

Motion: Carried

3. ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no items arising from the minutes.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mike Mahon delivered the following report via video link:

- Greg Weadick has been appointed as the new Minister of Advanced Education. Mike has met with him and Greg is looking forward to working with us in his new position.
- The budget has come down, and it is basically status quo. We do have lights on funding for Markin Hall.
- Mike has been busy meeting with Deans, Executive Directors and students regarding the strategic plan and through those meetings he has found that there are a lot of things already happening in the areas that are in line with the initiatives.
- There was a sold out international dinner, and an alumni event on and off-campus also, the Calgary alumni speaker series went well and there are hopes to have this continue.
- Native Awareness Week had a successful opening ceremony, a fashion show, and the naming of the First Nations' governance area.
- The President indicated that there had been some questions regarding the reappointment process and subsequent extension of the Dean of Arts and Science's term, and felt it appropriate to provide GFC with a summary of the rationale for the decision to extend the term of the Dean. During the course of the review of the Dean of Arts and Science for consideration for reappointment, two areas of concern emerged; the first was a concern with the actual review process, as there were difficulties related to inconsistencies in the by-laws which guide the review process for the reappointment of Deans. The second challenge was that the President became aware of a very serious breach in confidentiality during the deliberations of the committee. Knowing the process challenges, the confidentiality breach and after seeking advice, the President determined that it was not appropriate to bring forth a recommendation from the committee to the Board of Governors. The President therefore recommended to the Board of Governors that the review process be terminated, the term of the Dean be extended by two years and that a new review process be initiated, once a GFC bylaw review was completed. This recommendation was accepted by the Board.

The two-year extension will allow one year for the bylaw review and one year to re-conduct the review process. The bylaw review process is now underway.

5. ITEMS FOR ACTION

There were no items for action at this time.

6. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

6.1. 2011-2012 Budget Report

Karen Clearwater brought forth the 2011-12 three year budget as an item for information. The budget will be taken to the Board for approval later this month.

In 2011-11 the government combined our operating grant with our EPE funding into the Campus Alberta Grant. This funding was reduced by \$2 million last year. In the provincial budget the government is keeping operating grants at 2010-11 levels. However, they are providing continuing lights on funding for Markin Hall, the Penny Building and Stadium.

Looking at the grant changes and the increase in tuition of .35% over last year and or projected cost increases, the University is facing a deficit in 2011-12 of \$1.3 million and projecting additional deficits for the next two years. There have been reductions in each units budget, appendix A, to bring in a balanced budget in 2011-12.

In addition to reductions in government funding, other pressure points within the institution include maintaining enrolment levels in all programs. It is being recommended that additional funds be provided to maintain existing scholarship levels.

The University has had to maintain several EPE programs such as public health, digital audio arts and the after-degree nursing program. We are lobbying to get continuing funds to stabilize these programs.

The Budget Committee is recommending continuing funds to support life-cycle replacement in IT for servers, classroom equipment and data center equipment. Last year the committee also recommended to the president a review of the existing budget system to ensure that resources are being allocated effectively based on the strategic priorities of the institution. This is a continuing process.

Karen extended a thank you to those GFC members who sat on the committee within the last year. Their contributions, insights and recommendations added considerably to the deliberations.

6.2. Draft Student Assessment Policy

Ian MacLachlan, utilising a power point, presented on the process undertaken to review the student assessment policy and on some of the main issues that the policy is trying to effectively address. Will Smith and Ian MacLachlan have met with various Faculty/Schools and have received individual input on this policy. A few

items specifically mentioned were: email issues, new language regarding assessments in the last two weeks of class, and another item surrounded course outlines indicating how the final letter grade for the course will be determined to look at scaling down marks.

Ian opened the floor to discussion as this is an item for information and the policy will not come forward for approval until the 4th of April, 2011.

Discussion occurred around: email policy and distance education, best practices vs. policies, scaling marks down, lab assessments, templates on effective outlines, flexibility for professors for issues such as H1N1.

Andy Hakin thanked Ian and Will Smith as they have had numerous consultation and the goal is to bring together a workable policy.

6.3. GFC Bylaw Review Update - Request for Input

Ian MacLachlan reported that the GFC Bylaw Review committee was struck in September. There are six parts to the bylaws and deliberations by the committee were interrupted due to staffing changes in the President's Office. Progress is being made and on April 4th the revisions to Part 1, 2 and 3 will be brought forth to Council. The next portion will deal with Part 4, 5 and 6 and there is not a lot of reference between these two groupings. There was a GFC Bylaw Review meeting today and an hour was spent discussing the definition of Faculty Members, looking at the purposed of standing committees, and also the GFC year.

Ian MacLachlan requested input from the group regarding any parts of the bylaws to assist with the process.

6.4. GFC Executive Committee Minutes – January 31, 2011

The minutes of the GFC Executive for January 31, 2011 were emailed out as an item for information.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Nancy Walker wanted to thank Karen Clearwater on presenting her last Budget to GFC as she will be retiring this year.

MOTION:

Hakin/Le Roy

The Council extended a motion of appreciation to Karen Clearwater for her work throughout the years.

Motion: Carried

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

Greenshields/Walker

That the March 7, 2011 meeting of the General Faculties Council of the University of Lethbridge be adjourned.

Motion: Carried