

Seamus O'Shea reported briefly on his communications with Mr. Prentice that culminated in the donation.

The Prentice's have subsequently donated an additional \$250,000. Bill Cade noted that the University has made a commitment to carry forward the goals and vision of the Prentice family. In time, the Board will be called to appoint members to the advisory board. It will be operated in accordance with laws and the Faculty Handbook.

It was agreed that a thank you would be sent to the Prentice's on behalf of the Board of Governors to acknowledge their generous gift. A letter was prepared and circulated at the meeting for Board members' signatures.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

3.1 Student Death

The President reported the sad news that a University of Lethbridge student died over the weekend in a single vehicle accident.

3.2 Awards

A number of awards have been received by members of the University of Lethbridge community recently. Diana Young was recognized with a Distinguished Service award from the Canadian Association for Cooperative Education. Nancy Walker and Don MacDonald have been commended for their service to the Canadian Association of University Business Officers (CAUBO).

3.3 Séamus O'Shea

Séamus O'Shea will leave the office of Vice-President (Academic) and Provost in June 2007. The Search committee, which includes four Board members, has interviewed four candidates and short-listed to two. The two finalist candidates will make public presentations in January as well as additional interviews with various constituent groups and direct reports. The names of the two finalists will be announced early in the New Year. Following those interviews, input will be solicited from the University community. The committee will then meet to consider all input and what they have learned through the interviews and make a recommendation to the Board late January. In order that the candidates can be informed of the committee recommendation and Board decision as soon as possible, Bill Cade recommended that the Executive committee act on behalf of the Board. The President assured the Board that the search process is thorough and rigorous.

4. ITEMS FOR ACTION

4.1 Annual Report 2005-06

MOTION: opn.2006.12.02

Cade/Fuller

That the Board of Governors approve the 2005-06 Annual Report to Alberta Advanced Education, for the year ended March 31, 2006.

Motion: Carried

Nancy Walker reported that the Annual Report is required by Government. She invited Board members to provide their comments on the document to her prior to it being submitted.

4.2 Proposed Fees and Rates 2007-08

MOTION: opn.2006.12.03

Keith/DeBow

That the Board of Governors approve the 2007-08 Proposed Fees and Rates.

Motion: Carried

Karen Clearwater gave a presentation which is filed with these minutes.

5. VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC) REPORT

Séamus O'Shea remarked that the disruption to classes caused by the construction in the Physical Education building has contributed to a very difficult semester. For the most part, the noise, dust and odours have been met with stoicism. The fixed price contract for the renovation has proved to be a benefit as far as cost containment, but resulted in little incentive for the contractors to complete the project quickly.

Séamus O'Shea noted that they are already gearing up to recruit students and faculty for next year.

Séamus O'Shea reported there will not be the same scale of disruption next semester, but the temporary classroom in the Library has not been dismantled.

6. VICE-PRESIDENT (FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION) REPORT

6.1 On-Campus Day Care Update

This item was discussed at the beginning of the meeting in consideration of the observers in attendance. Nancy Walker reported that The University of Lethbridge has been talking about and trying to find a way to have on-campus day care for several years. Information about the reviews and surveys can be found on the University's web page. Nancy noted that the Administration recognizes that there is a demand for day care on campus. Some questions that remain unanswered are who will pay, and how does a day care project fit with the University's core function teaching and research capital priorities. The University of Lethbridge has the lowest space per student for any institution in Alberta and there is a great need for faculty offices and research space. There is currently \$51 million in capital projects underway at some stage, none of which have government funding. Nancy Walker reported that meetings will be held with the students, faculty and staff to develop a proposal that is acceptable and sustainable. In order to responsibly run such a facility, the institution requires commitments for funding as well as the commitment from a provider deemed able to operate the facility for a minimum of five years.

Concern was raised regarding the possible impact on faculty recruitment due to the lack of an on-campus day care. Nancy Walker assured the Board that The University of Lethbridge has not had anyone turn down an appointment for lack of a day care. Faculty prospects have been lost due to the inability to provide adequate office and research space. Nancy Walker added that McGill University has 106 spaces for 40,000 people, which has meant a two-year waiting list. The University of Calgary has 80 spaces for 25,000-30,000 people, with a waiting list of 500, which is an 18-36 month time lag. The University of Lethbridge would have a similar situation since all who would want to make use of an on-campus day care will not be able to be accommodated. Nancy Walker remarked that it would be nice to have an on-campus day care, and the administration would like to work with the students, faculty, and staff. A financial commitment from these groups is necessary to make the project a possibility.

The Board Chair invited a spokesperson from the observers to address the Board. Charlotte Kingston, Students' Union Vice-President Academic, remarked that there is a need for an on-campus day care. She indicated it is unprofessional not to provide equitable access through what she felt was an essential service. Charlotte Kingston stated that the Students Union and Graduate Students Association are willing to negotiate a way to bring this forward, including a referendum.

Members of the Board were invited to provide their input on the matter. A Board member indicated he did not feel there is the same pressure at the U of L as at other institutions and that the expected waiting list of 500 is not accurate. Nancy Walker reported that the number is based on survey results which showed a demand of about 500 spaces from respondents who have children now or expect to have children in five years.

In response to an inquiry about the costs remaining on current capital projects, Nancy Walker provided the following:

Centre for Sport and Wellness - \$31 million project that currently has no commitment for government funding. Other sources of funds have been identified, including student contributions.

Turcotte Hall requires \$11 million.

The Water Research Building, phase I requires \$21 million, \$12.5 million of which has been received.

The intent would be that all users of a day care would be assessed the same fee and there would be no differential fee for students or employees.

Nancy Waker reiterated that administration is willing to meet with students, faculty and staff on this matter.

Bill Cade thanked the Board of Governors for the opportunity to discuss this important issue. He noted that the administration has kept its commitment to follow through on the report, and thanked the observers who attended the Board meeting. Bill Cade added that it would be great to have day care on campus, but he is very aware of the issues of unfunded liabilities, and to put day care ahead of additional offices and labs for faculty would be financially irresponsible. He has recently learned that the students would be more than willing to support a referendum on day care. This may be a start towards a solution to funding a day care centre outside of University operating money. One option, as far as faculty and staff, would be to negotiate this as a benefit for employees. Bill Cade further reported that while several letters and petitions have been received in support of on-campus day care, there have also been letters speaking against this as a priority. Some have expressed opposition to using tuition and government grants to fund day care. Bill Cade stressed that the issue has been taken seriously and analytically. He added that he found some of the tactics used by those in support of day care to be distasteful. In 1989 14 women were murdered in Montreal and since that time December 6 has been established as a solemn day of remembrance. This past December 6 there was a solemn vigil held at City Hall. A City official reported to the President that this solemn occasion was turned into a day care rally by a member of the Day Care Action Committee.

Robert Turner invited a person from the group to come forward. Lorelee Edwards explained that she started the Day Care Action Committee when she was Students' Union President and she is now President of the Graduate Students Association. She reported that she was not involved with the December 6 event. She remarked that this is an important issue and that a day care needs to happen. She commented that she would have liked to have seen some commitment from the Board of Governors today, adding that talks have gone on for two years, and it would be appreciated if there could be a motion to move the day care closer to being realized. She pledged that she will continue to press for on-campus day care at future University events.

7. VICE-PRESIDENT (ADVANCEMENT) REPORT

Chris Horbachewski reported he will be "arrested" January 17 in support of the Canadian Cancer Society annual "Jail and Bail" fundraiser. He asked for Board members support.

8. CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

8.1 Prentice Donation

On behalf of Senate, Shirley DeBow expressed appreciation to the Prentice family, and congratulated the University for being the kind of place Mr. Prentice wanted to contribute to.

8.2 Kendra Armstrong

Shirley DeBow announced that Kendra Armstrong, Administrative Support to the President's Office will be leaving the University.

MOTION: opn.2006.12.04

DeBow/McNab

That the Board of Governors express their deep appreciation to Kendra Armstrong for her exceptional service to the University and the Board of Governors and extend very best wishes.

Motion: Carried

Robert Turner thanked Kendra for her service and presented her with a gift on behalf of the Board.

9. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Dustin Fuller, Students' Union President, reported that both last year and this year he did a survey for Hadi Kharaghani, Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science to find out student views on PE250. The survey results revealed that students have no problem with the large classroom.

Dustin Fuller also reported that the Students' Union Management Liaison committee has met and a report will come forward to the Board in the future.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: opn.2006.12.05

Pisko/McNab

That the Open Session of the December 21, 2006 meeting of the Board of Governors be adjourned.

Motion: Carried