

Marriott Rivercenter, San Antonio, Texas  
In conjunction with annual CIC CAO Institute

*Attendees:*

AMBS (Rebecca Slough), Bethel (Bob Milliman), Bluffton (Lamar Nisly), CMU (Jonathan Dueck) Conrad Grebel (Marlene Epp), EMU (Deirdre Smeltzer, Fred Kniss), Goshen (Ken Newbold), Hesston (Brent Yoder)

*Meditation:*

Rebecca Slough led the group in a meditation on the subject of work.

*Minutes:*

Minutes were considered for correction and approval

Correction: For 2022, EMU hosts MHEFC

M/S/A

*Special Commendation:*

Noted for these minutes: The Marpeck Deans wish to express their profound gratitude to the founders of the Marpeck Fund, Gerald and Robert Kreider, for their vision and for the financial resources they provided to fund work, through grants, carried out in the interest of collaboration among schools involved in Mennonite Higher Education in Canada and the USA.

*Grant Proposal Considerations:*

Deadlines for grant proposals—

Move deadlines to March 1 and September 1, beginning with September 1, 2018.

January 1 will remain effective for 2018. Dates for dean review of grant proposals will be adjusted accordingly.

M/S/A

*Interpretation of Funding Criteria:*

Issue—What constitutes collaboration among institutions? Only Marpeck institutions? Only Mennonite institutions? Something else?

Consensus:

Accurate proposals on the nature of collaboration are needed from the sponsoring Marpeck institution. Once funds are granted, appropriate flexibility in using the funds can be allowed. That flexibility, however, should be reflected in the report from the institution granted funds. Deference here especially should be given to programs that involve cross-border collaboration. M/S/A

*Review of final reports from grantees:*

Sent previously as email attachments by Deirdre

- Anabaptist Communicator's Conference
- Global Mennonite Peace Conference
- Mennonite Graduate School Conference

- Anabaptist Theology Conference
- Course Development Institute
  - There was consensus that this project, involving all of the Marpeck institutions, should be funded bi-annually on the year there is no faculty conference.

All approved as received.

*Clarification on Marpeck Fund Disbursement for deans attending meetings:*

The fund will pay two nights lodging for school representatives not attending CIC.

*Mennonite Higher Education Faculty Conference*

Date:

June 4-6, evening of the 4<sup>th</sup> to evening of the 6<sup>th</sup>, followed by a separate, two-day conference on social-scientific approaches to dealing with religion (7-8). Deans arrive the evening of June 3.

Note: One purpose of the conference is to socialize new faculty into Anabaptist Higher Education.

Theme: Community, Power, and Knowledge-making. Cf. Jonathan Dueck's document for elaboration. Jonathan will revise the Google Drive version of this document based on comments and leave it on the Drive for others to edit.

Planning Committee: Each dean should submit two or three names to Jonathan from each school in the next two or three days.

Participants: Try to recruit a mix of approximately five faculty members from each school to attend, both new and veteran members, e.g., two from one group and three from the other.

Subsidization from the Marpeck Fund:

\$5,000 + transportation at \$200 per plane ticket.

This subsidization per plane ticket applies only to this conference; due, in part, to a surplus in the fund. M/S/A

*Inter-Collegiate Peace Fellowship Conference*

Conrad Grebel is hosting it in February. Deans are encouraged to promote it.

Marlene asked for guidance on the possibility of financial support.

Action: We will support annual funding up to \$2,500 based on the merit of the proposal. Consensus approval.

*Possible Collaborative Efforts, especially in academic areas:*

- Specific idea:  
Rebecca put out a test idea—A collaborative effort by the schools to serve the broader church. There was a discussion that this idea may be beyond the scope of the fund. However, the group will entertain a proposal.
- Brainstorming:
  - Collaboration at the level of course offerings
    - Course(s) offered in common, e.g., online
    - Reciprocal enrollment
    - Foreign languages
    - Travel Courses
  - Summer opportunity for promising, high achieving students—“camp for smart kids”
  - Undergraduate Research Journal or Research Conference
  - Library information system
- June meeting
  - Reports on operations (e.g., Jenzabar EX) and enrollment cooperation
  - Consider course-level cooperation

## Institutional Updates

- Bethel
  - New President will start in January and new Athletic Director started this past year
  - Search for a new Vice President for Student Life is nearing completion
  - Mennonite Library and Archives: MCUSA ceded ownership of General Conference records to Bethel College
  - MHEA: Bethel board will not likely cede independence
  - Enrollment up, but only up to level from two years ago
- Conrad Grebel
  - There are difficulties in working on a small residential Mennonite campus as part of large public university
  - New president
  - More female than male students
  - Search for a new musicologist
  - Remaking the faculty
- Bluffton
  - In the midst of a presidential search
  - Currently the Vice President for Academic Affairs is an interim appointment.
  - Recent resignation of Enrollment Vice President
  - There has been a retraction in the number of personnel over a protracted period—7 or 8 faculty, plus some additional personnel that are not part of the academic program, and staff
  - Ended up a little under enrollment goals
  - Searches: Social work and choral music

- HLC visit in a year
- In the midst of general education review process
- A book on education edited by emeritus faculty member J. Denny Weaver is highly recommended
- Hesston
  - New President
  - Need new vice president for advancement
  - Hit enrollment goal with better than expected retention, largely due to RN-BSN program
  - More bachelor's degree expansion anticipated: Aviation
  - New sports: Golf, track
  - Sexual misconduct task force just submitted a report with six broad recommendations
- EMU
  - Second year of enrollment decline—consequences:
    - Early retirement option: Only one faculty member took advantage of it
    - Two-years-out budget will probably result in faculty reductions
  - New engineering program—exceeding enrollment expectations
  - Considering academic restructuring of three schools with seminary operating under one of them
  - Centennial celebration: Conference on Centennial histories in March
  - New President
- Goshen
  - New president
  - Virtually all-new cabinet
  - Strong enrollment year, largest new group since 2009
  - Diverse student body: 23% Latinadad, 49% students of color
  - 950 students—attribute good numbers to diversity. Plus, starting men's volleyball, and expanding rosters for junior varsity teams, plus higher participation in ensembles
  - Budget challenges—three year balanced-budget plan with personnel retractions
- AMBS
  - President accepted another term
  - Retirements on the horizon: Rebecca, June, plus several others—can't replace all of them, so plan to downsize through retirement
  - Opening for a position for biblical studies, both testaments
  - Percent of international students up
  - Have put an enrichment Certificate online; for students with a master's degree in another field
  - Pastoral Studies Distance Education Program available to larger church via online—not quite master's level
  - Optimistic about future enrollment

- In conversations with Conrad Grebel for collaboration
- Will be dropping HLC accreditation and going solely with ATS
- CMU
  - Enrollment up, second highest ever
  - MC Canada shift has resulted in CMU being the school for central Canada
  - CMU is participating in the Truth and Reconciliation program
  - CMU has have assumed the denominational archives with MC Canada downsizing
  - Social Entrepreneur program initiated
  - Revising academic plan
    - E.g., students participate with a professor in research
    - E.g., tie together the two campuses of the University
  - Faculty searches, e.g. Social Psychology

Parting notes:

- Deans get things done, so these meetings are important.
- This deans' forum is one of the few avenues for collaboration across borders.

Recorded by Bob Milliman, Marpeck Fund Liaison

Approved by Marpeck Deans, June 4, 2018