and how it would have been beneficial to have faculty involvement. It was also identified that our institution is underfunded and how the opening of the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* could be beneficial to us in that regard. Other budget-saving options were suggested by members: not funding graduate studies, not giving money to central administration, and turning students away. A concern was noted as a point of order since a member felt this item was something that GFC should be acting on. It was clarified that this was an item for discussion only, and it was only brought forth to ensure transparency so no decisions are being made at this point. This will be brought to GFC Executive for further discussion.

MOTION: gfc.2013.11.05

Laurendeau /Kalmar

That the GFC Meeting be allowed to extend past 5:00 p.m.

Motion: Carried.

6. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- 6.1. GFC Executive Committee Minutes – September 30, 2013
The minutes were presented for information.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business at this time.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: gfc.2013.11.06

Kalmar/Talbot

That the GFC meeting #489 be adjourned.

Motion: Carried