



## GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL MEETING #527

### Approved Minutes

**Monday, April 9, 2018**

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

**Present:** M. Mahon (Chair), M. Abubakari, C. Adams, R. Adkin, K. Alexander, H. Babb, B. Black, L. Bryan, J. Byrne, P. Cardozo, J. Clark, M. Collins, C. Cooper, J. Copeland, B. Cummins, J. Dobbie, C. Horbachewski, C. Hosgood, L. Howard, D. Jarvie, E. Jurkowski, S. Kennedy, M. Kwan, H. Ladd, C. Loewen, R. Marynowski, K. Massey, J. Mather, G. Metz, C. Nicol, J. Nugent, E. Okine, W. Osborn, S. Parmar, C. Peta, P. Shao (phone), A. Siaroff, D. Slomp, D. Smit, T. Spagnolo, M. Stingl, A. Taylor, J. Usher, J. Vokey, J. Whitehead, S. Wismath, R. Wood,

**Regrets:** P. Adams, A. Amelinckx, B. Boudreau, G. Fujiwara, N. Grigg, A. Hakin, K. Hallett, R. Harper-Brown, J. Harrowing, H. Jansen, S. Johnsrude, C. Malacrida, D. McNeill, R. Mueller, M. Nugent, D. O'Donnell, A. Pyde, V. Rodych, F. Salins, A. Shaw, C. Steinke, P. Visentin, N. Walker, R. Yalamova

**Other:** J. Gallais, V. Grisack, N. Gamal (phone), M. Letts, S. Urquhart

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

*A moment of silence was held to honour two individuals who recently passed away. Brock Hirsche, the former captain of the Pronghorns Men's Hockey Team, and Logan Boulet, Humboldt Bronco, who was registered to start school here in the Fall.*

### 1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: gfc.2018.04.01

Jurkowski/Cooper

*That the Agenda for GFC Meeting #527 held Monday, April 9, 2018 be approved.*

Motion: Carried

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: gfc.2018.04.02

Mather/Cooper

*That the Minutes for GFC Meeting #526 held Monday, February 5, 2018 be approved.*

Motion: Carried

### **3. PRESENTATION**

#### **3.1. McGill: A timetabling and class scheduling case study**

K. Massey introduced N. Gamal (Assistant Registrar, McGill University) and together they gave a presentation on the implementation of Infosilem, a timetable and exam scheduling software, at McGill University and the experiences they had. At McGill they schedule classes for 40,000 students with 7,000 core sections including labs for fall/winter terms. Priorities for McGill in this project included optimization of the student experience with pedagogy being a driver of decision making, research and teaching priorities with emphasis on fairness in allocating space and time ultimately creating a better experience for faculty and students. A class schedule advisory group was formed at McGill which K. Massey was a member along with representation from faculties/schools, students and other key people from various areas including the registrar's office. The importance of working together across the university in transparent manner was key as well as the confidentiality of conversations between the instructors and the departmental chairs in availability for teaching. They did consultations with academic units and ultimately ran 4 simulations after which they then met with those units regarding the results. Course combinations/course constraints/instructor unavailability/unit unavailability (meetings/seminars) were bits of information required for software algorithm. There were concerns of the loss of control by departments but the software can accommodate priorities with the departments. Time for research was another concern but the system is also able to accommodate full days of research. Discussion centered on optimizing space for graduate students, difficulties or problems with the system that McGill needed to address, accommodating instructors needing more marking time and elective courses. McGill considers the initial implementation successful but they continue to look at ways to improve data collection and reporting.

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

M. Mahon reported:

- The President read his statement regarding the Meliorist letter from a student who reported a sexual assault. This statement will be released on the notice board after this meeting.
- Congratulations to the Students' Union on the success of achieving of the UPass!
- The announcement of the new Dhillon School of Business happened on March 14<sup>th</sup>. The Dhillon School of Business Scholarship Dinner happens on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Dean Boudreau is also busy working on the schools accreditation process.
- Budget Announcement – Highlights included – a 2% increase to base funding, tuition freeze, there is money to offset tuition but we don't know what that means for us yet. The last time we received roughly \$700,000. Other items announced were Mental Health funding and 3,000 new seats to support emerging technologies such as health and Fintech.

- Newly formed President's Advisory Committee on Diversity and Inclusion – M. Mahon will be announcing that taskforce shortly.
- Government Updates. Post-secondary changes included - Red Deer College and Grande Prairie can begin to pursue the creation of degrees but have to follow the process of creating programs through Advanced Education procedures. Mount Royal University and McEwan University – granted the opportunity for the potential creation of senate/chancellor, Alberta College of Art & Design can add university to their name. Concordia University proposal to become a public university was not approved but referred for further study.
- Australia trip for Universities Canada – M. Mahon had good discussions on pursuing a joint initiative on indigenous student mobility with Australia and New Zealand. Re-signed our agreement with Southern Cross University. We are pursuing new partnerships with University of Canberra and University of Western Sydney.
- \$2 million to Research on Alzheimer's to Dr. B. McNaughton and Dr. M. Mohajerani
- Canada 150 Chair – Dr. B. Demeler whose research area is in the field of biochemistry. There were 24 Canada 150 Research Chairs. The University of Lethbridge was the only Alberta institution and non-U15 University to get a Chair.
- Donor Gala was held March 21<sup>st</sup> – thanks to donors from faculty and staff for the support of our students.
- Campus Alberta Innovates Program (CAIP) Chair Meetings March 20-21<sup>st</sup> – this was the inaugural CAIP chair meeting. Congratulations to E. Okine who hosted the first meeting.
- Convocation and Long Service Awards upcoming in May.
- Thank you to all of the students for their contributions to our campus. This is the last meeting for many of them.

## **5. QUESTION PERIOD**

- B. Cummins – How is the statement regarding the Meliorist article being sent out? C. Horbachewski stated that it will be on the Notice Board and possibly to certain group's listservs. It was suggested that it be sent out to everyone.
- H. Babb – In relation to the UPass, there was an announcement from the federal government that Lethbridge will be receiving \$13 million for improvements to transit. M. Mahon suggested that the next role for the university is to lobby the city to improve rider experiences in relation to better routes/timing/etc.
- J. Byrne – referred back to technology in the classroom from a previous meeting. Can GFC revisit the topic as it is still a distraction in classes? M. Mahon commented that we will refer this question back to the Provost when he returns to campus.

## **6. ITEMS FOR ACTION**

### **6.1. Modern Languages Department Name Change**

MOTION: gfc.2018.04.03

Cooper/Byrne

*That General Faculties Council recommend to the Board of Governors the name change from the Department of Modern Languages to the Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics.*

Motion: Carried

C. Cooper stated that name change is driven by the need to reflect what is happening in the department.

6.2. School of Graduate Studies Governing Principles

MOTION: gfc.2018.04.04

Wood/Cummins

*That General Faculties Council approve the recommended changes to the School of Graduate Studies Governing Principles, effective May 1, 2018 with small editorial changes.*

Motion: Carried

R. Wood informed the committee of a few typos that needed changing and will send them to J. Gallais. It has been a number of years since this document was brought before GFC and there are a number of changes needed. It was asked what was the rational of expanding the duties and responsibilities of program committees? The Dean stated that it empowers program committees to make decisions. Concern was raised regarding the sustainability for faculty to continue this service work if the purview of the program continues to expand.

6.3. GFC Nominee to Board of Governors

MOTION: gfc.2018.04.05

Siaroff/J. Nugent

*That GFC approve the nomination of Maura Hanrahan to replace Janay Nugent as a nominee of General Faculties Council to serve on the Board of Governors.*

Motion: Carried

There were 7 applicants for the position. It was suggested that the motion be changed from approve the “appointment” to approve the “nomination” as the government actually approves the appointment of the nominee. M. Mahon thanked J. Nugent for her contributions to the Board of Governors.

## **7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

### **7.1. Destination Project**

M. Letts gave an update on the project. There is a new newsletter about the Science and Academic Building (SAB). The first newsletter was sent in February, and the next one will be sent out in late April. A couple of new positions are being filled - G. Lublinkhof is the Director of the SAB with a new manager being announced soon. There will be noise and disruption at the north end of University Hall beginning May 1<sup>st</sup> until August. Work needs to be done on the exterior wall before the connection is completed to the new building. The Periodic Table project has been approved. Thanks to faculty members who worked on the project. It was asked why the Director of the SAB reports to the Provost instead of to Facilities Executive Director. The need to have someone who could focus on the technical aspects of the move, the development of policies as well as addressing the short term needs that go above and beyond of the normal needs of facilities is the reason for the reporting structure. It was also clarified that both positions are new three-year term positions that are funded through Destination Project funds.

### **7.2. GFC Nominations Committee**

A. Siaroff updated GFC on the upcoming vacancies and deadline for filling GFC Committees and other Committees with GFC nominees. He clarified that you do not have to be a member of GFC to serve on the majority of the committees.

### **7.3. Common Book Project**

S. Wismath reported on the Common Book Project that was initiated by the new School of Liberal Education. A committee decided on the book for a number of different classes. There were 940 students who used the book across eight courses. The book will be used in courses again in the fall. A question was raised on how many students read the book in more than one course. S. Wismath did not have exact numbers but it was low and different courses focussed on different aspects of the book.

### **7.4. Indigenous Convocation Stole**

K. Massey shared that the Iniskim Education Committee and the Convocation Committee both approved the stole for self-identifying indigenous students to be worn at convocation. Our goal is for the students to receive these in the upcoming spring convocation. Will the students get to keep it? The students will keep the stoles. K. Massey replied that they did price comparisons and have found a provider that has a reasonable cost. The stole will replace the eagle feathers which were difficult to procure. Students in the past were not picking them up so it was felt that we needed to find a different way to honour our students.

### **7.5. Academic Staff Count**

J. Gallais reported on the calculations for the statutory seat counts. It was clarified the count does not include senior administrators.

### **7.6. Fall Break Survey**

K. Massey, S. Kennedy and H. Babb presented the findings in understanding the impact of the fall break on student mental health and wellness. The fall break was approved in

2015. Survey findings were previously presented to General Faculties Council in 2017. The survey tool is used by permission from Brock University. The effectiveness of the fall break was compared with the spring break. Ninety-five percent of respondents were in Lethbridge with five percent from Calgary. Comments regarding work load indicated that students still want the break even with the increased workload. Seventy plus percent of students agree positively that the break is working/reducing stress. Discussion centred on the difference in terminology between break (vacation) versus reading week, year of the student, work load and Moodle exams. One of the comments from the students was that this is a time when students can go home and get medical appointments taken care of as well as visiting family. Another commented that this year she didn't have the fall break due to being on a professional semester and noticed a difference in mental health heading into the end of the semester.

7.7. GFC Executive Committee Report – April 3, 2018

Received as information. No questions raised.

7.8. GFC Executive Committee Approved Minutes – January 18 & 29, February 26, 2018

Received as information. No questions raised.

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: gfc.2018.04.06

Wismath/Babb

*That the GFC meeting #527 be adjourned.*

Motion: Carried