

MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
OPEN SESSION HELD THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2002 AT 1:30
IN THE BOARD ROOM (W646)

Present: Terry Royer (Chair), Linda Anderson, Bill Cade, Geoff Cox, Gordon Dixon, Jim Horsman, Kevin Keith, Dawna Coslovi, Jill Kotkas, Guy McNab, Robert Turner, Hadi Kharaghani, Raina Jogia, Dan Laplante, Melanee Thomas, Dustin Hines, Rita Zaugg (Secretary)

Regrets: Lawrence Barany, Aaron Engen, Gord Rosko, Doug Stokes

Others: Séamus O'Shea, Vice-President (Academic) and Provost
Nancy Walker, Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
Karen Clearwater, Associate Vice-President (Financial Planning)

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Approval of the November 21, 2002 Agenda**
2. **Approval of the October 17, 2002 Open Session Minutes**

MOTION: opn.2002.11.01

Jill Kotkas/Guy McNab

That the Consent Agenda for the November 21, 2002 Board of Governors Open Session be approved with the addition of item 13. Items for Information
13.1 Future Cost of a University Education – Dan Laplante

Motion: Carried

3. **PRESENTATIONS**

3.1 **Mike Crowe**

Terry Royer presented a certificate to Mike Crowe in appreciation for his service on the Board as a representative of the Graduate Students Association.

3.2 **Introduction of Students' Union Executive**

Melanee Thomas introduced Gorm Hansen, Alfred Chan, Trish Jackson, Peter Therrien and Jerrad Kubik, members of the Students' Union Executive. Terry thanked the students for attending and indicated he looks forward to working with them.

4. BOARD CHAIR REMARKS

4.1 35th Anniversary Scholarship Dinner

The 35th Anniversary Scholarship Dinner will take place this evening at 6:00 in the University of Lethbridge Atrium. There will be approximately 186 people in attendance. All past presidents of the U of L will be in attendance, with the exception of Dr. Bill Beckel who is unable to attend, but has pre-recorded a message that will be played during the evening. Terry Royer expressed his gratitude for the great efforts of Phil North and Myles Bourke who co-chaired the event. Through this evening the University is able to create a scholarship fund of approximately \$15,000, exceeding the goal of \$10,000. Terry Royer commented this is a great tribute to the Presidents and the University and is consistent with the Board's objective of providing scholarship money.

4.2 Building Bridges

A Building Bridges evening has been arranged for December 4, co-hosted by Terry Royer and Raul Chavera, U.S. Consul General at the Consul General's official residence in Calgary.

4.3 Medicine Hat College Board of Governors

Bill Cade and Terry Royer met with Terry Brekko and Ralph Weeks, Chair of the Board of Governors and President of Medicine Hat College respectively. This was a follow-up to the meeting in Elkwater in October. Terry Royer explained that the meeting was to celebrate the successes we have had working together in the past and a preliminary step towards finding cooperative forms of working together in the future. It is intended that future meetings of this sort will be held.

4.4 Board Committees

Pursuant to the Retreat held last spring, the various Board committees have worked diligently to put together their terms of reference. Terry Royer added that he is quite pleased with these results and feels that the idea of governance vs. management is moving forward.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

5.1 Standing Policy Committee on Learning and Employment

Bill Cade made a presentation to the Standing Policy Committee on Learning and Employment in Edmonton on October 31. The items discussed were the University's future plans, successes, challenges and requests. Jim Horsman, Nancy Walker, Séamus O'Shea, and Gord Rosko also attended. Bill Cade noted that the meeting went well. Jim Horsman made the opening remarks. He commented that Bill Cade did a sterling job of the presentation. Jim Horsman reported he also heard several references, at the annual meeting of the Progressive Conservative Party, to the excellent presentation by Bill Cade and the pleasure of having Bill Cade's presence at the SPC meeting.

5.2 Academic All Canadians

A luncheon was held for the 2001-2002 Academic All Canadians. These are the students involved on University sports teams that have maintained an 80% or better average. The event was a success and many parents were able to come and congratulate their children in this achievement.

5.3 Leslie Lavers

Bill Cade was pleased to announce that following Board approval, Leslie Lavers has accepted the offer of the position Associate Vice-President (Student Services and Registrar).

5.4 University Christmas Reception

A Christmas Reception will be held on December 18 from 3:30 to 5:00 in the University Hall Atrium. Bill Cade encouraged Board members to attend as this is an event for the entire University and a great opportunity to mingle with faculty, staff and students.

5.5 Board of Governors Christmas Party

The Board of Governors annual Christmas Party will be held following the Board Meeting on December 17 at the President's house.

5.6 Dan Kazakoff

Dan Kazakoff of the Faculty of Management has won the National Award for Innovation in Teaching and Research on Strategic Management in the New Economy for the second year in a row. This award, funded by the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, is given by the Schulich School of Business located at York University. This year's award is for the Applied Consulting Program, and last year's award was for the Integrated Management Experience (IME) Program. It was also noted that the grant size has increased by a substantial amount this year.

5.7 Jill Besplug

Dan Gaynor, Publisher of the Calgary Herald, made his first trip ever to Lethbridge to make a special presentation to Jill Besplug, a two-time winner of the Barrel Racing competition at the Calgary Stampede. Jill Besplug is currently a U of L Biochemistry student. She was presented with a framed, glossy picture from the front page of the Calgary Herald showing her during her race.

5.8 LINC Damage

The issues related to damage to the LINC building due to the heavy rains in June are close to being resolved. Karen Clearwater continues to work with EllisDon and other contractors and architects to repair the damage. Although insurance companies are still talking, the work is expected to begin December 18th. In consultation with the University Librarian, ways are being sought to have this construction cause the least disruption

possible. It is not expected the Library will close but traffic may have to be rerouted from the front entrance. Bill Cade thanked Karen Clearwater for her work in expediting these repairs. Bill Cade assured the Board that the building is structurally intact.

5.9 Maclean's Annual Ranking

The University of Lethbridge has dropped this year from being 8th overall to 13th place in the Maclean's Annual Ranking of Canadian Universities. Alberta students scored the highest marks in reading, and were among the top three in science and mathematics among the 32 countries and provinces in the International testing as published in an Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) study. A table from the study was distributed at the meeting and is filed with these minutes. In a table showing high school exit grade comparisons, Alberta scored considerably lower than BC and Ontario for the percentage proportion of students with grades of 80% and higher. The disparity between test scores on international testing and high school exit grades indicates significant grade inflation in the Ontario school system.

Séamus O'Shea gave a PowerPoint presentation (filed with these minutes) showing the impact the new math program has had on grades for entering students in this, the first year of students entering with the new math curriculum. The average of last year's entry grade into University was 79.5 percent, and this year for the first time in many years, the average entry grade has declined to 78.6 percent. This correlates to a decline in the average grade in mathematics, particularly for those entering with Pure Math 30. It is anticipated that next year, even if the average in pure math comes up a bit, there will be no blending with students from other streams, so the overall average may again be down. Over time the pure math scores will even out and be back to traditional levels but this will likely take more than one year.

Bill Cade assured the Board that the institution is still high quality and commented that these ratings can be affected by small changes. He explained that The University of Lethbridge could reach #1 in the rankings if admission was limited to students with 80 percent averages or better. The University of Lethbridge communicates what the admission grade is and keeps that promise to students.

Ann Dowsett Johnson, who created and oversees the Maclean's rankings wrote an article in the Globe and Mail indicating that all three Alberta Universities declined in the rankings due to pressures on growth. Bill Cade indicated this is inaccurate and explained that the decline is largely due to grade inflation in other provinces. Bill Cade remarked that the Maclean's rankings are a comparison between provinces, and comparable standards should be used. Dan Laplante asked if there would be any merit if the U of A, U of C, and U of L were to collectively write a response to the Globe & Mail. Bill Cade indicated that the Board needs to be made aware of these issues and there has been some discussion among the three universities of how to approach grade inflation.

Jim Horsman mentioned that he feels that the Maclean's survey is skewed since it does not account for Alberta Heritage Scholarships and suggested this be brought to their attention. Bill Cade explained that the Alberta Heritage Scholarships are not included in the calculations for Alberta universities since those funds flow directly to the students and not through the institutional budgets.

In response to a Board member question concerning the impact of the ratings, Bill Cade remarked that it was his view that international students may consider the rankings more than domestic students since foreign students have less information on which to base a decision. Overall, it is not believed that students and parents make their selection of a university based on the Maclean's rankings. Séamus O'Shea indicated the effect of the Maclean's rankings has been tracked for a number of years and it was found students were not using it as an influencing factor. Both internal marketing data and inter-institutional joint marketing ventures revealed it is of interest but not a major determining factor.

Terry Royer spoke of a survey recently conducted by Globe and Mail where The University of Lethbridge did quite well in ratings by students. The National Post is also coming out with a survey in the next few days.

5.10 Calgary Herald Article re Philanthropy

An article from the Calgary Herald describing the difficulty arts organizations face securing philanthropic donations was distributed and is filed with these minutes. The article mentions The University of Lethbridge as one of the institutions vying for donors in Calgary.

6. ITEMS FOR ACTION

6.1 Governance Committee Terms of Reference

MOTION: opn.2002.11.02

Coslovi/Kotkas

That the revised membership and terms of reference for the Governance Committee be approved by the Board of Governors.

Motion: Carried

The Governance Committee met after the October Board meeting. Dawna Coslovi pointed out that the Vice-President's have been added as non-voting members of the committee. An attempt has been made, through the terms of reference, to make it clear that the Board of Governors is a governing board, not a managing board.

6.2 Executive Committee Terms of Reference

MOTION: opn.2002.11.03

Laplante/Cox

That the Board of Governors approve the revised Executive Committee terms of reference.

Motion: Carried

Point 2.4 will be revised to include that action taken will be reported to the Board.

Melanee Thomas expressed concern that students aren't represented on the Executive Committee, and asked if consideration can be given to having a student on this committee.

7. VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC) REPORT

7.1 Associate V.P (Academic) Report on Minister's Mission to Asia

Séamus O'Shea briefed the Board on Shamsul Alam's participation in the Minister of Learning's Mission to Asia. He reported that The University of Lethbridge will likely conclude exchange agreements in China and Thailand, but less likely in Vietnam. Reference was made to a booklet that was distributed at the last Board meeting that, for the most part, listed 2 + 2 agreements with colleges and universities within and outside of Canada. In addition, student exchange agreements are in place. Currently the University of Lethbridge is in the process of constructing a network of similarly styled universities internationally. Séamus O'Shea explained exchange programs are a way to attract students from those countries where post-secondary education is free. The University of Lethbridge currently has agreements with institutions in England, Poland, Germany, and France, Japan, Mexico, etc.

8. VICE-PRESIDENT (FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION) REPORT

Report received as information.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 Governance

9.1.1 Charter of Expectations for the Board

The Charter of Expectations for the Board has been slightly revised. The Governance Committee hopes to bring this back to the Board in the new year. Please email concerns or suggestions to Rita Zaugg at zaugg@uleth.ca.

9.1.2 Terms of Reference for an Individual Governor

Dawna Coslovi asked Board members to read the terms and email any concerns or suggestions to Rita Zaugg before the end of January.

10. CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Jim Horsman thanked the Board for holding the last Board meeting in Elkwater. He hoped that this was an opportunity for the Board to see a different and unique part of the province. Jim Horsman commented that he had received positive feedback from the participants from the local community. The dinner meeting with the Medicine Hat College Board that followed was also positive and it is hoped that this communication will continue.

Jim Horsman reported he conducted his last Convocation as Chancellor in October. A luncheon was held following Convocation to recognize the two honorary degree recipients. The event was well attended and a great success. Guests from Medicine Hat who came to see Orville Kope get his degree were extremely impressed. Jim also commended Dawna Coslovi on the wonderful job she did of presenting the citation for former Chancellor and honorary degree recipient, Bob Hironaka, who is her uncle.

During the annual Progressive Conservative Party conference, Jim Horsman found it interesting that the subject of water resource management was very high on the list. Also, in the climate change material, specific mention was made of the Water Institute for Semi-Arid Ecosystems (WISE) as a means to enhance the environment. Jim Horsman attended the Alberta Ingenuity fund discussion. New steps are being taken to enhance the Centres of Excellence. He recommended that WISE be kept at the forefront as a Centre of Excellence since it appears different attitudes are developing. Jim Horsman has been asked to serve on the Kyoto External Advisory Committee with Peter Lougheed as Chair. The Kyoto Protocol will have an impact on all Albertans and The University of Lethbridge research area of water will become increasingly important in the management of climate change.

Senate will meet on December 9, at which time the theme will be Native American Studies and Aboriginal Issues. There is an excellent program lined up.

The work of the Chancellor selection committee is proceeding as expected. A decision will be made at the February Senate meeting.

11. STUDENTS' UNION REPORT

Melanee Thomas reported that Dr. Penou will not be attending the scheduled CAUS Presentation. Mark Sandilands has agreed to speak on behalf of the New Democratic Party, but unfortunately there will be no representative from the Progressive Conservative party.

On December 6 Melanee Thomas will be participating in an Awareness of Violence Against Women event on campus. The focus this year will be on marginalized women.

Melanee Thomas reported that students are encouraged by the 35th Anniversary Scholarship Dinner initiative.

The Pronghorn Basketball home opener was last weekend and this weekend the teams are in Calgary.

11.1 CAUS & CASA Presentation

Melanee gave a presentation on two lobby groups to which the Students' Union belongs: the Canadian Alliance of University Students (CAUS) and the Council of Alberta Students Associations (CASA). The report is filed with these minutes.

Following the presentation Melanee Thomas indicated that there has been hopes of CASA engaging in some joint lobbying with the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), although there has been a history of animosity between the two groups since founders of CASA withdrew from CFS.

Dan Laplante commented how proud he is of what CAUS is doing since it was founded in March of 1987.

12. ALUMNI REPORT

Jill congratulated Melanee Thomas and Jerrad Kubik for what they do to represent The University of Lethbridge.

The second Strategic Planning meeting for the Alumni Association was held November 20 with Ken Balmer. Jill thanked administration for the use of his services.

Congratulations were extended to Institutional Advancement on the Alumni magazine. The Alumni Association is pleased with the format and content.

The Alumni Association would like to be on par with Senate and the Board, and to be considered important both on and off campus.

Jill attended the Chancellor Selection Committee meeting and interviewed several fine candidates.

13. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

13.1 Future Cost of a University Education

Dan Laplante drew attention to an article on costs of university education that ran in the Calgary Herald on November 13. A copy of this article was provided for information and is filed with these minutes.

13.2 Jubilee medals

Ceremonies were held honouring those who received jubilee medals. A former chancellor, faculty, past faculty, and a number of people who had association with The University of Lethbridge received medals.

MOTION: opn.2002.11.04

Dawna Coslovi That a letter of congratulations be sent to each Jubilee medal recipient that had an association with The University of Lethbridge.

Motion: Carried

It was reported that Helen Manyfingers will be presented with her medal on campus during the second annual Aboriginal Women's Conference.

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: opn.2002.11.05

McNab/Coslovi That the Open Session of the November 21, 2002 meeting of the Board of Governors be adjourned.

Motion: Carried