

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF GOVERNORS MINUTES

OPEN SESSION

February 6, 2014

The Open Session of the regular Board meeting was held on Thursday, February 6, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room (F303). The following members were present:

C. Dennis, Chair
M. Berubé
R. deBernardi
T. Curry (videoconference)
G. Durnan
C. Miller (videoconference)
S. Portelli (videoconference)
B. Windsor
J. Zimbalatti
G. deBruyn
A. McDonald
C. Phillips
M. Shail
Dr. T. Campbell
Dr. J Kovacs
Dr. J. Scott
Dr. R. Vernescu (videoconference)
K. Fitzsimmons
Y. Benoit
Dr. M. DeGagné, President & Vice-Chancellor (teleconference)
Board Officers: Dr. H. d'Entremont, Vice-President Academic & Research
R. Onley, Vice-President Finance and Administration
B. Keech, Vice-President Operations
S. Robineau, Board Secretary
Guests: Dr. M. Tuncali, B. Martin, Dr. D. Hackett

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Dr. T. Bachelder, M. Couchie, G. DuCharme, J. Evans
Dr. J. Dellandrea, C. Grist

WELCOME / SPECIAL GUESTS/ INTRODUCTIONS

The Board Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2014. Mr. Dennis acknowledged Colleen Miller, Steve Portelli, Tom Curry and Dr. Roxana Vernescu, who participated in the meeting via videoconference. He welcomed the President who participated in the Board meeting via teleconference.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Resolution 2014-02-01: Moved by C. Dennis, seconded by M. Berubé that the minutes of the Open Session of the regular meeting of the Board of Governors held on December 5, 2013 be adopted as circulated.

Carried

CORRESPONDENCE

Board members were informed that no correspondence had been received.

PRESENTATION

The Board Chair introduced Gemma Victor, a 2007 graduate of Nipissing University, who was recently appointed to the full-time position of Manager of Student Recruitment in the Office of External Relations and Advancement. Originally from St. Lucia, Gemma enrolled at Nipissing University as an international student and studied Environmental Geography. She has worked in recruiting at both York University and Nipissing University.

Gemma's engaging presentation gave Board members a clearer understanding of Nipissing's focus on recruiting. She also gave Board members the opportunity to view the new residence video produced by External Relations. Gemma spoke of the new student website, "I Belong to Nipissing University" that had been recently developed and to date has received great feedback. She stated that Nipissing students are offered one of the best residence experiences in the country that includes great programming with interaction among all four residence complexes. Students have access to numerous student development services and opportunities through NUSU to build a vibrant student life. Nipissing students enjoy excellent interaction with faculty members and every student is taught by a faculty member, rather than a teaching assistant. Gemma described the Nipissing's unique advantages of small class sizes and the guaranteed scholarships for high school students. Our students also receive financial support throughout their four years of study.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

All Board members were reminded of the invitation to attend the Dave Marshall Leadership Awards event on Thursday, March 19 from 1:30-4:00 p.m. in the Theatre.

The Board picture outside the Board Room has been updated to depict the 2013-2014 membership. Individual copies of the composite can be made available to any Board member who would like to receive same. Board members may contact the Secretary if interested in either a picture or a Library I.D. card.

The Board Chair announced the Fan & Employee Appreciation Night on Saturday, February 8 for the men's hockey game between RMC and the Nipissing Lakers. A special price of \$10 includes admission, a NU Lakers scarf, pop and a hot dog. Tickets can be acquired from the Board Secretary.

Board members were reminded to pick up the handouts at the back table including the Board Bulletin that lists events occurring in February, March and April.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

The President announced that Greg DuCharme was representing the Board Chair at the meeting of CCOU and Executive Heads in Toronto.

The President remarked on the discussions that have occurred about the strategic mandate agreements. He stated that there has been an attempt by the Ministry to guide universities using the lever of program funding to sort out what universities are offering. Their viewpoint is that the overall system should be influenced more and more by the Ministry. Universities have endeavoured to convey to the Ministry the impact that they have on their respective regional economies. Most universities have a desire to branch out into more graduate studies. The Ministry's opinion is that there should be strong articulation agreements with colleges. Dr. DeGagné noted that many colleges want to offer three year degrees. In addition, he reported that the Ministry is reviewing university salaries for senior administrators and has stipulated that no university President should make more than double the Premier's salary.

Dr. DeGagné shared some personal reflections regarding the completion of the first year of his Presidency. He spoke of the tremendous opportunities that exist for Nipissing University and the well-functioning administrative team. He praised the institution for having good and open communication and stated his appreciation for feedback from Senate on the challenges faced by the university.

Several upcoming events were noted by the President including the Premier's Summit on Postsecondary Education (March 5); March Open House; 2014; OUA Nordic Ski Championships; the 7th annual undergraduate research conference (March 21-22); NU's First Three Minute Thesis Competition (March 21) and the First Robotics Conference on March 28 and 29.

VICE-PRESIDENTS' REMARKS

Dr. d'Entremont informed Board members that the NU ski team is the most highly ranked university sport at Nipissing University. At the world university games in Italy in December, NU was the best represented among all Canadian universities. The VPAR announced a positive outcome to a recent meeting with Canadore officials to discuss a proposal by NUSU to schedule a number of events at the Wall between now and the remainder of the year.

Current statistics released from the Universities Applications Centre show that Nipissing's total number of applications is 2.3% higher than the system average. First choice applications are down by 11%, yet second choice applications are up by 16%. Two of the programs being developed, Social Work and Engineering, have the highest increase in total applications across

the province. Efforts are being made to send conditional offers to students as soon as possible.

Dr. Tuncali reported that the university is awaiting word on 10 NSERC grant applications and 21 SSHRC applications. The Assistant Vice-President informed Board members that the university has sent its offers to graduate students a month earlier than last year.

DEANS' REMARKS

Dr. Vernescu reported that Dean Vanderlee and a number of faculty members at the Muskoka campus have been working closely in consultation with Dr. Ann-Barbara Graff and the Faculty of Arts and Science to discuss programming ideas for the Muskoka campus. A total of four strategic pillars for the Muskoka campus were identified. These include: healthy communities; ethical leadership; ecological sustainability and creativity and culture. Dr. Vernescu shared some ideas that had been proposed under each pillar. A working group has been established with the Faculties of Arts and Science and Applied and Professional Studies.

QUESTION PERIOD

Comments were made with regard to improving transparency about the financial state of the university. It was noted that many unknowns still exist in terms of decisions from the Ministry. Nipissing University has an open budget process and dialogue and discussion with university members are welcome. Factors such as the decline in student enrolment and tuition freeze have affected this year's financial challenges. The President stated that information shared at Board meetings, with regard to financial situation, has to be clear so that faculty members and the Deans can report back to their respective groups and explain what they have heard at Board meetings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

The Board Chair spoke briefly about the Executive Committee meeting held on January 28, 2014 and noted that the 2012-2013 Annual Report of the Research Ethics Board had been presented for information. The committee members also discussed the topic of establishing a Centre for Interdisciplinary Collaboration in the Arts and Sciences. The VPAR provided some definition to the concept of a "Centre" at a university and described it as a critical mass of researchers who work together. Dr. Tuncali stated that the reason for its inception was a faculty initiative; he added that having the status of a 'centre' would assist with funding.

The following resolution was presented:

Resolution 2014-02-02: Moved by C. Dennis, seconded by M. Berubé that the Board of Governors accept the recommendation of the Executive Committee that a Centre for Interdisciplinary Collaboration in the Arts & Sciences be approved.

Carried

Advancement Committee

Committee Chair, Gord Durnan, informed Board members of staffing, marking and recruiting activities in the Advancement department aimed at meeting goals for this year and the future. He stated that the committee had reviewed a proposed new Communications Protocol Policy. He explained that its purpose was to provide guidance for Board members with regard to best practices to work together and use best judgment to ensure effective communication with others and the public.

The Committee Chair presented the following motion:

Resolution 2014-02-03: Moved by G. Durnan, seconded by J. Zimbalatti that the Board of Governors accept the recommendation of the Advancement Committee that the Communications Protocol Policy (#1.2.2013B) be approved.

Carried

Audit and Finance Committee

Vice-Chair, Brian Windsor, reported that the January 21st meeting of the Audit & Finance Committee had aimed at making progress on the 2014-5 budget. At the next meeting, a cash flow analysis will be provided. It was noted that with the decline in tuition, the 2013-14 operating deficit could be \$7.7 million. There will also be a deficit budget for 2014-2015. The topic of ethical investment policies will be reviewed at the next Audit & Finance Committee meeting.

Plant and Property Committee

Marianne Berubé noted that the January 21st meeting had included several updates on construction projects. She outlined the second phase of renovations to the former Library space that will include a Health Centre, shared with Canadore College, more classrooms, faculty offices, and expansion for Student Services. Completion is expected in March or April. Some discussion occurred around green space on land owned by the university. It was noted that the Student Union representatives would like to start negotiations with Nipissing University to purchase some of the Larocque property in order to build a Student Centre. At the committee level, a motion was approved simply to pursue negotiations. Any decisions will be presented to the full Board.

University Governance Committee

Committee Vice-Chair, Genevieve deBruyn, presented the following motion that had appeared as a Notice of Motion on the Agenda for the December Board meeting.

Resolution 2014-02-04: Moved by G. deBruyn, seconded by J. Kovacs that the Board of Governors accept the recommendation of the University Governance Committee for a revision to the Board Bylaws, May 2013, Section II. Composition of the Board 1. g) to state:

“two full-time non-teaching employees of the University **representing equally the administrative staff and support staff members (i.e. one member from Administrative Staff and one member from Support Staff)** as elected by the full-time non-teaching employees of the University:

If the elected individual's status changes during his/her term on the Board (i.e. due to a promotion from Support Staff to an administrator), he/she will complete the term in the same capacity as initially elected.”

Carried

BOARD REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER COMMITTEES

Academic Senate

Janet Zimbalatti reported on the two recent Senate meetings that she had attended in December and January. She informed Board members that the minutes of all Senate meetings were available on the web. She noted that significant work had been done to streamline the Board Bylaws. She reported on some of the issues raised at Senate including a discussion about the undergraduate research conference; the strategic mandate agreement; questions about Nipissing's website which have since been addressed and further comments and questions about the political events policy that is in the process of being revisited.

Nipissing University Student Union

Kayla Fitzsimmons informed Board members of several successful events that had occurred last month. She was pleased to announce that events would start running at the Wall in March. She also expressed optimism with regard to the Student Centre.

Alumni Advisory Board

Genevieve deBruyn stated that Michelle Courville had acquired another position at the university. She announced that the President would be hosting an Alumni event at his Ottawa home in April. Genevieve described the success of the NU Helping You contest that had

resulted in many great photographic entries and generated good press coverage. Work is in progress to discuss the next contest to engage our Alumni.

Aboriginal Council on Education

A written report was made available at the back table.

Brantford

Board members were given a brief report on activities at the Brantford campus. Workshops entitled Professional Fridays are offered every Friday and engage as many as 50-60 students and faculty advisors. A brief description was provided of the "Let's Read Initiative", a project that supports family and life-long learning. It was noted that Brantford is working with the North Bay campus to have Brantford students participate in the undergraduate research conference. Several Brantford students plan to be in North Bay on Saturday to attend the Lakers game.

Bracebridge

Gord Durnan stated that Jan Lucy had met with various economic development groups and the Mayor to ensure that the community and campus are in concert with the priorities and goals for the Muskoka campus. He announced that Nipissing University will be a silver sponsor at the Ontario Winter Games; the competition is expected to draw 2500 athletes. This will represent an excellent opportunity for profile building for NU. A full written report was made available at the back table.

ADJOURNMENT

Resolution 2014-02-06: Moved by C. Dennis, seconded by M. Berubé that the Open Session of the Board of Governors' regular meeting now adjourn: 7:05 p.m.

Secretary

Board Chair