

MACEWAN FACULTY ASSOCIATION

**Executive Reports to the Membership
for the Month of September 2011**

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Report from the President

1. A sub-committee composed of executive and faculty members continues to examine the governance structure that would best support the operational activities of the association. Members of this committee include **Shannon Digweed, Shahidul Islam, Colleen Maykut, Richard Pereschitz, Peter Roccia, John Tanasichuk, Jerry Zdril Aimee Skye and Cynthia Zutter**. We have also been assisted by Margot Baptista.

A recommendation that will provide the details on the governance model, executive director, professional resource officer, board members and other roles of the association will be provided to the membership at a future General Meeting.

2. The final report of the Christenson Family Centre for Sport and Wellness Internal Review Task Team was presented to Paul Byrne and the Executive Leadership Team. The University Board of Governors will vote on these recommendations at the September 22nd board meeting.
3. The Faculty Standards Committee of the Academic Governance Council (AGC) that is working on establishing the permanent titling process for MacEwan continues to meet. There was a preliminary report presented to AGC. The report can be found at this website (go to page 95 in the document):

http://www.macewan.ca/contribute/groups/public/documents/document/pfw_004945.pdf

4. In an effort to improve communication between the FA Executive Committee and the faculty representatives on Academic Governance Council, a wine and cheese reception for the two groups, hosted by the FA Executive Committee, will be held prior to the regular AGC meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for October 24th.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Zdril

Report from the Vice President Executive

As of August 1, 2011, I returned from maternity leave and began to resume my duties from Cynthia Zutter. This transition was somewhat gradual, but complete as of September 1, 2011. During this past two months, I have spent a good deal of time getting reoriented in the various committees on which I sit, and talking with faculty and FA members to understand the events and issues that transpired during my leave. Specific activities of the past two months have included:

1. Delivering information session to new faculty during their orientation in August.

2. Attending an orientation meeting for Faculty Evaluation Committee (FEC) members at the end of August, as well as the September meeting of the FEC. We discussed the workplan and annual report, and reviewed the terms of reference for the committee. It was decided that a non-instructional faculty member would be added to the FEC in a non-voting capacity (primarily so that non-instructional faculty can benefit from our history and prior work in developing their own evaluation policy and procedures). The committee will continue to review the C5065 policy, as well as the evaluation metrics currently used. Increasing student participation rates and faculty support for student evaluations will be a focus this year.
3. Attending meetings of the FA's Policy-based Governance Committee and Constitution Committee, and preparing for those meetings and/or conducting follow-up research or development activities.
4. Attending meetings of the Faculty Standards Committee to continue development of a system of academic titling at MacEwan. I have worked closely with Jerry Zdril to expedite the adoption of titling at MacEwan, and to liaise with faculty as we go forward in that process.
5. Contacting members of the Ethics and Professional Conduct Committee to enquire about the need for revisions to our professional conduct policy. No member expressed concerns with the current policy, so it will remain as it is for now.
6. Discussions with faculty members and FA executive members regarding ongoing issues or concerns with Faculty Commons.
7. Attending FA Executive meetings, responding to member inquiries and staff requests, managing issues that arise from day-to-day FA activity

Respectfully submitted,
Aimee Skye

Report from the Board of Governors Representative

Approvals – September 22, 2011 meeting

- In response to a Review Task Team report presented in June 2011, the board approved the proposed upgrade to the pool and renovation to the fitness centre in the Christenson Family Centre for Sport and Wellness to a maximum of \$5m restricted reserve funds allocated to the project.
- The board formally affirmed the Mandate Roles Document for the University dated and approved on September 8, 2010 by the Minister of Advanced Education and Technology.
- The board has given the University direction to reposition the institution in a way that provides a clear institutional identity. Watch out for a campaign commencing in the spring of 2012 to refresh this institutional identity. Short-term aspects of this campaign include: an

updated logo featuring MacEwan University; new signage on all campuses and update of the City of Edmonton directional signage; new visual identity templates; and use of MacEwan University in all media references. Over the long term, the University will refine its marketing message and test it with focus groups. One important component of this message is to identify MacEwan University as “Edmonton’s downtown university.”

- The board approved the new degree in Psychiatric Nursing. This formal approval ratifies an earlier board motion.
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- During the presentation and dialogue segment of the board meeting, **Jerry Zdril** (FA President) updated the board on the FA’s mission, the evolution of its governance structure, and challenges facing the association. Jerry underlined the FA as a professional association that is committed to working cooperatively with the University administration and the board to find mutually beneficial solutions to institutional challenges. Representatives of the Students’ Association (President and VP Operations) and MacEwan Staff Association (President) also gave presentations to the board.
 - Two School of Business students shared their international learning experience at the ESEC Toulouse Spring School in Barcelona.

FA Report to the Board

- In the late spring, the Faculty Association (FA) made a \$2,000.00 donation, through a fund established by ACIFA (Alberta Colleges & Institutes Faculties Associations) to support faculty members of Northern Lakes College affected by the Slave Lake fire. ACIFA distributed the funds raised directly to Northern Lakes College for disbursement, as a tax-free gift, to those members who lost their homes to the fire.
- Most of the FA Executive Committee participated in a presentation at New Faculty Orientation on August 23. As well, a number of FA Executive Committee members participated in the New Faculty Expo on August 24.
- At the time of this report, the FA is looking forward to welcoming at least 185 guests to its 20th Annual Fall Welcome BBQ taking place September 9 at Woodvale Facility. In addition to members and retirees, the attendance of **Dr. David Atkinson**, and other members of the MacEwan Board of Governors, is anticipated. As is tradition, **Heather MacEwan-Foran** will be the special guest of the FA.
- The MacEwan Dragon Boat Team (sponsored by the Faculty Association, MacEwan Staff Association, MacEwan Students’ Association, the President’s Office, and the Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President) won a silver medal at the Edmonton Dragon Boat Festival in August.
- The FA will be hosting its first social of the academic year for faculty representatives on Academic Governance Council (AGC) on October 24, prior to the start of the AGC meeting scheduled for that date.
- The FA Negotiating Committee (FANC) and the University met for bargaining sessions during June and into July before breaking for the summer. Bargaining resumed on August 29, and weekly sessions have been scheduled until the end of October.
- The FA Policy Governance Sub-committee continues its work on moving the FA to a policy-based model of operation. The next step in this process is for the FA to review existing

documents and draft new documents, including a position description for an Executive Director, to present to the membership at a future General Assembly.

- **Sean Hillman**, Professional Resource Officer for the FA, left the FA in July to accept a position with FPSE (Federation of Post-Secondary Educators) of British Columbia. **Joe Childs** has been hired to fill this position on a contract basis with the FA from mid-August to mid-February.
- The FA continues to monitor academic titling. In particular, the FA continues to emphasize the need for academic titling to be included in the Collective Agreement.

Report on Faculty Scholarly Activities and Achievements
Department of Humanities, Faculty of Arts and Science

Ian Armour

- Spent six weeks researching Austro-Serbian relations in the 1880s in the Haus- Hof- und Staatsarchiv, Vienna.
- Completed revisions to second edition of his textbook, *A History of Eastern Europe 1740-1918: Empires, Nations and Modernisation*, which is due out Fall 2011.
- Submitted an article entitled "The Sensitivities of 'Small, Backward Nations': Austria-Hungary, Serbia and the Regulation of the Danube 1870-71" to the Canadian Journal of History.

Colin Bailey

- Delivered a paper at the meeting of the Classical Association of the Canadian West, March 11 to 12, 2011, in Calgary entitled "Cash Distributions in Euboea".
- Had a paper accepted by the journal *Phoenix* entitled "ἄφεσιμος: A New Reading in the Opramoas-Dossier from Rhodiapolis".

Judith Bode, Maritza Mark, and Renata Knos

- Attended the Computer-Assisted Language Instruction Consortium Conference in Victoria in May 2011. CALICO is an international organization dedicated to research and development in computer-assisted language learning. Its annual conferences provide a forum for discussions of state-of-the-art educational technology and its applications to teaching and learning languages. The presentations and software demonstrations provided a broad framework for the instructors' current interest in L2 vocabulary acquisition and retention, and more specifically for their research projects to develop vocabulary training programs for language students.

Michael Carroll

- With Greg Donaghy, Head of the Historical Section at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, co-edited a book entitled *In the National Interest: Canadian Foreign Policy and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, 1909-2009*, published by the University of Calgary Press in May 2011.

Donna Dorsey

- Delivered a paper on "Giving, Receiving and Renunciation of Merit in Mahayana Buddhism" at the Tenth East-West Philosophers' Conference at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa.
- Presented a paper "Interdependence and the Common Good" in a panel on Common Good beyond Economics and served as the chair of a panel on Care Ethics, Virtue and Confucianism at the Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy Annual Conference, also held at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa.

Benjamin Garstad

- Submitted the final draft of his volume of the texts and translations of the *Apocalypse* of Pseudo-Methodius and the *Excerpta Latina Barbari* for Harvard University Press' Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library.
- Submitted an article entitled "The *Apocalypse* of Pseudo-Methodius and the Perpetuity of the West's Reaction to Muslim Aggression" to the journal *Past & Present*.
- Continued work on the fragments of the lost historian Bouttios.
- Began an article on Rome in the *Alexander Romance*.

Kyeongmi Kim-Bernard

- Conducted a research trip to the Houghton Library at Harvard University, May 8 to 12, 2011, with money from the MacEwan Scholarly Activity and Creative Achievement Fund.
- Delivered a paper at the Humanities Conference on May 30, 2011, with money from the Arts and Science Professional Development Additional Fund.

Edvard Lorkovic

- Submitted a paper on the political philosophy of Alain Badiou entitled "The Politics of Presentation" to *Cosmos and History*.
- Began writing an article, "the Lessons of Myth," which offers a close reading of Plato's *Phaedrus* 229c-230a.

Maritza Mark

- With Nick Lehtola presented a paper, "3-D Collaborative Task-Based Simulations in Moodle 2.0," at Moodlemoot 2011, Canada Conference: Open Learning and Open Collaboration, Edmonton, Alberta. May 1 to 5, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,
Chaldeans Mensah

Report from the Vice President Professional Affairs

Report not available at this time.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Hancock

Report from the Vice President Communications and Research

Dear members,

My time in September has been relatively quiet for the most part.

- 1) I attended the New New Faculty Orientation session on August 23rd.
- 2) I oversaw a redesign of the FA website, which included the incorporation of new logo and new colour (see below). This is essential for branding the Faculty Association. The colours of the site now more closely match the University's colours. The logo was voted on by members at a General Assembly meeting. This redesign is a result of that decision.

GMUFA
Grant MacEwan University
Faculty Association

Home | What's New | Who we are | How we help | Governance | Collective agreement | Get involved | Member advantages | Contact us | Forum

Home

Welcome to the The Grant MacEwan University Faculty Association's new website! We have a busy year ahead of us as we address such important topics as:

- academic titling
- intellectual property
- workload service agreements

Getting News From Us

We've moved into the world of blogging and will be keeping you informed about GMUFA matters under the menu category above called What's New.

You can stay informed about the GMUFA a few ways:

1. **Emails** will continue to be sent to you at your university email account keeping you informed of GMUFA matters and/or providing links to stories under What's New
2. Bookmark this site and check out What's New frequently
3. **Subscribe** to our What's New blog posts in a news reader (such as Google Reader) by using the RSS feed

Log In / Register

- Log in
- Register

What's New

- FA Fall General Assembly – Mark Your Calendar
- And the winner is...
- Wanna win a pair of Oilers Tickets? Answer a skill-testing question....
- MacEwan FA BBQ – September 6 Last Day to RSVP
- FA Executive welcomes new members to MacEwan

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Zypchyn

Report from the Treasurer

A. **Finance Committee - Chair**

The finance committee has not had a regular meeting in the summer months and has not yet met this term. We currently have two new members to the committee, Joseph Fong and Tina Hohn. Welcome!

The 2011/2012 budget was approved at the April 2011 Annual General Meeting and has now been incorporated into the Finance Committee for this year. Thus far, all spending is well within the approved budget and we do not expect any deviations within the various budget lines. Meetings will commence in late November for the Finance Committee and proceed into the winter term to begin preparation of next year's budget.

It is unclear at this point if the Finance Committee will be doing any additional budget planning for the Policy Based Governance Model.

B. Policy Based Governance Model

On September 21st, the committee met and discussed new directions that are required to satisfy many of the questions and concerns that came up at the Annual General Meeting in April 2011. The committee is currently working on assembling forums for the membership to provide information and gain feedback on what the qualifications and job requirements should be for the executive director position. We are also working on establishing a detailed job description to be presented to the membership.

C. Financial Evaluation - General

Finishing up of streamlining of the Treasurer duties and a detailed list of all duties, files and dates of meetings in order to ensure a smooth transition for incoming Treasurers. By making sure that financial processes are efficient and properly recorded and maintained, transition into the position by future members will be easy and straightforward.

D. Executive and Other Committee Meetings

As an Executive member I have been involved in several meetings over the last month:

1. Attended FA Executive meetings on August 31 and September 22, 2011.
2. Attended the FA General Meeting.
3. Ongoing meetings with Celine Miller for financial updates and cheque signing.
4. Faculty Association BBQ on September 9th, organized pub trivia. All was a success!!

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon Digweed

Report from the Vice President Negotiations

Dear All,

Collective bargaining is underway again after a brief break for the summer months. We have met with the University five times in the new academic year, with further sessions scheduled all the way through until the end of October.

As most of you are probably aware, Brian Pearson, Director of Human Resources and Chief Spokesperson for the University at the negotiating table, left MacEwan in mid-September. Just as was the case with the departure of Sean Hillman, the FA Professional Resource Officer, no plans have been made to replace him at the table. Rather, David Higgins (Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science) assumes the role of Chief Negotiator for the University. FANC is very happy with this arrangement as it ensures the good rapport and open communication will continue without the risk of upset that may go with a new face in the room.

Of the remaining non-monetary proposals, workload, term faculty and performance measurement still require more discussion, although it's fair to say that agreement in these areas has been reached in principle. It is anticipated that we will get to discussion of monetary items in the not-too-distant future.

An internal deadline of concluding negotiations has been set for the end of October, in the hope that we will be able to present the new terms and conditions of our collective agreement at the Fall general assembly. It is important to stress that this is a tentative deadline only, and there is no guarantee that we will necessarily reach a conclusion by this time.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan Withey

Report from the Vice President Dispute Resolution

Report not available at this time.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Graves

Report from the Professional Resource Officer

Report not available at this time.

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Childs