

BOARD NOTES

Highlights of the Board of Governors Meeting
Held on Monday, December 14, 2009

FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

At each Board meeting, a faculty member makes a presentation on his/her teaching and scholarship activities in order to provide opportunities for Board members to get to know Mount Royal's outstanding faculty members. Representatives from the Students' Association of Mount Royal University (SAMRU) also make a presentation on a student issue.

Dr. Mark Humphries, Assistant Professor of History in the Department of Humanities, made a presentation entitled, "War's Long Shadow: Psychologically Traumatized Veterans and the State in the Interwar Period." In April 2009, Dr. Humphries received Mount Royal's first Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) grant which provided tri-council funding of \$38,000 through to 2012. The presentation provided highlights on his research to date that examines the legacy of shell shock for Canadian First World War veterans during the interwar period. This research will result in a monograph.

SAMRU representatives Robert Jones (VP External), Erin Delamont (VP Academic), and Eily Sweeney (VP Student Life) made a presentation on "Students' Interests." The presentation focused on what students are passionate about at the present time on campus and how these interests are being encouraged and developed.

BOARD PRIORITIES

The Board approved its priorities:

Within the context of Mount Royal's aspiration to be Canada's finest instructionally focused, scholarly informed undergraduate university, and along with the regular responsibilities of the Board, the Board of Governors sets out its priorities as follows:

- Lead in the identification and implementation of measurable indicators of a high quality university that meet our aspiration.
- Provide resources for programs so that the institution achieves credibility among leading institutions across Canada.
- Support initiatives that gain widespread recognition of the new "U".

GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL

The Board received a written report with highlights from the November 19, 2009 GFC meeting including a summary of curriculum approvals and a presentation on the Library and Learning Centre and Conservatory/Performance Hall Projects.

The Board received a copy of the approved GFC minutes of the October 15, 2009 meeting for information.

ACADEMIC MATTERS

Application and Enrolment Report: The Board received an Application and Enrolment Report for Fall 2009. It was noted that applications received increased by 12.6% over last year and applicants increased by 10%. Total credit enrolment in Fall 2009 increased by 9.1% over Fall 2008. Course registrations increased more dramatically by 13%. Over half (56%) of all Mount Royal students are enrolled in degree programs.

Institutional Access Plan: The Board approved the Institutional Access Plan: 2010-2011 to 2012-2013 with revised wording on page 44 to indicate that "MRU is aware that there will be no additional EPE funding in 2010-11 and 2011-12 . . .". Institutional Access Plans from all post-secondary education institutions are required by Alberta Advanced Education and Technology. The Plan covers a three-year period and is submitted on an annual basis.

Tenure: The Board approved the tenure recommendations submitted by the Faculty Tenure Committee.

Institutes Annual Reports: 2008-2009: The Board received the executive summaries of the Institutes' annual reports for information.

- (1) The Institute for Nonprofit Studies – This Institute continues to develop and succeed. The Institute hired a senior research associate – Mount Royal's first full-time researcher, launched a student intern program, and disseminated funds externally as awards. The Director continues to focus on external connections with the nonprofit sector and government. With a researcher working on campus, the Director no longer needs to take on both external and research administration roles.
- (2) The Institute for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning – This Institute is in its first year of operation. A Director has been hired and is focusing on the crucial task of developing SOTL expertise among faculty and building an external profile.
- (3) The Integrative Health Institute – This Institute has focused on the 'Body of Knowledge' lecture series and on working with faculty on research projects. The Institute's focus on providing some value-added support for existing faculty research is different from the nonprofit focus on generating research and funding faculty projects.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Annual Report: The Board approved the 2008-2009 Annual Report, with some minor editorial changes, for submission to Government.

Tuition and Other Fees: The Board approved the recommendations of the Tuition Fee Consultation Committee for tuition and fees for 2010-11. For 2010-11, the credit course based fee will increase by 1.5%. Other fees such as non-credit, cooperative education and professional development course fees were increased by 1.5%. The Recreation and Athletic Fee was also increased by 1.5%.

Operating and Capital Budget Reports: The Board received the operating and capital reports to October 31, 2009 for information.

The YTD results reflect a similar pattern to previous year's 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.

Two areas of note were highlighted for the Board. The first is a positive trend in Credit Tuition levels. A review of credit enrolments, course registrations and tuition based upon the Fall 2009 preliminary enrolment figures, shows that MRU is slightly ahead of forecast/budget student enrolments and course registrations (which is the basis for tuition assessment) is higher than the same time last year. The second area of note is non-credit tuition levels which are slightly below budgeted levels. Non-credit areas are monitoring the trends and making the necessary adjustments to their operating expenses to maintain their contribution margins.

Investment Performance Report: The Board received an Investment Performance Report to September 30, 2009 for information. The Board receives regular reports from the University's investment performance consultant on the overall performance of the University's investment managers and investment portfolio. Overall, the investment consultant is pleased with the performance of the new investment managers.

CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

Conservatory Project – Architectural Design Firm: The Board approved the appointment of an architectural design firm for the Conservatory/Performance Hall project. A total of 23 architectural firms responded to the RFPO (Request for Pre-qualification). The Steering Committee shortlisted to eight firms from which a detailed proposal was requested. One firm withdrew from the competition. Of the seven remaining firms, three were selected for interviews and one firm was selected for recommendation to the Board. The name of the successful design firm will be made public once all of the applicants have been notified.

Conservatory Project – Site Location: The Board approved the site location for the Conservatory/ Performance Hall. The new building will be attached to the north side of the Roderick Mah Centre for Continuous Learning (RMCCCL). A review of the location for the Conservatory/Performance Hall was undertaken as follow up to the business plan that was presented and approved at the October Board meeting.

The original location for the Conservatory building dates back to the initial planning in 2003 that had it attached to the RMCCCL where the expansion project is now under development. The Campus Master Plan proposed that the Conservatory building be located off Mount Royal Gate with the parkade project, however, analysis of this site identified that major services would have to be relocated, so this was not a feasible option. An alternative site was also identified in the parking lot across from the EA building since the preferred site for a new Library building was previously identified as the space adjacent to the RMCCCL.

In reviewing the business plan for the Conservatory/Performance Hall project, the synergy and business opportunity linkages with the Continuing Education programs in the RMCCCL were emphasized. A revised site location was proposed that has the Conservatory/ Performance Hall switch locations with the Library and Learning Centre. This will enable the Conservatory to be physically attached to the RMCCCL enabling joint programming opportunities to be maximized and integrated into the design.

The impact this would have on the Library and Learning Centre site was examined and determined to be minimal as the revised site for this project would not present any significant constraints on the design or potential for expansion. The construction of the

Conservatory building in concert with the Library and Learning Centre will be the catalyst for initiating the Campus Master Plan objectives of making the ring road in front of the East Gate entrance pedestrian friendly, developing a major transit hub on the east side and reconsidering how the entrance off Richard Road is used. The design of the Conservatory/Performance Hall and its footprint and orientation will be highly influenced by the Library and Learning Centre plans and the Campus Master Plan.

Major Capital Projects Report: The Board received for information a Major Capital Projects Report:

- (1) Vehicle Parkade - The project is proceeding and permits are being secured so that construction can begin. The current schedule calls for completion of the Parkade by October 31, 2010.
- (2) Science & Technology Wing - Construction work began on August 20, 2009 and is scheduled for completion on April 30, 2011.
- (3) Roderick Mah Centre for Continuous Learning (RMCCCL) Extension - The extension has been designed and is being constructed to meet LEED Gold Certified standards, as was the original building. It will incorporate similar features that have resulted in annual energy savings of more than 50% of normal costs, on a square foot basis, in the 2005 facility. Construction work began on August 18, 2009 and is scheduled for completion on April 30, 2011. This completion date reflects a two week extension to the initial schedule made necessary when the city of Calgary withdrew an earlier approval and issued a directive to relocate an existing underground concrete storm sewer line located within the footprint of the building.
- (4) U-Wing Infill - The U-Wing has been approved as interim space before the completion of the RMCCCL and S&T Expansion projects. The patio area adjacent to the running track on building level two will be enclosed to provide additional indoor space for Fall 2010. All permits have been received and demolition and removal of patio pavers, masonry and zinc cladding is underway. The anticipated project completion date is July 30, 2010.
- (5) Main Gate - Construction of a Main Gate at the Richard Road and Mount Royal Gate entrance is now underway. The expected completion date is March 2010.
- (6) Library and Learning Centre - The project steering committee has been working with the architect on the programming planning for the Library and Learning Centre and this work is now complete. The Steering Committee met with representatives from Alberta Advanced Education and Technology and Alberta Infrastructure on December 10, 2009 to get input from them on the project concepts and program plan prior to finalizing the project proposal. A proposal document for the Library and Learning Centre project will be presented to the Board early in 2010 for review and approval prior to submission to the Ministry.

STUDENT MATTERS

Student Centre Liaison Committee: The Board received a copy of the 2008-2009 Annual Report of the Student Centre Liaison Committee for information. The report summarizes the activities and actions of the committee for the 2008-09 fiscal year. The report outlines the Agreements and the Memorandums of Understanding that were signed in 2008-09 by the University and the Students' Association, the SAMRU reports that received on behalf of the Board, and the operating issues raised by the SAMRU and addressed by the University during the year.

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January 4, 2010