

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MINUTES
OPEN SESSION

June 4, 2015

The Open Session of the regular Board meeting was held on Thursday, June 4, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room (F303).

The following members were present:

T. Bachelder
M. Berube (vice-chair)
C. Dennis (chair)
T. Curry (skype)
G. Durnan
J. Evans
D. Forget
C. Miller
T. Palangio
M. Webster
S. Minor
M. Shail
G. Black
J. Kovacs
J. Scott
M. Byblow (teleconference)
I. Hall (teleconference)
D. Shogren
M. DeGagné, President & Vice-Chancellor

Board Officers: H. d'Entremont, Provost Vice-President Academic & Research
C. Jenkins, Secretary to the Board of Governors

Student Observers: J. Andrews, A. Deugo

Recording Secretary: S. Landriault

Absent with Regrets: M. Couchie, M. Saari, S. Portelli, J. Zimbalatti

WELCOME / SPECIAL GUESTS/ INTRODUCTIONS

The Board Chair welcomed everyone to the last meeting of the academic year.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Resolution 2015-06-01: Moved by C. Dennis, seconded by J. Kovacs that the minutes of the Open Session of the meeting of the Board of Governors held on May 7, 2015 be adopted as circulated.
CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was read from Chief Marianna Couchie indicating she will no longer be a member of the Board as she does not plan to seek re-election as Chief of Nipissing First Nation. There was discussion about her original appointment to the Board which was July 1, 2013. It was believed she was appointed to replace Brent Woodford. Chief Couchie had previously requested that she be treated in the same way as the appointment of the Mayor of North Bay. That has yet to be approved. Therefore she is considered an external member. The incoming Board Chair will follow up with Chief Couchie to determine her wishes as to membership on the Board.

The second item of correspondence was a letter from Dr. David Tabachnick who was acting on behalf of an ad hoc committee of Senate. The letter outlined concerns about portions of the Nipissing University Act not being adhered to. The President elaborated and indicated that Senate had recently passed a motion to form a joint committee to examine the Board and Senate bylaws and whether they comply with the Act. It was decided that this request would be referred to the next meeting of the University Governance Committee.

PRESENTATION

There was no presentation.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair announced that a report from Gord Durnan on Ignite Canada and Muskoka campus activities were on the back table. The Chair was pleased to inform the Board that the following faculty were the new academic representatives: Dr. Robin Gendron, Senate representative from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017; Dr. Nancy Maynes, Faculty representative from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017; and Dr. Dennis Geden, Faculty representative from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. The returning constituency representatives are: Sandra Minor, Non-academic representative; Mark Webster, Alumni Advisory Board; Donna Forget, Aboriginal Council on Education; Derek Shogren, Mayor's designate; and Dr. Matti Saari, Senate representative.

The Chair remarked that June meetings are always nostalgic as several members complete their terms. Internal representatives Drs. John Kovacs and Jeff Scott and Ms. Margarida Shail were thanked for their service. The Chair also recognized the contributions made by departing external members Brian Windsor, Mayor Al McDonald and Chief Marianna Couchie. The incoming Board Executive comprising of Marianne Berube (Chair), Gord Durnan (Vice-Chair) and Tom Palangio (Vice-Chair Pro-Tem) were welcomed.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President DeGagné also thanked those departing Board members for their service. He made the observation that being a Board member is always more work than people often realize. Special tribute was given to outgoing Chair Colin Dennis. He reminded Board members to attend some of the convocation ceremonies next week as this is the highlight of the academic year. Of particular note is that Board member, Dr. Glenda Black, will be presented with the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching at the Wednesday afternoon ceremony.

VICE-PRESIDENTS' REMARKS

Provost Vice-President Academic and Research

There were no remarks.

Vice-President - Administration

There were no remarks.

DEANS' REMARKS

Dean of the Schulich School of Education (interim)

The Dean of Education was pleased to report that there was a significant presence from the Schulich School of Education at the recent Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences in Ottawa.

ENROLMENT UPDATE

Jamie Graham, Registrar and Assistant VP of Institutional Planning provided an enrolment update focusing on secondary school applicants (known as 101s) as of June 1. For students who wish to guarantee their place in residence and to qualify for our entrance scholarships, the deadline to accept an offer of admission for the 2015 Fall/Winter term is June 1. However, applications and acceptances will continue to be accepted until September. Confirmations (acceptances) for 101 applicants are running ahead of last year. Acceptances for first choice applicants stand at 348 compared to 279 last year, which represents a 25% increase. For all applications, confirmations stand at 572 vs 494 last year or a 16% increase year over year. These increases have been included in the projections in the budget process. The non-secondary school applications (known as 105s) are exactly the same as at the same date as last year. Their confirmation rate is much slower than the rates for 101 Applicants. Mr. Graham noted that it will not be until late July or August when we will have reliable numbers for these students. Acceptances for 105 students to date are 218 vs 271 last year a decrease of 20%

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

Report included with the agenda.

Audit and Finance Committee

Marianne Berube thanked everyone for their hard work in reducing the deficit. Budget briefing notes were provided to Board members prior to the meeting. The projection for the next five years, the ancillary and operating budgets, and international tuition rates proposals were included in the agenda package. The Chair noted that despite the decrease in the deficit, the University is still facing challenging times. It will take time to get to a zero deficit and much will depend on enrollment and funding. Ms. Berube also indicated her confidence in getting accurate financial information on a monthly basis will be helpful. She is looking forward to the enrolment numbers once they are finalized.

There was a lively discussion that followed. A question was asked if other institutions were experiencing financial challenges. The President responded that there were and the province is concerned. Jamie Graham provided a comment that one of the major unknowns moving forward is the new funding review currently being undertaken by the province. This could have a particularly negative impact on smaller regional universities. There will be no new money added to postsecondary funding; just a reconfiguration of what is currently available.

In response to the question if the University is continuing to look for savings, the Provost indicated 'yes.' All departments will be asked to review their respective areas for further savings. He noted that budget information is now being received in a timelier manner.

During discussions, the President reinforced the message that teaching and learning and the student experience must be impacted as little as possible.

Mark Webster from the Alumni Advisory Board expressed concern that the Alumni Relations Department took a significant hit during budget deliberations. He noted that the level of support in the office is less than before but acknowledges the balancing act required. The Provost replied that recruitment is now part of External Relations and Student Services will assume some of the other duties in regarding Alumni Relations.

Tom Curry commented that there are very few things that Board members can do to solve the current problem. However, he stressed that we need to find a way for faculty, staff and the student union to work together for the good of the institution.

The Chair and the President both commented that all universities are experiencing difficult times. The province has stopped any additional funding. The President acknowledged that some past decisions did not work out as anticipated. We have to make new decisions to fix the problem and he is requesting support to 'right the ship.'

The students presented a verbal statement opposing the budget and indicated they would vote against it.

The following resolutions were presented:

- Resolution 2015-06-02:** Moved by M. Berube, seconded by D. Forget that the Board of Governors accepts the recommendation of the Audit and Finance Committee that the 2015-16 Operating budget, which includes a planned deficit of \$5,283,215, be approved as presented.
CARRIED
(Madison Byblow – opposed)
(Ian Hall – opposed)
- Resolution 2015-06-03:** Moved by M. Berube, seconded by M. Shail that the Board of Governors accepts the recommendation of the Audit and Finance Committee that the 2015-16 Ancillary Budget be approved as presented.
CARRIED
- Resolution 2015-06-04:** Moved by M. Berube, seconded by T. Bachelder that the Board of Governors accepts the recommendation of the Audit and Finance Committee that the international tuition rates for 2015-16 be accepted as presented.
- Resolution 2015-06-05:** Moved by I. Hall, seconded by M. Byblow that Resolution 2015-06-04 be divided to first vote on undergraduate international tuition rates and then vote on graduate international tuition rates.
CARRIED
- Resolution 2015-06-06:** Moved by M. Berube, seconded by T. Bachelder that the Board of Governors accepts the recommendation of the Audit and Finance Committee that the undergraduate international tuition rates for 2015-16 be accepted as presented.
CARRIED
(Madison Byblow – opposed)
(Ian Hall – opposed)

Resolution 2015-06-07: Moved by M. Berube, seconded by D. Forget that the Board of Governors accepts the recommendation of the Audit and Finance Committee that the graduate international tuition rates for 2015-16 be accepted as presented.
CARRIED

Plant and Property Committee

The report from the April 20, 2015 meeting was included in the agenda.

University Governance Committee

The report from the May 19, 2015 meeting was included in the agenda. Committee Chair, Trevor Bachelder, thanked committee members for their work this past year.

Advancement Committee

There was no report but the Chair, Gord Durnan, stated that it is critical that the university get back on sound financial footing. He added that the university should determine three or four major items from which to launch a capital campaign.

BOARD REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER COMMITTEES

Academic Senate

The report was included with the agenda.

Senate Standing and Ad Hoc Committees

There were no reports.

Alumni Advisory Board

Mark Webster advised that the Homecoming will be bigger and better this year. He is also looking forward to convocation.

The Aboriginal Council on Education

There was no report.

Brantford Regional Campus

There was no report.

Muskoka Regional Campus

Gord Durnan advised his report was on the back table.

Nipissing University Student Union

Ian Hall advised that the Student Union is beginning various events to raise funds for Shinerama. A Gala is also being planned for later in the year.

Casey Phillips, Assistant Vice-President Students, reported that earlier this year, Nipissing created a Sexual Violence Prevention and Response committee, comprised of staff, faculty, students and community members. The goal was to develop a list of recommendations on education and prevention, policy, and institutional response to sexual violence on campus. Part of these recommendations includes inviting members of the Board to attend events on campus that are focused on this specific topic. An invitation is being extended for Board members to attend a talk that will be occurring as part of FROSH week. Dr. Rachel Griffin will be coming to Nipissing to speak and address the entire community. Dr. Griffin has been actively involved in the movement to end violence against women for over ten years. The event is scheduled for Friday, September 4, 2015. More details will be forthcoming as the event draws near.

OTHER BUSINESS

A document containing the annual reports from all committees was received. It required the following resolution to be brought forward:

Resolution 2015-06-08: Moved by C. Dennis, seconded by M. Berube that the Board of Governors accept the Annual Committee Reports for the 2014-15 academic year as received.
CARRIED

The Open Session of the Board of Governors meeting was adjourned at: 7:13 p.m.


Secretary


Board Chair