University of Lethbridge



BOARD OF GOVERNORS – OPEN SESSION Approved Minutes

Thursday, October 12, 2023 9:15 a.m., W646

Present:	D. Gallimore (Chair), N. Bach, T. Boulet, R. Casson, C. Coburn, S. Davis,
	A. Dymond, D. Gonci, K. Gunn, D. Jayas, D. Johnson (virtually), D. McKenna,
	R. Patel, K. Reid, J. Reiter, M. Thomas, N. Van Mulligen, T. Whitehead
Regrets:	B. Burton, K. Philipp
Other:	J. Gallais, K. Greenwood, V. Grisack, M. Helstein, C. Hosgood, D. McMartin,
	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 Indigenous Peoples who have helped shape and continue to strengthen our University community.

The Board Chair introduced and welcomed:

- Dr. Digvir Jayas, the new President and Vice Chancellor (July 1, 2023 as 7th President).
- Dr. Michelle Helstein, the new Provost and VP Academic.
- Dr. Chris Hosgood new Interim Deputy Provost until December 2023, and
- Board Member, Karen Gunn was acknowledged in her last meeting and given a buffalo for her six-years of service.

1. CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL

1.1. Approval of the October 12, 2023 Open Agenda 1.2. Approval of the May 30, 2023 Open Minutes

MOTION:

opn.2023.10.01

Coburn/Casson

That the Board of Governors approve the October 12, 2023 Consent Agenda.

Motion: Carried

2. BOARD CHAIR REMARKS

D. Gallimore reported:

• In regards to Board member appointments, there is a possibility K. Gunn's term will

extend three more months as we have not heard from the government regarding a replacement.

• We have invited the Minister of Advanced Education to come visit the UofL. Rajan Sawhney is coming next Tuesday, but as of yesterday, will also be attending the installation and dinner tomorrow. We're looking forward to the visit.

3. PRESIDENT REMARKS

D. Jayas highlighted from his attached report:

- The President thanked the Board for the warm welcome.
- We just heard that we have gone from 11 to 6 in the MacLean ranking. This is good news.
- The President went over a few things that he wants to focus on during his term. Building the team has started with the addition of M. Helstein as Provost & Vice-President (Academic) and they have started the process to replace the Vice-President (Finance & Administration). There has been an executive retreat as well as weekly meetings. He has been getting to know the community with visits to the different units. M. Helstein has been going with him to the different areas on campus. The President has also started to meet with the external communities. He has launched the Strategic Plan process. The board will be the first group in the consultation process and they will be able to comment during the whole process. D. Gallimore mentioned he heard that the public professor talk, where the President presented, was very successful!

4. CHANCELLOR REMARKS

T. Whitehead reported:

- He highlighted the following Let There Be Light Night tonight, Senate meeting tomorrow and Convocation on Friday.
- He attended the Suessified play last night, and
- He was honored to receive a Blackfoot name, Ksikkihkini.

5. ITEMS FOR ACTION

5.1. Mandate & Roles Document – Revised

MOTION:

opn.2023.10.02

Casson/Gunn

That the Board of Governors approve the revised University of Lethbridge Mandate and Roles document with the change to the third bullet under Subsidiaries to read "the Chair or appointed delegate of ULBC communicates to the public on behalf of the subsidiary".

Motion: Carried

There was a discussion on the accreditation wording, and it was clarified that this is part of the government's template. The mandate is also included in the Investment Management Agreement (IMA) and they need to match. The members also discussed the South Campus development and the subsidiary wording. N. Walker reported that this was directed by the

government. There was robust discussion on changing the director to the chair of the ULBC board. It was felt that this needs to be communicated to the public and stressed that it needs to be clear that it is the ULBC board chair.

5.2. Finance Committee Terms of Reference Revised

MOTION:

opn.2022.10.03

Casson/Bach

That the Board of Governors approve the revised Finance Committee Terms of Reference, effective immediately.

Motion: Carried

Most of the changes are related to the definition of financial expertise to give some more breadth. There was discussion on where delegation of authorities are contained and it was noted that the Terms of Reference clarify items regarding the committee recommending versus approving items and that university policies, which are Board approved, also contain details regarding approval items. A further discussion on this will occur in the Closed Session; however, these changes were approved.

6. **REPORTS**

6.1. Provost & Vice-President (Academic)

A discussion occurred on the movement of the testing centre and how the anticipated reduction in budget by 50,000 a year will be achieved by moving the centre. It was noted the testing centre rooms were actually several rooms and they had to hire proctors to run each one. The new centre is in one place and so removes the need for as many proctors. There was a robust discussion on the lockers available for students to store their gear – it was clarified the intent is to not charge the students the free cubicles are replaced with tokens that are available at the front and there is a workaround that the students supported until they get the new lockers.

Enrolment numbers were briefly discussed, noting international students and support, Navitas not being in operating yet, high percentages in certain countries being monitored as they could be a risk if there are geo-political problems, a 9% increase in new high school students, domestic numbers are still down but we are making progress. There was also discussion on how we can increase our indigenous students followed by a conversation on graduate enrolment. It was reported that we are bringing more graduate certificates online than we had before, and we need to support more thesis-based programs.

6.2. External Relations, Communications, Marketing & Govt. Relations

K. Greenwood highlighted a few items in that the Day of Giving is November 28, and the Faculty of Fine Arts is currently planning on coming back with Abbondanza in January. There was a question regarding the Shad program which some had not heard of. R. Westlund reported that the Shad program is a program that takes students from across Canada to get exposure with STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).

It is a great opportunity to allow us more brand recognition. D. Jayas noted that it gets the student excited and is a part of the recruitment of high-quality grad students. He has experience with this at the University of Manitoba.

R. Westlund did not have anything further to add to the report.

6.3. Vice-President (Finance & Administration)

N. Walker let the report stand as is. There was a question on a banner upgrade. It was reported that there were upgrades and now it is cloud based, and that they are switching from banner in advancement. It was noted that there will be major upgrades if we either stay in banner or go to something new.

6.4. Vice-President (Research)

D. McMartin stated that there are lots of good things happening in research. A question arose on how we compare to prior years and it was noted that we are seeing more engagement in areas where we were struggling before. There are some areas on campus where we need to do a better job in trying to listen and engage with what they need but we are getting better at that. There was a discussion on when we lose a faculty member, does the funding go with the professor or stay at the university. This is not an easy answer as many times they retain an adjunct faculty position. They can chose if they want to leave the money here especially if they are still going to have students. There was a brief discussion on if the student would follow the faculty member. It was noted that it depends on the mobility of the students and it depends on where they are in their program. The professor has made a commitment to the student so there would also have a co-supervisor on this campus.

- 6.5. Board member reports There were no other reports.
- 7. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

opn.2023.10.04

Thomas/Coburn

That the Board of Governors Open Session meeting of October 12, 2023 be adjourned.

Motion: Carried