

2.4 David Marshall, President, Mount Royal College

Aaron Engen and Terry Royer met with David Marshall, President of Mount Royal College. The objective was to find common ground between Mount Royal College and the University of Lethbridge. One commonality found is the wish to present a united front to Government to ensure post secondary education is properly positioned for Government funding. Terry Royer was pleased with the consistency in thinking between the schools, primarily in access to education for Albertans who want it, and the mutual desire to strive for quality in education. A follow-up meeting is planned with Bill Cade and David Marshall in the new year.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

3.1 Meetings in Edmonton

Last week Bill Cade met with the Assistant Deputy Minister of Learning, Phil Gougeon, and the Deputy Minister of Infrastructure, Eric McGhan. He also made visits to Paul Byrne, President of Grant MacEwan College, and Sam Shaw, President of NAIT.

3.2 Bill 43

Bill 43 has passed and the regulations are being finalized. It is anticipated the regulations will receive cabinet approval early in the new year, after which the bill will be proclaimed into law. Bill Cade thanked the Governance committee for their hard work in reviewing the draft legislation. It was felt that Government responded to the input from the U of L. A letter to the Minister has been sent reflecting U of L support for the Bill.

3.3 Health & Wellness Centre

The City of Lethbridge has agreed to commit \$5.3 million to the construction of the Health & Wellness Centre. A request for proposals from architects has gone out, steering committee meetings have been held, and Brian Sullivan has been appointed project manager.

3.4 APO Job Description Review

The APO job description review, conducted in house using the Hay Management System, is now complete. Bill Cade commented that the process went very well and there were few appeals. The appeal mechanism involved external review. Most employee classifications and salaries remained constant; however there were a few which went up and some that went down. Salaries were "red circled" for those whose classifications went down.

3.5 3rd Annual Blood Women's Conference

The University of Lethbridge hosted the 3rd Annual Blood Women's Conference. This year their focus was on leadership. Pearl Callahasen, Colleen Klein, Rhonda Ruston, and Elsa Cade were inducted into the Kainakiiksi Honour Society.

4. ITEMS FOR ACTION

4.1 Capital Budget 2004-05

MOTION: opn.2003.12.03

Keith/Stokes

That the Board of Governors approve the Capital Budget 2004-05 as presented in the agenda materials.

Motion: Carried

Total Funds Required was corrected to Total Funds Available on page 4 of the agenda. On page 9, the heading of the last column was changed to Projected Balance 1-Apr-05.

Karen Clearwater explained that letters are distributed to each budget unit in August requesting submission of capital budget items. The budget is then prepared based on funds available, mainly from Alberta Infrastructure and reserves.

Parking options other than surface stalls have been considered; however, the \$10,000 per stall cost for a parking structure is prohibitive compared to the \$2,000 per stall cost of surface parking.

Kevin Keith noted that a benchmark exercise for faculty salaries was done a year ago and an APO salary review was recently completed to ensure salaries are at market. When 80% of the budget is at market, there is little room for discretionary spending.

Nancy Walker explained that the capital budget is brought to the Board in December, prior to the operating budget in March, to facilitate the tender and construction process for summer project completion in order to minimize disruption to classroom instruction.

Further explanation was provided on the need for a new soccer field. Once a location and total cost is determined, the proposal will come back to the Board for approval.

4.2 Proposed Fees and Rates 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07

MOTION: opn.2003.12.04

Keith/Coslovi

That the Board of Governors approve the Proposed Fees and Rates for 2004-05 and, in principle, the 2005-06 and 2006-07 fees and rates.

Motion: Carried

Opposed: Dustin Hines, Jason Rumer, Paul Daniels

Jason Rumer expressed his dissatisfaction with the increased tuition. He felt that there should be more pressure from the institutions to get money from the Provincial and Federal governments. He added that increasing tuition gives the Government the impression that the University can function on student money alone, and there is the possibility that giving that impression could lead to getting less funding in the future. Jason Rumer remarked that the average student loan debt for an undergraduate degree is \$30,000. Some have stopped going to school due to high tuition. He commented that he felt a 7% increase was not justifiable and felt a 3 or 4% increase was more palatable.

Nancy Walker explained that Karen Clearwater and Seamus O'Shea met with about twenty students and described fees and how we arrived at them. The University of Lethbridge fees are still lower compared to other universities and in order to maintain the quality of a U of L education, the University is forced to increase fees. Karen Clearwater added that the student consultation is an Alberta Learning requirement. In September all units are invited to propose fee increases. These increases must be explained and are then reviewed by Karen Clearwater. A number of fees were disallowed at this early stage. Questionable fees are reviewed by the President's Executive committee and more information is solicited if necessary. The student fee consultation committee reviewed all fees, including those which had been disallowed by the Administration. Proposed fees which were disallowed or changed included refund policy, new media differential, theatre rental, library hourly equipment fee, and library damages charges. The Intramural team facility charge was challenged by the students and subsequently reduced. It was stressed that the fees students have concerns with are changed as much as possible. Séamus O'Shea noted that the budget challenges and policy issues were explained to the student group.

Paul Daniels commented that the increase in fees puts a strain on families, and leads to inaccessibility. Another Board member remarked that the Board is not delighted with tuition going up but the Board does not control how much Government funding the University gets. Students would have to consider what services they are willing to do without in order to avoid a tuition increase. Paul Daniels felt that a better way to approach the situation is to ask Government for more money rather than asking what students are willing to cut. He remarked that perhaps post- secondary education could be a hot topic in the upcoming Federal election.

Séamus O'Shea mentioned that this issue is relatively difficult, and that the University has remarkably little influence over public policy. The University has publicly opposed deregulation of fees and agreed that undergraduate fees should remain at an accessible level. Séamus O'Shea also noted that student fees are almost \$500 per year less than the University of Alberta and the University of Calgary. From the most recent data available, looking at a socio-economic group in the bottom quartile, the fraction of those going to university remains the same as those in the middle. The issue is that they are not finishing high school. The reason the average student debt at the University of Lethbridge is the highest in the province is likely due to the cost of relocation; however, these students would have those costs regardless of where they attended. The University of Lethbridge is attempting to achieve a balance. An additional \$10 million in fees and

grants would mean 100 more students could attend. Choosing to keep fees down limits access. Séamus O'Shea further explained that the U of L Materials and Service fees are averaged for all courses and tax receipts are then issued to the students. This is a hidden cost at other universities and not available for claim against loans and taxes. The University of Lethbridge makes it very visible, and it is counted in the 30% fee ratio. It has also now been required at the University of Calgary and the University of Alberta to be visible and counted in fee calculations.

Dustin Hines commented that the Graduate students programs are primarily research based without much course work. This brings about issues in fees, especially for program fees. He added that it should include research programs and direction in their research. Out of approximately 100 students in the Masters and Ph.D. programs, the province only funded 40 students at the average undergraduate student support level, which is one-third of what other institutions get for their graduate students. Dustin Hines added that he would prefer the course fee for graduate students be called an advisorial fee, and suggested that the fee be changed.

Aaron Engen noted that tuition increases are only half of the equation and the Board would be well served to have an understanding of the expense side of the equation. Aaron Engen commented that he is troubled by the unspoken assumption that costs are going up. He felt that the cost justification should be in the package. He assured the Board that he is not opposed to the increase in tuition, but felt there should be more information provided to the Board on the budget implications.

Karen Clearwater reported that all units have submitted draft budgets. Even with the proposed increases, there is a \$1.4 million deficit. Included in these increases are grants, tuition, salaries according to the Alberta market, unfunded pension liability, and a 4% utilities increase over the last year. Karen Clearwater mentioned that the electrical service is under contract and up for renewal, and the gas service is being looked at as well. Also, insurance is up 25% and workers compensation is also going up 12%. Other revenue streams are also being looked at. Next year a \$1.8 million budget reduction is anticipated with a \$2 million reduction in the following year.

Bill Cade remarked that while he sympathizes with the students, education benefits those who receive it. The question is who pays. Currently the tax payer pays 70% of the cost, and society gets the benefit of an educated population. Bill Cade explained that according to the tuition policy, if Government funding increased, fees could be increased more. He added that there has been no evidence that the effect of the tuition increase is limiting access. Bill Cade stressed that he is a firm believer in public education, and that he appreciated the students raising this as an issue.

Terry Royer mentioned that a four-university presentation was made to the Standing Policy Committee on Learning and Employment. The Universities all agreed that the most important thing the Government can do is to fund universities. It was pointed out that this is the best investment of taxpayers dollars. The quandary is to balance the needs

of the population, maintain quality, and respond to public needs. Terry Royer remarked that the University of Lethbridge is one of the finest in the land. He commented on the remarkable faculty and staff, and the outstanding quality of education that is provided. He noted that ensuring quality and access is part of the Board's responsibility.

4.2.1 Correspondence from CAUS

4.2.2 Western Canadian University Comparison

These documents were received as information.

4.3 Policy Approval Recommendation

4.3.1 University Facilities Use & Rental

4.3.2 Provision of Food & Alcohol Service

4.3.3 Alcohol

4.3.4 Finance/Budget Approval & Signing Authority

MOTION: 2003.12.05

Cade/Stokes

That the Board of Governors approve the following revised policies, effective immediately:

University Facilities Use and Rental Policy

Provision for Food and Alcohol Policy

Alcohol Policy

Finance/Budget Approval and Signing

Authorization Policy

Motion: Carried

Nancy Walker commented that work on the alcohol policy has been ongoing for about a year and a half. She has met with Paul Daniels several times and most issues have been resolved. There is still disagreement on the use of Ballrooms A and B in the Students' Union building. Under the Alcohol Policy, Students' Union functions are allowed in Ballroom C without specific approval; however, specific approval is needed to expand to Ballrooms A and B if alcohol is being served. Approval has been given for some events in Ballrooms A, B and C and there have been no further incidents.

5. VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC) REPORT

Séamus O'Shea made a presentation to the Board which is filed with these minutes. He explained that over the last ten years the U of L has responded aggressively to the need for opportunities for education for young people in Alberta but factors such as space and funding make it necessary to adjust.

General Faculties Council has approved increasing the entrance grade for Fall of 2005 from 65% to 70% and for transfers, the entrance requirement will move from a 2.0 grade point to 2.4. It was noted this is a “last gap measure” and if resources are forthcoming from Government, this will not be implemented. Although the current minimum entrance grade is 65%, the average entry grade is 78%. The average entry grade point of transfer students is 2.9.

Séamus O’Shea indicated class size impacts how students feel about their education and attrition rates but does not have much impact on what is learned. The University of Lethbridge has chosen to keep classes relatively small. The average grant per student has dropped to \$6,500 from \$9,500 in 1997-98. The U of L fees are lower than at other Alberta universities and Alberta’s fees are within 5% of the national average. If tuition fees in Quebec were excluded, Alberta tuition would be below the national average. Alberta is graduating students at a rate below the national average. Perhaps this is a matter of choice by young people. Some find themselves taking short-term opportunities and getting into the earning stream, then it becomes difficult to get back into education.

6. VICE-PRESIDENT (FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION) REPORT

The report of the Vice-President (Finance & Administration) was received for information.

7. CHANCELLOR’S REPORT

Shirley DeBow added that she received a plaque for educators in recognition of teachers at the University from the College Drive Community Church.

8. STUDENTS’ UNION REPORT

The Students’ Union report was received as information.

9. GRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION REPORT

The Graduate Students Association report was received as information.

10. ALUMNI REPORT

Jill Kotkas reported that the Alumni Association met last night for their Christmas party. A report was distributed at the meeting and is filed with these minutes.

Aaron Engen reported that the Calgary chapter will be holding their next meeting on January 7. Board members were invited to attend.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

Lawrence Barany took the opportunity to mention this was his last meeting after six years on the Board. He expressed appreciation for the opportunity he had to work with the Board members and commented on how much he had learned and how each Board Member brought a particular gift to the table. Lawrence Barany remarked that his impression six years ago was the University was in strong hands, and now he feels it is in even stronger hands.

Terry Royer indicated it is people, like Lawrence Barany, who are prepared to commit their time, talent and treasury that make the Institution strong. He added that Lawrence Barany was always quick to respond when needed. A most recent example was the donation Mr. Barany so generously made prior to pledge forms being sent. Terry Royer thanked Lawrence Barany for his commitment over the last six years, and added that he would be difficult to replace.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: 2003.12.06

Barany/Coslovi

That the Open Session of the December 18, 2003 meeting of the Board of Governors be adjourned.

Motion: Carried