



GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL MEETING #543

Approved Minutes

Monday, February 3, 2020

3:00 p.m. in W646

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

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

A moment of silence was observed for Dr. P. Butterfield and Prof. A. Hunter, who both passed away since our last meeting as well as for the downed Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 from Iran.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: gfc.2020.02.01

Laurendeau/Mattatall

That the Agenda for GFC Meeting #543 held Monday, February 3, 2020 be approved.

Motion: Carried

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: gfc.2020.02.02

Loewen/Mather

That the Minutes for GFC Meeting #542 held Monday, December 9, 2019 be approved with an editorial change to the attendance.

Motion: Carried

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

M. Mahon reported

- The MasterCard Foundation partnership announcement of \$15 million was on December 18th. We are working on the next steps toward supporting our indigenous students in partnership with the Blackfoot confederacy (Siksika, Piikani, Kainai, Blackfeet). The Blackfeet in Montana will be part of this eventually as we figure out the cross border logistics.
- Jackie Rice was announced as Dean, School of Graduate Studies and Associate Vice-President, Research. Her term is effective on March 1st.
- Budget Consultations with all employee groups has been ongoing. Meetings with the Calgary campus will be on February 10th. There have been 13 budget consultations so far with some well attended and some more intimate. Both having robust discussions. We are taking all input to heart as we work through the budget process.
- The Statement of Free Expression was approved by Board of Governors in December.
- The UofL hosted a memorial honouring the passing of Jason Goodstriker, a UofL alumnus who was the first indigenous member elected to the UofL Student Union.
- We unfortunately had a failed search for the EDI position. We will step back and reframe the position description in terms of depth and breadth. We are still going forward with this position.
- General update on Government activities – Deputy Minister Rod Skura has retired, as has Assistant Deputy Minister Dan Rizzoli. The new Deputy Minister for Advanced Education is Curtis Clark who is a former Associate professor at Athabasca University, which will be helpful in the portfolio. M. Mahon is now the CARU representative on the COPPOA counsel as he finished his role on Universities Canada.
- A & S Dean Search is progressing well and we are feeling optimistic on that front.
- Canada Life and PowerCorp gift announcement of \$400,000 Jim Coutts Prairie Research and the Science Commons.
- Announcement on agreement of three Southern Alberta Post-secondary institutions on eight principles to guide collaboration (UofL, LC and MHC) – importance of demonstrating our commitment to collaboration with other institutions. We will be looking at synergies on how to use our resources (such as IT and purchasing).
- January 24th Abbondanza was very successful.
- Elder Carolla "Napiakii" Calf Robe Elder's room dedication last week.
- TEDx talks – congratulations to K. Massey et al on the success of this event. We look for more TEDx talks in the future.
- February 13th Donor Gala in the Science Commons.
- February 17th (Family Day) on which we are hosting the community at Play Day

- February 25th International Dinner (27th Annual) *Martin Parnell will be the keynote speaker.
- Comment on collegial discussion in General Faculties Council. We need good debate but we need to remember the importance of collegiality during those discussions.

3.1. Budget Update

M. Mahon gave an update to the budget process and what we know so far. We know that there will be a budget reduction for the post-secondary sector of 5% in 2019-20, 5% in 2020-21 and then 5% reductions in the next two years. We continue to have discussions with government officials regarding their interest in universities and colleges reducing overall expenditures. We are starting to hear about the performance based funding model. It will be rolled out in April 2020 for the next year. It will be based on a few key factors such as investment management agreements negotiated with each of the 26 institutions and will be specific to each one, performance funding, and sponsored research revenue. There was some discussion on the weight of some of the performance measures related to the at risk funding. The president ended his update stating that we are doing scenario planning and will optimistically find out in March what the budget looks like.

4. QUESTION PERIOD

- A. Gammack – In your conversations with the government, have they stated what will happen to the at risk funding. Will it stay within post-secondary system? M. Mahon does not know but government officials hope it will stay within the ministry. There is some discussion on whether funds an institution loses might be given to another institution who gains.
- K. Peacock – We are an independent organization so legally the government should not have say on overall expenditures. M. Mahon led a discussion around institutions that have a Board of Governors have fiduciary control on the institution's budget, funds that are not given by the government as well as how university budgets are rolled up into the budget of the government for last 12-13 years.
- K. Godfrey – Is this at risk funding a permanent reduction? M. Mahon is looking for clarification but his take is that it is a permanent reduction but it is not clear.
- J. Laurendeau – EDI senior advisor – He is disappointed in the failed search. How much of an effect is the temporary term of the position and salary created the fail search? M. Mahon and A. Tennant are having meaningful discussions on how they can make the search successful.
- J. Mather – How is the government going to evaluate our teaching? M. Mahon responded that that is an open question. A. Hakin observed that there has been no conversation yet. Outcome based curriculum which lead to metrics can be analysed in different ways.
- J. Copeland – How can this be implemented in two months when there are so many unknowns? Do you have any inkling on how committed the ministry is for rolling this out April 1st. M. Mahon stated that we have been pushing on them that this is far too ambitious to roll out this quickly. He thinks they are determined to roll this out right away. We think that smaller measures this year would make it more manageable sticking to a few key performance measures that we are already gathering. We could get there if they did it that way. Our input is to slow down and for us to do this together. There has not been a lot of consultation with the institutions.

- K. Peacock – Reporting costs money and time – Do we have any idea on how much our reporting costs are going to go up? M. Mahon reported that there is no more Comprehensive Institutional Plan required. We have concerns with red tape items and are using their language in our discussions with them. We do not know what the new process will look like so it is hard to know what it will cost until we know what it looks like.
- M. Letts – in relation to expenditures, do you have clarity to what degree new sources of revenue will be counted toward our funds? M. Mahon stated there is no clarity from government. Universities and polytechnics have very different budgets than colleges. Colleges are like government departments in that they do not have own source revenue like universities do.
- D. Kaminski – We report to the government on our travel and purchases for example. Do we sift out our grant purchases and our research related travel or is it all aggregated? M. Mahon stated that we do not break those expenditures as you described but at some point, we may need to separate these out. We are pushing back on the cost of reporting with in year budgets because you are doing two budgets a year (April 1 and then again in February for any changes). There was acknowledgement from government in our last phone call that this is a challenge.
- J. Blum – question on the performance measures. Do we have any sense on how they are going to evolve? Are we being encouraged to only just meet the measures set for us and not exceed them? M. Mahon stated that this remains to be seen as things evolve. A. Hakin reported that the base line for things like enrolment was established in 2018/2019. We have made models for enrolment and have started figuring out the weightings so we know where we sit. The Ministry is working hard to make the Treasury understand how things will evolve for the post-secondary sector.
- J. Nugent – Going forward, what do the reductions actually mean. Will it be a cut every year? M. Mahon stated that we have been told that we will have a continuous reworking of the baseline every year. For example, their goal is to get us to 50% government funding from 60-65% range. The government thinks, in theory, that tuition will replace that and you will reduce expenditures. We have to recognize that Alberta has higher budget from government than other provinces. It is a recalibration exercise. There is speculation that this will continue for the near future.
- J. Vokey – Thank you for your update. It consists of mostly that we know nothing. We do know that there is no growth going forward only reductions. We are facing disaster to just maintain what we already do with no provisions to grow. Research and productivity mean nothing to the government. M. Mahon said that we are going to look more aggressively at different ways to fund our institution such as international students. We are at 7% and other institutions are at the range of 13-15%. We need to focus on building these areas. He said that we have to recalibrate the way we look at funding. How do we rethink about our revenue sources as an institution? To think that this situation is going to go different is naïve about what is happening around the globe. We are in a time of change. M. Mahon encourages members to engage in open dialog as things continue to unfold.

5. ITEMS FOR ACTION

5.1. GFC Nomination Committee – Academic Quality Assurance Committee

MOTION:

gfc.2020.02.03

Stingl/Copeland

That GFC appoint Aaron Taylor to serve on the GFC Academic Quality Assurance Committee commencing immediately and ending on June 30, 2022.

Motion: Carried

There was a vacancy. M. Mahon stated that this is the first action item from the new Nomination Committee.

6. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

6.1. GFC Executive Committee Report – January 27, 2020

Received as information. There was a discussion on the academic writing portion of the report regarding timelines, funding for resources and the Academic Quality Assurance Committee's review of the Academic Writing Program.

6.2. GFC Executive Committee Approved Minutes – December 2, 2019

Received as information. No questions raised.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Gammack gave a brief update on Pass the Hat Fundraiser in December. GFC did not win the unofficial competition but did raise a total of \$681.00 for the foodbank and the Nourish Program.

K. Massey advised members of the UWork and UVolunteer job fair on the 5th of February at the track. She thanked faculty who participated in the open house this past weekend. They received lots of good feedback and coverage for the event. M. Mahon stated that there will be an exciting gift announcement for student support on the track before the job fair begins.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: gfc.2020.02.04

Mather/Loewen

That the GFC meeting #543 be adjourned.

Motion: Carried