



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**JANUARY 21, 2021**

The meeting was held at 1:00 p.m. on Zoom.

PRESENT: R. Konrad, Chair  
A. Bryson, Acting Secretary

S. Bennett	G. Pollock
W. Boye	C. Rorabeck
C. Burghardt-Jesson	B. Ross
G. Dick	A. Shepard
K. Gibbons	S. Shortreed
D. Keddy	D. Simmonds
J. Kum	C. Stephenson
M. Lerner	M. Surkont
S. Neiman	J. Toswell
G. Parraga	S. Trosow
S. Pitel	H. Usher

By Invitation: A. Blackburn-Evans, R. Chelladurai, P. Eluchok, D. James, L. Logan, E. Mallory, M. Mills, J. O'Brien, S. Prichard, T. Rice, L. Rigg [Lesley]

Secretariat Resource: L.A. McKivior, C. Price, L. Rigg [Lisa]

Regrets: L. Hasenfratz, E. Holder, P. Thomlinson

**Land Acknowledgement**

D. Keddy offered a Land Acknowledgement.

**Adoption of Agenda – Open Session**

It was moved by H. Usher seconded by W. Boye,

That the agenda for the Open Session be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

BG.21-01      **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

The Report of the President, distributed with the agenda, consisted of the following topics:

- The President acknowledged the impact that the pandemic has had across campus amongst students, staff, and faculty and thanked the Western community for their continued commitment in supporting one another and the University during this challenging time
- The President reported that the communications team at Western will be drafting a campaign that will be circulated publicly in the spring, recognizing the covid-19 related research achievements that have occurred across various disciplines and faculties at the University over the last twelve months
- The University is set to return to in-person classes after the University's spring break in February. It was noted that this was delayed due to the emergency stay-at-home orders that were issued over the December holidays
- The President reported that the University has received questions from current students as to whether classes will remain in a mixed model come the Fall 2021 academic year. He stated that decisions around program delivery for the Fall 2021 will be made in late February, however it is anticipated that the University will return to in-person program delivery for the Fall term but remain virtual for the Summer 2021 term.

The President concluded his report by providing a brief report on the strategic planning process highlighting that work has continued despite the challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. He reported that a website was recently published that highlights key messages and themes from the strategic planning sessions and acknowledges consultations that have been completed to date.

A Board member inquired whether the University is offering rebates to students in residence as a result of the delay to in-person learning on campus. The President reported that the University is offering rebates to any students who choose to stay at home but noted that there is an interest by most students to return to campus. As a result, the University is encouraging students to return to campus at a later date once the stay-at-home order has lifted. Exceptions are being made for individuals who must return to campus due to research or in situations where international travel is required.

A Board member asked how much flexibility the University has to accommodate a summer term should the situation with the pandemic change. The President stated that the decision to pivot to online learning was made in March of last year when the pandemic began, and despite the summer term being delivered in solely a virtual format, last year's summer term had the highest enrolment in the history of the University. He reported that there was ample time to modify program delivery for the summer term in the event that the situation with the pandemic changes, but recognized the effort required on the part of Faculty and staff to modify course delivery in a short period of time and acknowledged the potential opportunity that the University has to engage a broader group of students in a virtual format.

BG.21-02      **UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA**

It was moved by H. Usher, seconded by W. Boye,

That the items listed in the Unanimous Consent Agenda except Items 4.2(f), 4.5(b) and 4.8(d), be approved or received for information.

CARRIED

BG.21-03      **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The open session minutes of the meeting of November 19, 2020 were approved as circulated.

BG.21-04      **Business Arising from the Minutes**

There were no items noted as business arising from the November 19, 2020 minutes.

BG.21-05      **New Scholarships, Awards, and Prizes**

The new scholarships, awards, and prizes approved by the Property and Finance Committee, on behalf of the Board of Governors, were provided for information in Item 4.2(a).

BG.21-06      **Key Financial Indicators Report**

The Key Financial Indicators Report was provided for information in Item 4.2(b).

BG.21-07      **Ancillary Financial Report**

The Ancillary Financial Report was provided for information in Item 4.2(c).

BG.21-08      **Annual Report on Trademark Licensees doing Business with the Western Bookstore**

The Annual Report on Trademark Licensees doing Business with the Western Bookstore was provided for information in Item 4.2(d).

BG.21-09      **Report of the Investment Committee**

The Report of the Investment Committee was provided for information in Item 4.2(e).

BG.21-10      **E-Approvals of December 17, 2020**

The Special Policy & Operations Committee approved the following senior appointments on behalf of the Board of Governors:

1.      Renewal of Dean of Faculty of Health Sciences
2.      Extension of Acting Vice-Provost & Associate Vice-President (Indigenous Initiatives)
3.      Appointment of Vice-Provost & Associate Vice-President (Indigenous Initiatives)

BG.21-11 **Health Sciences Research Ethics Board (HSREB) appointment to the Board of Governors**

The Health Sciences Research Ethics Board (HSREB) appointment to the Board of Governors was reported to the Board for information in item 4.3(b).

BG.21-12 **Revisions to Special Resolution No. 3 – Banking**

It was moved by H. Usher, seconded by W. Boye,

That the Board of Governors approve the revisions to Special Resolution No. 3 – Banking, as shown in Item 4.4(a).

CARRIED (by Unanimous Consent)

BG.21-13 **Western Office of the Ombudsperson Annual Report 2019/20**

The Western Office of the Ombudsperson Annual Report 2019/20 was provided for information in Item 4.5(a).

BG.21-14 **Fund Raising Activity Quarterly Report as at October 31, 2020**

The Fund Raising Activity Quarterly Report at October 31, 2020 was provided to the Board for information in Item 4.6(a).

BG.21-15 **Acquisition of Two Photographs by A. Grauerholz**

The acceptance of *Musée Carnavalet #7 2018*, inkjet print on Arches paper, and *Musée Carnavalet #26 2018*, inkjet print on Arches paper, by artist Angela Grauerholz were reported to the Board for information in Item 4.7(a).

BG.21-16 **Introduction of the Master of Management (MM)**

It was moved by H. Usher, seconded by W. Boye,

That, pending Quality Council approval, the Master of Management (MM) be introduced in the Ivey Business School, as set out in Item 4.8(a), effective September 1, 2021.

CARRIED (by Unanimous Consent)

BG.21-17 **Guidelines on the Use of Digital Resources**

The Guidelines on the Use of Digital Resources are provided in Item 4.8(b) for information.

BG.21-18 **Revisions to the Appointment Procedures for Senior Academic and Administrative Officers of the University – Change of Title in Section U: Secretary of Senate**

It was moved by H. Usher, seconded by W. Boye,

That the Board of Governors approve the title of “Secretary of Senate” in the Appointment Procedures for Senior Academic and Administrative Officers of the University (Section U) be changed to “University Secretary”.

CARRIED (by Unanimous Consent)

BG.21-19 **Western Libraries Annual Report 2019/20**

The Western Libraries Annual Report is provided to the Board of Governors for information via Senate.

BG.21-20 **ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

BG.21-20.1 **Investment Committee Membership Renewal**

The Report of the Investment Committee Membership Renewal was provided for information in Item 4.2(f).

A Board member queried the composition of the Investment Committee and asked if there was an opportunity to review the diversity of membership when a renewal is required citing the importance of focusing on diversity across Board committees when possible. L. Logan, Vice-President (Operations & Finance) reported that the Investment Committee will be proposing a revision to the Investment Committee Terms of Reference this coming Spring to allow for additional external members and stated that a list of potential female candidates has been provided to the committee for review, acknowledging a desire to see more gender balance amongst appointed external members. She noted that she is the Chair of the Investment Committee and a voting member on behalf of the University.

BG.21-20.2 **Health, Safety & Well-Being Annual Report 2020**

The Health, Safety & Well-Being Report was provided to the Board for information in Item 4.5(b).

A Board member commended the work and associated report of M. Mills, Director (Health, Safety & Well-being) and the health & safety employees who supported the work outlined in the report.

A Board member commented on the economic concerns outlined in the report related to mental health citing long-term mental health claims as an area of concern. It was proposed that the University consider providing additional funding to Faculty and staff seeking mental health support noting that this was a continued area of concern within employee agreements and

could benefit both employees of the University and the institution itself. J. O'Brien, Associate Vice-President (Human Resources) stated that the University has additional access to mental health services for employees of the University through the well-being team and extensive services available through the employee assistant program that supports mental health. Additionally, she reported that the University will be launching a new program that specifically focuses on supporting the mental health and well-being of staff and faculty in February. She reported that the University regularly reviews employee benefits and is always open to discussing benefits packages with employee groups when requested.

BG.21-20.3 **Revisions to the Appointment Procedures for Senior Academic and Administrative Officers of the University – Addition of the Associate Vice-President (Equity, Diversity & Inclusion)**

It was moved by W. Boye, seconded by C. Rorabeck,

That the Board of Governors approve the *Appointment Procedures for Senior Academic and Administrative Officers of the University* be amended to include the Associate Vice-President (Equity, Diversity & Inclusion) as shown in Item 4.8(d).

CARRIED (by Unanimous Consent)

A Board member asked for clarification regarding the job description of the Associate Vice-President (Equity, Diversity & Inclusion) position and the expected timeline for recruitment. The President reported that the position will not be solely operationally focused and stated it will be broad in scope and provide support across the institution in initiatives that impact equity, diversity, and inclusion.

When asked whether a faculty member or staff member was preferred for the position, the President stated that the position was open to both faculty and staff, however a staff member was preferred.

When asked whether the Associate Vice-President (Equity, Diversity & Inclusion) position would be involved in a human resources capacity at the University, the President reported that the position would engage with the Human Resources team and liaise with the Equity and Human Rights Office that lies within the Human Resources department, but noted that the Equity and Human Rights Office would not report to the Associate Vice-President (Equity, Diversity & Inclusion) position.

**REPORT OF THE PROPERTY & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

BG.21-21 **Update on Operating Budgets as at October 30, 2020**

R. Chelladurai, Associate Vice-President (Planning, Budgeting & Information Technology) provided an update on the operating budget as of October 30, 2020. During his update he acknowledged the additional costs incurred by the University associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and highlighted the strong enrolment during the summer 2020 and Fall 2020 academic terms despite the pandemic.

BG.21-22      **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

A Board member inquired whether the Canadian Centre for Activity and Aging will be open this year as initially planned. R. Chelladurai reported that the centre will be moving to Elborn College where the Faculty of Health Sciences is located. He stated that the pandemic has impacted the timeline to reopen the centre but it will be open as soon as timing allows.

BG.21-23      **OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was noted.

**ADJOURNMENT TO CONFIDENTIAL SESSION**

The meeting adjourned to the confidential session at 1:50 p.m.

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R. Konrad  
Chair

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A. Bryson  
Acting University Secretary