



GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL MEETING #471

Approved Minutes

Monday, October 3, 2011

3:00 p.m. in W646

- Present:** M. Mahon (Chair), K. Bernes, B. Boudreau, L. Bradley, L. Brown, C. Campbell, D. Dahle, S. Dawson, J. Dobbie, A. Dymond, B. Ellis, A. Escher, L. Escobar, N. Eva, D. Gill, A. Hakin, E. Hasebe-Ludt, M. Hawkins, P. Hayes, C. Horbachewski, C. Hosgood, L. Howard, D. Hunt, D. Kazakoff, L. Kennedy, C. Kingfisher, J. Kulig, D. Le Roy, R. Lencucha, C. Loewen, H. MacDonald, C. Malacrida, I. McAdam, L. Meredith, Z. Moline, C. Nicol, W. Osborn, D. Oye, D. Rochfort, L. Rodych, N. Rosen, C. Schneider, A. Siaroff, D. Siminovitch, M. Stingl, R. Sutherland, S. Talbot, I. Townshend, A. Williams, B. Wojtowicz, P. Walz, N. Walker, D. Weeks, R. Wood, R. Yalamova-Usher
- Regrets:** S. Alam, G. Bedard, R. Boere, M. Gerken, P. Ghazalian, E. Gorny, M. Letts, A. Nussbaumer, S. Patitsas, D. Rutledge, M. Sedgwick, R. Sept
- Other:** J. Black (Recording Secretary), J. Sletto, R. Westlund, L. Corbiere

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: gfc.2011.10.01

Kulig/Le Roy

That the Agenda for Meeting #471 held Monday, October 03, 2011 be approved as circulated.

Motion: Carried

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: gfc.2011.10.02

Stingl/Hawkins

*That the Minutes for Meeting #470 held Monday, September 12, 2011 be approved with the following amendments:
Add A. Dymond to those present, correct a punctuation and a few spelling errors to individual names, add further*

information to the approval of the minutes regarding the question asked on the library committee, and add to the President's Report information on the 4 main areas for sciences in the Campus Alberta Innovates section

Motion: Carried

Following the meeting corrections were made to the September 12th minutes and information was added where required regarding the library committee and the four main areas of investment for the Campus Alberta Innovates funding. Follow up was done with the individuals to ensure accuracy of the sections.

3. ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no additional items arising from the minutes.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

M. Mahon provided an update on what has been happening since the last meeting.

- Fiat Lux Address – A thank-you went out to everyone who attended, and for those who missed the address last week it is now online in written form and in video. At the end of the address he announced that there will be monthly open lunch sessions and open office hours starting in October. The events will be advertised for those interested.
- Enrolment Update - At the end of September the numbers are 8,457 undergraduate students, and 515 graduate students.
- Student/University Engagement Activities: A number of these have already been occurring on campus.
 - Jail and bail money for Afghanistan
 - Relay of Life on Friday throughout the eveningA number of great activities have already been taking place on campus by not just student but also faculty and staff so a thank you went out to everyone who has been participating in these.
- IGEM Team – A young group of graduate and undergraduate students successfully defeated both the UofA and UofC at a provincial level competition and they are now moving on to a competition in Indianapolis.
- Student Residences – Our commitment to continuing to create student residences is moving along as we now have 99 new residences on the 4th floor of University Hall and in Kainai Apartments due to interior redesign and renovations. The improvements within the 4th floor are very impressive and there have been numerous student compliments. Residences are a definite priority due to their importance in the recruitment and retention of students.
- New Premier – We have a new premier, Alison Redford, as of Sunday morning. This could mean significant changes in terms of make up of cabinet and it means that we will be spending a significant amount of time

in Edmonton getting to know the new people. A lot remains to be seen and we need to get ourselves front and centre of the new cabinet.

- Ottawa –Mike will be in Ottawa next month as we continue to focus on areas of strategic importance within the federal government.
- Congratulations to Dan Weeks, Vice President Research, on a recent article in University Affairs on his leading the process of creating the Alliance of Canadian Comprehensive Research Universities. He was instrumental in inviting 25 universities to Ottawa and 19 universities attended this inaugural meeting. This is a very significant initiative and allows the smaller comprehensive universities an opportunity to discuss their challenges. Anyone who has not yet read the article was encouraged to do so.
- Legal Counsel – On November 1st an in-house legal counsel, Sharon Sproule, will start her employment at the University. This information was provided as the position is referred to within the GFC Bylaw review that will be further down in the agenda.
 - In regards to the decision to move to in-house legal counsel:
 - We are one of the few Universities in the country that do not to have a full-time in-house legal counsel.
 - An examination was done on the amount of funds we were spending on legal fees, and it made it clear an in-house counsel was required. This position will report to Nancy Walker, Vice President (Finance & Administration), and will provide legal advice and guidance to the senior leadership team, Deans, Executive Directors, and the University as a whole.
 - The position will not eliminate the need to use outside legal services when the need arises but this position should reduce our outside legal counsel needs and costs.
- Convocation is on October 15th. Our Alumnus of the Year is Michael Miltenberger, Deputy Premier and Minister of Environment and Natural Resources for the Northwest Territories. There are two Honorary Degree Recipients; John Kloppenborg and George Gemer. Everyone was encouraged to attend.

Question Period:

D. Siminovitch – The University did not need a lawyer in the past. Please comment on are we saving time or are we saving money – is this new money? M. Mahon indicated that it is a combination of the two. 1. When we did an analysis of the money spent it was well beyond the cost of what a legal counsel would be, and 2. We are finding that there are many questions on a daily basis that require legal opinion. Even the decision to go to legal counsel sometime requires a sense of is this a wise use of dollars. This enables us to be more efficient and effective in the use of legal counsel and in addition, presently we are doing things such as reviewing contracts

without legal counsel and from a risk perspective this is not a wise practice. With the growth of the UofL as a comprehensive university the contracts that are being developed and needing review are growing and this is more significant. This does not mean we will not use any external legal counsel because there are instances where there can be an issue that arises that focussed legal opinion is needed and in those instances our legal counsel will help us understand that and then can steward this process.

N. Walker said when issues arise we need to ensure they are handled in a timely matter so having our own counsel will make sure that happens.

M. Mahon indicated that considering the situations universities have experienced in the last few years, and the level of risk universities are facing, this is a responsible decision for the University to make.

5. ITEMS FOR ACTION

5.1. General Faculties Council Appointments

MOTION: gfc.2011.10.03

Hosgood/Ellis

That GFC approves the new appointed faculty/school members indicated within the enclosure.

Motion: Carried

5.2. Senate GFC Appointment

MOTION: gfc.2011.10.04

Hawkins/Hakin

Upon the recommendation of GFC Executive Committee, GFC approve Anne Dymond as a replacement for Robert Wood's term on Senate that is set to expire on August 31, 2012.

Motion: Carried

5.3. General Faculties Council Executive Committee

M. Mahon indicated that two vacancies exist on GFC Executive. The floor was open to nominations for the Executive Committee.

Dymond

That General Faculties Council approve the appointment of James Dobbie to the Executive Committee for a term ending September 30, 2013.

Siaroff

That General Faculties Council approve the appointment of Lynn Kennedy to the Executive Committee for a term ending September 30, 2013.

MOTION: gfc.2011.10.05

Hosgood/ Osborn

That nominations for the General Faculties Council Executive Committee cease.

Motion: Carried

J. Dobbie and L. Kennedy were appointed to the Executive Committee.

5.4. Faculty/School Council Appointments

MOTION: gfc.2011.10.06

Hunt/Hawkins

That GFC approves the Arts & Science Council members as recommended by the Arts & Science Council. B. West is on leave so that name is being removed.

Motion: Carried

5.5. Research Committee – Proposed Bylaw Revisions

MOTION: gfc.2011.10.07

Brown/Nicol

That GFC approves the proposed revisions to the composition and powers and duties of the GFC Research Committee. With an amendment to add “and/or GFC” to item one within the powers and duties.

Motion: Carried (by 2/3 for GFC Bylaw Amendment)

L. Brown explained that the Research Office is moving forward with some new initiatives. The changes of powers and duties, and composition will help facilitate these endeavours. Discussion occurred regarding the changes and it was indicated by D. Weeks that the intent

is to empower the committee. Changes were proposed and accepted to indicate that the Vice President (Research) and/or GFC if required can help direct the committee.

5.6. Research Centres and Institutes – Policy Change

MOTION: gfc.2011.10.08

Brown/Hosgood

That GFC approves the Research Centres and Institutes policy changes to the committee composition.

Motion: Carried

L. Brown explained that this is a newly formalized policy. There is as a stumbling block in the present version as the wording regarding committee composition is limiting, and as such there is difficulty in staffing the committees. This policy was previously before GFC and the Board. Discussion occurred and it was clarified that the change in wording was done to increase scope and that the use of the word senior was not clear. The proposed change is from “two senior faculty members of the General Faculties Council who are affiliated with another Centre/Institute at the University...” to: “two faculty members of the Graduate Council...”.

5.7. GFC Bylaw Amendment – Academic Staff Definition

MOTION: gfc.2011.10.09

Siaroff/Kazakoff

That GFC approves the rewording of the full-time academic staff definition within the GFC Bylaws.

Motion: Tabled

A. Siaroff indicated that this was a carryover from I. MacLachlan’s term as Chair of the Parts 1, 2 and 3 of the GFC Bylaw Review Committee, and it is just a clarification on language regarding the definition of full-time academic staff. A concern was expressed and discussion followed regarding those on reduced load status. Suggestions arose regarding looking at the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* further, looking at what other institutions are doing, and having legal counsel examine this.

Hakin/Hawkins

That GFC table the GFC Bylaw Academic Staff definition motion.

Motion: Carried

M. Mahon indicated that the GFC Bylaw Review committee will bring this up for discussion.

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

6.1. GFC Bylaw Revision Proposal

A. Siaroff indicated that D. Kazakoff, W. Smith, Z. Moline and J. Black were the individuals on the GFC Bylaw Committee Review for Parts 4, 5 and 6. The changes are within the enclosed summary and if there are any comments they need to be submitted to J. Black by Oct. 17. The intention is to bring this proposal back in November for approval.

Questions were welcomed at this time.

Confidential Review Submissions - Questions ensued regarding the process of confidentiality, and it was stated that FOIP is a reality that we face. The president made it clear that he would refuse to hand over any of these confidential submissions; however, a legal authority can overturn the president. Senior administration would not knowingly hand over anything except in legal requirements when the choice is no longer theirs. Discussion ensued regarding how best to handle issues of confidentiality. Concern was expressed over having no names on submissions and therefore no weight behind your comments.

Term Limits and Lengths – it was clarified that there are no specified lengths or limits for associate deans as it is up to each Faculty/School Council to determine their own process. Discussion ensued regarding the reasoning behind the proposed limits, and other issues such as what if someone is doing a good job, what about fresh blood, and are we not trusting the process.

Mid-Term Reviews - A. Siaroff indicated that in implementing term limits the mid-term review is unnecessary. In a survey of other institutions, the consensus was that midterm reviews are uncommon as they are not seen as an effective practice. A. Hakin added that there are already annual evaluations that call on community input. Senior administration spends significant hours on this process.

Committee Numbers – it was clarified that 3 sizes were identified: 10 or 12, 16, and 20.

Presidential Appointment Committee – A. Siaroff indicated that they will look at this in regards to Deans' representation.

Conflict of Interest - discussion at the committee level occurred on this matter and the most effective means of discouraging potential conflicts discussed is for members not to vote for an individual where this might be a potential challenge.

It was reiterated that input needs to be received by the 17th of October so the committee can review and make any changes prior to November. This is a public forum so this can be shared with colleagues outside GFC to gather input as all input is welcomed.

M. Mahon thanked the committee for all their work.

6.2. Research Services - Update

D. Weeks presented to GFC an update on the activities within Research Services.

Information was presented on: research planning and the Strategic Research Plan (SRP); Campus Alberta Innovates Program (CAIP); Canada Research Chairs (CRC); Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI); Board of Governors Research Chairs (BOGRC); and Interdisciplinary Research Development Fund.

- A thank you went out to everyone for their role on the progress of the SRP.
- Information was given on the important role that the Research Advisory Committee and the GFC Research Committee will play.
- The Dean is proceeding with the CAIP Chairs and this will be moving forward very quickly.
- A draft announcement was presented and this will form the basis of a campus call to fill the two vacant Tier 2 CRC Chairs.
- We now have \$1.4 million available in our Leaders Opportunity Fund (LOF) fund. Under the new initiatives fund, we have up to \$1.47 million.
- Nothing specific is known regarding the Leading Edge Fund (LEF) program, other than that the fund is largely weighted for renewal of equipment which is unfortunate for newer institutions such as ours.
- Board of Governors Research Chairs (BOGRC), this is exciting and important program, but it might not get level of attention it deserves so discussion will start with Research Committee and then come back re: numbers of the chairs and the areas that it focuses on. So a request was made for people to start thinking of this now.
- Interdisciplinary Research Development Fund, explanation was given on the intent of the program, process and funds available. This information is now public, and the University Community can and will become aware of this.

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

7.1. GFC Standing Committee Reports

J. Black reported that all standing committee reports were received and are enclosed within the agenda for information. These reports were presented at GFC Executive for discussion.

7.2. GFC Executive Committee Minutes - August 29, 2011

The minutes were presented for information.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business at this time.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: gfc.2011.10.10

Kingfisher/Walz

That GFC meeting #471 be adjourned.

Motion: Carried