

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MINUTES
OPEN SESSION

October 2, 2014

The Open Session of the regular Board meeting was held on Thursday, October 2, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room (F303). The following members were present:

Dr. T. Bachelder
M. Berubé (vice-chair)
T. Curry (Skype)
J. Evans
D. Forget
C. Miller (videoconference)
S. Portelli (videoconference)
B. Windsor
A. McDonald
S. Minor
M. Shail
Dr. G. Black
Dr. J Kovacs
Dr. M. Saari
Dr. J. Scott
M. Webster
Y. Benoit
C. Burke
Dr. M. DeGagné, President & Vice-Chancellor

Board Officers: Dr. H. d'Entremont, Vice-President Academic & Research
B. Keech, Vice-President Operations
C. Jenkins, Board Secretary (interim)

Guests: Dr. S. Rich, Dr. C. Richardson, Dr. M. Tuncali, J. Graham, I. Hall, B. Martin,
C. Sutton, G. Zimmicki, D. Decaire

Absent with Regrets: Dr. M. Couchie, C. Dennis, G. Durnan, J. Zimbalatti

WELCOME / SPECIAL GUESTS/ INTRODUCTIONS

The Board Vice-Chair, Marianne Berubé chaired the meeting in the absence of Colin Dennis.

The Board Vice-Chair extended a warm welcome to all Board members for the beginning of a new academic year. She acknowledged the three new internal Board members in attendance, Ms. Sandra Minor, Dr. Glenda Black and Dr. Matti Saari. She also recognized Dean Decaire, from BDO, who will talk about the audited financial statements during the presentation from the Audit and finance Committee report.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Resolution 2014-10-01: Moved by T. Bachelder, seconded by M. Saari that the minutes of the Open Session of the meeting of the Board of Governors held on June 5, 2014 be adopted as circulated.
CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Earlier, a request had been made to have the Audit and Finance Committee Report presented early in the agenda to accommodate the auditor's schedule. Both the President and Board Chair agreed to this request.

Audit & Finance Committee

Dean Decaire presented the audited financial statements for the year ended April 30, 2014. The statements were prepared by the university and Mr. Decaire explained that his role is to review and comment on the audit, and present his opinion. He indicated that there were no significant audit findings or surprises.

The Committee Chair, Marianne Berubé, stated that last year's finances ended up with as expected a \$4.8M deficit. The Committee requested, and the Director of Finance concurred, that an update be provided at each committee meeting going forward.

The following two resolutions were presented from the September 15, 2014 Audit and Finance Committee report.

Resolution 2014-10-02: Moved by B. Windsor, seconded by M. Shail that the Board of Governors accept the recommendation of the Audit and Finance Committee that the internally restricted net assets be increased by \$435,000 for the specific commitments as described in Note 11 to the April 30, 2014 financial statements.
CARRIED

Resolution 2014-10-03: Moved by D. Forget, seconded by J. Evans that the Board of Governors approve the Consolidated Audited Financial Statements for the year ended April 30, 2014.
CARRIED

The report also listed John Kovacs as the Senate representative in attendance. The record was amended to reflect it was Jeff Scott in attendance as the Senate representative.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

PRESENTATION

There was no presentation.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Vice-Chair began her remarks by reminding Board members of the rules of confidentiality and to keep alert to any possible conflicts of interest. Board members are to be fiduciary responsible and act in the best interests of the university as a whole rather than representing their own constituency. She reminded members of the upcoming Annual Board Retreat to be held October 31 to November 1 at the Marriott Inn in Gravenhurst.

CHANCELLOR'S REMARKS

None available.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

The President welcomed everyone back for the new academic year. He commented on the recent administrative changes and events that have taken place since the June Board meeting.

Dr. DeGagné spoke about the success of the Ontario University Fair held recently in Toronto. He noted that it is the largest recruitment fair in North America and signals the beginning of the new recruitment cycle in Ontario. This year there was almost 130,000 attendees. While surveys conducted at Nipissing show that many students do not decide which university to attend as a direct result of the fair, Dr. DeGagné indicated that the fair "puts us on their radar."

New Student Orientation was held in early July. This is an opportunity for new students to register for their fall and winter courses and receive individual academic advising. The President added that feedback from students and their parents indicated they were very pleased to have direct conversation with faculty members and to see the variety of student services offered on campus.

A member of the Royal Family, Her Royal Highness The Prince Edward, Countess of Wessex visited our campus in mid-September. Following a journey to a remote northern Aboriginal community, the Countess addressed the audience where she spoke about the need for improved educational opportunities for the future for these communities and the people who live there. She was accompanied on this trip by some high profile women. The Countesses speech, along with other members of the platform party is available on our website <http://flash.nipissingu.ca/royalvisit.html>.

Dr. DeGagné reminded Board members of the grand opening of the new Centre for Physical and Health Education (CPHE) that will be taking place. He encouraged everyone to attend to view this impressive new facility.

The President summed up his remarks by stating it had been a busy summer and he feels that the university is entering a new academic year in good shape. Dr. d'Entremont's new role as Provost and Mr. Keech's new role as Vice-President, Administration, will be significant in going forward.

VICE-PRESIDENTS' REMARKS

The Provost and Vice-President Academic and Research (PVPAR) was pleased to report the Nipissing University is now eligible for Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) funding. He explained that CIHR is part of the tri-council federal funding agencies and is a major source of funding for postsecondary institutions in Canada. This is beneficial for Nipissing because this means our researchers can now apply for CIHR grants.

Dr. d'Entremont noted that two decanal searches will be getting underway shortly. Currently, they are filled on an interim basis only. Further discussion on this topic was reserved for later in the meeting. The PVPAR reported that the Strategic Mandate Agreement is now posted to the MTCU website. He added that this will help to differentiate one university from another. The Minister will be visiting North Bay next week, but it is unclear what the focus of the visit will be.

The Vice President Administration, Bob Keech, reported that his area has been busy over the summer with room and office reassignments. Additionally, there was as a number of capital projects, namely the CPHE building and the renovated Schools of Nursing and Business, that will improve facilities for faculty, staff and students. He also added that he and several other key administrators will be meeting with the MTCU Director of Finance to discuss Nipissing's financial situation, its history and strategy moving forward.

DEANS' REMARKS

The Dean of the Schulich School of Education (interim), Dr. Carole Richardson, stated that this is the final year for the one-year Bachelor of Education program in the province. Commencing September 2015, it will be a 2-year program. A very successful 'pro-week' was recently completed for education students. This initiative separates itself from other provincial BEd programs.

The Dean of Arts and Science, Dr. Murat Tuncali advised the Board that 22 new faculty contracts were issued this year. Most of these positions were renewals. Also, Dr. John Kovacs, from the Department of Geography was featured in the *Innovation International* magazine because of his expertise in mangrove forests. He also reported that Dr. Hilary Earl from the Department of History has co-edited a book in the *Lessons and Legacies Series* published by Northwestern University. Dr. Tuncali announced that Dr. Logan Hoehn from the Department of Computer Science and Mathematics has solved a 94-year old math problem.

The Dean of Applied and Professional Studies, Dr. Rick Vanderlee made several announcements. He has presented a strategic plan for Muskoka campus to senior administration and the university management group that has four pillars of development. These include: Liberal Arts and Science programming; the strengthening of current programs in Muskoka, particularly Child and Family Studies; new profession programming in nursing; and the development of a Muskoka Centre for Lifelong Learning. The latter project has already begun with the registration of 36 students in the inter-disciplinary course titled Water.

The BComm and the Scholar Practitioner Program (SPP) will be having a graduation celebration on October 17 in Hamilton. The Dean was pleased to report that the BScN collaborative program, the RPN-BScN blended nursing program and the SPP program together have received \$745,000 to enhance and building nursing simulation equipment. The new simulation lab is almost complete. He also reported that programming and student enrolment remains healthy.

QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

An Executive Summary Document dated June 24, 2014 and the Executive Report dated September 23, 2014 were presented. The September report outlined a discussion members had on the annual Board retreat. Also discussed were ways of improving communications during the summer months since there is a long time span between the June and October Board meetings. There was also discussion regarding the relevance of the Human Resources Committee.

Plant and Property Committee

The Chair of the Plant and Property Committee reported that the September meeting included a presentation by David Drenth, Director of Facilities. The presentation included an update on the completed Lakers Women's Hockey Team portable change room as well as plans for a path leading from the lower residences to campus. This path will integrate with the Canada Trails System. NUSU provided an update on the new student centre.

University Governance Committee

Committee Chair, Dr. Trevor Bachelder, reported on the discussions that occurred regarding the future role of the HR committee. This will be an ongoing discussion over the next couple of months.

Currently, there are two vacancies on the Board of Governors and Dr. Bachelder appealed to all those in attendance to let him know of anyone they think would be of value to this Board. Particular emphasis would be for members with a background in fundraising and advancement.

Advancement Committee

In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair Mark Webster reported that the committee reviewed its mandate. Other discussions concerned the Board of Governors Emergency Student Aid Fund and whether students are aware of its availability to them. The committee discussed avenues that could be taken to get the word out to students, especially utilizing social media.

BOARD REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER COMMITTEES

Academic Senate

No report.

Senate Standing and Ad Hoc Committees

No report

Alumni Advisory Board

Board members were reminded that Homecoming Weekend is taking place this weekend.

The Aboriginal Council on Education

Donna Forget indicated that the council will be meeting later this month.

Brantford Regional Campus

Colleen Miller advised that Orientation Day at the Brantford campus was busy and that facilities, operations and programming are all running smoothly.

Muskoka Regional Campus

No report.

Nipissing University Student Union

Yannick Benoit reported that The Wall Bar and Grill House is now open on Thursday and Friday evenings, and that they are hopeful that regular day operations will resume shortly. He also reported a good turnout for Frosh Week. A bus with 20-25 students from the Muskoka campus will be arriving this weekend to participate in Homecoming.

OTHER BUSINESS

Greg Zimmnicki requested that as in the past, the following resolution be forwarded to the Board members. Information on the Nevada Account Statement of Financial Position was contained in the document included with the agenda.

Resolution 2014-10-04: Moved by Y. Benoit, seconded by M. Webster that the Board of Governors approve the NU Scholarships – Nevada Account Summary of Financial Position as of April 30, 2014 and the Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets for the year ended April 30, 2014.
CARRIED

Annual Board Retreat

An open discussion about this year's Annual Board Retreat was held. In response to the question regarding this year's theme, the President responded that this discussion is the opportunity for Board members to put forward any ideas they may have. With over three weeks until the retreat, there is ample time to establish an agenda. Dr. Saari's suggestion was how to increase the cohesiveness of the Board, faculty, staff and students. Yannick Benoit suggested there be a discussion on how to turn Nipissing University into an institution that is innovative and exciting and the how to work with our community. The PVPAR proposed "the role of the University in the community and role of the University as the community." Mark Webster's comment was the retreat should include discussions about networking within the community and the province, particularly since fundraising is a priority of this Board.

Dr. DeGagné acknowledged these ideas and asked that any further ideas be forwarded to Christine Jenkins.

Research Ethics Board

Dr. d'Entremont presented a list of individuals for the Board's consideration for three-year membership on the Research Ethics Board. These members are appointed by the Board on the recommendation of the PVPAR.

Resolution 2014-10-05:

Moved by J. Scott, seconded by J. Evans that the Board of Governors ratify the following recommendation of individuals including their terms, for membership on the Research Ethics Board.

- Carly Dokis, Assistant Professor, Anthropology
3-year term – October 2014-August 2017, renewable once
- James Murton, Associate Professor, History
3-year term – October 2014-August 2017, renewable once
- Callie Mady, Associate Professor, Schulich School of Education
3-year term – October 2014-August 2017, renewable once
- Mark Lamontagne (Canadore), Academic Director, Quality Learning, Teaching and Innovation
3-year term – October 2014-August 2017, renewable once

CARRIED

Enrollment Numbers

Marianne Berube asked to have the Enrollment and Budget update as a separate item on the agenda going forward.

Jamie Graham spoke to the enrollment and budget report to date. Comparing the number of registered students to the numbers on which the budget was built, Mr. Graham indicated that the estimates were very close. As a result, we should be on budget for grant and tuition numbers.

In response to the question from John Kovacs about discussions held last year of how Nipissing is underfunded compared to other universities receiving the Northern Ontario Grant, the PVPAR confirmed that nothing has come of it yet but the University is continuing to plead its case. This could mean an additional \$2.4M.

Dr. d'entremont also reported that 70% of Nipissing's budget is salaries and benefits; however, the annualized savings for positons for which hiring has been delayed or positions not being filled is \$550,000 to date.

Brian Windsor noted that the provincial budget, before the election, had certain budget items that would impact universities. He asked if those items are still in place. Dr. d'Entremont said that they are, bet there could potentially be some changes in subsequent budgets.

ADJOURNMENT

The Open Session of the Board of Governors was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Secretary

Board Chair