



BOARD OF GOVERNORS – OPEN SESSION
Approved Minutes

Thursday, October 15, 2020
1:00 p.m., videoconference

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

Regrets: T. Legge, C. Weaselhead

Other: J. Gallais, M. Helstein, E. Okine, S. Olson, C. Steinke, N. Walker, R. Westlund, M. Whipple, R. Wood

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.

A presentation was given by Jackson Leween, 2bears, Associate Professor, Fine Arts.
Thank was given to J. Forrest for her service to the Board.

1. CONSENT AGENDA
APPROVAL

- 1.1. Approval of the October 15, 2020 Open Agenda
- 1.2. Approval of the May 28, June 29, and September 21, 2020 Open Minutes

MOTION: opn.2020.10.01

Johnson/Zink

That the Board of Governors approve the October 15, 2020 Consent Agenda.

Motion: Carried

2. BOARD CHAIR REMARKS

K. Schlachter reported on a busy fall so far, including:

- Completion of his Institute of Corporate Directors designation, which he hopes adds value in his role as Chair;
- Met with Lethbridge MLA Nathan Neudorf;
- Participated as a panelist during the University of Alberta virtual Board retreat regarding hot topics in post-secondary governance; and
- Board new member orientation, committee meetings, as well as one-on-one meetings with members earlier this month.

3. **PRESIDENT REMARKS**

M. Mahon reported:

- Fall 2020 total enrolment is currently 8,933 students; this is slightly above the prior Fall enrolment of 8,929 students. These numbers are positive given the restrictions for international students (some institutions are down up to 40%);
- Highest ever Maclean’s University ranking as 2nd overall in the primarily undergraduate category;
- There are currently 21 budget taskforces looking at all aspects of the institution at potential ways that we could reduce our overall operating budget by 10% in the next two years. More information will be discussed at the Board retreat later this fall;
- Spring 2021 semester will be delivered primarily online, with in-person opportunities where safe to do so;
- COVID has also impacted our students on a food security front and we are looking at creating an additional bursary program;
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion – work continues to create programs supporting this initiative. Search consultants have been hired to help hire an Executive Director, EDI position, as these are highly sought after positions across the country;
- Organizational changes over the last number of months as we continue our Vice-President (Research) and Vice-President (Development) searches, of which recruiting has been challenging given the pandemic and the economy in Alberta;
- Students, faculty and senior administration are taking part in consultation by government on the Alberta 2030 post-secondary system review;
- With the support from the Government of Canada’s Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, and an investment from TD Bank Financial Group, the University of Lethbridge will move the Iikaisskini Gathering Place to the University Centre for the Arts atrium. Planning will take place over the next few months, with construction to begin after;
- For the first time, New Student Orientation and Open House were held virtually this fall and thanks to all those who contributed to the success of these events; and
- Upcoming, a virtual Town Hall is planned for October 29 and Board members are encouraged to attend.

4. **CHANCELLOR REPORT**

C. Weaselhead sent his regrets.

5. **ITEMS FOR ACTION**

5.1. Progress and Achievement Report 2019-2020, UofL Strategic Plan

MOTION: opn.2020.10.02

Stocker/Johnson

That the Board of Governors endorse the Progress and Achievement Report 2019-2020, UofL Strategic Plan.

Motion: Carried

It was noted that General Faculties Council reviewed this document in September with no suggested changes. The Board reviews the performance each year to ensure accountability,

and this is an evolving document as it represents a snapshot in time. There were no questions.

5.2.Survey Policy

MOTION: opn.2020.10.03

Labuhn/Gallimore

That the Board of Governors approve revised Survey Policy, effective immediately.

Motion: Carried

There were no questions.

5.3.Establishment of Student Fees Policy

MOTION: opn.2020.10.04

Gallimore/Pullan

That the Board of Governors approve the revised Establishment of Student Fees Policy, effective immediately.

Motion: Carried

There were no questions.

6. REPORTS

6.1. Provost & Vice-President (Academic)

E. Okine highlighted the Hackathon partnership between the Faculty of Arts and Science and the School of Liberal Education. There was a discussion on revenue generating opportunities, specifically on the Calgary Campus.

6.2. Advancement

There was nothing additional to add to the report.

6.3.Vice-President (Finance & Administration)

The UofL is trying to keep our people well through a variety of initiatives across campus. Thanks to all those involved. The students on-campus (including residence students) are respecting COVID protocols and restrictions, although mental health remains a high priority with everyone being so remote. N. Walker added that the 1st Choice Centre has seen the highest gym rental rate we've ever had, likely due to many other facilities remaining closed.

6.4.Vice-President (Research)

R. Wood highlighted the research activity on campus since the last report to the Board as they align with the research directions in support of the broad and ambitious aims outlined in 2020-2023 Strategic Research Plan.

6.5. Board Member Reports

On behalf of the University of Lethbridge Alumni Association (ULAA), J. Elliott reported that the Alumni Achievement Award program has continued this year and they are looking at creative ways to honour these recipients.

L. Zink reported that the University of Lethbridge Graduate Students' Association has created a working from home bursary, in which there were 353 applicants and 119 bursaries awarded. They are looking at further opportunities to support graduate students during this time.

E. Pullan reported that the University of Lethbridge Students' Union is currently working on a submission for the Alberta 2030 system review, a new position was recently filled within ULSU foodbank, and the ULSU continues to provide emergency grants to undergraduate students.

7. **OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: opn.2020.10.05

Gallimore/Pullan

That the Board of Governors Open Session meeting of October 15, 2020 be adjourned.

Motion: Carried