

Minutes of the Twenty-second Council Meeting – 17-18 June 2008
Concordia University College of Alberta, Edmonton (17 June)
Phipps-McKinnon Building, Edmonton (18 June)

Council

Present: Ron Bond (Chair), Dianne Kieren, Garry McKinnon, Leo Mos, Doug Owram (Tuesday only)
Lucille Walter, Keith Ward, Mo Watanabe

Absent: Bob Lockwood, Peter Meekison, Cliff Soper

Secretariat

Marilyn Patton (Director), Guy Germain (Manager), Alex Makar (Research Officer)
Cora Falacinski (Research and Policy Analyst)

Guests

Dr. Gerald Krispin (for agenda item 1 only)
Dr. Catherine Eddy (for agenda items 1 and 7 only)
Professor Rodney Cooper (for agenda item 4 only – via teleconference)
Dr. Ellen Aitken (for agenda item 7 only – via teleconference)
Dr. Marco LoVerso (for agenda item 7 only)
Mr. Monte Krueger; Mr. Thomas Djurfors; Dr. Dean Wood (for agenda item 11 only)

Tuesday, 17 June 2008

Members were welcomed to the twenty-second meeting of the Campus Alberta Quality Council.

1. Concordia University College of Alberta presentation and discussion

Dr. Gerald Krispin, President at Concordia University College of Alberta, accompanied by Dr. Catherine Eddy, Acting Vice-President (Academic) and Provost, gave a presentation on the College's history, strategic planning, enrolment, future directions, and internal program review process. A question and answer period followed.

2. Approval of minutes – 1-2 May 2008

It was MOVED and SECONDED that the 1-2 May 2008 minutes be adopted.

CARRIED

3. Mount Royal College – consideration of a proposal for a 4-yr Bachelor of Computer Information Systems

Mount Royal College is seeking approval to offer a 4-year Bachelor of Computer Information Systems. Professor Rodney Cooper, Chair of the program evaluation team, joined the meeting via teleconference to answer questions of clarification on the evaluation team report and the College's response to it. Prior to the end of the teleconference, Council's Chair thanked Professor Cooper for the team's report.

Following further discussion of the proposal, it was MOVED and SECONDED that Council recommend that the Minister of Advanced Education and Technology approve Mount Royal College's 4-year Bachelor of Computer Information Systems program.

CARRIED

Members AGREED to the issues to be addressed in the outcomes letter to the College, including its expectations with respect to monitoring.

4. CAQC Chair and Secretariat report

The Chair and Secretariat Director briefly reviewed their report and provided updates on several issues, including a recent meeting with the Deputy Minister and a recap of the recent CMEC Quality Assurance Symposium, attended by the Chair and Secretariat's Director and Manager. In addition, members discussed Bill 7, the *Post-secondary Learning Amendment Act, 2008*, and its implications for the work of Council.

Council also discussed the issue of dual degrees, and members expressed their concern with this type of degree arrangement, whereby the same course work counts for two degrees and students receive two separate parchments from the institutions involved. The Chair was directed to write to the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada to determine if they have any position on the matter, and to copy BC's Degree Quality Assessment Board, Ontario's Post Secondary Education Quality Assessment Board, the Manitoba Council on Post-Secondary Education, and the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission.

5. Academic freedom at private university colleges

As Council was considering a proposal for a Master of Arts in Biblical and Christian Studies from Concordia University College of Alberta, members decided it was timely to reaffirm its expectations with respect to the role of academic freedom at private university colleges. After discussion, Council confirmed that its current policy on *Academic Freedom and Scholarship Policy* pertains to all degree-granting institutions, and that there is a place for the value systems of faith-based institutions within Council's current policy statement.

6. Concordia University College of Alberta – consideration of a proposal for a Master of Arts in Biblical and Christian Studies

Concordia University College of Alberta is seeking approval to offer a Master of Arts in Biblical and Christian Studies. Dr. Ellen Aitken, Chair of the program evaluation team, joined the meeting via teleconference to answer questions of clarification on the evaluation team report and the College's response to it. Prior to the end of the teleconference, Council's Chair thanked Dr. Aitken for the team's report. Subsequently and on invitation of Council, Dr. Catherine Eddy, Concordia's Acting Vice-President (Academic) and Provost and Dr. Marco LoVerso, Dean of Research and Graduate Studies, joined the meeting in person to discuss the College's response to the report.

Following further discussion of the proposal, it was MOVED and SECONDED that Council recommend that the Minister of Advanced Education and Technology approve Concordia University College of Alberta's Master of Arts in Biblical and Christian Studies program.

CARRIED

Members AGREED to the issues to be addressed in the outcomes letter to the College, including its expectations with respect to monitoring.

7. Follow-up items

Members reviewed revisions to Council's 3-year Review Action Plan, which members had first considered at its May 2008 meeting. Members AGREED to have the Secretariat incorporate member suggestions into a new draft, and to then circulate the document for approval prior to it being posted on the web site and transmitted to the Minister and Deputy Minister.

Members also continued their discussion of the implications of off-site delivery and collaborative arrangements on the quality of newly approved degree programs, which it had first discussed at its May 2008 meeting. At that meeting, Council had passed a motion to inform the Minister of Council's perspective. Members discussed the Chair's letter to the Minister, as well as the Minister's response, and directed Council's Chair to write a letter to senior officials at all institutions to alert them of Council's principle.

8. CAQC subcommittees

(a) *Proposal Review Standing Committee*

The Proposal Review Standing Committee (PRSC) of Council reported that, since the previous meeting, it had acted on behalf of Council to:

- Accept the report from a reviewer CAQC had asked to conduct a desk review of NAIT's proposed introduction of a 'General Studies' option (later changed to a 'General Technology' option) in its approved Bachelor of Technology degree and to ask NAIT to inform the Secretariat when the option is implemented.
- Agree to a request from Canadian University College for a fully expedited review of its Performance concentration in its 3-year Bachelor of Music program.
- Deny a request from the University of Phoenix for a fully expedited review of its Bachelor of Science in Business and Master of Business Administration programs, and agree instead to a partially expedited review of these programs should the proposals be referred to Council.
- Agree to a request from the University of Calgary for a fully expedited review of its Master of Science and PhD in Immunology programs.

(b) *Nomenclature and Degree Programs Subcommittee*

It was MOVED and SECONDED that Council adopt the glossary for inclusion in the *CAQC Expectations for Design and Structure of Undergraduate Degrees*.

CARRIED

(c) *Working Group on Quality Assurance of Off-Campus and International Degree Programs*

It was reported that the *Working Group* was drafting principles, checklist and glossary documents which would be shared with stakeholders. Their feedback was expected by September and would then be discussed at Council's December meeting.

Wednesday, 18 June 2008

9. CAQC policies and procedures

Members discussed a letter received from Dr. Fred Hall, Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies at the University of Calgary, seeking clarification with respect to two graduate program requirements in CAQC's *Graduate Program Proposal Guidelines and Assessment Standards*.

After considering the issue, Council agreed to make a minor change to the wording of section 3.1.1 of its *Guidelines* by replacing 'scholarship' with 'research' in the first sentence and adding 'may' between 'programs' and 'culminate' in the last sentence.

10. Alberta Access Plan and Enrolment Planning Envelope – report from the ministry

As noted in the *Roles and Mandates Policy Framework for Alberta's Publicly Funded Advanced Education System*, the Ministry will be developing an Alberta Access Plan that will be used by institutions as they prepare their institutional access plans. It will also be used when making judgments with respect to Enrolment Planning Envelope applications in the future.

As this initiative is of relevance to Council, Mr. Monte Krueger and Mr. Thomas Djurfors from the policy group of the Ministry were on hand to make a presentation on the recently released Alberta Access Planning Framework. In addition, Dr. Dean Wood, Director of the Ministry's Post-secondary Programs branch, was present to discuss plans with respect to the Enrolment Planning Envelope. A question and answer session followed.

11. 3-year degrees in Alberta – referral of policy question from the Minister

Minister Doug Horner, citing section 109(2) of the *Post-secondary Learning Act*, has requested that Council review the implications of offering new three-year degrees and specializations within previously approved three-year degrees in Alberta's post-secondary system and provide him with recommendations on future policy directions for such degrees.

Members discussed various options regarding the best way to proceed with this review. As a preliminary measure, Council instructed the Secretariat to collect further data.

12. Report from ACAT

Lucille Walter provided an update with respect to the activities of the Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfer (ACAT).

13. Athabasca University – continued consideration of a proposal for a Doctor of Business Administration

Athabasca University is seeking approval to offer a professional Doctor of Business Administration degree program with an initial focus on the study of innovative management. At the May 2008 meeting, members had agreed to continue discussion of the University's degree program at a subsequent meeting pending receipt of further information from the institution.

After reviewing the additional information, it was MOVED and SECONDED that Council recommend that the Minister of Advanced Education and Technology approve Athabasca University's Doctor of Business Administration program.

CARRIED

Members AGREED to the issues to be addressed in the outcomes letter to the University, including its expectations with respect to monitoring.

14. CAQC Handbook

Council is planning to publish a web-based handbook to provide members and stakeholders with an effective reference tool and a comprehensive framework of its standards and guidelines. Members discussed the format, content and presentation of the handbook, and agreed to continue discussion of a subsequent draft at its September retreat.

The next scheduled meeting of Council is set for 9-10 September 2008.