



GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL MEETING #475
Approved Minutes

Monday, March 5, 2012
3:00 p.m. in W646

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

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: gfc.2012.03.01

Le Roy/Ellis

That the Agenda for GFC Meeting #475 held Monday, March 5, 2012 be approved with the addition of 6.1 Agenda Setting under other business.

Motion: Carried

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: gfc.2012.03.02

Nicol/Hosgood

That the Minutes for GFC Meeting #474 held Monday, February 6, 2012 be approved as circulated.

Motion: Carried

3. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

M. Mahon highlighted a number of items.

- A thank you was given to Dean Nicol for all his contributions as the President's Office was informed that he will not be seeking an additional term.
- The UofL had the first ever Family Day event at the 1st Choice Savings Centre for Sport and Wellness in collaboration with 1st Choice Savings. It was tremendously successful with about 2,500 family members in attendance and the UofL was toasted in the Lethbridge Herald for hosting this event.
- The Budget Task Force is in the final stages of their review and report. It will be posted on the strategic planning website. A thank-you was given to all those who participated by providing feedback. Following this report there will be a consideration of the budget allocation model.
- The president's discussion paper is now fully underway and once there is a comfortable draft it will be moved out.
- Scotiabank recently announced funding for a new FNMI mentorship program.
- On March 15th there will be a very exciting announcement on an endowed sponsorship in Faculty of Health Sciences.
- The Quality Assurance Review is now complete. There are 41 recommendations that will be considered and some will come forward to GFC for consideration.
- The UofL had the first Deputy Minister dinner in Ottawa last week. Stew Rood, Joe Rasmussen, and Rick Mrazek were there to present and discuss.
- M. Mahon presented to the staff of Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) on the UofL. He also met with the Chair of First Nations Caucus, and the Chair of Brain Canada.

There were no questions at this time.

4. **ITEMS FOR ACTION**

4.1. GFC Nominee to the Board of Governors

MOTION: gfc.2012.03.03

Hakin/Nussbaumer

That GFC approve Jennifer Copeland to replace Heidi MacDonald as a nominee of General Faculties Council to serve on the Board of Governors.

Motion: Carried

A question arose on how many members are on the Board and what the process is for coming forth with names. The GFC Executive committee looks at composition and the numbers on the Board are legislated by the *PSLA*.

A thank you was given to Heidi MacDonald for her time on the Board of Governors as it is a very extensive time commitment and it is important to have the representative from GFC present.

5. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

5.1. Academic Staff Count – GFC Membership Calculation

D. Hunt indicated the *PSLA* requires the Registrar to provide this count. A question arose on why the Librarians were not included, and it was clarified after the meeting that the *PSLA* indicates that elected members are from those with faculty and/or school councils.

5.2 University Budget

N. Walker explained the budget that was presented to GFC for information. The university budget is the responsibility of the Board of Governors. It was indicated that there are a few components to the budget. The operating budget is what is being presented and there are also other restricted funds. The university is not able to project a deficit without special permission from Advanced Education and Technology. There is a balanced budget for the 2012-13 year. The University Budget Committee has representatives from all areas and their recommendation is then presented to the President who makes the final recommendation to the Board of Governors.

With the 2% grant increase \$1.9 million dollars still needed to be cut to balance the budget this year, and we need to cut approximately \$4 million dollars over three years. All units were asked to cut 3.5% in order to balance this current year. The money was reallocated based on priorities and stresses; the number one priority being student recruitment and retention. The priorities were determined based on discussion at the University Budget Committee and with Deans and Executive Directors.

The increases to the base budget are not official as we have not received the final letter and it is never exactly 2%. The hope is to receive the official letter from the government by the end of March.

A question arose on how much information is given to the Board especially for reductions to position funds. The Board is apprised of the challenge that each unit has to go through. There is a distinction between position funds and cuts, as funds are vacant positions. An attempt was made to preserve our resources whenever possible. It was indicated that the government needs to know this has a major impact on how we work. N. Walker indicated there is a significant amount of time spent with the government getting this message across.

Specific questions arose on which buildings need structural monitoring and deferred maintenance. It was emphasized by the members that we need to work to maintain the emphasis on our students and the quality of our programs through these budget challenges. M. Mahon indicated that the budget planning exercises coming up will help plan for the upcoming realities our institution will be facing.

5.3 GFC Executive Committee Minutes – January 30, 2012

C. Nicol wanted it clarified that under Other Business it needs to be noted that the returning officer for the appointment committee in Arts and Science is appointed by the Faculty and is a staff member of the Library. This person does not report to the Dean.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Agenda Setting

A question arose from L. Jacobs on how the agenda for GFC is set, as a motion was forwarded to GFC Executive from the Library Committee and it was not approved for the GFC Agenda. M. Mahon indicated that GFC Executive discussed this and decided it was not appropriate to bring the agenda item forward to GFC. The item referred to the university budget, the committee was also aware that the University Budget committee discussed this point extensively, and the role of GFC is not to approve budget. The Library Committee may resubmit the motion to better explain why this is an item for GFC to consider, and it was indicated that facilitating how and/or where the appropriate motions should be considered would have been beneficial.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: gfc.2012.03.04

Gorny/Walz

That the GFC meeting #475 be adjourned.

Motion: Carried