



GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL MEETING #541

Approved Minutes

Monday, November 4, 2019

3:00 p.m. in W646

- Present:** M. Mahon, (Chair), K. Alexander, R. Barendregt, L. Barrett, J. Blum, J. Brassolotto, S. Bubel, D. Burleigh, J. Copeland, B. Cummins, J. Cunningham, J. Dobbie, L. Elias, G. Fujiwara, A. Gammack, H. Ghanberi, K. Godfrey, N. Haimoun (phone), A. Hakin, R. Harper-Brown, C. Horbachewski, L. Howard, M. Ingraham, D. Kaminski, H. Kelley, H. Ladd, J. Laurendeau, M. Letts, C. Loewen, R. Marynowski, K. Massey, C. Mattatall, K. Mazurek, J. Miles, J. Mills, R. Munn, C. Nicol, E. Okine, T. Oosterbroek, T. Patel, K. Peacock, K. Potts, E. Pullan, M. Serebryansky, P. Shao (phone), J. Sheriff, C. Steinke, M. Stingl, J. Usher, J. Vokey, P. Wilson, S. Wismath, R. Wood, A. Zovoilis
- Regrets:** A. Ansah, J. Byrne, P. Cardozo, C. Currie, J. Gamble, B. Harray, D. Jarvie, S. Johnsrude, A. Khalil, H. Kletke, J. Mather, A. Moatari-Kazerouni, B. Nikolai-Wilson, B. Rogers, A. Stewart, N. Walker, L. Zink
- Other:** J. Gallais, V. Grisack, R. Hougen, H. Mirau, M. Whipple

Oki. The President opened the meeting with a welcome and the Territorial Statement.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: gfc.2019.11.01

Godfrey/Gammack

That the Agenda for GFC Meeting #541 held Monday, November 4, 2019 be approved.

Motion: Carried

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: gfc.2019.11.02

Gammack/Wismath

That the Minutes for GFC Meeting #540 held Monday, October 7, 2019 and #540.1 October 17, 2019 be approved.

Motion: Carried

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

M. Mahon reported

- Announcement – Chris Horbachewski, our Vice-President (Advancement) is leaving to the University of Victoria commencing February 1, 2020.
- Federal Election results – He was fortunate to have a meeting with Ian Shugart, Clerk of the Privy Council while in Ottawa for Universities Canada meetings. He gave us his sense of the landscape and feels that this new government will maintain areas that have been high priority items from the previous government. One upside is that the government had a strong commitment to university research.
- Team Lethbridge meetings are in Edmonton Nov 5 – 7. This trip happens every two years.
- M. Mahon initiated a meeting with leaders of various groups in the city to discuss messaging from the different groups regarding the Supervised Consumption Site. We need to support those with addictions and contribute to a positive messaging in the city. There are concerns of the reputation of Lethbridge and our university. It is an active discussion within the city.
- Deputy Minister Champion Daniel Watson was on campus October 14th – He has been our champion for the last seven or eight years.
- Friends of Health Sciences - Honouring Dr. Vivien Suttorp was on October 10th
- Arts & Science Scholarship Dinner honouring Dr. Dennis Connolly was held October 17th.
- Fall Convocation with Honorary Degree Recipient Paul Martin and the Let There Be Light Night were both well attended.
- The Open House on October 26th was very successful.
- Reading Week is coming up on November 11 - 15th.
- Provincial Budget announcement/Nov 1st meeting with the Premier & Minister of Advanced Education
 - M. Mahon wants to provide as much information as he can and will continue to provide updates as information becomes available. Town halls will come when we have all the details we need. The Presidents and Board Chairs had a meeting with the Minister of Advanced Education and the Premier on Friday. Until we receive our grant letter, this information can change. The McKinnon report was taken very seriously about budget and reductions. We were surprised by the plan for the next four years. We have a 3.2% in-year budget reduction that has to be executed in the next five months; this equates to a reduction of \$3.4 million in operating funds. The Infrastructure Maintenance Program (IMP) was suspended for this year at a cost of \$4.2 million so we have zero dollars for maintenance this year. We have been told that IMP will be returned next year at the 2019 level of \$4.2 million. They made a 5% reduction to Campus Alberta grants and then spread it out differentially to the 26 institutions around Alberta. It was based on their calculations of the operating surplus of each institution. Some information was provided on the cause of surplus and cuts to other

institutions. Looking forward, things are still to be determined – what will the next three years look like in reductions. On Friday, we were told the reduction would be on average of 5% each year for the next three years. We don't know what percentage we will receive. It is unclear how the government is going to distribute the reductions as they are introducing a new funding model. We have heard this all verbally and have nothing in writing. Implications for the students - the tuition freeze is lifted in 2020 and tuition can rise 7% per year for the next three years. The cancellation of tax benefits and the step program are things that will also affect our students. We have had a meeting with the students and voiced our concerns. The government has been discussing labour and are proposing a 2% rollback in wage reopener. It affects our AUPE Local 53. We do not have any information on any other employee groups.

- The Budget Advisory Committee has been working for months. The only positive aspect is that we know what the number is now and can go from there. We will communicate through various media to get out information to our university community.

4. QUESTION PERIOD

- D. Kaminski – Is there any inkling what the minister means by the directive in Bill 21? M. Mahon has no information on that. There is a lot of information that we do not know yet.
- C. Steinke – Faith based institutions and Medicine Hat College got zero reductions? M. Mahon responded that he does not know but the faith-based institutions receive less funding from the government and no capital funding. M. Mahon surmised that in making decisions, the government did not want to affect the stability of any of the public institutions.
- J. Vokey – In Saskatchewan & Manitoba where the government mandated reductions, there were court challenges about the government bargaining in bad faith. Are we not in the same situation? M. Mahon replied that he is not sure. It is a new notion for us with regards to bargaining mandates and arbitration. It has been in British Columbia for a while. In B.C. the mandates are set with fiscal expectation to support the mandate. How this unfolds remains to be seen.
- L. Elias – Has ORIS posted the new criteria for applying to become a centre for the newly revised Centres & Institutes Policy and if not when will it be posted? Erasmus stated that staff has been very busy with funding applications but the SOPs will be posted within the next month.
- K. Peacock – Loss of IMP funds of \$4.2 million – Is some of that money or work optional or essential? How much of \$4.2 million is money that will need to be spent? The president stated that we have suspended most of what we had planned but there was some money left over from last year so we can finish off some projects. There is small fund for emergencies set aside but we are going to turn off the infrastructure tap for this year. Sustaining this for more than a year will be challenging. A. Hakin reported that some institutions that have pre-emptively spent IMP dollars are being asked to pay it back.
- J. Usher – results based budgeting model, is the government taking that up again? If you are going to have a performance based budget, it has to be forward based, as it will cause

surpluses. M. Mahon indicated that we do not have much information on the model. Some of the metrics are not surprising like graduation rates and enrolment. M. Mahon was pleased to hear the minister mention supports for indigenous students, which is good for us.

- K. Peacock – any sense of the impact of tuition increases and tax credit reductions on enrolment? M. Mahon stated that we do have to recognize that many students come from further away which makes it more expensive to come here. There may be some unintended consequences of tuition increases on enrolment. We have been taking about how to model that when we make decisions on tuition and the like.
- J. Blum - Is the government aware of the message to not generating revenue? The unintended consequence could be the institutions not going after fundraising as it could possibly become less important. The government wants us to find different ways to support public education. There is strong agreement among all 26 institutions that this is a significant challenge with this type of model.
- C. Nicol – In light of some recommendations, where there is government consultation with stakeholders. What does the appropriate governance clause mean? Is the Campus Alberta model still the model? The minister's answer was yes. A piece that has emerged is whether the Comprehensive Institutional Plan (CIP) is maintained or if there will be an agreement between the institution and the government around funding model, metrics, and performance instead. This will unfold but is not clear at this time what it will look like. C. Nicol asked if there is no notion that government changes might mean consolidation within the model. It is unclear at this time what the government intends. A. Hakin suggested that there is lots of speculation in the post-secondary sector of what the language means but the government has been silent. There has been speculation of what the language means and what the funding model is, but we cannot concretely plan until then. The 26 institutions have been separately and collectively giving feedback to the government on the funding model, etc. We are having meetings to discuss this in the next week. We will continue to keep you posted. The only good news is that M. Mahon has been through these budget cuts now for the third time. It will be challenging but we will come out the other end to continue to flourish as an institution.

5. ITEMS FOR ACTION

5.1. GFC Bylaws Amendments – GFC Executive

MOTION: gfc.2019.11.03

Hakin/Marynowski

That General Faculties Council approve the GFC Bylaw revisions to add the wording for GFC Executive Committee member term length, effective immediately.

Motion: Carried (2/3 approval)

The rationale was explained, as this is to be the solution to ensure there is always academic staff members serving on the Executive Committee. This will add wording that the end of the term for academic staff members is until the day after October GFC meeting.

5.2. GFC Bylaw Amendments – Quality Assurance

MOTION: gfc.2019.11.04

Hakin/Nicol

That General Faculties Council approve the GFC Bylaw revisions to remove Type A Centres and Institutes reviews from the Academic Quality Assurance Committee powers and duties, effective immediately.

Motion: Carried (2/3 approval)

This is clean up from the recently approved Centres & Institutes Policy.

5.3. GFC Nomination Committee Appointments

A. Hakin reported that there are four vacancies for academic staff members on the new GFC Nomination Committee. Two members are required for two-year terms (November 2019 - November 1, 2021), and two members are required for one-year terms (November 2019 – November 2, 2020). A. Hakin went over the procedures for the nominations and the approval voting as required by the GFC Bylaws. We are hoping for diversity on the committee.

M. Mahon opened the floor to nominations. The following nominations were received for the two, two-year terms:

- Trushar Patel
- Dawn Burleigh

The following nominations were received for the two, one-year terms:

- Heather Ladd
- Vacant

MOTION: gfc.2019.11.05

Hakin/Copeland

All nominations cease.

Motion: Carried

5.4. Faculty of Health Sciences – Associate Dean Procedures

MOTION: gfc.2019.11.06

Wood/Loewen

That General Faculties Council approve the attached Appointment Process, Associate Dean, Health Sciences, effective immediately

Motion: Carried

This document has not been updated for a long time. It was approved at Health Sciences Faculty Council and needs to be approved by GFC. There was discussion surrounding the

funding of this position in budget restraints. It was noted that the funding would come from existing Health Sciences budget as there is no new money for this position. They also discussed whether members of appointment committees can be either term or continuing.

5.5. GFC Admission Standards Committee Report

Registrar's Office

MOTION: gfc.2019.11.07

Massey/Vokey

General Faculties Council approve Recommendations #1 – 5 from the GFC Admission Standards Committee Report for implementation May 1, 2020.

Motion: Carried

These changes address a range of things in the calendar as well as adjusting language in the calendar for the new programs that were added last year.

5.6. GFC Curriculum Coordinating Committee Report

Faculty of Health Sciences

MOTION: gfc.2019.11.08

Wood/Gammack

That General Faculties Council approve the deletion of the Addictions minor for implementation May 1, 2020.

Motion: Carried

We are not offering some of the courses that are needed to complete the minor at this time.

Faculty of Education

MOTION: gfc.2019.11.09

Loewen/Marynowski

That General Faculties Council approve the addition to the Practicum Regulations and Information in the undergraduate Calendar for implementation May 1, 2020.

Motion: Carried

It is in the Academic Schedule section of the calendar and this is including it in the Education section of the calendar to ensure students see it.

Dhillon School of Business

MOTION: gfc.2019.11.10

Godfrey/Ingraham

General Faculties Council approve Recommendations #3 – 12 from the GFC Curriculum Coordinating Committee Report for implementation May 1, 2020

Motion: Carried

Registrar's Office

MOTION: gfc.2019.11.11

Massey/Loewen

General Faculties Council approve Recommendations #13 – 14 from the GFC Curriculum Coordinating Committee Report for implementation May 1, 2020.

Motion: Carried

These are minor changes to outdated wording and course changes.

6. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

6.1. Freedom of Expression

A. Hakin stated that we are bringing this back to GFC. There have been changes because of the feedback from previous sessions that were well attended. He provided two changes on the draft received from consultation with the Provost's Committee. We are still in conversation with T. Jorgensen on wording. On page 24 of 26 in the first paragraph after the bulleted list, we have removed "any person or group". The second change is to give clarity to the first line in the last paragraph "responsibility of on-campus event organizers or on-campus facility use organizers". We are still discussing where the responsibility should lie. We have broadened out the scope of the document by adding in who we are and why we exist. This document goes to government for "editing" before it comes back for Board approval. A. Hakin can make no guarantees on how this document will return to us. Some institutions sent in the complete Chicago principles and others had their documents returned for wording to be removed. There was discussion on wording in the document and on challenges to the autonomy of an institution. This is why the policy development response was rejected. We have our own process that should not be controlled by the government.

6.2. Distinguished Teaching Nomination Form

Received as information. A. Hakin encouraged council members to circulate the form and nominate a worthy colleague. Nominations can come from any quarter. This is an important award. There was discussion on gender bias including the name of the committee. Literature on gender bias should be given to the committee. M. Mahon stated the search for the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategist is unfolding.

6.3. GFC Executive Committee Report – October 25, 2019

Received as information. No questions raised.

- 6.4. GFC Executive Committee Approved Minutes – September 30, 2019
Received as information. No questions raised.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Gammack stated that the ULSU released a statement on the budget. The students want to work with administration to implement the tough decisions.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: gfc.2019.11.12

Loewen/Marynowski

That the GFC meeting #541 be adjourned.

Motion: Carried