

MINUTES OF A MEETING #440 OF THE GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL HELD ON

MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2007 AT 3:00 P.M. IN THE BOARDROOM, W646

Present: Bill Cade, Seamus O'Shea, Nancy Walker, Chris Horbachewski, Jane O'Dea, Ches Skinner, Chris Nicol, Marinus Swanepoel, Chris Hosgood, Andrew Hakin, Lynn Ambedian, Chris Burton, Cheryl Calver, David Clearwater, Karen Clearwater, Anne Dymond, Rex Forsyth, Murray Lindsay, Mary Kavanagh, Goldie Morgentaler, Ken Nicol, Wendy Osborn, Wilf Roesler, Mary Runte, Rhys Stevens, John Vokey, Edwin Wasiak, Nicole Wilson, Steve Ferzacca, Jo-Anne Fiske, Jean Groft, Allan Hall, Michelle Helstein, Melissa Vieglaiss, Bernie Williams, Shelly Wismath, Jennifer Franks, Gloria Roth (Secretary)

Others: Marg McKeen, Barbara Williams, Christine Johnson

Regrets: Leslie Brown, Leslie Lavers, Melanie Collado

Bill Cade opened the meeting with a moment of silence for Myron J. Wolf Child, a student who passed away last week.

4206.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4206.1 MOTION:

Groft/Calver That the Agenda for Meeting #440 be approved as circulated.

MOTION: CARRIED

4207.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4207.1 MOTION:

Wilson/Osborn That the Minutes of Meeting #439, February 5, 2007, be approved with the correction of 4200.1, changing the word peeping to looking

MOTION: CARRIED

4208.0 ITEMS ARISING FROM MINUTES

There were no items arising from the minutes.

4209.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

4209.1 Medical School

A headline in Friday's Lethbridge Herald was, "U of L Eyes Medical School". When Minister Oberg was here he asked the U of L administration to think about a medical school, to talk about it and see what kind of interest there is in the community. It would be very important to have community support including the Health Region,

local physicians, City Council, U of A and the U of C. A resolution to support the idea in principle will be going to City Council today. The main concern is not to lose our main priorities in this very early discussion stage. Bill Cade stressed that this is in the very early stages of discussion and progress will take quite awhile and require very careful consideration.

4209.2 Grand Opening of 1st Choice Savings Centre for Sport & Wellness

The grand opening of the 1st Choice Savings Centre for Sport & Wellness was February 7, 2007. There has been some concern expressed about a title sponsor. Bill Cade expressed the view that the University of Lethbridge could not have a better sponsor than 1st Choice Savings.

4209.3 Assessment Policy

The Assessment Policy is being reviewed by Arts & Science Council and will go back to all Councils with the goal of developing a more thorough document. It will come back to GFC in the future.

4209.4 Leah Fowler

Leah Fowler has accepted to the appointment of Chief Marshall to begin at the Fall 2007 Convocation. Bill Cade expressed thanks to Heidi MacDonald and Leslie Lavers for consultation and advice in respect to the Chief Marshall position. Heidi MacDonald will continue as Chief Marshall for Spring Convocation 2007 to give Leah Fowler an opportunity to work with the Convocation Committee.

4209.5 Public Health Initiative

The Public Health Initiative is moving forward. This is especially important to Dean Chris Hosgood's School of Health Sciences. The agreement was signed about two years ago with the U of A, U of C and U of L to form a Provincial Public Health Initiative. The Deans and Provosts met last week and agreed that the Province would be presented with a tri-partite agreement which would basically give the U of L an undergraduate program in public health, U of C would get a Thesis-based Masters program, U of A would get a Master of Public Health. The key issue is that the new Government and the new Ministers have not decided on priorities yet and whether or not they will actively pursue a Public Health Agenda.

4209.6 Anthropology Conference

Bill Cade complimented the Chair of Anthropology, Steve Ferzacca – on the Anthropology Conference the students have put together for this Saturday.

4209.7 Pronghorn Matters

The Pronghorn Booster Club Dinner and Auction is tonight. Greg Gatto, the Coach of the Men's Pronghorn Team won Canada West Hockey Coach of the Year. The Men's Pronghorn Hockey team made the playoffs for the first time in 13 years.

4209.8 Premier Visit

Premier Ed Stelmach will be in Lethbridge on March 16 speaking at a combined Rotary and Chamber of Commerce lunch and will be on campus for a tour that afternoon. Bill Cade mentioned that we have had many Minister's on campus lately, including Minister Oberg, Minister Ouellette, Minister Renner, Minister Groeneveld and our Advanced Education Minister Doug Horner. This is the first time in quite a while that Lethbridge does not have its own Minister. We can rely on Minister Oberg and Minister Renner to work on our behalf.

4209.9 Martha Piper

Bill Cade mentioned that he had the pleasure to hear Martha Piper (past president of the University of British Columbia) speak last week at the Canada West Board Meeting. She gave a very powerful speech on the role of universities in Western Canada. President Cade mentioned that he had an opportunity to speak to Martha Piper at length about the U of L and she made a point of telling President Cade that when they formed UBC Okanagan they used the U of L as a model.

4209.10 Seamus O'Shea Celebration

There is a party planned for Seamus O'Shea on May 4, 2007 to celebrate and thank our Provost for his remarkable service to the Universities Post-Secondary Education. It will be held in the 1st Choice Savings Centre. Dean Ches Skinner mentioned that Alan Lightman will be speaking at a lecture series in honour of Seamus O'Shea.

4209.11 Polaris Awards

The Polaris Awards are a new award from the Alberta Heritage Foundation of Medical Research. The intent is to have three scientists appointed who would be in line for a Nobel laureate award. The area on our campus where the Polaris Award would best fit is in Neuroscience. The U of L would have to come up with a million dollars a year matching funds. That is easier to accomplish at the U of A and the U of C. This concern was expressed to Dr. Kevin Keough, the President of the Alberta Heritage Foundation, and he has given assurance that they will help fund the individuals. This is an opportunity that cannot be ignored, although there are significant costs attached to it. President Cade stated that our best efforts will be given to make it happen. Dr. Ferzacca remarked that there were other departments that could be considered for the Polaris Award. President Cade thanked Dr. Ferzacca for his comments.

4210.0 ITEMS FOR ACTION

4210.1 GFC Appointed Faculty Member replacement for Jennifer Mather (on Leave) by Christopher Burton.

4210.1.1 MOTION:

Helstein/Nicol

That GFC approve the appointment of Christopher Burton to GFC Council to replace Jennifer Mather during her leave.

MOTION: CARRIED

4210.2 Amendment to GFC By-Laws

- 4210.2.1 MOTION:
- O'Shea/Morgentaler Members of the academic staff on leave are ineligible to serve as members of GFC during their research, study, retraining, or upgrading leave, or other leave of absence.
- MOTION: CARRIED
- 4210.2.2 MOTION:
- To table the Amendment to GFC By-Laws until the next GFC Meeting
- MOTION: DEFEATED
- 4210.3 Animal Welfare Committee Policy
- 4210.3.1 MOTION:
- O'Shea/Nicol That the Animal Welfare Committee Policy with the change of the word should to must in the Misc. Information section on the last page be approved as submitted.
- MOTION: CARRIED
- 4211.0 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION
- 4211.1 GFC Executive Committee Minutes of Meeting #408, February 20, 2007
- The GFC Executive Committee Minutes of Meeting #408, February 20, 2007 were received as information.
- 4211.2 Disability Policy Report
- Barbara Williams from Counseling Services introduced Christine Johnson, who is a Learning Strategist in the Disabilities Resource Office. Barbara went on to say that the University of Lethbridge currently has 204 students with disabilities and credits Christine with the advances made in the Disability Office since she has been here. Barbara thanked the Faculty, physical plant and the many others at the U of L that assist the disabilities office. We are the only Post-Secondary institution in Alberta that has pursued accredited supervision of learning technologists. We support special needs students very well. Christine Johnson went on to explain the role of the Disabilities Resource Office in her presentation.
- Both Members Shelly Wismath and Michelle Helstein expressed compliments to the Disabilities Resource Office for their excellent work with special needs students.
- 4211.3 Proposed 2007/2008 Budget
- Karen Clearwater presented the Budget to GFC. The University Budget Committee recommends to the President a four year budget for approval each year. The first two years of the budget being presented this year are basically balanced showing small surpluses, while the last two years of the budget show deficits of \$4.5 million. We budget on a very conservative basis, particularly in the later years of the budget when

grants and general increases cannot be predicted as easily. These shortfalls will hopefully diminish when grant increases are provided by the government. Karen then highlighted the new items for funding and some of the continuing allocations.

Member Steve Ferzacca was disappointed that there was no funding for an on-campus Day Care. President Cade mentioned that the Day Care Task Force has been formed and the day care issue will be re-considered after the committee makes a decision. Dean Nicol stated that he was happy with the equipment replacement reserve and wondered if it would be adjusted in future years to meet the inflationary increases and increasing high costs of replacement. Karen Clearwater stated that we have been very successful in planning for this in the past for other reserves and do not foresee a problem with it in the future. John Vokey expressed concern that Faculty travel funding is not consistent throughout the university and wondered if there was any thought given to leveling it out. Seamus O'Shea stated that this is a negotiated item.

4212.0 ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND OTHER BUSINESS

4212.1 High School Recruitment Event

Bill Cade attended a High School Recruitment Event in Calgary and stated how impressed he was with the presentation by the U of L.

4212.2 Evening with Wendy Mesley

The School of Health Sciences is hosting an evening with Wendy Mesley on March 24, 2007 in the Students' Union Ballroom.

4213.0 ADJOURNMENT

4213.1 MOTION:

Forsyth/Vokey That the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION: CARRIED

4214.0 QUESTION PERIOD

There was no question period.