

Prairie Bible Institute Annual Meeting

Report to the Board of Directors



October 19-21, 2022



PRAIRIE COLLEGE

President's Report

October 2022

A Summer to Remember!

In July, we celebrated our centennial with nearly 1,000 people in a big beautiful white tent on campus. The grounds were in great shape, the new sign sparkled, and the flags framed it well. The video that recapped the event showed the extent of our program – from excellent speakers to four major concerts, to memorable reunions. The common phrases from our guests were:

- the Prairie staff did a great job hosting the event, and
- if anyone was wondering about Prairie's mission, they left here with that question settled.

We thank God for the tremendous time He gave us as we gathered to celebrate the work He has done on this campus.

We are now well into the new school year, and enjoying a time of learning and growing together with our students. It feels like we are in for a good year.

Management Team Transitions

Two of our Management Team members have been carrying two portfolios which we split into four positions in the past few months.

- Dr. Glenn Loewen has been both Dean of Education as well as Dean of Student Development, two large portfolios that he has looked after for 9 years. On July 1, he turned his full focus to being the Dean of Student Development, the area where he launched his career in higher education and where he did his doctoral studies.
- Dr. Mark Jonah assumed the role of Dean of Education, which we have re-labeled "Academic Dean" to accommodate the language that has been recommended as a result of our B.Ed. application.
- Trevor Toews has been responsible for both Information and Communication Technology ("ICT") as well as Campus Operations. Given the importance of ICT to higher education and the rapid changing nature of the area, Trevor felt he needed to focus on that area in order to help us stay current and remain high functioning.
- As a result, Trevor has passed the oversight of Campus Operations to Andrew Siggelkow, who joined our team earlier this year, after serving as an engineer with the City of Edmonton for 12+ years. Andrew has agreed to take this portfolio on an interim basis until the end of the calendar year, simply to see if he feels it is a long term fit for him and his family.

One of the challenges we face, in part due to our location and in part due to our compensation levels, is attracting top talent that will provide us with the leadership we need across our entire team. Most of the positions on our team are highly skilled and require advanced education. We are grateful to God for the talent that He has brought onto our team and into positions of leadership. To have a qualified engineer and an IT professional leading our operations and IT groups is evidence of God's provision for us.

Strategic Initiatives

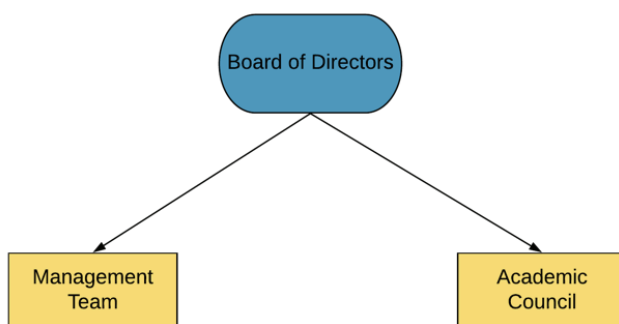
A. B.Ed. application – Mark Jonah has taken the lead on this initiative, working closely with Sandra Paetkau, the lead author of the document, and Dr. Darrel Reid, the lead architect of our strategy as well as our voice in political circles. We have also retained a project consultant who has extensive experience in the Academic community, having served as Chair of the Campus Alberta Quality Council (CAQC).

To bring you up to date, "Part B" of our application was pushed back to us by CAQC with several (11) deficiencies. We felt some of this reflected the prejudice of the members of the committee and some of the deficiencies were adequately covered, but our application had not been read in its entirety (quite believable given its length). However, we have taken a serious look at each, rewritten much of the application around those issues and expect to have re-submitted it by the time we meet in two weeks.

Please read Mark Jonah's full report on the changes we are instituting (two of which need Board approval) as well as the appendices that contain the specific policies that we're incorporating into our faculty manual. The specific areas we would like you to focus on are:

1. Formation of an Academic Council – This committee would assume the lead on "all-matters-academic." We are picturing it being led by the Academic Dean and residing alongside the Management Team, with both committees being represented to the Board by the President.

New Organizational Structure:



While this change appears organizationally material, it is very close to how we function in reality – we have long looked to faculty and the Dean for direction on all matters that relate to our academic work. Academic decisions that have strategic or financial implications would be referred to the Management Team or the Academic Committee of the Board, whichever is more appropriate.

We remain committed to this initiative and are hoping we will be able to begin receiving students into this program in the fall of 2023.

2. Policy on Equity, Diversity & Inclusion – This policy merits your attention and approval because of its potential for misinterpretation in current culture. Fair treatment of all people, in terms of equity, diversity and inclusion, is a deeply Christian value, aligning with the biblical view that every person is created in God's image. The application of this principle at Prairie is defined as "within the context of the college." Our context is defined by our "Foundational Documents" which is a defined term that includes our Constitution, Bylaws, Statement of Faith and Community Covenant. While this could be potential cause for doctrinal drift, I believe it is not...as long as we do not drift in our Foundational Documents.

B. Capital Campaign – You will see in Kendi Dyck's report an update on the Capital Campaign. My summary is simply that it is going slowly. I believe that we have the right pieces in place, including a consultant (Ray Sawatsky) who is providing us with experienced leadership. Last week, in a meeting with two of our longest-standing major donors, they advised us to use the money that has come in to "chip away" at the list of improvements and renovations. They believe that donors will step up with more funds as they see improvements being made.

C. With our flight school thriving under MAFC leadership, we are aware of the need for a longer runway which would allow turbo-prop planes to land here. This is in addition to the second hangar and classroom hub that is contemplated in the Capital Campaign. The Town of Three Hills has approached Prairie with the idea of having the College manage the airport for them, or even take over ownership of the property and run it as a private airport. These discussions are preliminary and would require Board approval. We will keep you apprised of possibilities and seek your approval if/when we have more clarity on what this might look like.

D. For more than a decade I have looked at the soccer field and undeveloped land across 6th Ave. that we sold about 15 years ago, but, by virtue of taking a second mortgage, we did not receive our final payment because the purchaser defaulted and the first mortgage holder foreclosed on the property. I decided I would like to explore the possibility of recovering the land in exchange for a charitable receipt. The first mortgage lender (Nillson Brothers of Edmonton) is still the owner of the property and seemed open to the possibility of letting us have it back. In that this would be the

acquisition of real property, a transaction like this would require Board approval, so we will come back to you for approval if it develops into a transaction.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark". The script is cursive and fluid.

Mark L. Maxwell
President