



## BOARD OF GOVERNORS – OPEN SESSION

### Approved Minutes

Tuesday, May 28, 2024

1:00 p.m., W646

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

*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 Chair welcomed the new board members; Y. Dixit, the new ULSU representative; R. Schiff, the new Deputy Provost as well as the returning members, M. Thomas and J. Reiter. C. Coburn, D. McKenna, K. Reid and K. Philipp were recognized at their last meeting from 2-6 years of service.*

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#### 1. CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

- 1.1. Approval of the May 28, 2024 Open Agenda
- 1.2. Approval of the April 11, 2024 Open Minutes

MOTION: opn.2024.05.01

Coburn/Casson

*That the Board of Governors approve the May 28, 2024  
Consent Agenda.*

Motion: Carried

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#### 2. BOARD CHAIR REMARKS

D. Gallimore reported that it has been busy.:

- He attended the Canadian University Board Association (CUBA) Conference in

Ontario. It was good to meet colleagues at other universities.

- He attended many other events including the medical partnership signing ceremony and the donor gala. At the gala, it was a great feature about the Burtons, who are all alumni of the university, and have created an endowment. Colleagues of the Burtons, at the Associate Clinic in Pincher Creek, have also now set up an endowment to accompany it. Thanks to them all.
- He also met with the Premier and the Minister of Advanced Education in Calgary.

### 3. **PRESIDENT REMARKS**

D. Jayas highlighted from his attached report:

- Bill 18 – as contained in the enclosed agenda is the GFC approved motion that was provided to the Minister, Premier and now provided to the Board. It was felt that this Bill would have a significant impact on the researchers and recruitment having to get government approval for all of the above.
- On a personal note, as this is the last Board meeting of his first year the president took this opportunity to thank the Board and community (see appendix 1).

### 4. **CHANCELLOR REMARKS**

T. Whitehead reported:

- Highlighted the donor gala as it was well done so thanks were given to K. Greenwood and her team. T. Whitehead encouraged members to come to Convocation this week as well as the Chancellor's Dinner.

### 5. **ITEMS FOR ACTION**

#### 5.1. 2023-2024 Annual Report

MOTION: opn.2024.05.02

Philipp/Reid

*That the Board of Governors approves the 2023-2024 Annual Report.*

Motion: Carried

The annual report is done every year as per government regulations. K. Philipp referenced the metrics that are contained in the report that we are to celebrate and be proud of. R. Westlund and his team prepared the document and commented that we are awaiting direction from the ministry regarding the free speech section as it is new and we don't know yet what they want included. The Executive Committee will look at this when the government gives us the direction. It will only come back to the board if it is controversial. There was discussion on loan repayments where it was noted that we are in the highest bracket and there are no concerns. Also discussed was the monetary effect on the community and how economic impact is calculated.

#### 5.2. 2023-2024 Year End Financial Statements

MOTION: opn.2024.05.03

Philipp/Davis

*That the Board of Governors approves the 2023-2024 Financial Statements.*

Motion: Carried

The smoothness of the year end process was highlighted. Surplus from some unfilled positions, endowment returns, restricted funds and non-cash items were noted. The financial situation is stable.

N. Walker gave a presentation on the financial statements. She thanked C. Kanashiro and A. Pavlova who are here to answer questions. There is an unqualified audit opinion and no recommendations from the OAG. Endowments are permanent funds that we cannot spend. Internally restricted are funds that are one time money to start or supplement projects. We have revenue of \$221 million which is made up of government grants, fees and sales of services and products, as well as donations. The university only has control over approximately 38% of the total revenue. Statement of operations are consolidated which contain all revenue sources. For our expenditures, we only have control over 21% of total expenses. The statement of operations is 48% from the government of Alberta grant and 30% comes from student fees. We need to get alternative sources of revenue to have more control over our revenue. The following topics were briefly discussed – provincial versus federal grant funding, Bill 18 and better ways to clarify the actual surplus amount. N. Walker noted that we have looked at ways to report surpluses, but we need to follow accounting standards. There is a budget brief to help understand the surplus. M. Helstein reported that we want to add a few more faculty members to the Budget Advisory Committee to help more people understand the message. D. Gallimore thanked D. Gonci in absentia for his efforts in communicating with the auditors.

### 5.3. Progress and Achievement Report 2023-2024 UofL Strategic Plan

MOTION: opn.2024.05.04

Casson/Whitehead

*That the Board of Governors endorse the attached Progress and Achievement Report 2023-2024, UofL Strategic Plan.*

Motion: Carried

The background and rationale were included in materials, and there were no questions or comments.

### 5.4. Position Description: Committee Chairs (revised)

MOTION: opn.2024.05.05

*That the Board of Governors approve the revised Position  
Description: Committee Chair, effective immediately.*

Motion: Carried

There were no comments or questions.

#### 5.5. Asset Management Policy (revised)

MOTION: opn.2024.05.06

Philipp/Lockett

*That the Board of Governors approve the Asset Management Policy,  
effective immediately.*

Motion: Carried

Revision were necessitated by changes in industry standards and we needed to accommodate eBooks as these are now considered an intangible asset. Roads and parking lots were discussed as being included as assets.

#### 5.6. Board Vice-Chair Appointment 2024-2025

MOTION: opn.2024.05.07

Reid/Whitehead

*That the Board of Governors approve the appointment of Rick Casson  
as Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors, effective September 1, 2024  
and ending on August 31, 2025.*

Motion: Carried

#### 5.7. Board Committee Appointments 2024-2025

MOTION: opn.2024.05.08

Reid/Philipp

*That the Board of Governors approve the undesignated committee  
membership as follows for the 2024-2025 year commencing  
September 1, 2024 and ending on August 31, 2025:*

*Advancement Committee: Terry Whitehead (Chair), Toby Boulet, Rick  
Casson, Anne Dymond, Roland Labuhn, Duane Piper*

*Audit Committee: Darcy Gonci (Chair), Sherry Davis, David Westwood (external), Bradley Hamilton (external)*

*Executive Committee: Sherry Davis, Terri-Lynn Fox*

*Finance Committee: Kelly Philipp (Chair), David Johnson, Yash Dixit, Michael Kawchuk (external),*

*Governance Committee: Nikki van Mulligen (Chair), David Johnson, Monica Lockett, Anne Dymond, Maleeka Thomas, Jaxon Reiter, Bill Chapman*

*Human Resources and Compensation: Bev Burton, Nikki van Mulligen, Toby Boulet*

Motion: Carried

The motion was amended to include some members that were missed from the motion.

## **6. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

### **6.1. GSA Audited Financial Statements & ULSU Update**

K. Philip updated the committee that the ULSU financial statements were just received and will be circulated when they are ratified. No questions arose on the GSA audited financial statements.

## **7. REPORTS**

### **7.1. Provost & Vice-President (Academic)**

M. Helstein let the report stand.

### **7.2. External Relations, Communications, Marketing & Govt. Relations**

K. Greenwood stated that the report stands.

R. Westlund highlighted the hyperlinks and encouraged the members to look at the quality of work being done at the university.

### **7.3. Vice-President (Finance & Administration)**

N. Walker let the report stand.

### **7.4. Vice-President (Research)**

D. McMartin sent her regrets.

### **6.5. Board Member Reports**

M. Thomas gave an update on the ULSU advocacy based on conversations at the last board meeting. Regarding the feed a friend levy, they will receive \$40000 which will allow them to increase the gift cards to \$80 per student and they also hope to expand this to the Calgary campus. They want to start a breakfast program and have advocated for more youth mental health funding, student financial aid and loan forgiveness. They have also advocated on behalf of the graduate students with regards to scholarships and

funding. Council is preparing for Pride month activities with Q-Space and the EDI office. Strategic planning process has started and they hope to have it ready by April 2025. They want to do more at the Calgary campus and have increased their financial support for that campus. With the increase in enrolment there, they are looking at getting another representative. Members discussed the extended medical and dental benefits as well as the number of Indigenous students asking for assistance. M. Thomas noted that they are in talks with Iikaisskini to see how they can further support students.

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: opn.2024.05.09

Reiter/Thomas

*That the Board of Governors Open Session meeting of May 28, 2024 be adjourned.*

Motion: Carried

## Appendix 1

### **President & Vice-Chancellor – First Year Thanks!**

On a personal note, this is the last board meeting of my first year at the University of Lethbridge. I want to thank the board members and Board Chair Dean Gallimore in particular, for having confidence in me and trusting me with the responsibility to lead the University of Lethbridge. As the saying goes, time goes fast when you are having fun. It is almost a year, and it feels like yesterday. I have enjoyed coming to work every day.

I am deeply honoured and humbled to have been accepted by the Blackfoot community by giving me a Blackfoot name *Ikkajiinnii* (fast buffalo).

I am very proud of the President's Executive team and greatly appreciate how they have supported me throughout the year. We discuss items openly and respectfully and come to consensus decisions quickly in the best interest of the University. I could not have asked for a better team. Thank you Michelle, Nancy, Dena, Kathy, Richard, Jodie and Mike for being such a great team.

The Executive team is supported on a day-to-day basis by a superb support staff team. They ensure we are fully prepared for our meetings and are at the right place at the right time. Thank you sincerely, Lisa, Alison, Vicki, Linda, Gage, and Kari for all your support.

Finally, I am grateful to all academic and non-academic staff, undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Lethbridge, Blackfoot community leaders, and Lethbridge community members for their very warm welcome. From day one, you have made me feel part of the community.

I look forward to working with all of you as we endeavour to plan and build an exciting future for the University of Lethbridge, and celebrate its contributions to the social, cultural, and economic well-being of Lethbridge, southern Alberta, Canada, and the globe.