

Report to the Faculty Association

From the Association representative on Concordia's Board of Governors

April 6, 2019

Faculty Association Colleagues,

Concordia's Board of Governors last met Friday, March 15, 2019. (The Board normally meets four times per year—in February/March, May, August, and November.)

The meeting package included my report as FA representative to the Board among its "Informational Reports." This was the first time such a report was included. I'll provide you with that report as well, so you'll know what I conveyed to the Board on your behalf.

Highlights of the meeting that you may be interested in:

- 1) After substantial discussion, with many points made in favour and against, the Board voted down a proposal to modify the institution's name.
- 2) The Board passed a budget for this coming academic year (2019/20).
 - a. The total budget is \$36.8 million (up 9% from 2018/19 and 21% from 2017/18).
 - i. Unfortunately, because of the provincial election, the amount of our provincial grant for this coming year is somewhat unpredictable.
 - b. The budget for the academic programs (excluding administration, student services, facilities, etc.) is \$13.96 million (up almost 20% from 2018/19 and almost 25% from 17/18).
 - c. Tuition rates were increased by just over 1% from this year.
 - d. The budget conservatively anticipates a 4% increase in enrollment from 18/19, which would be an 18% increase from 17/18.
 - e. Staff receive a 2% Cost of Living Adjustment to their salary grids, plus grid movement; sessionals and part time employees receive a 1% COLA.
 - f. Members of the Faculty association experience grid movement but no Cost of Living Adjustment to our salary grids.
 - g. The budget includes funding for the following "new permanent positions" at a cost of \$1.3 million:

New Faculty Hires:

Faculty of Arts

Assistant Prof. - Indigenous Studies
Assistant Professor - French Assistant
Professor - IT
Assistant Professor - English
Associate Professor of Psychology & Clinical
Director
Assistant Professor - Psychology

Faculty of Education

Assistant Professor - Indigenous Peoples'
education and culture

Faculty of Science

Assistant Professor - Environmental Science
Assistant Professor - IT

Faculty of Management

Asst. Prof. & Chair –Management
2 Asst. Professors - Missm/Misam

New Staff Hires:

Field Experiences & Employment Processes Coordinator

Lab technician - Biology & Environmental Science

Coordinator, Public Health Department

2 Admissions Officers

- 3) The VP Finance and Operations reported that we are expected to end the 2018-19 fiscal year (April-March) with a \$1.4 million surplus.
- 4) In the verbal presentation of his report, our President mentioned the disagreement between the faculty in the MISSM & MISAM programs and administration. I also helped clarify. The Board knows that the faculty members in those programs 1) objected to administrators' taking over admissions decisions, believing this violates institutional policy, 2) believed that students were going to be given excessive transfer credit resulting in degrees they had not earned, and 3) had concerns about Campbellsville University (with whom we have an MOU in this regard).
- 5) The Board passed new Code of Conduct, Safety, and Succession Planning policies
 - Among other things, the former policy identifies as wrongdoing 'interference' with, and 'reprisal' for, the identification of wrongdoing (i.e., "whistleblowing").
- 6) The VP External Affairs and International Relations reported that, "The Accelerate Capital Campaign [for the new building] continues to progress slowly at a total of \$1,463,253." The fundraising connected with the naming of the building—approaching the family, friends, and legal colleagues of our former Chancellor, Allan Wachowich, has so far "secured \$77K with a further promised \$100K." This campaign "is forecasted to secure \$250K." Approximately "100 new donors have been introduced to CUE . . . nearly a 20% increase in CUE's active donor base." "CUE's previous Top 100 donors is now 100% contacted" and more new donors are now needed.
- 7) (I neglected to include in my last report, what our President reported to GFC this fall: In August the Board decided to pursue the possibility of acquiring some of the advantages enjoyed by the public universities in Alberta—such as public capital financing—without becoming a public university. This pursuit is now stalled due to the provincial election.)

Respectfully,

Jonathan Strand

Faculty Association Representative on Concordia's Board of Governors