

General Faculties Council (GFC) Snapshot – January 20, 2011

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Business Arising

- Following up on a question around course numbering practices and difficulties in identifying junior courses that arose at the December GFC meeting, the Acting Associate Vice-President, Enrolment Services referred councilors to the April 15, 2010, GFC meeting where a course numbering scheme that outlined the expectations for each course level was approved. Copies of this document are available from GFC councilors or by contacting Cari Merkley at cmerkley@mtroyal.ca.

Reports from Senior Administration

- The academic planning process continues. The committee is currently working on the plan framework.
- The university is awaiting word from the government if the Bachelor of Education can be launched in September 2011.
- The university has responded to the report prepared by the Campus Alberta Quality Council following their campus visit for the Bachelor of Midwifery degree
- MRU is working on expanding our relationships with other institutions, particularly Alberta colleges. A recent meeting was held with Grande Prairie College to discuss opportunities for collaboration, especially on degree completion
- There are currently three Dean searches in various stages. Congratulations were extended to Chad London, who will assume the role of Dean of Health and Community Studies on August 15, 2011.
- The parkade opened on January 4, 2011. It is currently only open to permit holders, but it is hoped that it will also be available for visitor parking by the beginning of February.
- GFC councilors were encouraged to nominate students for [valedictorian](#).
- Scholarship applications are open until [March 1](#).
- Work continues on the strategic research plan, in alignment with the larger academic plan process.
- The research office is in discussions with Grant MacEwan around possible opportunities for collaboration on professional development opportunities.

Decision Items

- An addition to POL 502 Admissions and Registration which will facilitate Aboriginal admission targets for programs has been approved. GFC also approved a template for how a program would describe an Aboriginal admission target in their section of the Academic Calendar. Currently, the social work diploma program has an Aboriginal admission target of 15%, and the discussion at the meeting suggests that other programs are interested exploring targets as well.

Report from the Appointments, Promotion and Tenure Committee (APTC)

- APTC will be meeting in mid February to go over the tenure and promotion documents they have received from faculties as a group. Most faculties who have submitted have addressed both tenure and promotion to full professor in their documents.

Report from the Learning Outcomes Standing Committee (LOSC)

- The Chair extended the committee's appreciation to those who took the time to complete the recent survey on learning outcomes. The committee will be meeting shortly to go over the responses they received.

Intellectual Property MOU Committee Preliminary Report

- This is a joint committee of the Mount Royal Faculty Association (MRFA) and the Board, co-chaired by David Hyttenrauch and Carol Shepstone. Both the Board and the MRFA recognized the need to revise the current copyright article in the collective agreement, and the committee was formed to bring recommendations on how this should be done to the negotiating teams by March 2011. The committee invited feedback from GFC on their draft principles, which will guide the creation of a future copyright article. Councillors inquired about references to an institutional repository in the document, and asked for clarification around what types of materials would be deposited there and what the expectations will be that faculty use it. The committee chairs indicated that there are currently plans for a repository, but it is not yet in place and guidelines around the process and expectations for depositing would need to be created. Questions were also asked about the role of the university in backing up faculty if there has been a violation of their copyright and if there were any limits on what types of committees are covered by the language around service documents. Further comments on the document can be directed to the committee co-chairs. Faculty will also have the opportunity to provide feedback at the MRFA General Meeting on Tuesday, January 25, from 3 to 5 pm in Jenkins Theatre.

Question Period

- A question was asked about a reference in the minutes of the Academic Program and Policy Committee (APPC) to the formation of a committee to address disciplinary specialization. It was stated that the committee has not yet been constituted. The committee was conceived of during discussions at APPC around discipline specific statistics courses, but its work would not be limited to this issue. A call for membership will be sent out, and the committee's direction will then be finalized in conversation with its members.