
INTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 19, 2017
2:30 p.m.

Attendance: Chair: Sherry Herchak, (Human Resources); Kathy Pozihun (VP Administration & Finance); Moira McPherson (Provost and VP Academic); Jason Freeburn (LUTA); Roy Teniuk (OPSEU); Courtney Moore (GSA);

Regrets: Eric Searle (CUPE); Patrick Larin (Sch. II); Gautam Das (LUFA); Jack Drewes (IUOE); Lindsey Kelly (LUSU); Rob Bell (COPE); Heather Spivak (Unifor);

Recorder: Karen Ramsdale (Human Resources)

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Roy Teniuk that the Agenda be approved.

Seconded by Courtney Moore. All in favour.

Carried

Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting of June 20, 2017

Moved by Jason Freeburn that the Minutes be approved.

Seconded by Courtney Moore. All in favour.

Carried

2. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising.

3. Questions for Senior Administration

3.1 Jason asked for an update on the search for the Associate VP Human Resources. Kathy had just inquired with the search firm and was advised that the process slows down over the summer but it was recently ramped up again. Employee groups will be involved in the process as in the past. Info should be forthcoming within the next month. Kathy commended Sherry for doing such a good job in the interim.

3.2 Jason expressed a concern about a few students' experiences with Student Central. When one student in his class had to excuse himself from class around 3:30 p.m. to attend an Academic Advising meeting, Jason questioned why he would make the appointment during class time. The student explained that he went to Student Central around 11:00 a.m. but the queue was long and he was told he would be contacted when his turn came up. The student came back to class just 5 minutes later after waiting over 4 hours for a one-minute meeting.

3.3 Jason brought up benefits and asked why dental implants were still not covered. Pricing seems to have gone down and could be similar to the cost of a bridge. Alternately, the equivalent cost of a bridge could be applied to implant charges. Kathy suggested Jason bring it to their next HR meeting. She acknowledged that there is a growing trend towards implants and union/non-union groups may bargain for it going forward.

4. Round Table Discussion

4.1 Kathy Pozihun (Sr. Admin)

The Board of Governors has named Dr. Moira McPherson as Interim President effective January 1, 2018 until the work of the Presidential Search Committee is complete and Lakehead's next President & Vice-Chancellor is appointed.

The CASES project is on track and on budget. There have been a few changes along the way but everything is going very well.

Student Central is now open and fully operational.

A refresh of the Agora is taking place. Flags have been moved and mounted below the windows on the north end of the Agora. The flags represent our nation, and all of the countries where our international students come from. A ceremony will take place when the aboriginal and indigenous flags are added. Painting and lighting have been updated as well as the vinyl wall coverings. Seating will be re-covered in the Agora and down the hall to the Faculty Lounge. Electrical receptacles are being added to seating areas along the hallway to the Faculty Lounge as well. The Starbucks will take longer to open than originally anticipated because it will be a custom design.

The International Student Centre on the ground floor of the Library had its official opening ceremony last week and is completely open for business.

Moira and Kathy will be off to Toronto for the University Fair next week.

The Board of Governors will be holding the last meeting with the current board membership. Four members are retiring and seven new members will join the Board. There will be a change in the Senate rep, Ogimaawin Council rep and student rep as well.

4.2 Moira McPherson (Provost and Vice-President Academic)

Moira announced that David Barnett, currently the Dean of Engineering, will become Acting Provost and Vice-President Academic while she is serving as Interim President. Dr. Barnett will be attending the IRC meetings starting in the new year.

The Teaching Commons held a soft launch last winter with the website and some staff changes. The renovations to the physical site on the fifth floor of the Library are underway and will include learning spaces for instructors and professors and support for technology and pedagogy. There is also a resource specialist who will work with indigenous curriculum. The official opening will be in January 2018.

Preliminary enrolment numbers are in and it looks like good news. Regular updates are being made to Senate and other members of the community. Final results will be brought to

IRC in November. Projected enrolment looks higher than budgeted. November 1st is the official count date. December 1st is when data must be cleaned up and reported to MTCU.

Moira hopes to announce shortly the appointment of the new Vice-Provost Aboriginal Initiatives.

Work is being done on the Academic Plan and Moira will update the progress at the next meeting.

4.3 Jason Freeburn (LUTA) – In April, LUTA met with HR and agreed to meet in six months. A subsequent meeting will be set up and an agenda prepared.

4.4 Courtney Moore (GSA) – The orientation meeting for graduate students fell through – ran out of time. Faculty of Grad Studies orientation went well. Coffee hours on October 2nd offering free coffee for grad students. Club night also coming up.

4.5 Roy Teniuk (OPSEU) – In 2016 OPSEU membership voted to divert \$2M from the strike fund to spearhead a program called “We Own It”. At convention in 2017 it diverted another \$2M to keep the program going. That puts 14 activists in Ontario to bring attention to privatization of public sector services, e.g. LCBO, Hydro, health care, post-secondary education, corrections development services infrastructure, senior care, public transit, and others. When the SOS program was in jeopardy, OPSEU stepped forward and took a leadership role along with other organizations in the city to bring attention to political parties that this is a program that needs to be supported. Not only does the union negotiate for their members locally, they also make the province aware that universities need regular support.

Student Central was a big job for ERP people making sure all systems for registering and payments run seamlessly. Desktop people ensured all computers were ready so students could walk in and make it easier to register. TSC members also set up the displays and set up the staff.

Mobile print is being enabled where students/employees can print from mobile devices, and print release has been enabled. Public computers in both Thunder Bay and Orillia have been updated in libraries.

4.6 Sherry Herchak (Human Resources) – no report

5. Other Business

There was no other business.

6. Motion to Adjourn at 3:02 p.m.

Moved by Jason Freeburn.

Seconded by Courtney Moore. All in Favour.

Carried