

Prairie Bible Institute Semi-annual Meeting

Report to the Board of Directors



April 30 - May 2, 2023



PRAIRIE COLLEGE

President's Report May 2023

ON MISSION, AND THRIVING

It's surprising how quickly the academic year passes, and a good year it has been. In a couple weeks, we will celebrate the achievements of over 90 students who are graduating, and will send them off to pursue the next chapter of their lives. This is our mission.

To illustrate the year, I was recently sitting in chapel listening to our student-led worship, hearing a room full of college students singing whole-heartedly, and I thought it was amazing how God had brought life to our community, both to our staff and to our students.

Suddenly I remembered a time, just after Elaine and I joined the Prairie team in 2010. We were hosting an alumni reunion. At the end of one of the main sessions, one of our retired and faithful alumni came up and pointed to a passage in his Bible. He was pointing at Ezekiel 37, but being overwhelmed with emotion, was unable to speak.

As you know, the passage is a fantastic image of renewal, of transformation that shows the handiwork of God among His people, a gift from the Sovereign Lord and the work of His Holy Spirit. It is a picture of a valley of dry bones, brought back to life.

Without saying anything, our faithful friend was making a comparison of that passage to Prairie, prophetically saying, without words, his belief that God would breathe new life into the college.

As I watched our students in chapel, I thought, "These bones are alive!" And I was moved with gratitude.

Management Team Changes

We have seen three shifts in our Management Team since our October Board meeting.

- Andrew Siggelkow, an engineer with the City of Edmonton has assumed the role of Managing Director, Operations, after a three-month interim period in the role. This was a hand-off from Trevor Toews, who had been covering two portfolios (ICT and Operations). He felt that splitting those and having them covered by two people would be better for the school and would allow him more time to focus on his core strength in technology.
- Pamela Fraser has assumed the dual roles of Marketing and Enrollment, taking over Marketing from Elaine Maxwell, and has joined the Management Team.

These are two areas of strength for Pamela and helps ensure that messaging is consistent between the two. Which is important!

- Janelle Conway stepped into Nicole's role as Executive Assistant to the President's office shortly after the last board meeting. The office had been covered briefly by Betty Potter, but it became clear to her, and to us, that she would prefer to be retired. Janelle has become an integral part of the day for Mark Jonah and for me. You will enjoy working with her.

Current Management Team members:

Mark Maxwell – President

Janelle Conway – Executive Assistant, President's Office

Dallas Derksen – Managing Director, Prairie Aviation Training Centre

Kendi Dyck – Managing Director, Development

Pamela Fraser – Managing Director, Marketing and Enrollment

Dr. Mark Jonah – Academic Dean

Dr. Glenn Loewen – Managing Director, Student Development

Elaine Maxwell – Managing Director, Finance

Andrew Siggelkow – Managing Director, Operations

Trevor Toews – Managing Director, Information and Communication Technology

Mitchell Vander Ploeg (22/23)/Karis Grove (23/24) – SU President

Bachelor of Education Application

With leadership from Darrel Reid, our external consultant, and Dr. Mark Jonah, our Academic Dean, our application is now at the point of waiting for a Team Visit by Campus Alberta Quality Control (CAQC). This step is intended to be for quality assurance, but appears to be the mechanism used to stall applications that this group does not favour. In our situation, it appears that CAQC is demonstrating to the Government that they have the power to impede their plans, and it feels like we are caught in the process.

The reality is that our application will not be approved before the provincial election in May, so we hope that the newly elected government will favour our application and will help us get it successfully completed.

Progress on Capital Campaign

We have made some very good progress building relationships that could result in a successful Capital Campaign. However, at this point, we feel progress is slow and will be seeking your advice on some alternatives to our current plan and whether we should be changing our approach. The top two priorities in the Capital Campaign are the Residence renovation and a new hangar for Prairie Aviation Training Centre (PATC).

Residence renovation – The residence continues to be at the top of our priorities for campus renovation. We should not plan to go through the next winter with the current central heating system. It is old, inefficient, costly to maintain, and is at risk of having utility tunnels collapse on the steam as it is being piped from the central location to the residence. At the same time, getting this fixed properly, with new boilers that are onsite, would stabilize the building for two or three decades.

PATC Hangar – MAFC has stepped convincingly into the process of helping raise funds for a new hangar for (PATC). We will be proposing a joint-venture structure that would have both MAFC and Prairie working toward this objective. It will have a built-in “escape clause” that would protect either party should one or the other want to get out of the joint-venture. In the meantime, we continue, with deep gratitude, to have MAFC providing PATC’s leadership, much of PATC’s personnel, as well as a considerable portion of PATC’s aviation equipment. We want them to make PATC their flight school. And they do!

Year-to-Date Financials

Our YTD financials show that we are running at a loss of \$218K for the 9 months through March 31, 2023 on revenue of \$7.4 million. With the help of cost controls and year-end donations, we are aiming for a break-even year by June 30. There are several contributors, the major one being increases in costs that we have not been able to recover since we set prices only once a year. We are taking a hard look at what costs can be eliminated next year, what efficiencies we can find in our model, and what tuition as well as room & board, and program fees should look like next year. Our plan is to adjust our model to get it to a point that, with the help of reasonable donations, is consistently profitable.

Let me take this opportunity to thank each of you, once again, for your work on our Board. We are looking forward to seeing you on campus in a couple of weeks.

Mark

Mark L. Maxwell
President