



BOARD OF GOVERNORS – OPEN SESSION
Approved Minutes

Thursday, December 17, 2020
1:00 p.m., videoconference

- Present:** K. Schlachter (Chair), Y. Belanger, R. Casson, J. Diaz, J. Elliott, D. Gallimore, D. Gonci, 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. Takeyasu, 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 M. Ingraham, Dean, Faculty of Fine Arts on the Abbondanza Fundraiser. D. Gonci was introduced as the newest member of the Board.

1. CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL

- 1.1. Approval of the December 17, 2020 Open Agenda
- 1.2. Approval of the October 15, 2020 Open Minutes

MOTION: opn.2020.12.01

Whitehead/Johnson

That the Board of Governors approve the December 17, 2020 Consent Agenda.

Motion: Carried

2. BOARD CHAIR REMARKS

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

- Lots of work with government as part of the Alberta 2030 system review;
- Participated in a virtual awards reception event on November 25 in which U. Kothe was recognized as the 2020 Board of Governors Teaching Chair; and
- Wished students well during the holiday time in a video greeting that was emailed to all students.

3. PRESIDENT REMARKS

M. Mahon reported:

- The University has announced a few initiatives to help with student and employee mental health which include an extended holiday break for students, the closure of

campus on December 24, encouraged no formal meetings be scheduled the last week before Christmas or the first week in January to allow employees to catch up on workload, as well as encouraging 10-15 minute breaks in-between virtual meetings;

- No dramatic impact with the new COVID restrictions besides the closure of the fitness centre, but gave stronger encouragement to work from home;
- ULethbridge Safe app has been a great tool for those that do need to be on campus;
- A budget message was provided to the University community on October 26;
- The announcement of M. Frank as the newly appointed Director of Indigenous Education and Communication;
- A number of senior administrative searches continue (Vice-President Development & Alumni Affairs, Vice-President Research and Executive Director Equity, Diversity and Inclusion);
- Attended meetings with the Council of Post-Secondary Presidents of Alberta (COPPOA); and
- Events continue in a virtual format including an Awards Night on November 25, celebration for the student athletes who have achieved Academic All-Canadian status, Long Services Awards, and a holiday celebration on December 15.

4. **CHANCELLOR REPORT**

C. Weaselhead sent his regrets. M. Mahon highlighted that Senate has just completed the honorary degree nomination/selection process and C. Weaselhead is in the process of connecting with the chosen individuals.

5. **ITEMS FOR ACTION**

5.1. Fees and Rates 2021 - 2022

MOTION: opn.2020.12.02

Gallimore/Philipp

That the Board of Governors approve the proposed fees and rates for 2021-2022, with the fees and rates for 2022-2023 to 2023-2024 approved in principle.

Motion: Carried

It was noted that although tuition has been increased for 2021-2022, the University increased allocation to student bursaries for the upcoming year. Because we do not know what the fees will be for future years, the increase to student bursaries is for one year. Thanks was given to C. Takeyasu and her team for their work on the document.

6. **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

6.1. Codes of Conduct Revisions

There were no questions or comments.

6.2. Performance Evaluation & Compensation for Senior Administrators Returning to Academic Staff Statues Guidelines Revisions

M. Mahon added that salaries at the senior administration level have been frozen for a number of years and the revisions to these guidelines ensures that people are not penalized when they return to academic staff status. There were no questions.

7. REPORTS

7.1. Provost & Vice-President (Academic)

E. Okine highlighted the recent announcements of the digital credential wallet and MyExperience platform. Thanks was given to Student Affairs for their work on these initiatives.

7.2. Advancement

R. Westlund highlighted the Get U Around Town initiative. There were no questions.

7.3. Vice-President (Finance & Administration)

N. Walker gave thanks to the entire University community for their diligence in ensuring that health and safety protocols are adhered to, which has resulted in zero incidences of COVID in student residences.

7.4. Vice-President (Research)

R. Wood reported that the University has many reasons to celebrate on the research front, and highlighted:

- 16 applications have been received for four Board of Governor Research Chair positions and seven nominations were submitted to the Royal Society of Canada;
- The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council has announced an increase in the value of its Undergraduate Summer Research Awards; and
- T. Patel and B. Demeler (Chemistry & Biochemistry) have received a \$200,000 grant from Canada Foundation for Innovation's Exceptional Opportunities Fund which will support infrastructure to aid them in their search to find a drug to treat the virus that is responsible for the COVID pandemic.

7.5. Board Member Reports

L. Zink reported that the University of Lethbridge Graduate Students' Association continues to offer a working at home bursary, which has received great response. She noted that the annual Meeting of the Minds conference will be hosted in a virtual format this year as they hope to continue to engage the University in student research.

E. Pullan reported that the Students' Union is starting to prepare for undergraduate student elections and transition of council in the spring and looking at how best to do this in a virtual format.

J. Diaz spoke about food insecurity needs for students continue despite not being physically on campus and gave details on the Pass the Hat initiative in support of the Students' Union Foodbank.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: opn.2020.12.03

Elliott/Johnson

That the Board of Governors Open Session meeting of December 17, 2020 be adjourned.

Motion: Carried