

## **General Faculties Council (GFC) meeting overview: November 24, 2011**

Report prepared by Pat Kostouros, MRFA, Academic Liaison Officer

Fourth meeting of the GFC for the 2011/2012 academic year

GFC Business

Agenda Approved

Minutes for Oct 20, 2011 Approved

Reports from Senior Administration

- President:
  - David Docherty noted the various MRU events he has attended and commented on the caliber of these events
  - The impending late Spring ALBERTA Government election will likely impact the MRU budget process
  - Apparently the need for a Library at MRU is being discussed at various levels of government and amongst Dr. Docherty's counterparts.
  - VP Student affairs unavailable, Dr. Docherty noted the Students Service Plan is coming along and will be presented with the Academic Plan
- Provost and Vice-President, Academic:
  - Mentioned the media event to unfold the degree partnership in Medicine Hat
  - Can expect the Academic Plan to come forward for the December GFC meeting
- Acting Vice- President Administrative Services:
  - No in-depth budget planning will take place until government budget is revealed
- Vice- President Student Affairs:
  - No report
- Associate Vice-President, Enrolment:
  - Discussions taking place with various departments to establish targets for 2012/13
  - Have been working on various business processes to create easier procedures, for example the on-line withdraw system. These have taken place with consultations
- Associate Vice-President, Research
  - No major grants to announce
  - Research office has now moved
- Associate Vice-President, Academic
  - The Medicine Hat partnership agreement is acting as a model for understanding the costing and resourcing for potential future agreements

## Decision Items

- Memorandum of Agreement (MOU)– Bishop Carroll
  - This is a generic MOU that allows conversations about the kinds of connections that can take place. There is nothing compulsory in these MOUs
  - Question raised about the link to the Catholic Board of Education rather than a specific school. Apparently, the principal at Bishop Carroll has spoken with the Catholic Board
  - This is a neighbour and a starting place; conversations are taking place throughout the city with the Calgary Board of Education, the Catholic Board of Education and the Rockyview School District.
  - There are models throughout Canada that offer select high school students the opportunity to link to University courses as a “head start”
  - No discussions have taken place about specifics, this will happen after the MOU is passed
  - There may be funding implications that will be considered as planning develops
  - Motion Carried
- Memorandum of Agreement – Grande Prairie Regional College
  - The intention is to deliver degrees at the Grande Prairie institution
  - Transfer credit is typically built in to the agreement
  - Discussion on specific will take place after MOU is passed
  - Motion Carried
- Policy 501 Program Definition
  - Decision to discuss motions as a package
  - The language of “normal” shows up too often and is problematic
  - Some confusion about double major rather than combined degree
  - The intention in the language was to accommodate other iterations and flexibility
  - The credit numbers cannot be supported, may be too much for students within proposed timelines
  - Motion defeated – return to APPC
- Policy 516 Scheduling
  - **Motion one – Individual Exceptions**
  - Need to evaluate the effectiveness of the system over time and an external body should be invited into the process, not leave it up to infosylum alone
  - Want to look at best practices from institutions where the system is working well
  - Expect that the policy will continue to change in response to discussions
  - May not be using the system to its utmost and policy changes will allow for more appropriate uses
  - The policy will assist chairs in using the system and assist with present inequities
  - Work still needs to be done on this policy and implementation
  - Motion Carried
  - **Motion two- Non-Instructional exceptions**

- Odd to have a policy that addresses an issue that will rarely if ever be implemented (e.g., research days)
- Policy allows for some flexibility, for example ½ days
- Motion Carried
- **Motion three- Restriction on Forced Classes**
- Motion Carried
- **Motion four- Non-substantive Changes**
- Some language changes needed
- Motion carried
- Curriculum
  - Treated as an omnibus
  - Motion carried

#### Reports

- Executive Committee
  - No report
  - Minutes in the package
- BSC
  - No Report
- APPC
  - Referred to minutes to highlight discussion related to Student Impact Statements
  - Proposed change to make these more meaningful and standardized
  - Expect future recommendations
- APTC – No Report
- LASC – No Report
- LOSC
  - Community consultations are finished
  - Name of outcomes changed to aims, so that departments can adopt the general principles and use these as a guide
  - Will create a diagram
  - Expect recommendations to come to the December GFC meeting along with the Academic Plan
  - Thank you to the committee
- RSAC –No Report
  - Question about internal grant process and new researcher grants. If a person has applied but been turned down, is it possible for that person to apply again under the new researcher grants
  - Trevor will take this into advisement
- Student Awards – No Report
- BOG – No Report
- Cont Ed – No Report

## Written Questions

- Part time faculty & course proposal
  - Any faculty can propose a course but it must follow the procedures in place and will eventually be part of the program and should therefore, be subjected to the typical process as any course proposal
  - Caution about part time faculty proposing course as there is not a service expectation for part time faculty
  - Caution about conflict of interest, if a part time faculty proposes a course it may become a necessity for on-going employment or issues related to teaching continuity