



## GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL MEETING #483

### Approved Minutes

**Monday, March 4, 2013**

**3:00 p.m. in W646**

- Present:** M. Mahon (Chair), J. Adolf, S. Anderson, L. Brown, J. Dobbie, L. Elias, B. Ellis, A. Escher, D. Gill, P. Hayes, M. Helstein, P. Henzi, C. Hollingsworth, C. Hosgood, L. Howard, D. Hunt, L. Jacobs, L. Kennedy, J. Kulig, J. Lapadat, J. Laurendeau, M. Letts, C. Loewen, P. Loewen, C. Malacrida, R. Mallard, B. Mathenia, K. McCallum, C. Nicol, W. Osborn, N. Piquette, B. Schnell, M. Stingl, S. Talbot, I. Townshend, J. Usher, N. Walker, M. Wang, D. Weeks, V. Wells, J. Wiebe, S. Wismath, R. Yalamova-Usher, W. Yuan (via phone)
- Regrets:** S. Alam, G. Bedard, B. Boudreau, C. Campbell, J. Copeland, M. Gerken, A. Hakin, C. Horbachewski, C. Kingfisher, L. Kleemola, J. Knapp, R. Lencucha, I. McAdam, K. Mazurek, Z. Moline, A. Morning Bull, A. Nussbaumer, D. Oye, D. Rochfort, N. Rosen, M. Sedgwick, D. Siminovitch, P. Visentin, J. Vokey, K. Vos, R. Wood
- Other:** J. Black (recording secretary), L. Corbiere, S. Olson, S. Sproule

#### 1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: gfc.2013.03.01

Adolf/Kulig

*That the Agenda for GFC Meeting #483 held Monday, March 4, 2013 be approved.*

Motion: Carried

#### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: gfc.2013.03.02

Piquette/Laurendeau

*That the Minutes for GFC Meeting #482 held Monday, February 4, 2013 be approved with an amendment to the Curriculum Coordinating comments to indicate the concern was in the increase of the ex-officio membership.*

Motion: Carried

### **3. ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

#### **3.1 Minute Approval from December 2012**

J. Black reported that last meeting clarification was requested on a comment noted within the question period. Changes were done and sent to the requester, and the approved minutes are now available on the website.

### **4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

M. Mahon reported:

- Budget Week – The provincial budget will be read this week on March 7. M. Mahon will be there and will learn more as it unfolds. N. Walker will discuss more about the budget later on in this agenda.
- Strategic Plan – There is a committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, and this will be their first look at the first draft. All consultation steps have been completed and they will begin to look at refining the plan. Once the committee reviews it, the plan will be moved through the appropriate areas and will be formally approved by the Board of Governors next Fall.
- Native Awareness Week – There are a number of activities that take place this week, and all individuals were encouraged to participate.
- Renaming of CRDC and CAETL into the Teaching Centre – A Celebration Event was held and a new logo was introduced. This was a wonderful celebration and a natural transition to move into an integrated teaching centre. Congratulations were given to everyone involved in making this happen.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Family Play Day – This was another great event to reach out to all communities. There was a wonderful cross section of individuals and more activities were incorporated this year.
- BMO Financial Group – Officials from BMO were on campus to present to us 67 original pastel portraits by Nicholas de Grandmaison valued at \$1.66 million. This adds to our significant collection of pieces by him. The gift also included \$50,000 to care for and create access so we continue to showcase this collection.
- Fine Arts – Congratulations was given to Fine Arts for their 12<sup>th</sup> annual Abbondanza event almost reaching their \$1 million goal for student scholarships and for their recent Fine Arts day on campus that attracted more than 540 participants.
- Individuals were encouraged to let M. Mahon know if there was anything happening in their area that they would like him to highlight in his address.
- Internationalization - M. Mahon travelled to Mexico City to sign an MOU with CONACYT the federal organization in Mexico that funds graduate students. This will allow us to recruit fully funded graduate students to our campus. D. Weeks will go back and finish the MOU and have further collaborative discussion on how the process will unfold. M. Mahon also visited two partnering institutions Universidad Veracruzana, where we hope to send our first five students this year, and Panamerican, where the MOU was originally with our Faculty of Management but has now been extended across the institution. There are some great relationships with high quality institutions. D. Weeks – spoke about his recent trip to the Ukraine. He thanked everyone around the table for their help in determining what our footprint

was over there prior to the trip. He signed two MOU's that were already started in a medical university and another in the oil and gas university. The UofL is widely known in the Ukraine and some provosts have even been to our campus. D. Weeks will meet with anyone wanting to know more about the opportunities in that country. There are 48 million people there and 500 universities.

Question Period:

There were no questions at this time.

## **5. ITEMS FOR ACTION**

### **5.1. Arts and Science Council Membership**

MOTION: gfc.2013.03.03

Nicol/Helstein

*That General Faculties Council approves the appointed member, Brandon McNally, as a member of Arts and Science Faculty Council for the 2012/2013 academic year.*

Motion: Carried

C. Nicol indicated that Brandon McNally will also be serving on a standing committee on Research and Teaching. The Faculty approved this and forwarded it to GFC for their approval.

## **6. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

### **6.1. Academic Staff Count – GFC Membership**

D. Hunt indicated that every year this is provided in collaboration with Human Resources and the President's Office. The numbers are as of January 31<sup>st</sup> and the calculations determine the number of statutory seats for GFC. A question arose on the difference between the numbers presented and the numbers in the calculation, and it was noted that this is due to four individuals who were on reduced load being grandfathered in.

### **6.2. Letter – Library and Learning Commons Initiative: Key Parameters Document**

A letter submitted by C. Nicol, Acting University Librarian and chair of the GFC Library Committee was submitted for information. C. Nicol indicated that the GFC Library Committee discussed this at length over several meetings. The essence of what the group was trying to say in terms of how people who responded to the request for feedback on the learning commons initiative as it relates to the Library was it delves into too much about the specific use of space in the library and the main collection. The recommendation of the committee is that the emphasis in the learning commons document should be brought up a level or two to focus more on general principles rather than the sorts of details currently contained in the document, and that in the next round of discussions that occur for these projects, stakeholders of the space be involved in consultation under the rubrics of the Academic and Strategic Plan.

M. Mahon provided a comment in A. Hakin's absence to indicate the key parameters document was a first cut at discussion related to what is optimal learning common experiences in general not just in the Library. The consideration of learning spaces is a big question that will continue to be addressed. There was some concern this was a fait accompli but this was intended to be a beginning of a conversation as it relates to learning spaces. As we move forward, these recommendations from the committee and others will be important and there will be opportunities for continued discussion as we move through all projects. This is not what we need our library to look like, but what we need our campus to look like in the future.

Questions and extensive discussion arose around what is a consultative process, and explanation was given on how every group will be consulted with during the next phase. M. Mahon reiterated that planners can be very enthusiastic and it can lead to think a decision is made, but there is no decision until wide spread consultation is done. N. Walker also informed GFC that there has been no decision made in regards to where the Science Building would go as extensive discussion has not yet occurred around that either. M. Mahon added that there is a relationship between the destination project and learning project as well and there will be interplay between what is imagined for all campus.

### 6.3. Nomination Committee

J. Dobbie reported that the call for nominations for the Meliorist Society did not produce any responses, so this will be included again within the next call. The call for GFC Standing Committees will be coming soon and all individuals were encouraged to come forth with nominations.

### 6.4. University Budget

N. Walker indicated that the initial plan was to approve the budget in December or January of this year so we could do appropriate planning. We were originally told to expect a 2% increase for 3 years and then we started hearing rumors that the 2% may not be realized. This is the first time a budget was not presented to GFC in March. We have a document prepared, but numbers are not complete as we do not know what operating grant we are getting. We are not just sitting and waiting, but we are hearing it will be quite drastic. For our institution 1% equals \$1 million, so even with a 2% increase to our operating grant we had to cut \$2.6 million, so a 0% increase means we will need another \$2 million cut. Anything below 0% can be quite devastating. Our main cost is salaries so if this happens positions will be effected, but we are trying to not cut positions. We have also heard they might treat institutions differently.

We do have a short term plan and for the first time an interim budget will be presented. A few projects have been started that review program and service costs to see if efficiencies can occur. There are working groups looking at things like marketing, communications, finance, and IT to see how we may consolidate to make it more cost effective. The hope is to get this analysis done by the end of July this year and then get that information to make some intelligent decisions. There is also a voluntary retirement program for faculty but we are not sure until March 15 how many individuals will take advantage of this, there are also employee group negotiations ongoing, and of course the government funding, so we have some unknowns and will let everyone know as soon as we can.

A question arose on timeline for clarity. N. Walker indicated on March 7<sup>th</sup> they could say 0%, then we will have a phone call from the Deputy Minister on March 8<sup>th</sup>. We should know more then on what this means. M. Mahon indicated the Budget Advisory Committee meets next Wednesday so they will look at how this information is shared. M. Mahon indicated that there is no town hall booked at this point because no concrete information is available yet to share.

Another question arose that other institutions have said that they cannot make across the board cuts, so is this us too? N. Walker indicated this is us as well and that is why we are looking at efficiencies across campus. M. Mahon indicated a collective response is needed to be able to move forward in this tough time. We have been financially managed very well, this will not be easy but we are positioned to handle this effectively by coming together.

#### 6.5.GFC Bylaw Review

A. Escher explained the proposed GFC Bylaw changes as presented in the enclosure. This was presented for information and will be brought for approval in April. Two individuals commented that the Grade Appeal and Student Discipline Committees should be open to academic assistants. This will be taken under advisement.

#### 6.6 GFC Executive Committee Minutes – January 28, 2013

The minutes were not contained within the original email sent, so they will be emailed to GFC for information after the meeting adjourns.

### 7. **OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

### 8. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: gfc.2013.03.04

Adolf/

*That the GFC meeting #483 be adjourned.*

Motion: Carried