

MINUTES OF A MEETING #396 OF THE GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL HELD ON

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2001 AT 3:00 P.M. IN THE BOARDROOM, W646

Present: Seamus O=Shea (Acting Chair), Nancy Walker, Bhagwan Dua, Jane O= Dea, Shamsul Alam, Barbara Marshalsay, Leslie Lavers, Bryson Brown, Leah Fowler, Cheryl Calver, Hadi Kharaghani, Peter McCormick, Jennifer Mather, Craig Monk, Glenn Moulaison, Ian MacLachlan, Angela Downey, Ed Jurkowski, Leslie Robison-Greene, David Kaminski, Robert Rogerson, Michael Stingl, Cathy Campbell, Will Smith, Rae Hazelwood, Brian Dobing, Richard Epp, Andrea Kalischuk, Dan Lamden  
Maureen Schwartz (Recording Secretary)

Regrets: Bill Cade, Kathryn Higuchi

3826.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3826.1 MOTION:

Dua/McCormick That the agenda for Meeting #396 be approved as circulated with the addition of Release Time Stipends under Items for Discussion.

MOTION: Carried

3827.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3827.1 MOTION:

Alam/MacLachlan That the Minutes of Meeting #395, January 8, 2001, be approved as circulated with the correction of his name to MacLachlan.

MOTION: Carried

3828.0 ITEMS ARISING FROM MINUTES

There were no items arising from the Minutes

3829.0 PRESIDENT=S REPORT

On behalf of President Cade, Vice President (Academic) and Provost Seamus O=Shea provided the following report:

3829.1 ACCESS

The latest round of ACCESS was announced and the U of L will be receiving additional FLE=s in the Faculty of Management, undergraduate management

program commencing September 2001. There should be an increase of 80 FLE (100) starting this September and an additional 100 the following September. The Faculty of Arts and Science will receive 40 FLE commencing September 2002 rising to 80 in 2003.

As is the case with all other grants of the University in degree programs, the expansion in Management carries with it resources for other units in proportion to their contribution to the management program.

3829.2 New Nursing Curriculum

Seamus O'Shea reported that the new nursing curriculum will not be implemented this year at the College. This is disappointing to all concerned. This should be implemented next year.

3829.3 Innovation and Science Research Investments Program (ISRIP)

The ISRIP grants were announced by the Department of Innovation and Science wherein the U of L received two grants. One to support David Naylor's research; studies in infrared astronomy. He has been developing a device which may prove to be incredibly useful for better resolution. He is one of two remaining in competition for new resolution. The second grant matches the one from NSERC to develop the intellectual and tech transfer under Associate Vice President (Research). The Government has placed considerable emphasis on this and the U of L is behind on the management of intellectual property lists.

3829.4 LINC and Life Sciences Building

Both buildings are on time and on budget. The floor was poured in the Life Sciences Building and occupation is expected in late May, early June. LINC will see the last of the windows in within the next couple of weeks. They will then commence the finishing of the interior.

3829.5 Competition for University Chairs

The Canada Research Chairs have provided the major universities the funds with which to hire researchers. The smaller universities were placed in a smaller pool and given an allocation on a reduced level. The University of Lethbridge has constructed University Research Chairs which carries with them a change of assignment; more to research and less to teaching. The Board had approved five chairs and there will now be a recommendation for an increase to twelve. Four of these will be placed in a pool for open competition; four assigned to Arts and Science and four to non-Arts and Science. The idea is to have internals apply and compete for these positions. These will be five year appointments and the expected teaching loads for these Chairs will be two regular semester courses/year.

The U of L is also looking at other outside alternatives for funded research chairs. Until there is a clear and firm commitment from the Province, the U of L is not in a position to cut the budget nor is it in a position on the number of chairs it can fund. The effort of the University will enable Deans to hire full time individuals to cover the positions that are lost due to the chairs.

3829.6 Attraction and Retention of Faculty

The Government has recently announced a fund for the attraction and retention of faculty in the universities. By January 31, 2001, the University submitted its proposal for a plan to use that money. The Government was not willing to say what money would be allocated. The plan has been delivered and includes a variety of ideas. There will be a provincial oversight committee of non-university people to make sure that the universities use the money sensibly and there is also some sense there might be more money available should this be successful.

3829.7 Increase Cost of Utilities

There should be relief from the Government to assist with the high cost of utilities.

Angela Downey asked if in the letter submitted by the University regarding attraction and upgrading of faculty, was there a provision for upgrading of Faculty salaries. Seamus O'Shea replied that due to ULFA negotiations he was not in a position to respond.

3830.0 ITEMS FOR ACTION

3830.1 GFC Convocation Committee Appointment

3830.1.1 MOTION:

Campbell/McCormick                      That nominations cease.

Angela Downey asked if there was a way that the additional faculty appointment could be an alternate appointment as increasing the size of the Committee, did not address the issue of quorum. Seamus O'Shea mentioned that this would need a change to the GFC Bylaws and it could come forward at a later meeting.

MOTION:              Carried.

John Poulsen was acclaimed as the GFC representative and Lindsey Thurston as the alternate student on the GFC Convocation Committee.

3830.2 GFC Convocation Committee Report

3830.2.1 MOTION:

MacLachlan/Dobing                      That GFC approve the adoption of the University Pattern Master's Hood with the addition of drab braid for the M.Sc. (Management).

MOTION:              Carried.

3830.2.2

MOTION:

MacLachlan/Dobing

That GFC approve the adoption of the University of Lethbridge Standard Undergraduate Hood with brown braid for the B.F.A. (Multimedia).

MOTION: Carried.

Ian MacLachlan mentioned that the GFC Convocation Committee is currently looking at a new Ph.D. robe. They will be looking for input from various units.

3830.3

Admission Standards Committee- Annual Report

3830.3.1

MOTION:

Lavers/Alam

That the Admission Standards Committee be received as information.

MOTION: Carried.

It was asked that the word Acourses@ be added to 1.2. (b) under School of Fine Arts Residency Requirement and after the words A...the last 10@.

3830.4

School of Health Sciences Report

3830.4.1

MOTION:

Wall/Mather

That GFC suspend implementation of the revised SACNE - BN curriculum (approved by GFC, November 20, 2000) until it is approved by Lethbridge Community College.

Dean Wall explained that the Administration of the Lethbridge Community College is not yet prepared to present the curriculum to their Academic Council.

MOTION: CARRIED

3831.0

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

3831.1

GFC Executive Committee Minutes of Meeting #359, January 22, 2001

The GFC Executive Minutes of Meeting #359, January 22, 2001 was received as information.

3832.0

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

3832.1

Release Time Stipend

Ian MacLachlan explained that in the Fall he had approached the Dean of Arts of Science to ask if the University was in a position to use the provision under the Research Grant which provides for a research release time stipend for up to \$15,000 which can only be granted with the approval of the Institution.

The Dean had confirmed his understanding of the policy and suggested that he talk to the Vice President (Academic). The answer he received from the Vice President was that the Institution was not prepared to use this provision.

Ian MacLachlan commented that the cost to provide one course release for the outstanding humanists in social science would not be that high. In view of the importance attached to it by Faculty Members, he would like to know what progress has been made in re-evaluating the University's policy.

Seamus O'Shea explained that at the time the release time stipends were introduced, SSHRC was offering to buy people out of their teaching for an equivalent of a sessional stipend per course. He disagrees as it is the University's position that they hire the very best people they can hire and it is expected that they will teach at the University as well as do research. On occasion, the Institution will consider people being bought out of some their teaching provided that it is done at a level that allows the unit to replace them with people of comparable quality. If the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research is willing to pay a faculty member's entire salary, the University will agree to have them become Heritage Fellows. The requirement of a Heritage Fellow is that they will teach two courses at the University. If there was a proposal that provided compensation that would be proportional to the loss in the teaching program, it would be considered by the University.

Pat Wall asked if it was possible for Departments to collectively submit requests for SSHRC grants so they could hire one person.

Cathy Campbell asked that this not be rejected at this time without further investigating as to whether this type of grant could provide relief for a faculty from one course. It should be looked at its entirety as it could advantage the researchers without disadvantaging the students.

Dan Lamden expressed his concern with the possibility of this type of relief having an affect on the quality of education.

Leah Fowler mentioned that what contributes to good teaching is that teachers be well informed about research and that sometimes a one course release, strategically placed, could be an asset to the Institution. Relief for more than one course should be assessed on the individual member.

Robert Rogerson mentioned that the problem seems to be resolved for research chairs and why was this action not applied to this. Seamus O'Shea responded that with a research chair the Institution can increase the teaching resources and replace them by hiring a full time faculty member.

Seamus O'Shea reported that the STP Committees and hiring committees have been assiduous in trying to pick people to both teach and research. The ratio of continuing people to those on short time arrangements has stabilized and the fraction of continuing appointments is increasing. The number of courses taught

by sessionals is about 5 - 6% during regular session.

Ian MacLachlan responded by saying that the Institution brings in outstanding people as sessionals and they can be terrific additions. The Institution does not operate as a closed system anymore and should be open to new suggestions. He asked if it would be appropriate to prepare a motion for March=s meeting of GFC to change the policy on a one course RTS for SSHRC only.

Dean Dua believes that this discussion should take place at a different level, possibly the Handbook Committee. Under the Handbook, the Dean assigns the duties. Seamus O=Shea mentioned that it might be conceivable for the Dean to match SSHRC. The issue is that the University do its best to treat people even handedly, realizing the flexibility and special circumstances, and that there should be a clear cut policy.

As the University=s Faculty are unique, Angela Downey asked that the Institution not treat people the same and that perhaps the attraction to the University might be to provide course relief.

Bryson Brown and Craig Monk pointed out that the University encourages faculty members to apply for research grants for University reports to the Government.

Seamus O=Shea said that he would welcome a proposal on the feasibility of a policy and it will be revisited.

3833.0 OTHER BUSINESS

3834.0 ADJOURNMENT

3834.1 MOTION:

McCormick/Alam That the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION: Carried

3835.0 QUESTION PERIOD

Question period was not minuted.