



BOARD OF GOVERNORS – OPEN SESSION

Approved Minutes

Thursday, December 9, 2021
1:00 p.m., W646 & videoconference

Present: K. Schlachter (Chair), R. Casson, C. Coburn, P. Dutt, J. Elliott, D. Gallimore, K. Gunn, D. Gonci, D. Johnson, H. Kletke, H. Labuhn, M. Mahon, J. Merkl, K. Philipp, K. Reid, M. Serebryansky, J. Sheriff, C. Weaselhead, T. Whitehead

Regrets: S. Stocker, T. Legge

Other: J. Gallais, V. Grisack, M. Helstein, D. McMartin, E. Okine, N. Walker, R. Westlund, M. Whipple, A. Chubb, C. Kanashiro, S. Weinkauf, S. Roth, D. O'Donnell

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.

There was a moment of silence for former board member, Donald Young who passed away. A welcome back to those attending in person, and it was mentioned that there may be technological challenges with the masks in the room and the audio.

M. Mahon introduced Dr. D. McMartin, Vice-President (Research) who presented to the Board on "Research Excellence and Impact: Leading the Herd".

1. CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

- 1.1. Approval of the December 9, 2021 Open Agenda
- 1.2. Approval of the October 15, 2021 Open Minutes

MOTION: opn.2021.12.01

Coburn/Whitehead

That the Board of Governors approve the December 9, 2021 Consent Agenda with amendments.

Motion: Carried

The changes were Items 5.2 & 5.3 will be presented by D. Johnson. Also, the meeting is a hybrid.

2. BOARD CHAIR REMARKS

K. Schlachter reported on a busy fall so far, with much work being done on the government relations front.

3. PRESIDENT REMARKS

M. Mahon reported:

- It is nice to have a hybrid in-person meeting.
- The Shine Campaign wrapped up. Thank you to all the Board members for their support throughout the campaign. We are already in conversations for new gifts going forward.
- Giving Tuesday - we were able to buy 1000 breakfasts for students, raise more than \$12,000 for the ULSU Food Bank and Little Library Food Pantries, and collect non-perishable food items. Food security is an important broad issue for our students.
- Return to Campus – November 1st the vaccine mandate for campus started; the Alberta government issued QR code checking is required on campus for all events; practice physical distancing wherever possible. These measures have been successful so far with only a small number of cases on campus.
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion – Diversity Metre survey project will commence soon. We are using an external partner to see where we need to improve our operations. We continue consultation on Indigenous Identity. We are part of the Scarborough Charter Signing initiated by University of Toronto that focuses on BIPOC racism. Forty institutions have joined the charter.
- Ikaisskini is now open for students with a grand opening to happen in March for Indigenous Awareness Week. The space has been renovated. They can do smudging and it is located in the heart of campus. There was a large number of students in there yesterday. The students enjoy people dropping in and it is meant for everyone. A question arose on parking in the center and it was noted that it will be a challenge that needs to be addressed.

4. CHANCELLOR REPORT

C. Weaselhead reported that on a couple of highlights

- Continue to participate with Equity, Diversity and Inclusion activities – Chinook High School flag raising.
- On December 2, we hosted Indigenous chancellors for a meeting. Currently, there are five with one more coming on. The conversation centered around TRC and what are some of the important activities we have in common. Leroy Little Bear provided some history of the UofL, activities and inclusion back to the 1970's to begin the process of Indigenization. Thanks to M. Mahon for his support
- Part of other work he does outside of the UofL is part and parcel with his work inside of it. He is working with the City of Lethbridge to organize information so that there is knowledge of partners in the city for all people moving into Lethbridge.
- M. Mahon commented on a very good meeting with Kainai Health with them wanting to be more engaged in Indigenous Health programs.

5. ITEMS FOR ACTION

5.1. 2022 – 2023 Fees and Rates

MOTION: opn.2021.12.02

Gallimore/Gunn

That the Board of Governors approve the proposed fees and rates for 2022-2023, with the fees and rates for 2023-2024 to 2025-2026 approved in principle.

Motion: Carried

There was a brief discussion on the increase to student fees and what we are proposing to do to help the students with the increases. The students were thanked for their understanding and good questions in their meetings with administration.

5.2. Presidential Appointment Procedures (Revisions)
(*M. Mahon abstained from voting*)

MOTION: opn.2021.12.03

Johnson/Coburn

That the Board of Governors approve the revisions to the Presidential Appointment Procedures.

Motion: Carried

In advance of the search committee, the procedures were updated to address the upcoming Board chair change as well as to add the resource of the Executive Director of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

5.3. Position Description - President & Vice-Chancellor

MOTION: opn.2021.12.04

Johnson/Gallimore

That the Board of Governors approve the revisions to the Position Description: President & Vice-Chancellor.

Motion: Carried

Content and editorial changes were made that address the importance of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion practices in the description.

5.4. Presidential Transition Coordinating Team Guidelines

MOTION: opn.2021.12.05

Labuhn/Reid

That the Board of Governors approve the Presidential Transition Coordinating Team Guidelines, effective immediately.

Motion: Carried

This is a new document to identify the onboarding and transition for the new president.

6. REPORTS

6.1. Provost & Vice-President (Academic)

E. Okine highlighted:

- Enrolment was noted a 2.5% decrease in the spring session. Some of our international students will have difficulty getting to Lethbridge. Enrolment Services is looking at ways to support our international students who can not get here.

6.2. Advancement Reports

K. Greenwood sent her regrets. R. Westlund spoke to the report highlighting gifts from campaign and the impact of those gifts.

6.3. Vice-President (Finance & Administration)

N. Walker highlighted:

- Housing applications for next year. Students can now fill in their own pronouns and students were appreciative of that. An LGBT cohort is being announced. There was discussion on what makes up a cohort and the cancellation of Operation Red Nose.

6.4. Vice-President (Research)

D. McMartin highlighted:

- We are looking at doing more dashboard style of information going forward.
- Aug-Nov is busiest time for activity for writing Tri-Agency grants. We are sitting at roughly ten percent of faculty submitting grant applications and she would like to increase that to 25%. Clarification was asked for in regards to certain faculties far below the 10-12 % and some are higher. D. McMartin stated that it is common and year over year will start showing trends. There was discussion on how we compare to other institutions and it was commented that we are a bit low.
- Blackfoot digital library project.

6.5. Board Member Reports

M. Serebryansky introduced the Pass the Hat fundraiser for the ULSU Foodbank. As many students struggle with food insecurity at this time of year as they run out of loan money. There will be tax receipts for online donations.

H. Kletke illuminated some of the struggles of our students. Alberta students have had the highest tuition increase in the country. These increases in fees are important but there are students who have learning disabilities, food insecurity, and living in cars. What do we do when we can't help these students? Having student representation on committees related to budget is important. There was a call to action to help the broader student experience. M. Mahon thanked the SU president for her heartfelt presentation. The board recognizes that there is no question that students have had to bear the brunt on a number of fronts. We have been lobbying the government. The Pandemic has made some conversations difficult and thank you for the meaningful conversations. There was further discussion on student representation. The Board Chair encouraged the students to share their student experience with the ministers – real time experiences from the decisions the government have made.

P. Dutt had nothing to add to the report except that mental health for students has been a struggle this year. Thanks to the university for the supports that are in place but we need more support for students.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: opn.2021.12.06

Whitehead/Reid

That the Board of Governors Open Session meeting of December 9, 2021 be adjourned.

Motion: Carried