

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
HELD THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2010 AT 1:15 P.M.
IN THE BOARD ROOM (W646)

Present: Bob Turner (Chair), Mike Mahon, Richard Davidson, Paul Walz, Patrick Forrest, Leah Fowler, Heidi MacDonald, Evelyn Good Striker, Taz Kassam, Jeremiah Merkl, Karen Bartsch, Don Chandler, Janice Varzari, Jim Berezan, Doug McArthur, Gord Jong, Kevin Nugent (by phone), Rita Law (Secretary)

Regrets: Blaine Kunz

Others: Eric Hawthorne, Students' Union nominee to the Board
Andrew Hakin, Vice-President (Academic) & Provost
Nancy Walker, Vice-President (Finance & Administration)
Chris Horbachewski, Vice-President (Advancement)
Dan Weeks, Vice-President (Research)

Chairman Bob Turner introduced Mr. Don Lowry, President and CEO, EPCOR Utilities Inc., who was the guest speaker at a Board dinner in the evening. Mr. Lowry responded that it was a pleasure to be on campus and a thrill to see the University. He had reread the University's commitment to students and it excited him.

BOARD EDUCATION

Faculty of Arts & Science Presentation - Dean Chris Nicol

Mike Mahon remarked that this component of the Board meeting is to help Board members learn more about what goes on within the context of the faculties. Over the next number of meetings there will be a series of presentations by the Deans.

Andrew Hakin introduced Chris Nicol, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science, saying that Dr. Nicol is in his second term and in the process of seeking reappointment for a third term. Arts and Science is the most complex faculty on campus. Dr. Nicol's background is in economics, but he is really a master of human interaction. He is ably steering the largest U of L faculty through obstacles and successes. Arts and Science has approximately 280 faculty and 50 support staff who report to Dean Nicol and more that 4, 200 students in 21 departments that call Arts and Science home.

Dean Nicol took the floor and gave a thorough presentation about the Faculty of Arts and Science and then responded to questions. The text of the presentation is filed with these minutes.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Mike Mahon and Patrick Forrest were introduced to the Board and each was presented with a briefcase and a Board of Governors lapel pin.

Eric Hawthorne, who was elected by the student body as the Students' Union nominee, was also presented with a briefcase and Board of Governors lapel pin. A Ministerial Order appointing him to the Board is anticipated shortly.

OUTGOING BOARD MEMBER

Leah Fowler, who had completed a term on the Board, was presented with wooden plaque lasered with a pronghorn, in commemoration and appreciation for her dedicated service on the Board of Governors. She was also presented with a certificate from the Government of Alberta. Bob Turner thanked her for serving on the Board and for her thoughtful, insightful advice.

1. CONSENT AGENDA

1.1 Approval of the October 14, 2010 Open Session Agenda

1.2 Approval of the June 24, 2010 Open Session Minutes

MOTION: opn.2010.10.01

Fowler/Chandler

That the Consent Agenda of the October 14, 2010 Open Session of the University of Lethbridge Board of Governors be approved with the amendment of 4.2 Privacy Policy to item 5.4 under Items for Discussion.

Motion: Carried

2. BOARD CHAIR REMARKS

2.1 Board of Governors Committees

Board members were asked to comment on their committee assignments and one member expressed an interest in serving on the Compensation Committee in addition to their original assignment. The addition was made to the Compensation Committee membership.

Bob Turner reported that Dean Setoguchi has sent a letter of resignation from the Board, citing business and family commitments as reasons. Art Bonertz resigned in June. The Executive Committee, which serves as the Nominating Committee, met on two occasions and generated some excellent suggestions. Expressions of interest are being pursued from those people. It was explained that interested persons apply through the Human Resources arm of the Department of Advanced Education and Technology (AET). AET will run an advertisement and the U of L will place an ad in the Lethbridge Herald. Following the AET and Cabinet processes, the Board Executive will have the opportunity to make recommendations.

The Chair reminded the Board of the dinner later in the evening at which Don Lowry will be addressing the dinner guests. This is part of a continuing Distinguished Speaker Series that has attracted some very capable people, including the Premier of Alberta, who was the speaker on July 27. The series has been well received in the community.

On July 8 Bob Turner attended the Canadian School of Energy and Environment (CSEE) Board Meeting. Mike Mahon is now member of that board. Elizabeth Cannon, the new U of C President also attended. Bob Turner remarked that he continues to be optimistic about the prospects for CSEE. There was a large dinner event in Calgary last Thursday, which preceded a seminar that was attended by some of the world's leading public and private sector people in related fields. The featured speaker was the former director of the Atomic Energy Commission.

On September 24 a number of Board members attended board education session at which Paul Sparrow-Clarke spoke on the topic of sustainability. A copy of the presentation was included in the Agenda materials. It provides a good summary of what the board is trying to encourage, is a priority for the Administration, and fits within the Strategic Plan.

Also on September 24 there was a Faculty of Health Sciences reunion and a Faculty of Management reception, both in Markin Hall. There were well over 200 people in attendance.

The President and Chair toured the new U of L facilities in Calgary on September 30. The new office space is in an older building that has been refurbished and is particularly nice. There is also good meeting space and an Advancement office has been established there. The University will occupy the space for three years while the new Bow Valley College space is being built.

Mike Mahon and Bob Turner attended a CD Howe Institute presentation by Rob Renner later in the day on September 30 as well as a "Meet Mike" session at the Petroleum Club that was arranged by Dean Setoguchi.

Bob Turner reported he attended the October 6 Installation of Dr. Elizabeth Cannon as the President of the University of Calgary.

The Prentice Institute Board met at the University of Lethbridge on October 8.

There will be a reception November 18 at the Art Gallery of Alberta in Edmonton. The President will be introduced to supporters of the U of L, the Edmonton business community, and others.

A dinner meeting is schedule with specific Deputy Ministers, the CEO of Alberta Innovates Corporation, and U of L researchers. This will be a good opportunity to showcase research at the U of L to this audience.

Bob Turner referred to an article in the Meliorist about the existence of a food bank operated by the Students' Union. Board members were encouraged to contribute food or money to the cause. On the same page there was a good profile on Taz Kassam, Board Member and Students' Union President

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Mike Mahon reported that enrolment is at a record high of 8,472, up from 8,243 last year, an 8% increase. The Calgary campus saw an increase from 936 last year to 1126 this year. This is very positive news for the northern campuses. The enrolment target was to achieve the same as the previous year plus one and this was significantly exceeded. Positive letters have been received from parents. Congratulations and appreciation were expressed to Andrew Hakin along with the recruitment and retention staff for their outstanding work.

Andrew Hakin has undertaken the creation of an academic plan and it is now in draft form and will be considered by Deans' Council. President Mahon drew attention to Andrew Hakin's report to the Board, which cites a number of faculty accomplishments. He drew particular attention to the appointment of Dr. Joe Rasmussen to the Premier's committee that will be studying the impact of the oil sands on the Athabasca River basin.

Research funding to the University is over \$15 Million. The Vice-President (Research) is developing a Research Plan. The first annual celebration of research excellence was held recently. It was a terrific celebration of research awards and the work of graduate students. It underscored the interface between faculty members and graduate students, which is one of the foundations of a comprehensive university.

President Mahon congratulated the Students' Union for an outstanding Welcome Back Fresh Fest. Dr. Mahon participated in a number of events. He noted that there was a concert in the middle of campus and there were no complaints from the neighbouring community, unlike last year when there were a number of unhappy neighbours. The New Student Orientation was great and it garnered a number of positive letters from parents.

The President reported that he has been involved in a number of "Meet Mike" events both on and off campus. On the political front, he has met with the Premier, Minister of AET, MLAs, and MPs. He even attended the Calgary Stampede. Locally, he is now a member of the Rotary club that meets at noon on Mondays, participated in a Whoop Up Days dunk tank, met with people from the health authority, the Chamber of Commerce, schools, and local government. He also attended Alumni events in Calgary and Okotoks as well as the Markin Hall 25/25 event on September 21. Prior to the start of his appointment as President, Mike Mahon spent time with Bob Turner meeting people in Edmonton.

President Mahon reported that he recently attended the Premier's Economic Advisory meeting that included business leaders and educators. The drivers of the economy going forward were identified as water and agriculture, epigenetics in particular.

Dr. Mahon said the largest commitment of his time has been around meeting with people. In a good conversation with the senior team it was decided that the strongest focus will be on campus and locally. He has met with every Department and Faculty on campus and was impressed with the creativity demonstrated. He remarked that it has been an amazing way to connect with people and see them in the context of their places of work. Post the October 15 Installation he will transition to focussing a little more externally on government relations. Ottawa trips are planned in October and November and he will join the Team Lethbridge group in Edmonton.

Community visits are also being planned. The Chancellor and Senate were thanked for spearheading and serving as hosts for "Meet Mike" events in communities in southern Alberta. Appreciation was also extended to the Calgary Alumni chapter who have agreed to participate in various activities around introducing the President to the broader community.

The President drew attention to two AUCC reports which were included with the Agenda package. He said they are good background for Board members to have in their discussions about the value of post-secondary education.

4. ITEMS FOR ACTION

4.1 Facilities Booking & Use of Sport & Recreation Services Facilities

MOTION: opn.2010.10.02

Mahon/Walz

That the Board of Governors approve the Facility Booking and Use of Sport and Recreation Facilities Policy, effective immediately.

Motion: Carried

It was explained that this is a revision of an existing policy with updates to include new buildings and practices.

5. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

5.1 Sustainability Report

This report included in the Agenda was the text of the report given at the Board Education Session. It was pointed out that sustainability has scope beyond what was included in the report. The University of Lethbridge Diversity Advantage program is an example of sustainability in Human Resources. Future reports will include how sustainability can be developed as a University-wide initiative. Paul Sparrow-Clarke will be asked to develop reports on sustainability in the context of the Strategic Plan. A question was asked about the use of LEEDS standard vs. LEEDS equivalent standard. It was explained that LEEDS is not the only standard for environmentally low-impact and energy efficiency and it may not be what is necessary to meet the goal. The LEED standard is seen by some as relatively expensive.

5.2 Operating Budget Process Review

Nancy Walker emphasized that the budget process is being reviewed on the recommendation of the University Budget Committee, not because the process is broken but as a good business practice. The University is being run in a fiscally responsible manner. The current process is very open, with faculty, staff and students represented on the Budget Committee. Best practices are being considered.

5.3 Community Arts Centre Approval

Nancy Walker reported that the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors reviewed and approved, on behalf of the Board, the Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Lethbridge and the City of Lethbridge to accommodate the Music Conservatory Program in the Community Arts Centre, contingent on approval by Lethbridge City Council. Confirmation has been received that City Council recommended that City Administration approve the Memorandum of Understanding and approve the expansion of the Community Arts Centre project to include the requirements of the University of Lethbridge Conservatory of Music. It was pointed out that this project is directly linked to the Engaging Community element of the Strategic Plan. Currently, the U of L Music Conservatory is pressed for space and accessibility is an issue for young children and families. This project will provide an opportunity for the U of L to join with other fine arts groups in the city, while providing an opportunity to grow the Conservatory program.

5.4 Privacy Policy

This policy was considered by the Board Executive and recommended to the Board. Subsequently, it was decided that it should go to General Faculties Council (GFC) for discussion and input. Since it is a Board policy, GFC will not be asked to approve it. It has been reviewed by Deans' and Executive Directors' Councils as well as ULFA and AUPE. It will be brought back to the Board for approval, following review by GFC.

6. VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC) & PROVOST

The report of the Vice-President was circulated to the Board by email and is filed with these minutes. Dr. Hakin drew particular attention to the section "Dean's Council Business", commenting that this is an addition to his report to the Board.

Clarification was provided on the enrolment chart. The “returning” category reflects those returning after an absence. The strong enrolment numbers are due to the fine work of the recruitment and retention staff. These are extremely talented individuals who do a great job. All the resources in the faculties are being harnessed towards a University-wide approach to recruitment and retention. It was pointed out that the classroom capacity is over 9,000; however physical space and capacity to deliver quality have to be balanced.

7. VICE-PRESIDENT (FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION)

7.1 Sport and Recreation Services Community Use Report

Nancy Walker reported that Deb Marek, U of L Manager of Facilities and Services, gave a presentation to City Council. The text of the presentation was included in the Agenda. Nancy Walker added that use of University facilities by community people is a very positive factor in outreach to the community.

8. VICE-PRESIDENT (ADVANCEMENT)

The report of the Vice-President (Advancement) was received for information. Chris Horbachewski drew attention to the John Gill Memorial Run taking place October 22 from the 1st Choice Savings Centre for Sport and Wellness. John Gill was a former Board member and President of the Alumni Association who died in a water sport accident in Mexico. The Board established an endowment in his memory and the Students’ Union and John’s friends and family have continued with the fundraising run in his memory. Taz Kassam had a sign up sheet. The Lethbridge Herald had an excellent article on the front page featuring John Gill’s wife, Tanya, and their children.

9. VICE-PRESIDENT (RESEARCH)

The Vice-President (Research) report received for information. Dan Weeks added that the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) had recommendations with respect to animal care requirements and these are being addressed. The University veterinarian is included in the discussion and remedies as are others who are involved with animal research.

10. CHANCELLOR’S REPORT

The Chancellor’s Report that was included in the Agenda materials was received for information.

The Chancellor encouraged Board members to attend Convocation since it is the culmination of the student experience and a very stirring activity to be involved in. Bob Turner added that it is so rewarding for a member of the Board to attend Convocation. He also encouraged Board members to attend the President’s Installation. A wonderful ceremony has been planned for this important event in the history of the University of Lethbridge. As well, it will be an opportunity to meet Dr. Mahon’s family.

11. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Paul Walz reported that on November 26 the Graduate Students Associations of the University of Lethbridge and University of Alberta will have a political party leaders' forum that will focus on advanced education in Alberta. The Premier will be attending.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: opn.2010.10.03

Fowler/Jong

That the October 14, 2010 Open Session of the University of Lethbridge Board of Governors meeting be adjourned.

Motion: Carried