



BOARD OF GOVERNORS – OPEN SESSION
Approved Minutes

Thursday, May 28, 2020
1:30 p.m., videoconference

Present: K. Schlachter (Chair), Y. Belanger, R. Casson, J. Diaz, J. Elliott, D. Gallimore, K. Gunn, A. Hlady, H. Labuhn, M. Mahon, J. Merkl, K. Philipp, E. Pullan, K. Reid, J. Sheriff, S. Stocker, C. Weaselhead, T. Whitehead, L. Zink

Regrets: J. Forrest, D. Johnson

Other: J. Gallais, M. Helstein, D. Kaminiski, D. Mackie, E. Okine, S. Olson, M. Sawa, 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.

Prior to the start of the Open Session, a moment of silence was held for past Board Chair Phil North and former Board member Peter Williams.

A presentation was given by M. Helstein (Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts & Science), and D. Mackie (Chief Safety Office) on the University Emergency Response Committee COVID-19 Response Overview.

J. Diaz and E. Pullan were formally introduced and welcomed as new members of the Board and A. Hlady was thanked for her service to the Board.

1. CONSENT AGENDA
APPROVAL

- 1.1. Approval of the May 28, 2020 Open Agenda
- 1.2. Approval of the April 23, 2020 Open Minutes

MOTION: opn.2020.05.01

Gallimore/Whitehead

That the Board of Governors approve the May 28, 2020 Consent Agenda with amendments.

Motion: Carried

Item 5.7 was moved to Closed Session, and post-agenda updates were sent out for Items 5.6 and 5.8.

2. BOARD CHAIR REMARKS

K. Schlachter was pleased be able to attend and give greetings on behalf of the Board at the virtual farewell event for A. Hakin.

3. CHANCELLOR REPORT

C. Weaselhead highlighted that T. Legge will be the Senate representative on the Board effective July 1 and gave thanks to A. Hlady for serving in this role the last two years. We are also pleased to welcome the new student representatives to Senate.

4. PRESIDENT REMARKS

M. Mahon reported:

- Although today and tomorrow would have been the days when we were originally planning to celebrate Spring 2020 Convocation, we continue with plans to celebrate virtually. The convocation-in-a-box initiative will be rolled out the middle of June, in hopes that most graduates will receive theirs by the third week. Filming takes place today and early next week for the short virtual ceremony, which will be shared with students on June 25 and over social channels, so friends and family are able to share in the celebration. Many departments are hosting their own virtual celebrations as well;
- As mentioned during the presentation, the relaunch/return-to-campus strategy will be complicated and will take time to work through;
- A number of announcements have gone out the last few days regarding some senior administration organizational changes: Dean of Art & Science [Matt Letts], Interim Vice-Provost & Associate Vice-President (Academic) [Michelle Helstein], Interim Vice-President (Research) [Robert Wood], and Acting Dean of Health Sciences [Shannon Spenceley]. The Vice-President (Advancement) search continues;
- Universities Canada post-secondary presidents continue to meet weekly amid COVID;
- PUBLIC Professor Series (At Home edition) occurs every Thursday evening at 7pm;
- Thank You Tuesday Initiative took place on May 5;
- The UofL took part in a retreat with Medicine Hat College and Lethbridge College about creating pathways for more academic and operational collaborations;
- Over 700 people attended the budget town hall and we're still working to provide responses to all the email questions;
- Will be speaking at a Southern Alberta Council on Public Affairs (SACPA) event on June 25 regarding the provincial budget and how it relates to post-secondary institutions; and
- Planning an event in Edmonton with other post-secondary presidents and their government relations officers regarding the importance of post-secondary research within the province. We'll keep the Board apprised of details as they unfold.

M. Mahon noted that there are so many people from across campus doing great work to move the University forward during this time of transition.

5. ITEMS FOR ACTION

5.1. Board Vice-Chair Appointment

MOTION: opn.2020.05.02

Mahon/Zink

That the Board of Governors approve the appointment of Harvey Labuhn as Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors, effective September 1, 2020.

Motion: Carried (1 abstained)

There were no questions.

5.2. Board Committee 2020-2021 Membership

MOTION: opn.2020.05.03

Mahon/Casson

That the Board of Governors approve the undesignated committee membership as follows for the 2020-2021 year commencing September 1, 2020, unless indicated otherwise, and ending on August 31, 2021:

Advancement Committee: Terry Whitehead (Chair), Rick Casson, Tevi Legge, John Sheriff, Shilpa Stocker

Audit Committee: Kelly Philipp (Chair), Karen Gunn, Karen Reid

Executive Committee: Karen Reid

Finance Committee: Dean Gallimore (Chair), David Johnson, Ethan Pullan

Governance Committee: Shilpa Stocker (Chair), Yale Belanger, Rick Casson, Jonathan Diaz, David Johnson, Jeremiah Merkl, Lauren Zink

Human Resources and Compensation: Karen Gunn, Karen Reid, Terry Whitehead.

Motion: Carried

There were no questions.

5.3. Vice-President (Research) Search Committee

MOTION: opn.2020.05.04

Mahon/Zink

That the Board of Governors approve the appointment of Karen Gunn to the Vice-President (Research) Search Committee.

Motion: Carried (1 abstained)

5.6.Capital Plan Overview

MOTION: opn.2020.05.07

Labuhn/Gallimore

That the Board of Governors approve the Capital Plan Overview.

Motion: Carried

H. Labuhn noted that this document is a new requirement from Advanced Education, to be included with the Operating Budget, Investment Management Agreement and 3-Year Savings Plan. There were no questions.

5.7.2019-20 Financial Statements

MOTION: opn.2020.05.08

Labuhn/Gunn

That the Board of Governors approve the 2019-20 Financial Statements for the year ending March 31, 2020.

Motion: Carried

H. Labuhn went through the updated package with the 2019-20 Financial Statements, highlighting that the annual surplus of \$2.4 million, comprised of \$1.3 million related to endowment investment income and \$1.1 million revenue from Ancillary Services, is not available for spending on the general operations of the University. Due to the terminations that have been identified, but not yet occurred, there is a future benefit liability on the statements, which we've never had before. As everyone is aware, the markets took a hit at the end of March due to COVID, causing the market value of our investments to drop significantly. We have not yet written down this loss as we anticipate the investments to recover.

Thanks was given to C. Takeyasu and her team, who have put in many hours but met all of the deadlines while preparing the statements remotely this year. The team met weekly with the external auditors since campus has been shut down, which ensured communication continued.

There was a discussion on how best to educate the readers of the financial statements, to explain why we had to lay employees off despite showing a surplus. This is a challenge we face each year, and we hope that the town hall presentation, along with the budget FAQs helps to address any questions.

6. REPORTS

6.1. Provost & Vice-President (Academic)

E. Okine highlighted the first-ever virtual recruitment fair that took place on May the 6, which was very well attended. He added that with the announcement of remote delivery this fall, we are working to provide training and tools to our faculty in order to ensure that teaching is top quality when classes begin in September.

