

BOARD NOTES

Highlights of the Board of Governors Meeting
Held on Monday, April 16, 2007

FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

At each Board meeting, two faculty members make presentations on their teaching and research activities in order to provide opportunities for Board members to get to know Mount Royal's outstanding faculty members.

At the April 16th meeting, Margy MacMillan, Coordinator of Instruction and Information Services in Library Services, made a presentation on her research project, "Assessing the Research Skills of Journalism Students."

Dr. Roger Saint-Fort, Instructor of Industrial Ecology, Department of Chemical, Biological and Environmental Science made a presentation on his research in the areas of soil and water. His many research projects include work on landfills, contaminant attenuation, remediation, drilling waste, norms contaminated soils, ground water, ecotoxicity, biofilters, and ground/water quality issues. Dr. Saint-Fort's students are heavily involved in these research activities as part of their learning.

CHAIR'S REPORT

In his report, Board Chair Hal Kvisle advised that he had met with the Auditor General and representatives from the Office of the Auditor General to discuss the governance review and the Board's progress on the recommendations. He indicated that the Auditor General was pleased with the work done to date.

The Alberta Association of Colleges and Technical Institutes (AACTI) Council of Board Chairs met in Calgary during the first week of April. The major topic of discussion was an upcoming meeting of the Board Chairs with the Minister of Advanced Education & Technology. Key issues for the discussion with the Minister will include funding, matching dollars for endowments, and additional resources to enable the Ministry to function more effectively.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Dave Marshall provided a report on his activities since the February 2007 Board meeting including various internal and external meetings, meetings with Government officials and presentations he gave to the Western Canadian Campus Recreation Conference and the Okotoks Rotary Club.

As part of his report, President Marshall provided comments on behalf of Provost and Vice-President Academic Robin Fisher as Dr. Fisher was out of town and unable to attend. Items included an update on discussions regarding the creation of a Centre/Faculty of Teaching and Learning, upcoming retirement of the Director of Library Services and the search process, search process for a new Dean of Communication Studies, and degree development for programs to be implemented in 2009.

During his remarks, President Marshall noted that the Ministry of Advanced Education and Technology is looking at the roles and responsibilities of post-secondary institutions in "Campus Alberta." Presidents and Board Chairs of the institutions in Campus Alberta will meet with the Minister and department officials in August 2007 to discuss. Dr. Marshall will submit a paper with concrete solutions for the post-secondary system in Alberta to the Minister for consideration during this review.

VICE-PRESIDENTS' REPORTS

Vice-President External Hunter Wight reported that the Foundation has launched a "Breakfast with the President" series whereby individual Foundation members host a breakfast with a group of influential members of the Calgary business community. These meetings provide a forum for the President to talk about Mount Royal and its aspirations and to answer questions participants may have. Four or five breakfasts have been held to date with several more scheduled over the coming months. Feedback has been very positive.

Executive Director Student Affairs and Campus Life Brian Fleming reported that Alberta Advanced Education & Technology has provided funding for a second year to support students with disabilities.

2007-2008 BUDGET PLAN

Vice-President Administrative Services Richard Roberts made a presentation on the 2007-2008 budget plan. The budget is essentially a rollover budget. New funding in the form of increased operating grants will allow the College to sustain its operations. These new funds will pay for the increased operating costs associated with current programs in relation to salaries, benefits and supply cost increases. These funds do not provide any flexibility to fund enrolment growth. The Divisions were able to accommodate some of the more urgent budget requests through reallocation.

There are no new funds for enrolment growth incorporated with the exception of the recently-announced Mount Royal Bachelor of Nursing degree. Growth funding will only be incorporated as approval is received from government for other new degree programs.

Funding of \$2 million has been set aside to support institutional transition/flexibility that will allow the College to address key transition initiatives and projects on a one-time basis. This pool of funds will not be allocated to ongoing program and operating costs but will allow the institution to address key transition and degree implementation initiatives or other opportunities that will provide the potential to create additional efficiencies over the short and long term.

The budget documents will be posted on the College web site for the College community to access.

TUITION FEES FOR NEW DEGREE PROGRAMS

The Board of Governors approved a supplemental \$190/course fee for the 2007-2008 and subsequent academic years for the new Mount Royal Bachelor of Nursing degree program.

As part of the process leading to the development of the recommendation to the Board, the Tuition Fee Consultation Committee held a series of meeting to provide a consultation mechanism by which students and administration could discuss the plans for additional fees

for credit tuition for the College's first university degree, the Bachelor of Nursing degree. Various alternatives for additional fees were reviewed during these discussions. The guiding principle that the administration and the Board has been utilizing for tuition for new degrees was consistent with the discussion with government officials on the funding for the new program; that principle being equal funding for equal programs. Therefore, the tuition rates that would be charged for university-level programs would be university-level tuition.

FINANCIAL AND MAJOR CAPITAL REPORTS

The Board received for information a report on the 2006-2007 year-to-date financial results to February 28, 2007. The YTD results reflect a similar pattern to previous years' results where revenues exceed expenditures by a significant margin. This is a result of the fact that revenues from tuition are received in the first and second quarters, whereas expenditures are evenly distributed during the year.

The Board also received a report outlining the capital expenditures to date as compared to the approved capital budget and an update on the status of major capital projects. Following are some highlights from the report:

Centre for Continuous Learning: With the installation of the new sound system in Ross Glen Hall, the building is now fully functional. The College recently learned that the building will earn LEED Gold certification [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design] by reducing environmental impact through energy efficiency, resource conservation, and site design. There is only one other building in Calgary that has achieved gold status.

Library Expansion: This College's highest major capital priority is the expansion of the library facility. A Library Expansion Committee has been assembled to identify needs and requirements. Construction of a new stand-alone facility and/or renovations to existing library facilities is under consideration. The Board has approved \$500,000 for Phase I, which includes facility programming and development of conceptual designs, presentation materials, site evaluations, time lapse construction schedules and order of magnitude construction cost estimates.

Lab Upgrade/Expansion: Upgrading and expanding the College's lab capacity has been identified as a key capital requirement to support degree implementation. A project team is being established to assess these requirements and develop a capital plan.

OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

The Board received for information the Auditor General's Report on the Audit of Mount Royal's Construction Management. The Office of the Auditor General conducted a General Construction Audit to review the College's processes and procedures associated with major capital projects, using the Centre of Continuous Learning as its test case. The report outlines their observations and recommendations for improving the construction management systems.

The Board received for information the Auditor General's Audit Plan for the audit of the financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2007.

STUDENT RESIDENCE UPDATE

In order to address shortcomings of the 2002 Business Plan that was prepared during the proposal development phase of the residence construction project, many changes have been made to the operating model. Variable costs were reduced, where possible, bed fill rates have improved with greater numbers of returning students, and new income is being generated through entrepreneurial use of excess capacity. It is anticipated that the Residence Services will experience moderate operating surpluses over the next few years.

The residence operation has developed a lifecycle plan which identifies the need to refurbish the older units in the east residences in order to continue to generate revenue. As part of the approved budget, the use of surplus funds over the short term to refurbish the east residences was approved. The plan is to have the refurbishment initiative undertaken in phases over a three-year period. The operating performance of the residences will continue to be monitored and use of excess funds for this purpose will be approved on an annual basis.

WYCKHAM HOUSE EXPANSION PROJECT

The Board of Governors approved the revised project plan, including scope, budget and schedule, for the Wyckham House expansion project and authorized the SAMRC to proceed with construction. The \$14 million project will be funded from a combination of existing SAMRC cash reserves and a loan from the Alberta Capital Finance Authority. The SAMRC will pay back the loan through a student-approved levy for that purpose.

The project involves the construction of a new building adjacent to the existing building and the renovation of the existing building. The project plan is based on a construction start date of June 2007 with expected completion by November 2008. The renovation of the existing building is scheduled to begin in May 2008 with expected completion in December 2008. The project will be run as a College project using the College's project management and purchasing policies.

FACULTY CENTRE RENOVATIONS

The Board of Governors approved the Faculty Centre renovations plan, including the approval of the Board's financial contribution to the project and a cash advance to the MRFA for a portion of their costs.

The renovation project involves two aspects: (1) requirement to undertake remedial work to address deferred maintenance issues in the space occupied by the Faculty Centre and (2) redesign and renovation of the space to address the evolving needs of the MRFA.

The College has a 20-year lease with the MRFA for the Faculty Centre space. The renovation proposal fits with the general framework of the lease whereby the Board would pay for maintenance issues and the Association would pay for furniture, redesign, renovation, etc. The MRFA proposes to support its share of the project through existing MRFA cash reserves and a faculty-approved levy for that purpose. The Board approved a cash advance to the MRFA from the College which will be paid back over four to five years through the monthly faculty levy.

Renovation of the Faculty Centre will be undertaken this summer. For details on the renovation plans, go to the MRFA website [www.mrfa.net] and follow the links.

INSTITUTIONAL POSITIONING DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Kate McBrearty, Director of Marketing and Communications, made a presentation on the "Institutional Positioning Development Plan."

The Institutional Positioning Task Force was established in the President's white paper *Mount Royal in Transition*. Serving as an advisory body to the President, first through the Transition Steering Committee and now through the University Implementation Committee, the mandate of the Task Force is to develop a seven-year plan that will position and adequately support, in the marketplace, Mount Royal's unique undergraduate vision.

The Task Force has prepared an Institutional Positioning Development Plan which outlines the context, considerations, process and recommendations related to the development and establishment of a comprehensive positioning plan for Mount Royal. It focuses on developing the framework and foundation for institutional positioning. Work will be undertaken over the next several months on the development of a positioning plan.

MOUNT ROYAL FACULTY ASSOCIATION

The President of the Mount Royal Faculty Association, David Hyttenrauch, reported on the "Building a Different University" lecture series hosted jointly by the College and the MRFA. Two very successful sessions have been held to date. The inaugural speaker was Dr. Charles Jago, former President of the University of Northern British Columbia. In March, Dr. Bernard Shapiro, Principal and Vice-Chancellor Emeritus, McGill University, spoke on academic freedom.

The final report of the Faculty Roles and Responsibilities Task Force is close to completion. There will be another open meeting in August to present the draft. The target for finalization of this report is Fall 2007.

The MRFA elections will be held on May 11.

STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT ROYAL COLLEGE

The Board received for information a copy of the SAMRC's audited financial statements. The SAMRC received a clean audit with no recommendations for improvement of management practices.

The Board received for information a copy of the SAMRC's Licensed Premises Report for 2005-2006. This report provides information on how the SAMRC uses the College's liquor licence for operation of the Liberty Lounge.

Jane O'Connor
Executive Assistant to the President
April 24, 2007