



BOARD OF GOVERNORS – OPEN SESSION
Approved Minutes

Thursday, March 26, 2020
8:00 a.m., via teleconference

Present: K. Schlachter (Chair), Y. Belanger, R. Casson, J. Elliott, J. Forrest, D. Gallimore, A. Gammack, K. Gunn, A. Hlady, D. Johnson, H. Labuhn, M. Mahon, J. Merkl, J. Miles, K. Reid, J. Sheriff, S. Stocker, T. Whitehead, L. Zink
Regrets: K. Philipp, C. Weaselhead
Other: J. Gallais, E. Okine, S. Olson, C. Takeyasu, N. Walker, R. Westlund, M. Whipple

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 Aboriginal peoples who have helped shape and continue to strengthen our University community.

**1. CONSENT AGENDA
APPROVAL**

- 1.1. Approval of the March 26, 2020 Open Agenda
- 1.2. Approval of the February 13, 2020 Open Minutes

MOTION: opn.2020.03.01

Zink/Gammack

That the Board of Governors approve the March 26, 2020 Consent Agenda with amendment.

Motion: Carried

It was noted that J. Forrest will be bringing forward Item 4.2.

2. BOARD CHAIR REMARKS

On behalf of the Board, K. Schlachter gave thanks to the senior leadership team and all those involved in pivoting the delivery model of the University of Lethbridge in a manner of days. The last couple of weeks has been challenging responding to the COVID-19 situation, added on top of dealing with very difficult financial decisions.

3. PRESIDENT REMARKS

M. Mahon reported:

- Early in the morning on March 12, along with the presidents at UofC and UofA and under the direction of the Chief Medical Officer, we made the decision to cancel in-person classes;
- March 13 we struck our emergency management committee, lead first by Chief Safety Officer D. Mackie, then by Associate Dean M. Helstein. The Committee meets daily, and has since been repopulated with members who have had their own

departments shut down (ie Library, Sport & Recreation Services) in order to better manage workloads;

- Within four days, we moved from in-person classes to an alternate delivery model. The transition was smooth and we've received very minimal push back. Thanks to all those who made it happen;
- The decision was made on Sunday to close our student residences because we were running into challenges with social distancing. We have made special allowances for international students who are unable to return home and any other student with extenuating circumstances. We have moved our remaining 60-80 students to our townhouses, which will allow each student to have their own room and kitchen;
- Food services has closed down as well now that the residences students will not be relying on dining plans;
- On Tuesday, over 50 members of General Faculties Council met via teleconference just as we are today, and approved an alternate process for final grading. Students will be given the choice of taking their achieved letter grade or taking a credit/non-credit for each course, which will not affect their overall GPA;
- We are also looking at business continuity, what the delivery model will be for our summer sessions, and further, what the fall semester will look like;
- Our in-person Spring Convocation has been cancelled, but we currently have a team exploring what other options could be;
- Although the majority of our staff have transitioned to working from home, there are some that are required to be on campus for various reasons. We are limiting access to campus, but are working on compiling a list of those who will still be working on campus. All employees who do come to campus are required to fill out the online registry, located on the COVID-19 website, which lets security personnel aware of who is on campus. Campus will officially be locked down as of Monday; and
- As the largest employer within the City of Lethbridge, we need to be a leader in terms of health and safety of our community. Thanks to K. Schlachter, the Board and for the commitment of our entire University community for making this work truly inspiring.

4. ITEMS FOR ACTION

4.1.2020-21 Interim Budget

MOTION: opn.2020.03.02

Labuhn/Reid

That the Board of Governors approve the 2020-2021 Interim Budget.

Motion: Carried

L. Zink mentioned that counterparts at institutions throughout Alberta are looking at difference in graduate student tuition over the summer since the presence of these students on campus is impacted. N. Walker reported that it had not yet come up at Budget Advisory Committee, but made note and will look into it, in addition to the other potential refunds that Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) is looking into due to COVID-19.

4.2.Vice-President (Advancement) Search Committee

MOTION: opn.2020.03.03

Forrest/Zink

That the Board of Governors approve the appointment of Terry Whitehead (Chair of the Advancement Committee) to the Vice-President (Advancement) Search Committee.

Motion: Carried (1 abstention)

M. Mahon added that given the current COVID-19 situation, it will be difficult to conduct a search, but we will get the committee assembled, hire a search consultant and hopefully be at the point to begin interviews in the fall. With our operating budget being significantly reduced over the next few years, it is becoming increasingly important to hire an individual who is able to bring in significant revenue to the institution.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

6. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: opn.2020.03.04

Gallimore/Gammack

That the Board of Governors Open Session meeting of March 26, 2020 be adjourned.

Motion: Carried