

MINUTES OF A MEETING #431 OF THE GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2005 AT 3:00 PM. IN THE BOARDROOM, W646

Present: Bill Cade (Chair), Nancy Walker, Seamus O'Shea, Christopher Nicol, Marinus Swanepoel, Ches Skinner, Kris Magnusson, Murray Lindsay, Leslie Lavers, Shamsul Alam, Andrew Hakin, Chris Horbachewski, Chris Hosgood, Allan Hall, Ben Hart, Bernie Williams, Brent Selinger, Catherine Kingfisher, Chris Epplett, David Clearwater, Elizabeth Schultz, Heather Leier, Inge Genee, Jan Newberry, Jason Blades, Jennifer Mather, Jonathan Lane, Lesley Brown, Lynn Ambedian, Matt Hansen, Nicole Wilson, Pamela Winsor, Peter Alward, Peter McCormick, Rae Hazelwood, Rex Forsyth, Russell Easton, Shelly Wismath, Tom Johnston, Wendy Osborn, Wilf Roesler

Regrets: Brian Parkinson, Cheryl Calver, Dustin Fuller, Jean Groft, Ken Nicol, Nancy Grigg, Sajjad Zahir

4118.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4118.1 MOTION:

Mather/Kingfisher

That the Agenda for Meeting #431 be approved as circulated, with the addition of item 6.4 Lois Hole Digital Library, under Items for Information.

Motion: Carried

4119.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4119.1 MOTION:

Forsyth/Hart

That the Minutes of Meeting #430 be approved as circulated, with the addition of Rex Forsyth in the attendance list.

Motion: Carried

4120.0 ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Bill Cade noted that Dennis Fitzpatrick and John Kincaid will be in attendance at the December GFC Meeting to summarize undergraduate research within the University of Lethbridge.

4121.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

There was a moment of silence in recognition of Remembrance Day on November 11.

4121.1 Regimental Police Dinner

Bill Cade attended the Lethbridge Regional Police Service All Ranks Regimental Dinner in October as a guest speaker.

4121.2 "A Learning Alberta" Minister's Forum

Bill Cade, Seamus O'Shea, Jim Horsman, Shirley DeBow, Peter McCormick, and Tyler Tanner all attended the recent Minister's Forum in Edmonton as representatives from the University of Lethbridge.

The Minister began by explaining Advanced Education's plan to focus on strengthening and enhancing learning foundations and diversity. Part of this plan is to cut Alberta's adult literacy rate in half within five years, which is currently at 36%.

The second major area they will be focusing on is developing learning approaches that support Aboriginal learning needs.

The third major area will be the focus on the transformation of Alberta's advanced learning system...a transformation into a system for the 21st century. In doing this, they plan to support even greater research and innovation, focus on apprenticeship training and the trades, the development of a single application system for students applying to post-secondary institutions, as well as simpler processes for applying for scholarships, grants, and bursaries. They also plan to improve recognition of degrees and transferability of credits among institutions, both provincially, nationally, and internationally.

Most of all, they plan to ensure all Alberta universities, colleges and technical institutions adapt to the vision and policy directions that come forward from the A Learning Alberta process.

The Minister also explained that institutions need defined roles and responsibilities within a comprehensive advanced learning system, in doing this unnecessary overlap and duplication in roles and processes must be removed, positioning Alberta's institutions to become world-class in specific areas.

This entire plan will begin with the completion of the funding review with the possibility of funding adjustments reinforcing the strength and vitality of all components of the publicly-funded advanced learning system. Other immediate issues to be addressed are issues like maintenance, and infrastructure.

4121.3 Dean of Graduate Studies Position

A decision has not been made regarding the position of Dean of Graduate Studies.

4121.4 Maclean's Ranking

The results are in for the the 2005 Maclean's Magazine Annual Ranking of Canadian Universities. The University of Lethbridge moved ahead in a number of key categories, and ranked 13th out of 21 Universities. This is down one ranking from last year, but it is felt this is due to the heavy weighting in the class size category, and the University of Lethbridge decreased slightly over last year. Bill Cade reminded GFC that due to the fast pace the University is growing, we must expect that it will affect this particular ranking.

4121.5

The University of Lethbridge scored good grades in the recent Globe and Mail Report Card. The U of L was the only Alberta post-secondary educational institution to receive an A-level ranking (A-) in the "Overall Quality of Education" category.

4121.6

An announcement will be made in Calgary on November 29 at Banker's Hall regarding a significant private donation being received by the University of Lethbridge. This donation is a result of the campaign for a building which will house the Faculty of Management and School of Health Sciences.

4121.7

Bill Cade thanked the students for their support in the Regional Health and Wellness Centre referendum, and their continued support in capital projects on campus.

4122.0

4122.1

4122.1.1

McCormick/Nicol

That General Faculties Council approve the appointed faculty and student members as attached to the agenda.

Motion: Carried

4122.2

4122.2.1

Blades/Lindsay

That Drew Fossum be appointed to the Admission Standards Committee.

Motion: Carried

It was noted that point vi. under the powers and duties should be revised to remove the Private Colleges Accreditation Board, as this no longer exists.

4122.3

4122.3.1

Nicol/Mather

That General Faculties Council recommend to the Board of Governors that the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, Faculty of Arts and Science be divided into two academic units: the Department of Psychology; and the Department of Neuroscience. The division of the existing Department is to be effective July 1, 2006, with the Dean of Arts and Science supervising the orderly implementation of this process.

Motion: Carried

Chris Nicol, Dean of Arts & Science explained the need for the separation of these two groups, as outlined in the proposal enclosed in the agenda. He also clarified the future staffing plans for 2006/2007. Due to the significant enrolment growth over the years, this has created a need for additional academic staff. There will be a restructured budget for both areas, hopefully allowing for additional positions. He also stated that they plan to reorganize how the Psychology program is being run to offer a sufficient array of courses.

Concern was raised regarding the effects this might have on the curriculum between the two departments. It was noted that these departments will continue to work close together, and a committee will be developed to coordinate on changes.

The GFC was reminded that by passing this recommendation, it will allow them to move forward with planning, with the separation of the departments not taking place until July 1, 2006.

4123.0 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

4123.1 Fundraising Coordination Policy

This policy was passed by the Board of Governors, and provided to GFC for information. Chris Horbachewski, Vice-President (Advancement) explained that the goal of the policy is to coordinate fundraising at the University of Lethbridge, and ensures sensitivity to donors. He reminded GFC that the University Advancement Office is a resource to all areas of campus when fundraising, and encouraged that groups wishing to fundraise seek assistance from their office.

It was suggested that GFC review this policy again in a year to observe its progress.

4123.2 Diversity Advantage Report

Cheryl Wheeler and Cheryl Polmuller presented the Diversity Advantage Report which was included with the agenda (separate appendices found at www.uleth.ca/diversityadvantage). This study was done as a requirement under the Federal Contractors Program, and was submitted for approval in May. The plan was received favourably, and the workforce analysis shows the University of Lethbridge to be in a good position compared to other universities.

Concern was raised regarding the follow-through of this program in the future. The General Faculties Council were assured that as long as the University of Lethbridge continues to be apart of the Federal Contractors Program, we will be continually audited over the years. In keeping with the guidelines when hiring, documentation has to be filled out by Human Resources during recruitment to ensure that all areas of the plan are being considered when hiring of individuals.

Don MacDonald was asked to have his department report back to GFC on a regular basis on the progress of the program.

4123.3 GFC Executive Committee Minutes of Meeting #400, October 24, 2005

The GFC Executive Committee Minutes of Meeting #400, October 24, 2005 were received as information.

4123.4

Marinus Swanepoel, University Librarian reported on the Lois Hole Campus Alberta Digital Library. He explained that the initial costs for the Digital Library are estimated at \$30 million over three years. The project will include the acquisition of digital information products, implementation of infrastructure to deliver information to the entire post-secondary system, and the development of four regional Digitization Centres. The business plan is to be submitted on December 20, 2005, with the money being released early next year. A list is currently being compiled containing possible projects worth digitizing. Marinus encouraged the members of GFC to contribute anything they might find of use.

4124.0

There were no items for discussion.

4125.0

There was no other business.

4126.0

4126.1

Mather/Hart That the meeting be adjourned.

Motion: Carried

4127.0

The question period was not minuted.