



BOARD OF GOVERNORS – OPEN SESSION

Approved Minutes

Thursday, April 11, 2024

1:00 p.m., W646

- Present:** D. Gallimore (Chair), T. Boulet, B. Burton, R. Casson, B. Chapman (virtually), C. Coburn, S. Davis, A. Dymond, T. Fox, D. Gonci, D. Jayas, D. Johnson (virtually), M. Lockett (virtually), D. McKenna, R. Patel, K. Reid, J. Reiter, M. Thomas, N. Van Mulligen, T. Whitehead\
- Regrets:** K. Philipp
- Other:** G. DeSteur, J. Gallais, K. Greenwood, V. Grisack, M. Helstein, D. McMartin, N. Walker, R. Westlund, M. Whipple, J. Lemieux (UofA), B. Furgeson, M. Sawa

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.

PRESENTATION – Jarislowsky Network of Chairs in Trust and Political Leadership

M. Helstein introduce the Presentation by Dr. Susan Dieleman, Jarislowsky Network of Chairs in Trust and Political Leadership. Dr. Dieleman presented on her research and what exciting things are coming to the University this summer followed by a short question and answer period.

A moment of silence was observed for the following: Dr. Lena Heavy Shields Russell, a Blackfoot elder and Bruce Thurber, the husband of Sherry Davis.

D. Gallimore thanked R. Patel for his work on the Board as this was his last meeting. He was presented with a certificate.

1. CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL

- 1.1. Approval of the April 11, 2024 Open Agenda
- 1.2. Approval of the February 15, 2024 Open Minutes

MOTION: opn.2024.04.01
Coburn/Casson

*That the Board of Governors approve the April 11, 2024
Consent Agenda with editorial changes to the minutes.*

Motion: Carried

2. BOARD CHAIR REMARKS

D. Gallimore reported:

- He attended the budget announcement and was able to spend time with the Minister of Advanced Education.
- He attended Board of Governors orientation earlier this week with new members and upcoming new ULSU students being present.
- Since the last meeting he attended – Blue and Gold dinner, and Meeting of the Minds GSA conference.

3. PRESIDENT REMARKS

D. Jayas highlighted from his attached report:

- Went to Medicine Hat for an alumni event and was able to also meet with the premier sharing with her how wonderful the University of Lethbridge is and that the majority of students come from outside of Lethbridge. A water research proposal is being worked on for submission to the government.
- Bill 18 was introduced as well as Bill 13 and both may have impact on the University. Bill 13 is the property act and affects sales of property except those that have received prior ministerial approval. Bill 18 was introduced yesterday and requires that entities including universities entering into agreements with federal entities will have to get approval from the provincial government. It affects our Tri-agencies grants, CFI, Canada grants etc. There will be consultation in the summer and will increase the red tape which the government was trying to reduce. It will increase a need for staffing to administer this program.

GFC feedback on the multi-sport dome proposal. The President gave an update in the open session. There was a discussion held on Monday, April 8 and he is giving the feedback during this session in the interest of transparency. There was a motion that GFC support the building of the dome which was defeated. The President is suggesting that the board delay the decision on this item until the May 2024 meeting to allow for more discussion and consultation. While there was also some support for the project, the lack of student voices was concerning. D. Jayas reported on the various concerns that were raised in the GFC meeting as well as the positives. It was acknowledged that delaying the decision by one month will not change the position of many at GFC, but administration did get some additional clarity from GFC on a few points of concern that they felt they can and should address in the coming month, should the Board choose to delay the vote until May.

4. CHANCELLOR REMARKS

T. Whitehead reported:

- Thanked everyone who participated in the push up challenge last meeting – great news in that a couple thousand dollars was raised.
- He highlighted an upcoming exhibition at CASA called Trajectories from our students and one faculty member.

5. ITEMS FOR ACTION

5.1. 2024-25 Budget

MOTION: opn.2024.04.02
Gonci/Reid

That the Board of Governors approves the 2024/25 budget and approves in principle the 2025/26 and 2026/27 budgets.

Motion: Carried

D. Gonci introduced the budget which is quite complex. He thanked N. Walker, C. Kanashiro and their team for their hard work. Background was given on the last few years including eliminating ten percent of the university's employees and a twenty four percent cut in our operating grant. N. Walker noted that we cannot do a deficit budget because it is legislated to be balanced. There has never been an approval of a deficit budget unless there was money somewhere to cover it. C. Kanashiro gave an overview of the budget process. The budget values of people/quality/access are front of mind when they are working on the budget. The last time that the operating grant at this level was 2009-10. The percentage of revenue in operating grant is decreasing and tuition percentage is increasing. There was no reduction in the last two years but in reality, it is still a cut because of inflationary impacts. An overview of the opportunities and risks that have the most budgetary impacts was given such as enrolment/Calgary campus/revenue generation/rural medicine program/enterprise systems project/non-bargaining units compensation costs/one time funding. There is some good news in that with the increase in enrolment and resignations/retirements, we have been able to reinvest in our people/staffing. N. Walker reported that resignations and retirements may not be filled on a one-to-one position. Following the presentation, there was a discussion on international numbers and government permit approvals. It was reported that the current number of our cap is 2687 PALS. The impact would come from the delay of the government in processing the visas. Navitas has a separate allocation, but we do not know what that is yet. Increases in salaries and reinvestment in positions as well as employee burnout and discontent were further discussed as a risk factor. The members commented on advocacy by faculty and students across the province. It was noted that this a societal issue and we cannot continue on the good graces of the employees to fill the gaps. The students try to position their asks in line with the university needs. The board was asked to do whatever the members are able to advocate for the University. We are thankful for things like the rural medicine funding but on the other hand, inflation is taking a toll. We need help getting the message across to the government. This led to some question regarding the rural medicine program and the funding. It was noted that we are not the first institution to do this type of partnership and can use the experience of others in our partnership.

5.2. Campus Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan 2024 - 2030

MOTION: opn.2024.04.03
Reid/Reiter

That the Board of Governors approve the Campus Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2030.

Motion: Carried

K. Reid gave an overview of the process. D. Jayas noted that GFC had no further comments on this current document. A question occurred on potential collaborations such as with Lethbridge College. We have received a regulatory study where it was noted that we cannot do a wind project, but we can do a massive solar project – possibly rooftop solar and we are aware that others are looking at a similar project. Water conservation and drought was brought up. The Vice-President (Research) reported that we are looking at immediate plans for drought and not long term at this time. We are working on drought tolerant landscaping, and other water saving methods like less sensitive sensor settings on flushing toilets. D. McMartin is hoping to launch the plan for Earth Day!

5.3. Board of Governors Bylaws (revised)

MOTION: opn.2024.04.04
Casson/Dymond

That the Board of Governors approve the revised Board of Governors Bylaws, effective immediately.

Motion: Carried (2/3 approval)

J. Gallais gave a quick overview. The bylaws are reviewed every three years. The change here is to allow the Chair to be able to vote to make a difference. A question regarding clarification on the chair voting in a tie and then also voting in a secret ballot. The chair suggested that the governance committee revisit the bylaws to make sure that the two sections are the same. There was a short discussion on the number of board members that could be on the board. The government has recently made a change in this area to allow for more.

5.4. Adjunct Professor Guidelines

MOTION: opn.2024.04.05
Reid/Coburn

That the Board of Governors approve the Adjunct Professor Guidelines, effective July 1, 2024.

Motion: Carried

D. Jayas reported that decisions regarding adjunct assignments were made in each faculty/school, so our process was not consistent. This is being addressed in these guidelines.

6. REPORTS

6.1. Provost & Vice-President (Academic)

M. Helstein let the report stand. A question arose on summer enrolment and it was reported that it is strong but we are making sure that we have a good set of offerings to students in various formats – online/hybrid/etc.

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

K. Greenwood stated that the report stands but highlighted the Public Professor talk from

Robert Sutherland that was very successful with almost 500 people attending, and we are looking to expand this program. Alumni are excited for us to do a road show with the professors. The Donor Gala is on April 21st and will focus on student success and research. The collaboration with Analog Books was mentioned as well as kudos to M. Mathurin-Moe and the EDI team for a very successful inaugural International Women’s Day conference.

R. Westlund encouraged board members to look at the links in his report. He added context to the rural medicine program. Key external stakeholders and many political representatives came to the announcement.

6.3. Vice-President (Finance & Administration)

N. Walker let the report stand and highlighted that the student loan repayment rate is very good.

6.4. Vice-President (Research)

D. McMartin stated the report stands. We are working on research partnerships and disclosure processes around students as well as the vetting we are required to do. It affects all groups across campus and not just those in the research area.

6.5. Board Member Reports

There were no other reports.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: opn.2024.04.06

Coburn/Gonci

That the Board of Governors Open Session meeting of April 11, 2024 be adjourned.

Motion: Carried