

## ***General Faculties Council (GFC) Snapshot April 14, 2011***

***Prepared by Cari Merkley, Academic Liaison Officer, MRFA***

### ***Business Arising from the Minutes***

- A question was posed in the March 17, 2011, GFC meeting about the phrase “under-represented and special populations” in Policy 5.2 Admission and Registration, particularly about the use of this phrase when speaking of Aboriginal student registration. The Associate Vice President of Enrollment Services indicated that most postsecondary institutions have specific policies that relate to subgroups of students (e.g. student athletes, international students, Aboriginal students, etc). The term “special populations” appears to be consistent with language used by the government of Canada and other postsecondary institutions.

### ***Reports from Senior Administration***

- The Board of Governors approved the move of the Conservatory into the Faculty of Continuing Education and Extension as well as the revised business case for the aviation program.
- The policies/procedures relating to Animal Care, Biosafety, and Copyright were also approved at the last Board meeting.
- Discussions with the Ministry around funding for the midwifery degree are ongoing.
- Interviews for the Dean, Bissett School of Business have been completed, and the interviews for the Dean of Science and Technology are taking place this week.
- The Associate Vice President of Enrollment Services indicated that applications are no longer being accepted for a number of MRU programs because of the large number of applications already received.

### ***Decision Items***

- Curriculum submissions from the Faculty of Health and Community Studies (Minor Studies in Aging), Faculty of Teaching and Learning (Bachelor of Education program), Bissett School of Business, and Faculty of Arts were approved.
  - Questions were raised about the implications of future requests for modifications to General Education requirements for new programs on the viability of the GNED program as a whole. A reduction in the number of GNED courses required was requested for the education degree on the grounds of accreditation and professional requirements. It was also indicated that not all teachable subject areas for elementary teachers are captured in the GNED inventory of courses.
  - It was suggested that the use of the phrase “education electives” rather than core options in the education proposal was confusing. The Dean of Teaching and Learning indicated that this language reflects the language used by the quality council guidelines.

- A comment was made about the funding requirements for library resources to support the education degree. It was indicated that discussion is taking place on how to address this moving forward.
- Revisions to POL 520: Athletics Program and Policy and POL 502: Admission and Registration, C. (2) were approved.
  - A question was asked around the admission targets for the University Entrance option, given that a maximum of 30 seats will be held for student athletes until July 15. It was reported that the admission target for the University Entrance option for Fall 2011 is around 430 students.
- Section C (1) *Restrictions (Minors)* of Policy 501 – Program Definitions was approved.
  - Questions were raised around how “cognate course” and “interdisciplinary program” are being defined in the context of this policy, and how it would be applied in particular programs.
- Section C (2) *Restrictions (Double Majors)* Motion to approve – restrictions minors – section C1 of Policy 501 was approved
  - There was a question around the GNED requirements in this scenario – it was indicated that students would still be required to meet the twelve course GNED requirement overall.
  - Questions were also posed about the fact that both majors have to be in the same faculty. This restriction was included in the policy because of current administrative issues that having a student with majors in different faculties would invoke, but the possibility may be explored further in the future in the form of dual degrees.
- Section C (3) *Restrictions (Time Limitation for Completion of Credentials)* of Policy 501- Program Definitions was approved.
  - In the discussion it was indicated that a course itself has no stale date, and that the policy would apply to applied degrees as well as baccalaureate degrees.
- The removal of Section G(2) from POL 502 Admission & Registration was approved.
- Section I University Entrance Option was approved.
  - A concern was raised around student expectations around the University Entrance option in terms of their ability to move into degree programs and the transferability of the GNED courses they are required to take to other institutions. It was indicated that all advertising for the option has clearly stated that completion of the option does not guarantee a spot in a degree program, and that advising will be mandatory for UEO students. Work continues on improving the transferability of general education courses. The GNED foundation courses are now listed in the Alberta transfer guide.
- Changes to Section J Open Studies were approved.

***Report from the Learning Outcomes Standing Committee (LOSC)***

- Consultation on the [proposed institutional learning outcomes](#) continues, with recent meetings being held with the Student Association, several Dean's Advisory Groups, and Dean's Council. Feedback on the draft outcomes may be sent to [dking@mtroyal.ca](mailto:dking@mtroyal.ca). The committee hopes to bring forward its recommendations for approval at the May GFC meeting.

***Questions from the floor***

- The Associate Vice-President, Research was asked if there were plans to increase the amount of internal research funding, given the high volume and high quality of applications received this academic year.