

BOARD OF GOVERNORS – OPEN SESSION Approved Minutes

Thursday, May 28, 2020 1:30 p.m., videoconference

Present: K. Schlachter (Chair), Y. Belanger, R. Casson, J. Diaz, J. Elliott, D. Gallimore,

K. Gunn, A. Hlady, H. Labuhn, M. Mahon, J. Merkl, K. Philipp, E. Pullan, K. Reid,

J. Sheriff, S. Stocker, C. Weaselhead, T. Whitehead, L. Zink

Regrets: J. Forrest, D. Johnson

Other: J. Gallais, M. Helstein, D. Kaminiski, D. Mackie, E. Okine, S. Olson, M. Sawa,

C. Takeyasu, N. Walker, R. Westlund, M. Whipple

Oki, and welcome to the University of Lethbridge. Our University's Blackfoot name is Iniskim, meaning Sacred Buffalo Stone. The University is located in traditional Blackfoot Confederacy territory. We honour the Blackfoot people and their traditional ways of knowing in caring for this land, as well as all Aboriginal peoples who have helped shape and continue to strengthen our University community.

Prior to the start of the Open Session, a moment of silence was held for past Board Chair Phil North and former Board member Peter Williams.

A presentation was given by M. Helstein (Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts & Science), and D. Mackie (Chief Safety Office) on the University Emergency Response Committee COVID-19 Response Overview.

J. Diaz and E. Pullan were formally introduced and welcomed as new members of the Board and A. Hlady was thanked for her service to the Board.

1. CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL

1.1. Approval of the May 28, 2020 Open Agenda

1.2. Approval of the April 23, 2020 Open Minutes

MOTION: opn.2020.05.01

Gallimore/Whitehead

That the Board of Governors approve the May 28, 2020 Consent Agenda with amendments.

Motion: Carried

Item 5.7 was moved to Closed Session, and post-agenda updates were sent out for Items 5.6 and 5.8.

2. BOARD CHAIR REMARKS

K. Schlachter was pleased be able to attend and give greetings on behalf of the Board at the virtual farewell event for A. Hakin.

3. CHANCELLOR REPORT

C. Weaselhead highlighted that T. Legge will be the Senate representative on the Board effective July 1 and gave thanks to A. Hlady for serving in this role the last two years. We are also pleased to welcome the new student representatives to Senate.

4. PRESIDENT REMARKS

M. Mahon reported:

- Although today and tomorrow would have been the days when we were originally planning to celebrate Spring 2020 Convocation, we continue with plans to celebrate virtually. The convocation-in-a-box initiative will be rolled out the middle of June, in hopes that most graduates will receive theirs by the third week. Filming takes place today and early next week for the short virtual ceremony, which will be shared with students on June 25 and over social channels, so friends and family are able to share in the celebration. Many departments are hosting their own virtual celebrations as well:
- As mentioned during the presentation, the relaunch/return-to-campus strategy will be complicated and will take time to work through;
- A number of announcements have gone out the last few days regarding some senior administration organizational changes: Dean of Art & Science [Matt Letts], Interim Vice-Provost & Associate Vice-President (Academic) [Michelle Helstein], Interim Vice-President (Research) [Robert Wood], and Acting Dean of Health Sciences [Shannon Spenceley]. The Vice-President (Advancement) search continues;
- Universities Canada post-secondary presidents continue to meet weekly amid COVID;
- PUBlic Professor Series (At Home edition) occurs every Thursday evening at 7pm;
- Thank You Tuesday Initiative took place on May 5;
- The UofL took part in a retreat with Medicine Hat College and Lethbridge College about creating pathways for more academic and operational collaborations;
- Over 700 people attended the budget town hall and we're still working to provide responses to all the email questions;
- Will be speaking at a Southern Alberta Council on Public Affairs (SACPA) event on June 25 regarding the provincial budget and how it relates to post-secondary institutions; and
- Planning an event in Edmonton with other post-secondary presidents and their government relations officers regarding the importance of post-secondary research within the province. We'll keep the Board apprised of details as they unfold.

M. Mahon noted that there are so many people from across campus doing great work to move the University forward during this time of transition.

5. **ITEMS FOR ACTION**

5.1.Board Vice-Chair Appointment

MOTION: opn.2020.05.02

Mahon/Zink

That the Board of Governors approve the appointment of Harvey Labuhn as Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors, effective September 1, 2020.

Motion: Carried (1 abstained)

There were no questions.

5.2.Board Committee 2020-2021 Membership

MOTION: opn.2020.05.03

Mahon/Casson

That the Board of Governors approve the undesignated committee membership as follows for the 2020-2021 year commencing September 1, 2020, unless indicated otherwise, and ending on August 31, 2021:

Advancement Committee: Terry Whitehead (Chair), Rick Casson, Tevi Legge, John Sheriff, Shilpa Stocker

Audit Committee: Kelly Philipp (Chair), Karen Gunn, Karen Reid

Executive Committee: Karen Reid

Finance Committee: Dean Gallimore (Chair), David Johnson, Ethan

Pullan

Governance Committee: Shilpa Stocker (Chair), Yale Belanger, Rick Casson, Jonathan Diaz, David Johnson, Jeremiah Merkl, Lauren Zink Human Resources and Compensation: Karen Gunn, Karen Reid, Terry Whitehead.

Motion: Carried

There were no questions.

5.3. Vice-President (Research) Search Committee

MOTION: opn.2020.05.04

Mahon/Zink

That the Board of Governors approve the appointment of Karen Gunn

to the Vice-President (Research) Search Committee.

Motion: Carried (1 abstained) Board of Governors – Open Meeting (Approved Minutes) Meeting: May 28, 2020

M. Mahon noted that for significant administrative appointments, a member of the Board serves on the appointment committee. There were no questions.

5.4.2020-21 – 2022-23 Consolidated Budget

MOTION: opn.2020.05.05

Labuhn/Reid

That the Board of Governors approve the 2020-2021 budget and approve in principle the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 budgets.

Motion: Carried

H. Labuhn noted that although significant reductions have already been made, we still need to cut \$611 thousand in order to balance the budget. Financial impacts related to COVID-19 pandemic have not been reflected in the 2020-21 – 2022-23 budgets, and will be funded from one-time funds. Thanks was given to the Financial Services team for their work preparing the budget.

5.5.Investment Management Agreement

MOTION: opn.2020.05.06

Labuhn/Hlady

That the Board of Governors approve in principal the 2020-2023 Investment Management Agreement (IMA), pending receiving final data from government regarding the Investment Management Agreement.

Motion: Carried

The Investment Management Agreement is presented in principle as we are still waiting for additional information from government, which we expect to receive on June 1. If material changes to the IMA are needed prior to submission, the document will come back to the Board for final approval. N. Walker noted that the budget was prepared assuming that we would not achieve our noted expenditure targets. We have heard that any funds lost will remain within the sector, then redistributed to institutions who have achieved their targets. There was a discussion on research priorities and relationships with industry partners, and it was noted that our research funding target is being reduced as government is shifting dollars to COVID research.

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5.6. Capital Plan Overview

MOTION: opn.2020.05.07

Labuhn/Gallimore

That the Board of Governors approve the Capital Plan Overview.

Motion: Carried

H. Labuhn noted that this document is a new requirement from Advanced Education, to be included with the Operating Budget, Investment Management Agreement and 3-Year Savings Plan. There were no questions.

5.7.2019-20 Financial Statements

MOTION: opn.2020.05.08

Labuhn/Gunn

That the Board of Governors approve the 2019-20 Financial Statements for the year ending March 31, 2020.

Motion: Carried

H. Labuhn went through the updated package with the 2019-20 Financial Statements, highlighting that the annual surplus of \$2.4 million, comprised of \$1.3 million related to endowment investment income and \$1.1 million revenue from Ancillary Services, is not available for spending on the general operations of the University. Due to the terminations that have been identified, but not yet occurred, there is a future benefit liability on the statements, which we've never had before. As everyone is aware, the markets took a hit at the end of March due to COVID, causing the market value of our investments to drop significantly. We have not yet written down this loss as we anticipate the investments to recover.

Thanks was given to C. Takeyasu and her team, who have put in many hours but met all of the deadlines while preparing the statements remotely this year. The team met weekly with the external auditors since campus has been shut down, which ensured communication continued.

There was a discussion on how best to educate the readers of the financial statements, to explain why we had to lay employees off despite showing a surplus. This is a challenge we face each year, and we hope that the town hall presentation, along with the budget FAQs helps to address any questions.

6. REPORTS

6.1. Provost & Vice-President (Academic)

E. Okine highlighted the first-ever virtual recruitment fair that took place on May the 6, which was very well attended. He added that with the announcement of remote delivery this fall, we are working to provide training and tools to our faculty in order to ensure that teaching is top quality when classes begin in September.

6.2. Advancement

M. Mahon expressed his appreciation for the work M. Whipple and R. Westlund have done leading this department and noted that the link to the Budget Town Hall will be shared with the Board later today.

6.3. Vice-President (Finance & Administration)

N. Walker noted that although we had to make the unfortunate decision to cut the hockey teams, the President has created a taskforce to look at the viability of a community-funded program in the future.

6.4. Vice-President (Research)

E. Okine highlighted that this has been quite an impressive year in terms of research funding. He noted that it has been an honour to serve the Board in his role as Vice-President (Research), and looks forward to continuing that relationship in his new role as Provost & Vice-President (Academic).

6.5.Board Member Reports

On behalf of the University of Lethbridge Alumni Association (ULAA), J. Elliott reported that the AGM is coming up on June 23 at 6:30pm.

L. Zink and J. Diaz reported that and both the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) and the Students' Union have been working with N. Walker and her team in order to change the terms of GSA and SU (SU) travel bursaries in order for them to be available as emergency bursaries for students during the pandemic. J. Diaz added that the SU is looking at ways to move some events, like the annual Fresh Fest, online and they are also working on finalizing the audit on their financial statements.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: opn.2020.05.09

Whitehead/Merkl

That the Board of Governors Open Session meeting of May 28, 2020

be adjourned.

Motion: Carried