

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

OPEN SESSION

July 16, 2020

The Open Session of the special Board of Governors meeting was held on Thursday, July 16, 2020, at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom Remote Conferencing.

Members Present: Marianne Berube, Board Chair
Patti Carr
Paul Cook
Fran Couchie
Mitchell Crown
Hilary Earl
Ryan Hehn
Stuart Kidd
Denyse Lafrance Horning
Hannah Mackie
Gillian McCann
Bobby Ray
Judy Smith
David Smits
Cheryl Sutton
Stephen Tedesco
Rick Vanderlee
Kathy Wilcox

Regrets: Karen Barnes
Donna Forget
Joanne Laplante
Ward Loveday
Karl Neubert

Invited Guests: Arja Vainio-Mattila
Casey Phillips
Jim McAuliffe
Pavlina Radia
Carole Richardson
Cristin Christopher
Debra lafrate
Renee Hacquard
Meghan Venasse
Maggie Daniel
Christine Dowdall

Observers: Shannon McCarthy
Mykayla King
Dean Hay
Nancy Black
Nancy McParland
Mike McParland
Toivo Koivukoski

Recording Secretary: Abby Blaszczyk (Executive Assistant, Scheduling & Governance)

1. Call to Order/Land Acknowledgment

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m. The Board Chair offered a traditional land acknowledgement.

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

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

3. Use of Recording and/or Broadcasting Devices

The Board Chair reminded everyone that only pre-approved methods of recording and/or broadcasting devices may be used during the meeting. Disseminating any information during the meeting is prohibited.

4. Adoption of the Regular Agenda

Resolution 2020-07-01: ***That the Board of Governors adopt the agenda for the open session of the July 16, 2020, special meeting as circulated.***

*Moved by Stuart Kidd; seconded by Kathy Wilcox.
Carried.*

5. Chair's Remarks

The Board Chair welcomed the Board to a new academic year and welcomed new members Patti Carr, David Smits and Gillian McCann. She reminded those who were members of the Board for the 2019-20 year to complete the annual Board Evaluation Survey, reiterating the importance of completing and submitting a response. She also reminded all members to complete their committee preference forms.

6. President's Remarks

The President & Vice-Chancellor (Interim) acknowledged the significant contributions of faculty and staff throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. She reminded everyone that the University is open and that operations are ongoing. A number of activities were highlighted, including several consultations with the Minister of Colleges and Universities concerning such topics as international students, opportunities for infrastructure funding, and the sector's assorted plans for returning to campus. The President (Interim) also spoke to the success of Nipissing's virtual convocation, which saw over 3,500 visits to the page as well as almost 38,000 views on YouTube.

The President (Interim) presented the Return to Campus Framework, which was developed by the University's Operational Readiness Committee. The framework, which was described as a living document, will remain flexible in order to ensure the University is in compliance with provincial and public health directives. The President reviewed each phase, and she noted that with the recent announcement by the Premier that our region will be moving into stage 3 of the reopening of the

Province, it is expected the University will move to Phase 1 of the plan (“required campus access”) within the next couple of weeks.

A number of questions were addressed, including if there would be a shift in the previous decision to move courses online in the fall. While the academic plan for the fall term has been finalized, there may be opportunities to welcome students to campus and involve them in a variety of activities. In response to a question about the logistics of moving all courses online, the PVPAR spoke to the number of resources that have been made available through the Teaching Hub and the Dean of Teaching, including webinars, sharing circles and sessions on specific technology.

The Board Chair invited the Chancellor to say a few words. Dr. Cook, who is at the beginning of his second term as Nipissing’s chancellor, congratulated those involved in the virtual convocation, saying that it went extremely well, especially given the circumstances. He also congratulated the faculty and student recipients of this year’s Chancellor’s Awards.

7. Vice-President’s Remarks

The Provost and Vice-President, Academic & Research (PVPAR) noted that fall enrollment numbers are being monitored on a daily basis, and to date, most programs have reached about 80% of the course enrollment we would normally expect to see at this time. Enrollment in the Indigenous Summer Institute and Indigenous Education programs have surpassed numbers from last year. The Decanal and Registrar offices continue to work hard on scheduling for the fall semester, and conversations around the winter term are ongoing.

The Assistant Vice-President, Finance & Infrastructure stated that early signs point to a better-than-budget result for the 2019/20 year with a small surplus in the operating fund. A thorough budget analysis and review is underway to anticipate shortfalls due to COVID-19, but to date, there have not been any significant costs to the institution associated with the pandemic.

A question was raised regarding lay-offs, and the President (Interim) noted that no permanent, full-time employees have been laid off as a result of COVID-19.

In response to a question about investing in online academic software, the Provost spoke to several different proposals that are currently under review.

The Assistant Vice-President, Students highlighted a number of ongoing activities, including a gateway program for new students to ensure a successful university experience, the online launch of NSO and the success of the Student Emergency Fund. Additionally, he noted two upcoming retention campaigns to focus on those returning students who haven’t yet registered for courses.

8. Question Period

There were no questions.

9. Other Business

There was no other business discussed.

10. Adjournment

Resolution 2020-07-02: ***That the Open Session of the Board of Governors' special meeting now adjourn.***

*Moved by Kathy Wilcox; seconded by Gillian McCann.
Carried.*

Open session adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

President & Vice-Chancellor (Interim)/Secretary of the Board

Board Chair

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS – SPECIAL MEETING

OPEN SESSION

July 16, 2020

3:00 p.m. – Zoom Remote Conferencing

AGENDA

Zoom Connection for Virtual Attendance: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81149018510>
Password: 328882

1. Call to Order/Land Acknowledgement

“As we begin this meeting, I would like to acknowledge that we are in the territory of the Robinson-Huron Treaty of 1850 and that the land on which we gather is the Nipissing First Nation Traditional Territory and the traditional territory of the Anishinabek. We respect and are grateful to hold this meeting on these lands with all our relatives.”

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

3. Use of Recording and/or Broadcasting Devices

“Only pre-approved methods of recording and/or broadcasting devices may be used during the meeting. Disseminating any information during the meeting is prohibited.”

4. Adoption of Regular Agenda

Resolution: *That the Board of Governors adopt the agenda for the open session of the July 16, 2020, special meeting as circulated.*

5. Chair’s Remarks

6. President’s Remarks

- Return to Campus Framework

7. Vice-President’s Remarks

- Provost and Vice President, Academic & Research
- Assistant Vice-President, Finance & Infrastructure
- Assistant Vice-President, Students

8. Question Period

9. Other Business

10. Adjournment

Resolution: *That the Open Session of the Board of Governors' special meeting now adjourn.*

Time: _____