

BOARD NOTES

Highlights of the Board of Governors Meeting
Held on Monday, February 1, 2010

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.

Dr. Paul Varella, Associate Professor in the Bissett School of Business, made a presentation on his research on values-based leadership and organizational social capital. He highlighted a values-based leadership research project that he is working on with Dr. Valerie Kinnear involving their students. During his research work, Dr. Varella has developed close ties to the business community in Calgary. Recently, he gathered data for a unique database about social capital and leadership in top management teams. He is particularly interested in understanding how leadership at the upper echelons generates organizational wide consequences, especially in relationship to organizational social networks. His main areas of interest lay in organizational leadership and social networks.

Judy Collins, University Ombudsperson, also made a presentation to the Board on the role of the Ombudsperson at Mount Royal. During her presentation, Ms. Collins highlighted the types of issues she deals with, noting that she has dealt with 70 clients so far this year. In her role as Ombudsperson, Ms. Collins assists in establishing a trusting environment at the University. She helps create alternative forms of dispute resolution and supports faculty, students and staff in working to improve their interactions. Most of what she does is to help people connect the dots so that the right people get connected to the right person or resource. The role of the Ombudsperson is not to advocate for one stakeholder group; the Ombudsperson advocates for fair process and policy at Mount Royal.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Provost and Vice-President Academic Robin Fisher reported that Mount Royal went live with APAS (the provincial common application system) on February 1.

Vice-President, University Advancement Hunter Wight reported that his title and the name of his department has been changed from External Relations to University Advancement which is the more common terminology used in the university sector.

MANDATE STATEMENT FOR MOUNT ROYAL UNIVERSITY

The Board approved a revised Mandate Statement for Mount Royal that incorporates the name change and categorization as a Baccalaureate and Applied Studies Institution. The Board Chair will forward the Mandate Statement to the Minister of Advanced Education and Technology for approval.

The Board also reviewed a roles and mandate document that the university is required to submit to the Minister to comply with the Alberta Public Agencies Governance Act (APAGA). The Act builds on the work of a provincial taskforce formed by Premier Stelmach in 2007 and the Public Agencies Governance Framework which was released in 2008. Its purpose is to ensure transparency, accountability, and good governance for the province's nearly 250 agencies, boards, and commissions. In response to Board member concerns, some of the

wording in the template will be revised and submitted to the Post-Secondary Excellence Division of Advanced Education.

HONOURARY DEGREES

The Board approved guidelines and procedures for Honourary Degree Appointments. These guidelines will be posted on the Board website. A Call for Nomination for Honourary Degree recipients will be issued in early February. The Honourary Appointments Committee will meet in mid-March to select an Honourary Degree recipient for Spring Convocation.

POLICY MATTERS

The Board approved changes to the Policy on Awarding of the Emeritus/Emerita Designation (POL 565). The Honourary Appointments Committee has met on several occasions to review nominations for Emeritus designations. In considering the nominations, the committee discovered that the policy does not clearly stipulate the criteria and documentation requirements. Section D has been expanded to highlight the criteria to bring them in line with the intents of the policy. An additional sentence was added to Section I to articulate the requirement for a description of the nominee's continuing association with Mount Royal University.

In administering the policy, it has been noted that the policy is not clear with respect to who makes decisions regarding discretionary privileges and support provided to Emeritus recipients. Section H has been amended to clarify that the Provost and Vice-President, Academic is responsible for making these decision.

The revised policy has been posted on Lotus Notes.

GENERAL FACULTIES COUNCIL

The Board received a written report with highlights from the January 21, 2010 GFC meeting including discussion of a proposal for a revised Mandate Statement, the interim report of the Appointments, Promotion and Tenure committee, a recommendation from APTC regarding required academic credentials and proposed revisions to the By-laws.

The Board received a copy of the approved GFC minutes of the November and December, 2009 meetings for information.

Required Academic Credentials: The Board approved two recommendations from General Faculties Council regarding required academic credentials to enable candidates to enter the professorial ranks and for promotion to the rank of Full Professor. The recommendations were developed by the Appointments, Promotion and Tenure Committee and presented to and approved by GFC on January 21, 2010.

The first motion was to approve the required academic credential, or its equivalent, for appointment at or promotion to the rank of Assistant Professor. It was noted that the credential definitions, as developed and approved by the Faculty Councils, represent sufficient academic qualifications to enable candidates to enter the professorial ranks and to teach and pursue scholarship (if applicable) in the respective programs/disciplines/areas. Although differences exist across programs/disciplines, areas, they reflect the realities of those disciplines and are not viewed by APTC as inequitable or problematic.

The second motion was to approve that there be no required academic credential for promotion to the rank of Full Professor. Instead, promotion to this rank will be based solely on satisfaction of the performance criteria for Full Professor. It was noted that an academic credential is what a candidate presents to the University as proof of the necessary qualifications to enter the professorial ranks. Subsequent promotion should be based not on a credential, but on performance within these ranks, once admitted. Further, the APTC considers it inequitable to require faculty to seek additional degrees (or equivalent qualifications) before being eligible for promotion.

INSTITUTIONAL LOGO

The Board approved a new logo for Mount Royal University. The new logo will be unveiled on February 22 – keep posted for details.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

The year-to-date (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.

Three 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 enrolment figures and preliminary enrolment information for Winter 2010, shows that MRU is ahead of budget in student credit course enrolments and tuition. YTD credit tuition revenue to December 2009 is also ahead of December 2008 as a result of the total student course registrations (which is the basis for the tuition assessment) being 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.

The final area of note is that the YTD trend in salaries and benefits expenses is showing that the University is under budget as a result of vacant positions.

Investment Performance Report: The Board received an Investment Performance Report to December 31, 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. Generally, the investment consultant is pleased with the performance of the new investment managers.

The Board also received a report on short-term investment returns to December 31, 2009. The University's short-term cash is managed by Financial Services as required by the University's investment policy and procedures. It was noted that the short-term investment returns and investment options have dropped dramatically over the past year and the University is working to assess and review various low risk investment options.

Budget Development Update: The Board received an update on the budget development process. The provincial budget will be announced on February 9, 2010. Following the

announcement, the President will receive details from Advanced Education & Technology on the implications for Mount Royal. There will be a budget town hall meeting on February 10, 2010 for the University community.

RISK MANAGEMENT MATTERS

The Board received reports on the University insurance program, legal matters, emergency response planning, and internal audit status.

CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

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

- (1) Vehicle Parkade – The project is proceeding under a stipulated price contract with Dominion Construction. Gibbs Gage Architecture is the prime consultant. Mount Royal University's Department of Physical Resources is providing in house project management. Delays in securing permits and issues with an existing domestic water main and a communications vault have resulted in a revised completion date of November 30, 2010.
- (2) Science & Technology Wing – Construction work was suspended for a few days in December and January due to cold weather and no work was undertaken during the Christmas break; however, the project completion date of April 30, 2011 has not changed.
- (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 was suspended for a few days in December and January due to cold weather and no work was performed during the Christmas break; however project completion is still scheduled for April 30, 2011.
- (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. GEC Architecture was appointed as Prime Design consultant and a stipulated price construction contract was awarded to Dominion Construction. All permits have been received. Demolition and removal of patio pavers, masonry and zinc cladding have been completed. Structural steel shop drawings are being reviewed. 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) Conservatory and Concert Hall – The proposed Conservatory and Concert Hall building will be an integrated performance hall and teaching facility located on the Mount Royal University campus adjacent to the Roderick Mah Centre for Continuous Learning. It will be a standalone building housing a number of practice studios, classrooms, large rehearsal areas and a 650-seat theatre.

Following a competitive bid process, a contract has been awarded to Sahuri & Partners (Calgary) and Pfeiffer Partners Architects Inc. (Los Angeles) for architectural design and contract administration services. A project schedule has not yet been developed and approved; however, an April 2011 construction start with a September 2012 completion date is currently anticipated.

- (6) Library and Learning Centre – The new LEED Gold Library and Learning Centre will be a four-floor building located across from the Arts Building and adjacent to the soon to be constructed Conservatory and Performing Arts Centre. The Government of Alberta has approved funding to proceed with the schematic design and programming phase of the project. Cohos Evamy Integrated Design has been engaged to provide design consulting services for the new Library. Selection of a consultant to assist with the re-purposing of the existing library will occur through a competitive process at a later date.

STUDENT MATTERS

Students' Association Audited Financial Statements: The Board received a copy of the SAMRU audited financial statements to June 30, 2009 for information.

Jane O'Connor
Executive Assistant to the President
February 3, 2010