



BOARD OF GOVERNORS MINUTES

Thursday November 18, 2021, 2:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

Present: Nasik Amanullah, Cameron Anderson, Ryan Brejak, Pam Bryden, Kathie Cameron, Simon Chan, Paul Elliott, Chinyere Eni-McLean, Andrew Herman, Deniza Januzi, Dave Jaworsky, Mary Kelly, Lynda Hawton Kitamura, Sarah Lewis, Kristine Lund, Scott Lyons, Deb MacLatchy, Patricia McLaren, Eileen Mercier, Jim Phillips, Patricia Polischuk, Marc Richardson, Ken Seiling, Cynthia Sundberg, Mark Straub, Doug Treleaven, Brandon Vale

Regrets: Savvas Chamberlain, Shaun Miller, Karen Redman, Joe Rooney, Berry Vrbanovic

Secretariat: Annika Arnold, Shannon Kelly, Anna Kornobis, Anne Lukin

A. Open Session

1. **Call to Order**, Lynda Hawton Kitamura.
 - a. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest: None.
 - b. Movement of Consent Items to the Main Agenda
To allow Board members more time for meeting preparation, the items listed in Consent were sent two weeks in advance of the meeting, as a pilot project. The September 10, 2021 Minutes will be corrected to reflect Mary Kelly as attending.

Motion (Scott Lyons/Paul Elliott): that the Board of Governors approve the Consent items listed for approval under Item C.1.

2. **Chair's Report**, Lynda Hawton Kitamura
The Chair welcomed new undergraduate member Brandon Vale, who has replaced Pegah Jamalof. She commented on today's education session, "Co-Existing on Turtle Island" by Dr. Darren Thomas; reminded members to sign up for the "4 Seasons of Reconciliation" on-line course; the Sustainable Hawk Fund's recognition as a 2022 Canada's Clean50 Top Project for its impact in providing up to \$30,000 annually to support projects run that solve a sustainability challenge and benefit the community; and appreciation for the generosity and leadership shown by Laurier faculty and staff who donated over \$91,000 to the United Way, exceeding fundraising goals for the third year in a row.

3. **Leadership Update**

a. President's Report, Deb MacLatchy

The President commented on: Laurier becoming a signatory to the Scarborough Charter on Anti-Black Racism and Black Inclusion in Canadian Higher Education, with Dr. Barrington Walker, AVP, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), a key framer of the Charter; consultation is underway for the Laurier EDI Strategic Plan, aimed at Spring 2022 approvals; that for Fall 2021, 99% of faculty and staff, and 99% of students in-person on campus have provided proof of vaccination; November 15 was the student deadline to apply for an exemption and December 1 is the deadline to upload proof of a second vaccination dose, with deregistration to follow for those who do not meet these deadlines.

In government relations, the President has met with Kitchener Centre MP and Laurier alumnus Mike Morrice and also with the KW liberal MPs; MPP Mike Harris and MCU Deputy Minister Shelley Tapp are booked for tours later this month. Planning continues to arrange a Brantford campus visit for MPP Will Bouma and MCU Minister Jill Dunlop. The *Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act* came into force on October 19, 2021; and Laurier is working with other universities to look at the impact of this new legislation.

Board members discussed: that the transition back to campus for Fall 2021 has gone well, with management focusing on day-to-day operations along with planning for three, five and ten years out; and reports of grievances at other universities in response to the vaccine mandate, noting that situations change based on the terms of specific collective agreements and that the university sector got a strong endorsement from Public Health on its approach.

b. Q and A on Reports of the Senior Executives

Written summaries of recent activity were provided; there were no questions.

c. Report on Senate Activities, Trish McLaren

Dr. McLaren noted that at recent meetings, Senate heard updates on the voluntary closures of 2 research centres; the audited financial statements, enrolment and the budget process. She also noted the deferral of approval of academic calendar dates to the October meeting, to allow for further consideration.

4. **Strategic Plan Update**, Deb MacLatchy

Board members received a written summary of activity toward goals in the ten sub-themes of the Laurier Strategy. The President shared further updates on the five key priorities outlined for 2021-2022. Strategic plans are in development for credential innovation; Indigeneity; EDI; and

internationalization. For credential innovation, the aim is to create over 30 micro-credentials over the next two years to meet demand. Heidi Northwood has taken on the role of Strategic Executive Officer (SEO), Globalization in addition to her duties as SEO, Brantford. Multi-campus growth will be supported by case designs for fundraising for all three campuses.

Board members discussed: the links between the Brantford role and internationalization, noting the location of the Navitas program on the Brantford campus; that credential innovation is anticipated to generate net new funds but will require investment in infrastructure and people, with funding included in the proposed 2022-2023 budget; whether digital learning can open access to new communities; integrating the three physical campuses with digital learning; and keeping Board members informed on these five key priorities.

5. **Reports from the Standing Committees of the Board**

- a. Q&A on Chair's Updates on Committee Activity
Written summaries of recent activity were provided; there were no questions.

- b. Finance, Investments & Property Committee
 1. 2021-2022 3 Month Fiscal Update
The Board received an update on first quarter results, including a shift over time to an accrual accounting approach to better reflect actual revenues; and beginning to allocate operating budget amounts more accurately to the relevant quarter. The first quarter reflects a larger deficit than anticipated due to the 'sprummer' term numbers, with revenue results slightly better than expected and residence capacity much greater than projected with occupancy at 90% for Fall. Finance staff will continue to work on being able to identify the various effects caused by the pandemic versus enrolment changes and other impacts.

- c. Joint Finance Investments & Property/Pension Committee
 1. Fossil Free Endowment Fund Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures (SIPP)
With the creation of this new fund approved by the Board in September, a SIPP is required and has been drafted based on the SIPP for the University Endowment fund. Next steps will include seeking donors for the fund; and investment managers who can deliver on the fund's mandate.

Motion (Patricia Polischuk/Chinyere Eni McLean): That on the recommendation of the Finance, Investment & Property Committee the Board of Governors approve the Fossil Fuel Free Endowment Fund Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures. Carried.

6. **Other Business:** None.

B. In Camera Session

Motion (Patricia Polischuk/Cynthia Sundberg): to move the meeting in camera. Carried.

C. Consent Items

The following items for approval were approved by consent unless otherwise highlighted during Item A.1.b.

1. Items for Approval

- a. Agenda
- b. Minutes, Board of Governors, September 10, 2021 (as revised)
- c. Financial Statements of the WLU Press (an Independent Practitioners' Review Engagement Report)
Motion: That on the recommendation of the Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee the Board of Governors approve the Financial Statements for the Wilfrid Laurier University Press for the year ended April 30, 2021. Carried.
- d. Chairs & Officers Role Description Updates
Motion: That on the recommendation of the Governance Committee, the Board of Governors approve the position descriptions for the Board Chair, Officers and Committee Chairs, as revised. Carried.

2. Items for Information

- a. Audit Update (Enrolment Audit & Direct Loans Audit)
- b. Review and Approvals of University Policies 2020-2021
- c. Mandatory Vaccination Policy
- d. Flexible Work Policy
- e. DBRS Credit Rating Report
- f. Responsible Investing Annual Report
- g. Pension Plan Funded Status and Legislative Update
- h. Pension Plan Statement of Investment Policies & Procedures Review
- i. Q2 2021 Summary Investment Performance – Hub Proteus
- j. 2022-2023 Budget Planning Update
- k. The Scarborough Charter
- l. Enrolment Report as of November 1, 2021

Note: If you need assistance or have a question about these Minutes or the Board of Governors, please contact the University Secretariat office, by email to alukin@wlu.ca.