MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

APRIL 28, 2022 – OPEN SESSION

The meeting was held at the Western Interdisciplinary Research Building, Room 3000 and on Zoom.

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

M. Banik	C. Rorabeck
S. Bennett	B. Ross
W. Boye	A. Shepard
C. Burghardt-Jesson	S. Shortreed
A. Chant	D. Simmonds
G. Dick	C. Stephenson
K. Gibbons	J. Toswell
G. Parraga	S. Trosow
S. Pitel	H. Usher

By Invitation: M. Belanger, A. Blackburn-Evans, B. Chantler, R. Chelladurai, L. Logan, E. Mallory, J. O' Brien, J. O'Hagan, S. Prichard

Secretariat Resource: B. Brown

Regrets: L. Hasenfratz, E. Holder, M. Lerner, S. Neiman, A. Pahargarh, G. Pollock, E. Sapuridis, M. Surkont

Chair R. Konrad called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Land Acknowledgement

A. Bryson offered the land acknowledgement.

BG.22-59 **Adoption of Agenda – Open Session**

Moved by K. Gibbons, seconded by J. Toswell:

That the agenda for the open session be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

BG.22-60 **Approval of the Open Session Minutes of the Meeting of February 3, 2022**

Moved by G. Parraga, seconded by C. Rorabeck:

> That the open session minutes of the meeting of February 3, 2022, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

BG.22-61 **Business Arising from the Minutes** – None.

BG.22-62 **Report of the President**

A. Shepard, President and Vice-Chancellor, referred to the written report provided to the Board of Governors in advance of the meeting.

From the report, A. Shepard highlighted the masking/vaccination policy and expectations for convocation and summer camps; provided an update on the scheduled occupancy date for 450 Talbot; noted the significant number of Western community members who have received special honours in recent weeks; and noted the number of grants that have been filed and/or received by Western faculty. In addition, A. Shepard highlighted the recent media report on research being conducted inside Western's biosafety lab.

AGENDA

COMMITTEE AND SENATE REPORTS

REPORT OF THE PROPERTY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

BG.22-63 **2022-23 University Operating and Capital Budgets and Tuition Fees**

On the recommendation of the Property and Finance committee, G. Dick presented for approval Western's operating and capital budgets and tuition fees for 2022-23.

BG.22-64 **2022-23 University Operating and Capital Budgets**
2022-23 Program Specific Tuition and Other Supplemental Fees

S. Prichard, Acting Provost & Vice-President (Academic), presented Western's operating and capital budgets for 2022-23. She acknowledged the individuals and teams involved in the development and preparation of the budget and provided an overview of the process.

In her presentation, S. Prichard provided information on the background/context for the budget, including enrolment growth and revenue parameters. The

budget investments and their alignment to the three main themes of the strategic plan were described.

S. Prichard provided a summary of the operational budget outlining the operating revenues and expenditures for 2022-2023. She further summarized the capital budget expenditures describing capital projects underway, upcoming projects, those in the preliminary planning phase and those planned for the future.

In addressing a question from the Board of Governors, Administration advised the established timeline for addressing the space requirements for McIntosh Gallery is based in the context of other capital projects.

Administration further responded to questions regarding: the future expansion of housing services; the practice of transferring operational dollars to address the capital needs of the University; plans for increasing domestic tuition fees for out-of-province students for September 2023 noting this will be presented to the Board of Governors for consideration; and the management of carry forwards in faculties.

Moved by S. Shortreed, seconded by D. Simmonds:

> That the Board of Governors approve the 2022-23 University Operating and Capital Budgets (Item 4.1(a)(i) and the proposed Program Specific Fees and Other Supplemental Fees for 2022-23 (Item 4.1(a)(ii)).

CARRIED

BG.22-65 **2022-23 Budgets for Student Fee Funded Units, Ancillaries, Academic Support Units and Associated Companies**

On the recommendation of the Property and Finance Committee, G. Dick presented for approval the 2022-23 budgets for student fee funded units, ancillaries, academic support units and associated companies.

R. Chelladurai, Associate VP (Planning, Budgeting & Information Technology), described the budget development process managed by the Student Services Committee. He highlighted the new mental health initiative and intent to hire two additional staff positions for mental health supports.

Questions regarding specific fee line items in the budget were addressed by R. Chelladurai.

Moved by G. Dick, seconded by M. Banik:

That the Board of Governors approve the 2022-23 budgets for Student Fee Funded Units, Ancillaries, and Academic Support Units, as shown in Item 4.1(a)(iii), Table 1,

And,

That the ancillary fees collected by the University will be as detailed in Item 4.1(a)(iii), Table 2 for full-time students and Table 3 for part-time students as supported by the Student Services Committee.

CARRIED

BG.22-66 **MAPP 2.26 – Statement of Investment Objectives, Policies and Governance for the Short-Term Portfolio, Mid-Term Portfolio and Operating and Endowment Fund**

R. Konrad advised on the receipt of a petition (Appendix 1) and other correspondence in relation to the proposed amendments to MAPP 2.26. He further acknowledged the observers in the room.

On recommendation of the Property and Finance Committee, G. Dick presented for Board approval the revisions to MAPP 2.26 - Statement of Investment Objectives, Policies and Governance for the Short-Term Portfolio, Mid-Term Portfolio and Operating and Endowment Fund (SIOP&G).

L. Logan, Vice-President (Operations and Finance), provided background information on the amendment process. Key amendments to the policy including the investment beliefs and commitments regarding responsible investing, were highlighted. L. Logan advised on the publication of the new *Responsible Investing Annual Report* noting it will provide a mechanism to publicly report on the progress toward stated targets. The responsible investment strategy and pathway to net-zero carbon emissions was outlined highlighting the strategies of engagement and divestment and how they will be implemented.

M. Belanger, Director of Investments (Financial Services), provided examples of engagement strategies/activities and the impact that has had on actions by companies and their commitments to net-zero carbon emissions. M. Belanger further described the commitments and progress made on sustainable investment strategies.

L. Logan highlighted the carbon footprint analysis completed in the fall of 2021 across all asset classes. This information will provide a baseline from which the progress toward the achievement of targets may be measured annually. Initial progress towards decarbonization was described.

Planned activities by the Investment Team for the remainder of the current fiscal year were identified.

In response to a question regarding section 7.4 and the reporting by monitoring managers, it was clarified data and feedback from monitoring managers is brought forward to the Investment Committee for their review as part of their due diligence.

The discussion included consideration of the value of getting broader consultation on the engagement/divestment strategies identified in the policy in light of the petition/correspondence received from the Western community and MAPP 1.51 – Policy on Establishing University Policies and Procedures.

Board members speaking against approving the policy at this time suggested postponing the decision to the November meeting would allow for broader consultation.

Board members speaking in favour of approving the policy as presented noted it provides a framework for achieving the goal of net-zero carbon emissions. Proponents further stated Western University is a leader in this space and engagement is considered best practice in the industry.

In responding to questions, Administration stated financial policies historically have not gone through a broad consultation process, but rather they are the purview of the Property and Finance committee and of the Board of Governors. It further was suggested the *Responsible Investing Annual Report* may be a mechanism to initiate further dialogue in this area. Feedback could then inform the next reiteration of the policy noting is it reviewed regularly.

Moved by S. Trosow, seconded by A. Chant:

> That the Board of Governors approve MAPP 2.26 – Statement of Investment Objectives, Policies and Governance for the Short-Term Portfolio, Mid-Term Portfolio, Mid-Term Portfolio and Operating and Endowment Fund, with the exception of Section 7, as revised.

DEFEATED

In response to a question, L. Logan explained the rationale for using engagement as a strategy in advance of divestment to get to net-zero carbon emissions. The challenges posed by a divestment strategy with pooled funds were described.

Administration further responded to questions concerning: the identified targets/goals and corresponding timelines in the policy; specific edits made to

the policy; bench marking; and how the determination will be made as to whether an engagement strategy is having success or not.

It was noted there were a number of grammatical/administrative edits suggested by a Board member. There was no objection to incorporating those amendments into the revised policy.

L. Logan offered the next *Responsible Investing Annual Report* could come forward to a Board of Governors meeting in the fourth quarter of the current fiscal year. Board members asked for assurances that the policy be reviewed again in short order.

Moved by G. Dick, seconded by S. Shortreed:

> That the Board of Governors approve MAPP 2.26 – Statement of Investment Objectives, Policies and Governance for the Short-Term Portfolio, Mid-Term Portfolio and Operating and Endowment Fund, as revised.

CARRIED

The meeting recessed at 1:05 p.m., reconvening in open session at 1:30 p.m.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR POLICY AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

BG.22-67 **MAPP 3.12 Disconnecting from Work Policy and Procedures**

J. O'Brien, Associate Vice-President (Human Resources), presented for approval the new Disconnecting from Work Policy and Procedures.

J. O'Brien outlined the rationale for the policy and procedures. The consultation completed with the various employment groups and the communication plan to notify the Western community was described.

Moved by M. Banik, seconded by D. Simmonds:

> That the Board of Governors approve the new Disconnecting from Work Policy and Procedures as shown in item 4.2(a).

CARRIED

REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

BG.22-68 **Campus Safety and Emergency Services 2022 Annual Report**

W. Boye advised April 28 is Worker's Day of Mourning noting it was established to recognize those who have been injured or killed on the job.

B. Chantler, Director of Campus Safety and Emergency Services, presented for information the Campus Safety & Emergency Services 2022 Annual Report. He highlighted the staffing complement noting the recent hiring of constables and the services provided by the Western Special Constable Services (WSCS). He included information on occurrence types and rates; the Campus Safety Provided through Environmental Design (CSPED) program noting its name change and its focus on safety; responses to gender-based and sexual violence and proactive activities in this area; the emergency management/continuity of operations; and the Foot Patrol program.

In response to a question regarding camera monitoring and retention of records, B. Chantler referred to the policy noting the limits on who may view monitors and recordings and the limits on the retention of records. B. Chantler further responded to questions regarding efforts to diversify their staffing complement.

REPORTS REFERRED FROM SENATE

BG.22-69 **Vice-Provost's Annual Report on Faculty Recruitment and Retention**

S. Prichard presented the annual report on faculty recruitment and retention for information. There were no questions or discussion.

BG.22-70 **Revisions to MAPP 7.6 – Guidelines for Postdoctoral Fellows and Postdoctoral Associates**

S. Prichard presented for approval revisions to MAPP 7.6 – Guidelines for Postdoctoral Fellows and Postdoctoral Associates.

In reference to a statement in the policy regarding the benefits for Postdoctoral Associates (PDAs), it was noted PDAs do have a medical plan. The policy will be amended to reflect PDAs have a benefit plan which differs from other employees.

With that amendment, it was moved by A. Chant, seconded by K. Gibbons:

> That the Board of Governors approve MAPP 7.6 – Guidelines for Postdoctoral Fellows and Postdoctoral Associates as revised.

CARRIED

BG.22-71 **CONSENT AGENDA**

Moved by C. Rorabeck, seconded by H. Usher:

> That the items listed in the consent agenda be approved or received for information by the Board of Governors by unanimous consent.

CARRIED

ITEMS FROM THE PROPERTY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

BG.22-72 **New Scholarships, Awards, and Prizes**

The terms of reference approved by the Property and Finance Committee for the new scholarships, awards, and prizes was received for information in item 5.1(a).

BG.22-73 **Western University Standard and Poor's Credit Rating Report**

The annual Standard and Poor's Credit Rating report for Western University was received for information in item 5.1(b).

BG.22-74 **Annual Report and Recommendations of the Student Services Committee**

The annual report of the Student Services Committee regarding full-time student activity fee rates was received for information in item 5.1(c).

BG.22-75 **Fourth Wolfe-Western Fellowship At-Large for Outstanding Newly Recruited Research Scholars**

A report on the fourth *Wolfe-Western Fellowship At-Large for Outstanding Newly Recruited Research Scholars* was received for information in item 5.1(d).

ITEMS FROM THE FUND RAISING AND DONOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE

BG.22-76 **Fund Raising Activity Quarterly Report to January 31, 2022**

The quarterly report for fund raising activity as at January 31, 2022 was received for information in item 5.2(a).

ITEMS REFERRED BY SENATE

BG.22-77 **2022-23 University Operating and Capital Budgets**

The report advising the Board of Governors on the Senate's review of Western's operating and capital budgets for 2022-23 and their recommendation for approval was received in item 5.3(a).

BG.22-78 **Revisions to the Articulation Agreement for the Admission of Graduates of the Food Nutrition Management Program at Fanshawe College into the Bachelor of Science (Foods and Nutrition) Program at Brescia University College**

On recommendation of the Senate in the report received under item 5.3(b), and by unanimous consent, the Board of Governors approved that effective April 22,

2022 the articulation agreement for the admission of graduates of the Food and Nutrition Management Program at Fanshawe College into the Bachelor of Science (Foods and Nutrition) Program at Brescia University College be revised.

BG.22-79 **Academic Administrative Appointments**

A report on the academic administrative appointments, as of April 2022, was received for information in item 5.3(c).

BG.22-80 **Report of the Academic Colleague – February 15 and 16, 2022**

A report from the February meetings of the COU Academic Colleagues was received for information in item 5.3(d)(i).

BG.22-81 **Report of the Academic Colleague – April 5 and 6, 2022**

A report from the April meetings of the COU Academic Colleagues was received for information in item 5.3(d)(ii).

BG.22-82 **Report of the Subcommittee on Teaching Awards (SUTA): Recipients of Western's Excellence in Teaching Awards for 2021-22**

A report on the recipients of Western's Excellence in Teaching Awards for 2021-22 was received for information in item 5.3(e).

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA – None.

BG.22-83 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

In response to Board member questions, Administration advised the Board of the following:

- The Subcommittee on Enrolment Planning and Policy (SUEPP) report was presented to the Senate at their February 17, 2022 meeting. Enrolment projections also were included in the 2022-2023 budget report. The SUEPP report will be brought forward to the next Board of Governors meeting for information.
- The Gender-Based and Sexual Violence report is scheduled for the June meeting of the Board of Governors.
- The University Secretariat department will follow up regarding membership to the Association of Governing Boards.
- The Equity, Diversity and Inclusion statement continues to reside on the Board of Governors webpage (https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/board/index.html).

In response to a request that Western complete an archeological survey to

reflect indigenous engagement on its land, L. Logan suggested this be referred to the Property and Finance committee for follow up. It was suggested that the Master Development Agreement with the City of London may include a commitment to an archeological survey. L. Logan offered to follow up on this item.

In response to the liquor licence application by 7-Eleven (at the corner of Sarnia/Western), it was reported Western has submitted an objection to that application.

The Board of Governors extended their appreciation to Sarah Prichard recognizing the significant contributions she has made during her tenure as Acting Provost & Vice-President (Academic) and previously as Acting President and Vice-Chancellor.

OTHER BUSINESS – None.

ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

_____	_____
R. Konrad	A. Bryson
Chair	University Secretary

APPENDIX 1

Open Letter on Divestment at the University of Western Ontario
April 27, 2022

We, the undersigned, call on the administration of the University of Western Ontario to fully disclose and quickly divest its financial holdings in the fossil fuel industry. This call reflects the urgent need to take meaningful action on climate change, the biodiversity crisis, and decolonization, which are explicit goals of Western's Strategic Plan and Indigenous Strategic Plan.

Western's 2021 Strategic Plan describes the pursuit of sustainability as "an imperative" that "calls out for… bold and brave solutions," and makes it clear that "Western has the capacity, desire, and duty to discover, develop, and advocate for approaches to make our world more sustainable, particularly in the areas of climate change, biodiversity, equity, and social justice." The Strategic Plan also pledges net-zero emissions on campus by 2050 and a 45% reduction by 2030, and Western made a further public commitment to being a leader on climate action when it joined the University Climate Change Coalition in October 2021. Western's 2016 Indigenous Strategic Plan includes commitments to "strengthen and build relationships with Indigenous communities," "nurture an inclusive campus culture that values Indigenous peoples, perspectives, and ways of knowing," and "Indigenize Western's institutional practices and spaces."

These are all commendable ambitions, but it is not enough to express them unless they are accompanied by proportionate actions. Divestment from the fossil fuel industry is one step that simply must follow from these aspirations.

The urgency and scale of the climate crisis are well established, as are its causes. There is overwhelming scientific consensus that swift and dramatic reductions in greenhouse gases are required in the coming decade, and that warming beyond 1.5°C portends catastrophic outcomes for human societies and the diversity of life on Earth. While governments formally recognized the need to contain warming to less than 1.5°C in the Paris Agreement, and reiterated the need for rapid emission reductions to achieve this goal at the COP26 in Glasgow in 2021, a huge gap remains between words and actions.

The UNEP *Production Gap* report details how powerful financial institutions, corporations, and states have made commitments to expand fossil fuel exploration and extraction over the coming decade, to an extent that is incompatible with any hope of containing warming to 1.5°C. This can be seen clearly in Canada, where commitments to reach net-zero emissions are deferred decades into the future while the fossil fuel industry continues to grow. The Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers recently projected that new investments in the industry are poised to increase by 22% in 2022 to $33 billion.

This immense contradiction means that any institution, like Western, that is committed to sustainability has a responsibility to do more than reduce emissions on campus. It must also simultaneously exert whatever economic pressure it can upon those sectors most responsible for greenhouse gas emissions, first and foremost the fossil fuel industry and the financial

interests that propel it. Divestment, coupled with reinvestment in just and sustainable alternatives, sends both a direct financial signal and a broader challenge to the fossil fuel industry. While divestment alone cannot upend the power of the fossil energy industry, it does show a refusal to profit from business-as-usual – and has the potential to inspire others to similarly withdraw their support.
Divestment from the fossil fuel industry does more than advance sustainability goals: it also responds to the urgent need for meaningful actions that support decolonization. Climate change has disproportionate impacts on marginalized populations in Canada and around the world. Spaces of extraction, transport, and refining of fossil fuels cause serious social and environmental harms, with localized burdens that are frequently most severe for Indigenous and racialized communities. In Canada as elsewhere, the continuing exploration, approval, and construction of fossil fuel projects depends on colonial laws, weak and piecemeal impact assessments, and (at times militarized) encroachment on Indigenous lands. Investing in oil, gas, and coal companies ties part of Western's operating finances along with the livelihoods and retirement savings of the Western community to these abhorrent practices.

In short, Western has made numerous commitments to sustainability and decolonization. Continuing to invest in corporations that are pursuing fossil fuel exploration and extraction directly contravenes these goals, whereas pursuing divestment of all of its holdings in this sector would represent a strong step toward realizing them.

The divestment movement is growing rapidly on a world scale, and already includes many universities in Canada (Concordia University, Lakehead University, Laval University, Simon Fraser University, University of British Columbia, University of Guelph, Université du Quebec à Montreal, University of Ottawa, University of Toronto, University of Victoria, University of Waterloo). Divesting from fossil fuels would bring Western into a growing alliance of institutions taking "bold and brave" actions to address the growing climate emergency. Furthermore, Western's students are demanding action, as evident in the University Student Council's recent unanimous vote to divest its fossil fuel investments by 2025. As long as Western ignores this movement and the nature of its investment portfolio, it will fail to live up to its professed commitments to sustainability and decolonization. There is a clear opportunity for Western to take a prominent place in the divestment movement in Canada, and to live up to its noble aspirations and commitments.