

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

OPEN SESSION

November 3, 2016

The Open Session of the regular Board of Governors meeting was held on Thursday, November 3, 2016, at 5:30 p.m. in the Nipissing University Board Room (F303).

Members present:

- Marianne Berube, Board Chair
- Mike DeGagné
- Gord Durnan
- Trevor Bachelder
- Jordan Dempster
- Janet Zimbalatti
- Sean Feretycki
- Ryan Hehn
- Gary Jodouin
- Blaine Hatt
- Nathan Kozuskanich
- Jamie Lim (via teleconference)
- Paul Cook
- Rose Jawbone (via videoconference)
- Crystal Pigeau
- Derek Shogren
- Tom Curry (via Skype)
- Steve Portelli
- Tom Palangio
- Jordan Andrews
- Nancy Maynes
- Christine Dowdall (University Secretary)

Regrets:

- Scott McLeod
- Karen Barnes
- Hilary Earl
- Colleen Miller

Guests:

- Cheryl Sutton
- Harley d'Entremont
- Casey Philips
- Carole Richardson
- Rick Vanderlee
- Murat Tuncali

Recording Secretary: Maggie Daniel (Administrative Assistant, President's Office)

1. Welcome/Opening Comments

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. The Board Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, acknowledging those members who were conferencing in for the meeting via Skype, videoconferencing and teleconferencing.

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

The Board Chair called for declarations of conflict of interest concerning any of the agenda items. No such declarations were made.

3. Use of Recording and/or Broadcasting Devices

No declarations were made regarding the use of any recording and/or broadcasting devices other than those mentioned in the Chair's opening comments.

4. Special Governance Committee Report – Tom Curry and Steve Portelli

On behalf of the Special Governance Commission (SGC), Board members Steve Portelli and Tom Curry submitted the final report of the SGC entitled *Collegial Governance at Nipissing University: Shared Challenges and Responsibilities – A Report of the Special Governance Commission (SGC)*. The presenters emphasized that the report has unanimous support from all five committee members.

A lengthy discussion followed. Several ideas as to how best distribute the report in a timely manner to the stakeholders were put forth. The original memorandum of agreement between the University and NUFA stated that the SGC was to make their report to the Board; it did not specify how or when it was to be made available to the University community – only that it would be made available. It was suggested that the Board should be cautious in agreeing to release a document that it had not read and assessed first. However, as the document was released to the Board in an open meeting, it was further suggested that restricting or delaying the dissemination of the report was unnecessary.

Discussion continued.

Resolution 2016-11-01: *That this report be disseminated as quickly as possible to the parties involved including Senate, NUFA and NUSU within the university community for further discussion.*

*Moved by Trevor Bachelder; seconded by Nancy Maynes.
Carried.*

It was suggested that the Governance Committee of the Board review the report, with individuals who have comments on the report forwarding them to the committee for consideration. The committee's review could then be presented to the Board for discussion in January.

Resolution 2016-11-02: *That the document "Collegial Governance at Nipissing University: Shared Challenges and Responsibilities – A Report of the Special Governance*

Commission (SGC)" be referred to the Board Governance Committee for review. The Governance Committee will recommend to the Board further discussion for a course of action.

*Moved by Sean Feretycki; second by Jordan Andrews.
Carried.*

5. Adoption of the Minutes from the September 30, 2016, Board meeting

Resolution 2016-11-03: *That the minutes of the Open Session of the meeting of the Board of Governors held on September 30, 2016, be adopted as circulated.*

Moved by Gord Durnan; seconded by Jordan Dempster. Carried.

6. Chair's Remarks

The Board Chair, together with Board members Gord Durnan, Trevor Bachelder and Tom Palangio, attended the Council of Chairs of Ontario Universities (CCOU) conference at the end of October. The conference covered a number of topics related to current university governance and sector-wide trends, and conference speakers included Deb Matthews, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD), Sheldon Levy, Deputy Minister of MAESD, and Mike DeGagné, Nipissing's President & Vice-Chancellor. The event was a great opportunity for our Board members to network with and learn from other board members and senior leaders in the post-secondary field.

7. Chancellor's Remarks

The Chancellor continues to participate in as many University events as possible. He met with NUFA executive at the end of October, and he attended the fall convocation for Wilfrid Laurier University where their new Chancellor, Eileen Mercier, was installed. In November, he will be meeting with representatives from North Bay Youth Soccer regarding a long term partnership with Nipissing.

The Chancellor is an active supporter of Lakers Athletics, and he reminded everyone that the eighth annual "support the troops" hockey game is scheduled for November 18th when the Lakers will take on RMC. Monies raised will go to support the Military Family Resource Centre at 22 Wing North Bay.

8. President's Remarks

Autumn has been busy to date, with searches underway for both the Provost and Vice-President, Academic & Research and the Vice-President, Finance and Administration. The reappointment process for the President is also in progress.

The President participated in a number of external events in October, including (but not limited to) the following: as a panel member for the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs regarding its study on suicide among Indigenous peoples and communities; making a presentation to UBC graduate students on Aboriginal education; speaking to the Child Welfare League of Canada about the impact of domestic violence on women, children, youth and families in Aboriginal communities; as

speaker, addressing the Algoma University Board of Governors at their annual retreat, and; providing the keynote address to the annual Council of Chairs of Ontario Universities conference.

Internal events that took place at Nipissing since the last Board meeting included a one million dollar strategic investment fund (SIF) announcement for roofing upgrades, the annual staff awards (where seventy awards were given out to staff and faculty members who had reached 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years of service), and a town hall meeting which was the first in a series of meetings that will be held following Board meetings to relay information and provide updates to the wider University community.

A question was raised regarding the University's emerging Aboriginal profile and the associated economic costs to the institution. It was noted that the Aboriginal population is the only growing demographic in Canada, and as such, Nipissing has been concentrating recruitment efforts in that area. Following further discussion, it was agreed that the President will request numbers to be presented at the next Board meeting (e.g. how many students are we addressing; how are the programs being funded; etc.).

Len Gamache made a presentation at this year's Board Orientation session. It was suggested at that time that a similar presentation could be made to Senate. The President will bring the idea forward to next week's Senate meeting and will suggest an in-depth discussion be included on the December agenda.

9. Vice-President's Remarks

The Provost and Vice-President, Academic & Research reported that the three nursing programs (the blended delivery program, the SPP program and the collaborative program) are all at various levels of a positive accreditation. Regarding graduate programs, the new Kinesiology program began this year, and the Sociology program is set to begin in September of 2017.

Dr. d'Entremont traveled to China in October. Building international partnerships is a slow process, but Nipissing hopes to reap the rewards through increased international student numbers.

The Assistant Vice-President, Finance & HR reported that Nipissing hosted DBRS earlier this week, the agency who will be providing us with a new credit rating. A response from DBRS is expected in four to six weeks.

The AVP is working closely with NUSU to move their student centre project along. Nipissing's assistance to the student union includes having our Director of Facilities acting as the general overseer of the project and the Senior Manager of Finance overseeing the funds. In response to a question that was posed regarding whether or not Nipissing is also going to be taking on the debt/building costs, the AVP confirmed that it will not.

10. Deans' Remarks

Schulich School of Education: There was a tremendous turnout at the Schulich School of Education presentation at last week's Fall Open House. Due to the success of the event, the Education department is planning to host an Open House for the Consecutive Education degree students.

Faculty of Arts & Science: Two new program proposals in Arts and Science, media studies and data science, are at stage two of the proposal process. In addition, a funding proposal application was submitted for a Digital Classics (Computer Science/Classical Studies) Certificate.

The Dean also reported an enrollment increase in this year's summer institute programs. Summer institute courses are those that are typically offered over a period of two weeks during the month of August.

A Fall Book Launch will take place on November 9 when a number of new titles by Nipissing authors and editors will be celebrated. All are welcome to attend the launch which will be sponsored by the Centre for Interdisciplinary Collaboration in the Arts and Sciences (CICAS).

Faculty of Applied & Professional Studies: The new Director of Social Work, Dr. Mary Patricia Sullivan, is busy getting ready for the start of the program next year. The faculty hopes to physically join Social Work, Social Welfare and Social Development and Child & Family Services together into the School of Human and Social Development.

The transfer of students, faculty and programming from Muskoka to North Bay was described as a healthy and successful transfer, with enrollment in the introductory courses three times more than it was in Muskoka.

In the School of Business, the department is strategizing to strengthen their Aboriginal and international student numbers.

11. Enrollment Update – Harley d'Entremont

As of the official count date of November 1, our enrollment numbers were confirmed. Our projected numbers were very close, with the final numbers off by three. The tuition mix shows we will receive slightly more funding than projected as we have more students in the higher end tuition programs.

A question was raised concerning the future of AQs. Enrollment in these courses is down, and suggestions for increasing the numbers included things like improving the marketing and reducing the price.

12. Question Period

A question was posed regarding whether or not the Elizabeth Thorn Research Chair will be filled. It is expected that a committee will be formed to invite applications with hopes of having someone in place by September of 2017.

It was noted that not all faculty professional profiles are up to date on the website, with inconsistencies noted from one faculty to another. It was explained that a shell framework is available for individual faculty members to complete and submit for inclusion on the website. The Deans' offices will be asked to encourage faculty members to update their profiles, and marketing and UTS will be tasked with reaching out to faculty to let them know what services are available.

13. Committee Reports

Audit and Finance Committee – Tom Palangio, Chair

A meeting of the Audit & Finance committee was held on October 17. Details of the meeting can be found in the minutes document that was included with today's agenda.

University Governance Committee – No report

Advancement Committee – No report

Plant and Property Committee – No report

14. Board Representatives on Other Committees

i. Academic Senate

A vacancy still exists for a Board representative on the Academic Senate. Karen Barnes holds one of the two positions, and Marianne Berube has been filling in for the second position. External Board members were asked to consider serving in this capacity.

ii. Alumni Advisory Board

The Alumni Association held their Annual Retreat on October 22nd. The retreat is an orientation for new members, and a significant focus this year was on adding structure and process to what the board does. The Advisory Board, which still has one vacancy, is continuing to work with the University in an effort to improve their operations.

An appeal was brought forward for Board of Governors members to keep in mind that alumni can play an important role in fundraising, student recruitment and the promoting of Nipissing's reputation.

iii. Aboriginal Council on Education

Rose Jawbone was elected Chair of the Nipissing University Aboriginal Council on Education (NUACE) at their August 18th meeting. She provided a brief report on the topics that were discussed at that meeting, and she spoke of the launch of the RBC Treaty Learning Center which took place on November 1.

iv. Brantford Regional Campus

No report.

v. Nipissing University Student Union

An update on the Student Centre project was presented, with the students reporting that they have made several presentations within the University community. They are excited about having received 3D renderings of the building, and they are in the process of establishing criteria to allow them to go out for tender. They are working closely with KPMG and Nipissing's AVP, Finance & HR with regard to the financing, and they have received confirmation from their legal counsel that they are approximately four to six weeks away from having the trust funds remitted.

Other announcements included the upcoming concert series NUSU is working on with the Capital Centre, the impending National Day of Action to fight tuition fee increases and the student participation in the Remembrance Day Ceremony that is taking place at Memorial Gardens.

15. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

16. Adjournment

Resolution 2016-11-04: *That the Open Session of the Board of Governors' regular meeting now adjourn.*

Moved by Jordan Dempster; seconded by Trevor Bachelder. Carried.

Open session adjourned at 7:34 p.m.



University Secretary



Board Chair

