



GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL MEETING #484

Approved Minutes

Monday, April 8, 2013

3:00 p.m. in W646

- Present:** M. Mahon (Chair), J. Adolf, S. Alam, S. Anderson, G. Bedard, L. Brown, C. Campbell, J. Dobbie, L. Elias, A. Escher, M. Gerken, D. Gill, A. Hakin, P. Hayes, M. Helstein, P. Henzi, C. Horbachewski, C. Hosgood, L. Howard, L. Kennedy, C. Kingfisher, J. Kulig, J. Lapadat, J. Laurendeau, M. Letts, C. Loewen, P. Loewen, C. Malacrida, K. Mazurek, K. McCallum, Z. Moline, C. Nicol, W. Osborn, D. Oye, N. Piquette, N. Rosen, B. Schnell, D. Siminovitch, M. Stingl, S. Talbot, I. Townshend, J. Usher, P. Visentin, J. Vokey, N. Walker, M. Wang, D. Weeks, J. Wiebe, S. Wismath, R. Yalamova-Usher, W. Yuan (by phone)
- Regrets:** B. Boudreau, J. Copeland, B. Ellis, C. Hollingsworth, D. Hunt, L. Jacobs, L. Kleemola, J. Knapp, R. Lencucha, R. Mallard, B. Mathenia, I. McAdam, A. Morning Bull, A. Nussbaumer, D. Rochfort, M. Sedgwick, K. Vos, V. Wells, R. Wood
- Other:** J. Black (recording secretary), L. Corbiere, M. Mellow, S. Olson, S. Sproule

Prior to the meeting a moment of silence was observed for Professor Emeriti E. Webking, and L. Walker, Associate Dean of Education R. Mrazek and former Chancellor S. Debow.

A thank you was given to all the GFC student members as this was their last meeting.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: gfc.2013.04.01

Loewen/Escher

That the Agenda for GFC Meeting #484 held Monday, April 8, 2013 be approved.

Motion: Carried

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: gfc.2013.04.02

Laurendeau/Loewen

That the Minutes for GFC Meeting #483 held Monday, March 4, 2013 be approved.

Motion: Carried

3. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

M. Mahon reported:

- On April 11th a meeting will occur with all the universities and colleges presidents and the Minister of Enterprise and Advanced Education. This was arranged to discuss the letter of expectation and the budget. A pre-meeting for just the presidents will occur that morning at Grant MacEwan. Item 5.2 and 5.3 further down in the agenda will address more about the budget and letter of expectation.
- GFC was informed that effective April 1 – June 30, 2013 A. Hakin will serve as acting Dean of Fine Arts while D. Rochfort is on accrued leave. The search process is concluding and the hope is to have someone appointed as the new Dean of Fine Arts soon.
- Senate meet on Saturday and there was great discussion on the budget and letter of expectation as there are many concerned senators. It was an enabling discussion to see how they can support us from a community perspective.
- M. Mahon will be at the Vulcan High School in 2 weeks, and High River tomorrow to speak to high schools students about the University of Lethbridge. These events have happened throughout southern Alberta and have been very well received.
- The president was pleased to attend both the Edmonton and Calgary Faculty appreciation nights as well as the Students' Union changeover dinner. They were great opportunities to celebrate our faculty and students.
- The inaugural meeting of the GFC Aboriginal Education Committee occurred and it was a great reflection on the progress we have made and the vision of our future.
- Strategic Planning – the committee has been working on the second reiteration of this. There have been many things that have popped up to slow this progress so we are currently behind one month.
- Upcoming Events – The Calgary Alumni and Friends Dinner is tomorrow night at the Palliser with guest speaker Ian Bremmer. The Management Scholarship Dinner honouring Cor Van Ray is this week as well as the Pronghorns Blue and Gold dinner.

Question Period:

There were no questions at this time.

4. **ITEMS FOR ACTION**

4.1.CCC Report – Recommendations for Programs, Pending Implementation Dates

The full list of recommendations is filed as an attachment to these minutes.

MOTION: gfc.2013.04.03

Hakin/Nicol

That General Faculties Council approves Recommendations #1 from the Faculty of Arts and Science Programs, Pending Implementation Dates from the Curriculum Coordinating Committee Report.

Motion: Carried

MOTION: gfc.2013.04.04

Hakin/Adolf

That General Faculties Council approves Recommendations #2-7 from the Faculty of Fine Arts Programs, Pending Implementation Dates from the Curriculum Coordinating Committee Report.

Motion: Carried

There were no questions or concerns raised.

4.2.GFC Bylaw Revisions

MOTION: gfc.2013.04.05

Escher/Helstein

That General Faculties Council approves the proposed revisions to the GFC Bylaws, effective immediately.

Motion: Carried (1 opposed, 1 abstention)
2/3 approval

A. Escher indicated that since GFC last month the only additional proposed changes were to have academic staff not faculty members sit on the Grade Appeal and Student Discipline Committees, adding wording to the appointment committee process indicating that a fair summary of the comments done by Legal Counsel will be provided to the incumbent and a piece was added to indicated that editorial amendments such as typos, and administrative resource title changes could be done without approval; however, the changes would be reported at the next meeting of council. A. Escher thanked the rest of the committee for their work.

A question arose on who did the fair summary before, and it was indicated that it was the committee chair. A concern arose on GFC not needing to approve editorial changes and the safe guard was the information being brought to Council and if at that time someone disagreed with the change made they could request a vote be done.

5. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

5.1. GFC Committee Nominations

J. Dobbie indicated that within the newly approved GFC Bylaws an open call will be put out for nominations to sit on GFC Standing and other committees. The committee will meet after the deadline to determine the slate for any online elections and then a recommended slate of candidates will be made to GFC Executive with the plan being to bring this forth for approval to GFC in May.

5.2. University Response to Budget

M. Mahon indicated there are many ongoing activities related to the budget and the process needs to come to GFC for discussion. A. Hakin presented the document: *Reaffirming our values: A University Response to the 2013-14 Provincial Budget*. Explanation was given that when the March 7th University Campus Alberta operating budget reduction of 7.3% came down it was realized that the magnitude of cut for us would be \$11.8 million, so a decision was made to ensure this is handled by our institution in the most diligent matter and any decisions on reductions should be tied to a set of values approved through the UofL governance system. This will help guide what will be done in a shortened time frame as we need to have approval of the budget by end of May as that is when the Comprehensive Institutional Plan is now due and the budget is one component of that plan. The values will be used to help underscore what the importance of this institution is. These values have already flowed through the bicameral system through the Strategic Plan, and the Comprehensive Institutional Plan containing our Academic and Research Plans. These three foundational values that will assist in guiding us through these serious decisions are: people, high quality and access. The first draft was developed by the Provost and prior to coming to GFC they have gone through and been refined by Budget Advisory, Budget Priorities, Strategic Planning, Deans' Council, Executive Directors' and President's Executive. On April 10th they will be taken to the Board of Governors for their reaffirmation. After our values are reaffirmed we will then begin an extended discussion on where the reductions will come from.

A. Hakin then went through the proposed budget process as outlined in the document. It was highlighted that there is one month prior to the interim budget coming back to GFC. To establish the budget stage one will use the values to identify the reductions and new sources of revenue, and stage two will be the go forward recalibration/allocation stage. This will go through the committees identified and after GFC it will end with the Board of Governors on May 16th.

Comments and feedback were welcomed on the values document. Some questions and comments arose on: the letter of expectation in relation to the budget and our values, language clarity by adding to achieve 'operational' efficiencies, how the values will be operationalized as they are quite vague, and possibly looking at things we do not value as well. It was indicated that the values is a compass that will help guide the institution through these decisions, but it will be difficult and the values will allow us to argue every point and decision we make. Others have made decisions without this framework and we have decided not to go that route.

A concern was raised indicating that more of an apparent commitment to students in needed in the document. Discussion occurred on this as wording cannot be added to mean that everything is not on the table as it was emphasized that at this point everything is and has to be on the table for budget reduction consideration. A further suggestion was made to indicate all employee group and student groups will be treated with fairness and respects.

More discussion occurred around the possible goals of the province and there being a lack of informed discussion. A. Hakin indicated there is a commitment to transparency and accountability around this process. This morning they agreed to a timeline and will put forward a reduction plan to Strategic Planning which is a GFC Committee, and there will

also be another public forum. Frustration was recognized in these tight deadlines and it was emphasized that all input is being requested and welcomed as already 49 people have provided input into the letter of expectation and budget reduction strategy ranging from faculty to support staff. N. Walker also indicated there is confidential information such as current negotiations so this needs to be respected that these portions will not be publically discussed.

A question arose on the three campus model and it was clarified that at this point everything still must be on the table for budget reduction consideration. Further discussion occurred on liberal education being a value and many values were discussed. It was indicated that these values will be affected as they are apparent in all that we do, but this will allow monitoring of this and it is just the beginning as we have been informed it will be a “neutral” budget going forth so reductions will also be occurring in the next few years.

A question arose on the budget that will be presented next month and N. Walker indicated there will not be time to get a budget so likely it will be a deficit budget being presented. We require a balanced budget at some point but there will be time to provide input into the reduction plan as prior to GFC there will be another open forum. It was clarified that the Minister needs to provide permission to approve a deficit budget and we will be asking for permission and planning to have a balanced budget in three years.

A motion to reaffirm the values was called from the floor.

MOTION: gfc.2013.04.06

Nicol/Hosgood

That General Faculties Council reaffirm the values as articulated within the document “Reaffirming our Values: A University Response to the 2013-14 Provincial Budget” and recommend the approval of those values to the Board of Governors.

Motion: Carried (6 opposed, 2 abstentions).

5.3.Draft Letter of Expectation

M. Mahon indicated that input has been requested on both the budget and draft letter of expectation that has been received from the Minister of Enterprise and Advanced Education. Forty nine responses have been received so far, and these comments have been developed into a fair summary that will be made available on the Budget website later this week. The summary is confidential so no names or affiliations are included. As mentioned in his President’s Report there is a meeting on April 11th meeting regarding the draft letter of expectation, and we were assured it is a draft and the government is very much looking for input. This is our chance to provide context back as it relates to our institution. We were also informed to relay three areas of priority to them. This is a work in progress so three areas will be developed from the existing plans, and input on these were welcomed.

Much discussion occurred around what Campus Alberta is, what the references to duplication may mean, who is required to sign the letter, corporatism, what empirical

information they are using to base their actions on, the relation between the letter and the budget cuts, how and if the impact this will have on the institutions is being tracked, messaging to them the importance of what our institutions do, and other provinces who have gone through these same contractual like agreements.

In regards to a collective Alberta response, all the presidents of the Alberta post-secondary's are meeting the morning of April 11th to discuss the meeting. They want consensus on those most important items and then a follow-up meeting with that group will occur on the Monday. That group wants to do this as a collective and this is new territory for us.

The students have sent a response to the Deputy Minister and it will be looked at it see if there is any common ground.

A motion to continue the meeting was called.

MOTION: gfc.2013.04.07

Visentin/Helstein

That General Faculties Council meeting #484 continue past 5:00 p.m.

Motion: Carried

M. Mahon indicated that there will be an update sent out on Friday to the Community regarding the meeting with the Minister to ensure everyone is informed.

5.4. Canadian University Senates Project (GFC Equivalent)

J. Black indicated that since our institution participated in the survey portion of this study, the report was attached for information. If anyone had any comments from the study they were invited to contact J. Black. No questions or comments arose.

5.5 GFC Executive Committee Minutes – February 25, 2013

The minutes were provided for information.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: gfc.2013.04.08

Piquette/Escher

That the GFC meeting #484 be adjourned.

Motion: Carried

(April 8, 2013) Curriculum Coordinating Committee Report to General Faculties Council

Recommendations for Programs, Pending Implementation Dates

Recommendation #1

That General Faculties Council approve the change to the Religious Studies Major for the B.A., B.A.Sc., and B.A./B.Mgt. to increase the number of required courses to 14, pending Ministerial program approval. [\(p. 2\)](#)

Prior approval: Arts and Science Council: Feb. 14/13
Management Council: Mar. 15/13
Curriculum Coord. Com.: Mar. 1/13

Recommendation #2

That General Faculties Council approve the changes to the Performance Major in the BFA (Dramatic Arts), pending Ministerial program approval. [\(p.13\)](#)

Prior approval: Fine Arts Council: Nov. 22/12
Curriculum Coord. Com.: March 1/13

Recommendation #3

That General Faculties Council approve the changes to the title of the Major and requirements for the BFA (Dramatic Arts) with a Major in Production, pending Ministerial program approval. [\(p. 20\)](#)

Prior approval: Fine Arts Council: Nov. 22/12
Curriculum Coord. Com.: March 1/13

Recommendation #4

That General Faculties Council approve the deletion of the Theatre Studies Major, pending Ministerial program approval. [\(p. 24\)](#)

Prior approval: Fine Arts Council: Oct. 25/12
Curriculum Coord. Com.: March 1/13

Recommendation #5

That General Faculties Council approve the changes to the Dramatic Arts Major in the BFA (Dramatic Arts)/B.Ed., pending Ministerial program approval. [\(p. 28\)](#)

Prior approval: Fine Arts Council: Nov. 22/12

Education Council: Apr. 3/13
Curriculum Coord. Com.: March 1/13

Recommendation #6

That General Faculties Council approve the changes to the Dramatic Arts Major in the B.A., B.A./B.Mgt. and B.A./B.Ed., pending Ministerial program approval. [\(p. 32\)](#)

Prior approval: Fine Arts Council: Oct. 25/12
Arts & Science Council: Feb. 14/13
Management Council: Mar. 15/13
Education Council: Apr. 3/13
Curriculum Coord. Com.: Mar. 1/13

Recommendation #7

That General Faculties Council approve the changes to the Dramatic Arts Education minor, pending Ministerial program approval. [\(p. 40\)](#)

Prior approval: Fine Arts Council: Nov. 22/12
Education Council: Apr. 3/13
Curriculum Coord. Com.: March 1/13