MINUTES: OPEN SESSION

1.0 Call to Order and Introduction of Guest(s)

Barichello called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

1.1 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest and Commitment (Real, Potential or Perceived)

No conflicts were declared.

1.2 Approval of Agenda/Consent Agenda

Moved and seconded to approve the agenda and items on the consent agenda subject to an edit to the Campus Planning Committee Terms of Reference to indicate the Committee will “Receive periodic reports to ensure policies, programs and processes are in place to manage, monitor and mitigate risks related to facilities”. Carried.
2.0 New Business

2.1 Presentations from the Constituent Associations:

- Students’ Association of MacEwan University

Danika McConnell, as President of the Students’ Association of MacEwan University (SAMU) shared a power point presentation to provide the Board with an overview of the Association and its ongoing work on behalf of students. She indicated that in all aspects of its day to day and long term work, SAMU aims to support and provide services for the betterment of students and their experience at the University. She highlighted a number of volunteer activities supported by SAMU, including Fall Fest, Safe Walk, Food Bank, and Peer Support. SAMU is involved in a several advocacy groups including the Edmonton Student Alliance, the Council of Alberta University Students and the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations. SAMU supports student clubs on campus and also donates funds to external organizations. Through the SAMU Speaker Series, the Association brings in dynamic speakers on topics of interest to students and the events are open to members of the public. Responding to a question about the growth in student clubs and funding available to support the clubs, McConnell indicated that the number of clubs fluctuates each year between 90 and 120. The majority of funding for the clubs is through individual club fundraisers, though some of the clubs apply for and receive funding through the student-led initiatives grant. In some cases, faculty members are involved in the club and there could be financial support from a faculty.

- MacEwan Staff Association

Donna Mae Winquist thanked the Board for the opportunity to present regarding the MacEwan Staff Association (MSA). She shared the evolutionary history of the association which received union certification in July 2006 after previously operating under the Societies Act from 1980 to 2006. Through a power point presentation, the members of the MSA executive as well as the office staff were introduced. Winquist highlighted the MSA Goals and Objectives for 2016-17 including the selection of the MSA bargaining team for 2017. Looking forward, Winquist advised that MSA will be reviewing the issue of jurisdiction regarding the inclusion within the bargaining unit of students who are employed by the University as well as some positions currently considered out of scope.

- Faculty Association

Chris Hancock expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to present to the Board. He also thanked Aimee Skye, previous president of the Grant MacEwan University Faculty Association (GMUFA). Jasmine French, Executive Director of GMUFA was introduced and information regarding other GMUFA staff was shared as well. Hancock’s presentation discussed the current
climate at the University with specific emphasis on the relationship between faculty and administration, which he characterized as a good working relationship. He spoke of the governance structure within the Association and some recent policy changes for the Association. The Association is funded through member dues and discussions are currently underway regarding changes to the dues structure. Hancock advised that the bargaining team for GMUFA has been appointed and work has begun to orient the team as well as receive input from members regarding negotiations.

3.0 Reports

3.1 Students’ Association of MacEwan University (SAMU) – regular report to the Board

McConnell reported she recently attended a status of women conference in Ottawa. As part of the event, the topic of sexual violence on campuses in Canada was discussed. She noted that the University is one of about twelve universities in Canada with a stand-alone sexual violence policy. She will be returning to Ottawa in November to continue these conversations. Over the past month, SAMU participated in mental health awareness activities and concluded student council elections. The Student Council has passed a motion to have treaty recognition at every meeting and they hope to see similar recognition at other events across the University.

3.2 Acting Chair’s Report

Barichello reported on the conference call he participated in with the Minister of Advanced Education regarding the provincially mandated tuition freeze. Administration will report back to the Board and its Committees on the impacts of the tuition freeze on the University’s financial position.

4.0 Adjournment of Open Session

The open session adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

Gail Jones
Governance Assistant