



GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL MEETING #525

Approved Minutes

Monday, February 5, 2018

3:00 p.m. in W646

Present: M. Mahon (Chair), M. Abubakari, R. Adkin, K. Alexander, A. Amelinckx, L. Bryan, M. Collins, C. Cooper, J. Copeland, B. Cummins, J. Dobbie, A. Hakin, K. Hallett, R. Harper-Brown, J. Harrowing, C. Horbachewski, C. Hosgood, H. Jansen, D. Jarvie, S. Johnsrude, E. Jurkowski, S. Kennedy, M. Kwan, H. Ladd, C. Malacrida, K. Massey, J. Mather, C. Nicol, J. Nugent, D. O'Donnell, E. Okine, W. Osborn, S. Parmar, C. Peta, A. Pyde, F. Salins, P. Shao (Phone), A. Shaw, A. Siaroff, D. Smit, T. Spagnolo, C. Steinke, M. Stingl, A. Taylor, J. Usher, J. Vokey, S. Wismath, R. Wood, R. Yalamova

Regrets: C. Adams, P. Adams, H. Babb, B. Black, B. Boudreau, J. Byrne, P. Cardozo, J. Clark, G. Fujiwara, N. Grigg, L. Howard, C. Loewen, R. Marynowski, D. McNeill, G. Metz, R. Mueller, M. Nugent, V. Rodych, D. Slomp, P. Visentin, N. Walker, J. Whitehead

Other: J. Gallais, V. Grisack, D. Hinger, R. Hougen, H. Mirau, M. Theriault

Oki, ni kso koo wa wa: Welcome to all our relatives and friends.

A moment of silence was observed for the passing of Dr. Bhagwan Dua. A memorial will be held on campus at a later date.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: gfc.2018.02.01

Jurkowski/Cooper

That the Agenda for GFC Meeting #525 held Monday, February 5, 2018 be approved.

Motion: Carried

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: gfc.2018.02.02

Mather/Vokey

That the Minutes for GFC Meeting #524 held Monday, December 11, 2017 be approved.

Motion: Carried

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

M. Mahon reported:

- There may not be a March General Faculties Council meeting but he will keep the committee updated. GFC Executive will make the decision after looking at the agenda items.
- President's Award for Service Excellence – the deadline for nominations is March 16th.
- The inaugural General Faculties Council picture was taken and is now posted on the Governance website.
- Universities Canada President's Mission to Israel from Dec 9 – 15, 2017 – M. Mahon led the mission of 10 university presidents visiting a number of universities in Israel. We have had relationships with a number of these institutions in the past and it was a good opportunity to reconnect.
- Universities Canada Activity Update - Workshop in Toronto - a two day event on University Governance and Institutional Autonomy. In January, M. Mahon led a session for new presidents in Montreal. Fifteen new presidents from across the country attended with the majority being from Quebec. M. Mahon also traveled to the Yukon last week to meet with Yukon College about their effort in getting university accreditation. Universities Canada Presidents' Mission to Australia Feb 23 - Mar 3 with a focus on indigenous communities.
- Conflicts of Interest Information Session – there has been lots of work done on this by the province. We are looking at what this will mean for the University of Lethbridge and have responded to an in-depth questionnaire from the Ethics Commissioner and are waiting for the response. A. Hakin responded that they had been notified today that 3 groups are required – board/academic/non-academic.
- The Fiat Lux Address held on January 18th is posted on line.
- Continuing work on Cannabis Legislation. Consultation is being done on campus with K. Massey leading the work on this topic. It has far reaching implications on how our campus operates because of the various groups we attract – i.e. student residents, athletes as well as community members, etc.
- Senate has selected the Honorary Degree Recipients. M. Mahon is pleased with the quality of nominations. Thanks to everyone for participating in getting the large number of nominations this year.
- Exciting Activity happening in the University Advancement office. We are looking forward to being able to make an official announcement in the next few months.
- M. Mahon had positive meetings with Environment Deputy Minister Corbould and Chief Scientist Wrona in Edmonton recently regarding partnerships and particularly with the implications of the new legislation on our property out in the Crowsnest Pass.
- Campus Alberta Innovates Program (CAIP) Chair Meetings on March 20-21st

4. QUESTION PERIOD

- J. Mather – Why is the President's Award for Service Excellence not available to faculty? M. Mahon was unsure of the history of the award. Another member stated that the award was created at a time when there was no recognition for non-academic staff.
- R. Yalamova – The University should be more active in the community. M. Mahon stated that the University of Lethbridge remains committed to academic freedom. He commented that the onus is on individual faculty members to get involved.

5. PRESENTATION

5.1. Technology in the Classroom

A. Hakin introduced D. Hinger from the Teaching Centre. This item was introduced in an earlier General Faculties Council meeting about emerging technologies in the classrooms. The Teaching Centre is always looking at classrooms design and new ways of teaching. Studies have found students write faster on laptops and don't take the time to process information as they do with writing. D. Hinger referenced learning environment and teaching environment surveys. 77% of students bring a laptop to class with 69% doing non-class related activities. A. Hakin asked D. Hinger to look at our policies on these issues - academic offense vs non-academic offenses. Discussion occurred around the challenges in accommodations of students if you only allow those who need the laptops to use them. This would violate the privacy of students requiring accommodations. How to educate our students regarding technology, cheating & technology, as well as nonstandard classrooms for teaching were discussed. The non-standard classrooms are an opportunity to create interactive learning spaces. Other topics discussed were making cheaper computing devices available so all students have access to technology. There was a suggestion and discussion around using more open source software.

6. ITEMS FOR ACTION

6.1. Curriculum Coordinating Committee Reports to GFC

K. Massey introduced the CCC Reports.

Recommendations from Report 1: Implementation date May 1, 2018

Registrar's Office

MOTION: gfc.2018.02.03

Kennedy/Massey

*General Faculties Council approve Recommendations #1 – 12
– Registrar's Office from the GFC Curriculum Coordinating
Committee Report 1 for implementation May 1, 2018.*

Motion: Carried

Recommendations from Report 2: Implementation date May 1, 2019

Registrar's Office

MOTION:

gfc.2018.02.04

Kennedy/Massey

*General Faculties Council approve Recommendations #1 – 4
– Registrar's Office from the GFC Curriculum Coordinating
Committee Report 2 for implementation May 1, 2019.*

Motion: Carried

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

7.1. Timetable & Exam Schedule Update

K. Massey & S. Kennedy updated the committee on the current and past discussions held regarding this topic. A number of concerns were raised regarding why changes are required and the terms of consultation. It was explained that there are some challenges that are not apparent in individual departments scheduling and these have now become an issue university wide. As an example, currently there are 38 unscheduled courses in which we cannot connect time and a place to offer them. Infosilem is a workable software that the University has purchased. It was developed by a mathematics professor. The early testing of the software shows it is possible to accommodate all the unscheduled classes. We know that there is deep knowledge of needs within departments and we want to capture that information. There is a higher demand for 75 minute class that we can currently meet. This software can help us meet this demand. S. Kennedy stated that there is a working group of 25 in the early stages of getting a better understanding of what the software can do as well as what the needs are across campus. Direct consultations with department chairs will happen very soon. K. Massey has been in contact with McGill University, who have already implemented this software. A representative from McGill will be coming to work with us and share their experiences at the end of February. We need to move forward with a new system to meet everyone's needs. This software will allow simulations to be run to see what the schedule will look like before it is implemented. There was discussion regarding non-academic concerns, including departmental history in scheduling, distance between classes as well as difficulties in taking classes outside of a student's discipline.

7.2. Destination Project

A. Hakin gave an update on the project which is still ahead of schedule. The cranes were removed at the end of January marking the switch to more interior work. The metal supports for the wintergarden atrium are in place and will augment the buildings air exchange system. There are approximately 400 people working on the building. We are on track at sixty five percent completed and now need to work with government to move forward with the money section of the project.

7.3. Affiliation Agreement Process

A. Hakin explained the process that has been developed by his office for handling future affiliation agreements. We are trying to bring all the agreements through one process for better tracking of University partnerships.

7.4. GFC Executive Committee Report – January 29, 2018

Received as information. No questions raised.

7.5. GFC Executive Committee Approved Minutes – December 4, 2017

Received as information. No questions raised.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

B. Cummins informed the committee of the Meeting of the Minds Conference put on by the Graduate Students' Association starting on March 23rd. The 3 Minute Thesis competition kicks off the conference on Friday with presentations on research taking place on the 24th.

A. Hakin updated the committee regarding the public decision making discussion from the previous GFC meeting. S. Wismath informed that committee that the second Symposium on Social Justice will take place on September 21, 2018 in the Students' Union Ballrooms. More details will be forthcoming as they become available.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

gfc.2018.02.05

Cooper /Harper-Brown

That the GFC meeting #525 be adjourned.

Motion: Carried