

MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
OPEN SESSION HELD THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2008
IN THE BOARDROOM (W646)

Present: Robert Turner (Chair), Bill Cade, Richard Davidson, Sheila McHugh, Kevin Nugent, Leah Fowler, Claudia Malacrida, Grant Pisko (by telephone), Jeremy Girard, Adam Vossepoel, Shannon Digweed, Kim Kultgen, Jeremiah Merkl, Guy McNab, Myles Bourke, Karen Bartsch, Dean Setoguchi, Gordon Jong, Doug McArthur, Susan Lea (by phone), Art Bonertz
Rita Law (Secretary)

Others: Nancy Walker, Vice-President (Finance & Administration)
Andrew Hakin, Vice-President (Academic) & Provost
Chris Horbachewski, Vice-President (Advancement)
Karen Clearwater, Assoc. Vice-President (Financial Planning)
Gloria Roth, recording secretary

1. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1.1 Approval of the December 18, 2008 Open Session Agenda**
- 1.2 Approval of the November 13, 2008 Open Session Minutes**

MOTION: opn.2008.12.01

McNab/McArthur

That the Consent Agenda for the December 18, 2008 Open Session be approved.

Motion: Carried

2. BOARD CHAIR REMARKS

2.1 Annual Board Photo

Robert Turner reminded Board Members of the Annual Board Photo to be taken today at 3:00 pm.

2.2 Board Dinner

Chair Turner thanked Bill and Elsa Cade for inviting the Board to their home this evening for the annual Board Christmas dinner.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

3.1 Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

President Cade took this opportunity to wish the Board Members and their families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

3.2 Exams Cancellation

Bill Cade reported that all exams were cancelled on Saturday, December 13 due to a severe weather warning. The exams were rescheduled to Wednesday, December 17.

3.3 Strategic Plan

President Cade congratulated the Strategic Planning committee co-chairs, Andrew Hakin and Nancy Walker, as well as Board member Gordon Jong, who was on the Strategic Planning committee, for the successful development of a renewed Strategic Plan.

4. ITEMS FOR ACTION

4.1 Annual Report to AET 2007-08

MOTION: opn.2008.12.02

Jong/McNab

That the Board of Governors approves the 2007-2008 Annual Report.

Motion: Carried

4.2 Capital Plan 2009-2018

MOTION: opn.2008.12.03

Jong/Bonertz

That the Board of Governors approves the 2009-2018 Capital Plan.

Motion: Carried

Nancy Walker noted that the Alberta Government does not require the annual submission of a Capital Plan, but the University submits one annually as a way of keeping government informed of the University's capital priorities. Nancy pointed out that the Science Building is now on the top of the University of Lethbridge capital priorities list. The University has hired a consultant who is working on a submission to government for planning funds. Nancy Walker was pleased to highlight that Markin Hall has moved to the "projects in progress list". A Board member noted that all capital plans are subject to escalation in pricing, although the rate of escalation may be slightly diminished in the near future. Attention was also drawn to page 69 of the agenda materials which shows how much the University of Lethbridge and other sources have contributed to capital funding in relation to the Government portion.

4.3 Fees and Rates 2009-2010

MOTION: opn.2008.12.04

Jong/McHugh

That the Board of Governors approves the proposed fees and rates for 2009-2010. Further, that the Board of Governors approves, in principle, the proposed fees and rates for 2010-2011, 2011-2012 and 2012-2013.

Motion: Carried

Karen Clearwater gave a PowerPoint presentation on the fees that have been increased and the budget ramifications. The presentation document is filed with these minutes. She explained the process used to determine fee increases including the required review by the Student Fee Committee. She also updated the Board on budget assumptions and the budgeting process. The Alberta Government requires that the University provide a four-year plan of fees and rates but the Board was asked to approve only the first year and approve, in principle, the subsequent three years. It was pointed out that fees are the only source of revenue for the Ancillary departments, which must be self sustaining. Karen Clearwater reported that there are no new fees this year.

It was explained that the University locked in utility rates but that contract ends next year and the University is budgeting for significant increases in utility costs in the next few years. A Board member suggested that the University inquire about joining the municipalities group to see if there is a rate advantage.

In compliance with the tuition fee regulation, which allows tuition to be increased by the percentage annual change in the Alberta Consumer Price Index (CPI), the 2008-09 tuition increase will be the maximum allowable, 4.1%. The government provides the formula and the CPI rate and a compliance report is required. Fees generate 26% of operating revenue. Foreign students pay 126% of fees assessed domestic students. In response to a question about class size, it was explained that although some larger classes have been built in the last few years, steps are taken to try to keep the first year classes smaller. This is a concern that is regularly monitored. It was further explained that the student/faculty ratio at the U of L ranks eighth of twenty-one institutions. Large classes at the U of L generally have breakout sessions and tutorials to support those large classes and this is not reflected in most surveys.

There was an inquiry if slightly lower international tuition, when compared to other institutions, helps to increase enrolment. It was explained that for many international students, there is the perception that higher the cost the better the education but this is balanced with the goal of remaining accessible. The U of L

has a target of 7% of the student body being international. The University is now in a declining position as far as international student enrolment so there is reluctance to increase fees. Andrew Hakin added that the University tries to balance the fees and services for international students. The University has backed away from using recruiting agents, particularly in China, since the fee to the students for that service cannot be controlled. Not using agents has impacted recruitment but Dr. Hakin expressed the view it was the ethical thing to do.

4.4 Strategic Plan 2009-2013

MOTION: opn.2008.12.05

Jong/Girard

That the Board of Governors approves the 2009-2013 Strategic Plan.

Motion: Carried

Gordon Jong congratulated Andrew Hakin and Nancy Walker for the tremendous time commitment and leadership as co-chairs of the Strategic Planning committee. Andrew Hakin remarked that a success of a strategic plan can be measured by the support from the community and it was the U of L community that gave the framework to move forward with the strategic plan. The plan required a lot of communication and input, which was a valuable process. The goal was to develop a plan that could be used as a framework to move the Institution forward as a comprehensive university. A February 12 launch is being planned. Andrew Hakin expressed his thanks to everyone involved and noted that there is an ongoing committee to move the plan forward to ensure the Institution is holding true to the principles in the document.

Nancy Walker thanked the Board for their support and input at the June Board Retreat. Chris Horbachewski informed the Board a website and email will be set up to educate the campus community about the five major directions identified in the plan.

Chair Turner added that he hoped that the Board feels that the work was worthwhile. The Strategic Plan has been well thought out and that the Board's role was very valuable in setting the tone and propelling the plan forward. The importance of the Board keeping the Strategic Plan in mind as a framework for decision making was recognized. Adam Vossepoel added that the students are very excited about the Strategic Plan and enjoyed the participation in the process.

It was suggested that a visualization chart be developed of the five key goals as a tool to remind the Board of the goals.

5. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

5.1 Community Use – 1st Choice Savings Centre for Sport & Wellness

Nancy Walker drew attention to the report that shows 43% of the users of the 1st Choice Savings Centre for Sport and Wellness are from the community. The report will be provided to the City of Lethbridge, who provided \$5.2 million for the \$31 million facility.

5.2 Institutional Access Plan 2008

A revised version of the Institutional Access Plan was distributed and is filed with these minutes. Andrew Hakin remarked that this is a new requirement of the Government of Alberta there was consultation with the faculties, the library, etc. to develop the plan and it has been reviewed and approved by Deans' Council. It was felt that this is a strong document that supports the comprehensive nature of the University. This is a public document.

6. VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)

Andrew Hakin referred to the written report included in the agenda package. He added that there has been quite a lot of interest in the Dean of Education position and that search is going well. \$1.3 million has been confirmed from Government for the music technology program, of which \$700,000 is for space with the remainder being allocated for studio and office equipment. The program will be launched once continuing funding is confirmed.

Bill Cade mentioned an anomaly in the MACLEANS ranking as it relates to scholarships. In Alberta, provincial scholarship money goes directly to the student and is not funnelled through the institution so is not reflected in the financial statements as a percentage of operating budget allocated to scholarships. It was pointed out that there is nothing in those ratings that is not included in the University's accountability report on the web page. It was felt that a small percentage of students rely on the reputational survey to make their post-secondary decision, although some parents may refer to it. Most rely on the institution's web site and campus tours.

7. VICE-PRESIDENT (FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION)

Nancy Walker referred to the written report adding that she enjoyed participating in the Fort MacLeod Santa Claus Parade with the Women's Championship Pronghorn Rugby Team.

8. VICE-PRESIDENT (RESEARCH)

Dennis Fitzpatrick was unable to attend today as he was meeting with individuals from Saskatchewan about a protection mechanism for pulses.

9. VICE-PRESIDENT (ADVANCEMENT)

Chris Horbachewski's report was received as information. He added that Eric Heillinger, a Trudeau Fellow with the Trudeau Foundation, was on campus and gave a lecture to approximately 120 people on the current state of the economy.

10. CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

The Chancellor's report was received as information. Chancellor Davidson noted that the December 13 Senate meeting was cancelled due to the severe weather warning. Senate is currently seeking nominations for the Senate Volunteer Award. Nominations are also being sought for the Ingrid Speaker Medal for Distinguished Research, Scholarship or Performance. The Senate Honorary Degree Committee has met and is prepared to make their recommendations to Senate at the February Senate meeting.

11. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

11.1 Sheila McHugh

Sheila McHugh reported that the Alumni Association Council had set eight goals for 2008 and accomplished seven of them. The Alumni Journal Magazine was distributed to Board members.

11.2 Myles Bourke

Myles Bourke reported that he had recently attended CICA meetings and learned about the newest and best ideas for Governance. He has reported to some ideas from those meetings to Bob Turner and Nancy Walker.

11.3 Jeremiah Merkl

Jeremiah Merkl suggested that the term "new high school graduates" be used instead of "new high school students".

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: opn.2008.12.06

McArthur/Nugent

That the Open Session of the December 18, 2008 meeting of the Board of Governors be adjourned.

Motion: Carried