

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**JUNE 26, 2014**

The meeting was held at 1:00 p.m. in Room 4155 Stevenson Hall.

PRESENT: Mr. C. Shah, Chair  
Ms. I. Birrell, Secretary

Mr. J. Adams  
Dr. C. Beynon  
Dr. J. Capone  
Dr. A. Chakma  
Ms. K. Cole  
Dr. R. Darnell  
Dr. J. Deakin  
Mr. M. Dietrich  
Ms. S. Grindrod

Mr. H. Hassan  
Mr. R. Konrad  
Ms. G. Kulczycki  
Mr. D. Lemieux  
Dr. S. Sims  
Ms. J. Vanderheyden  
Dr. J. White  
Mr. M. Wilson

By Invitation: M. Belanger, S. Khullar, T. Keenlyside, J. O'Brien

BG.14-54 **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

The President's Report distributed with the agenda included updates on the following topics: Government matters, Western's leadership, Advanced Manufacturing Park (AMP), international and enrolment matters and the President's activities since the April 24, 2014 Board meeting. Other topics reported on included the implementation process for Western's strategic plan and the Strategic Mandate Agreement process.

BG.14-55 **UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA** [Appendix I]

It was moved by J. White, seconded by M. Wilson,

That the 20 items listed in Appendix I, Unanimous Consent Agenda, be approved or received for information by the Board of Governors by unanimous consent.

CARRIED

BG.14-56 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The open session minutes of the meeting of April 24, 2014, were approved as circulated.

**REPORT OF THE PROPERTY & FINANCE COMMITTEE** [Appendix II]

BG.14-57 **Tuition Fees for the Doctor of Education (Ed.D) Program - Revised Recommendation for 2014-15**

It was moved by J. White, seconded by M. Wilson,

That the revised annual tuition fee of \$9,232 for 2014-15 for domestic students in the Ed.D.

Program be approved.

CARRIED By Unanimous Consent.

BG.14-58 **INFORMATION ITEMS REPORTED BY THE PROPERTY & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The Report of the Property & Finance Committee, detailed in Appendix II, contained the following items that were received for information by unanimous consent:

- Research Chair in Better Kidney Health
- Dr. John W.D. and Susan McDonald Chair in Inflammatory Bowel Disease
- Dr. Robert Lindsay Chair in Dialysis Research and Innovation
- Stephen Dattels Chair in Corporate Finance – Extension
- Additional Supplementary Fees
  - (a) Dental Kit Fees 2014-15
  - (b) UHIP Fees for 2014-15
  - (c) Visiting Student (Research Only) Processing Fee
- Renaming the Accelerator Centre to the Collider Centre for Technology and Commercialization
- New and Revised Scholarships

**REPORT OF THE SENIOR OPERATIONS COMMITTEE** [Appendix III]

BG.14-59 **Information Item Reported by the Senior Operations Committee**

The Report of the Senior Operations Committee, detailed in Appendix III, contained the following item that was received for information by unanimous consent:

- University Discipline Appeals Committee - Membership

**REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE** [Appendix IV]

BG.14-60 **Retirement Income Fund Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2013**

It was moved by D. Lemieux, seconded by A. Chakma,

That the audited financial statements for the University of Western Ontario Retirement Income Funds for the calendar year 2013 be approved.

CARRIED

BG.14-61 **Proposal to Discontinue Retirement Income Fund Program**

[Declaration of Conflict of Interest: J. Vanderheyden]

The Board received the following motion for information at this meeting. A vote on the motion will not be held until September.

That the Board of Governors approve the discontinuation of the Western Retirement Fund (RIF Program) in principle, subject to the identification of a preferred external provider whose proposed program will meet requirements and specifications outlined below; and

That the authority to select and negotiate an agreement with a preferred external provider be delegated to the President, the Vice-President (Resources & Operations), the Associate Vice-President (Human Resources), the Chair of the Board and the Chair of the Audit Committee.

Specifications for Provider:

- currently in the RIF/LIF business

- offer comparable investment options
- offer competitive fees - less than 85 bps for a similar overall asset mix
- offer enhanced member services

Ms. O'Brien, Associate Vice-President (Human Resources), presented the rationale for the recommendation to discontinue the Retirement Income Fund program. She reported that over time the market place has changed significantly and Western is not able to offer the full range of investment options now available for retirees. Another disadvantage is that the University is not able to provide investment advice leading to concerns that members may not be making the most advantageous investment decisions. The University, through the Board of Governors, has been appointed as an agent of The Northern Trust Company, Canada, to manage and administer all operational aspects of the Western RIFs. Western's Pension Boards are the delegated administrators of the master trust for the RIF, which does not include sponsorship or administration of the RIF. The University has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to Human Resources. The investment choices available under the Western RIFs are designed, implemented and managed in accordance with policies set out by the Pension Board for Academic Staff and Pension Board for Administrative Staff (Joint Pension Board).

Mr. Belanger provided an overview of Western's RIF program, using slides contained in Appendix IV, Annex 2. He noted that because of regulations, access to funds by RIF members is limited (can only access 10 of 15 options), changes can only be made monthly rather than daily, no investment advice is provided and the member must be a Canadian resident. Transfers of non-Ontario pension plan funds into the RIF are not permitted.

Before opening the floor for discussion, the Chair noted that the proposal to discontinue the RIF program had raised concerns with some plan members, and UWOFA, as evidenced by the summary table of comments received. He had met with UWOFA to hear their concerns. They were pleased to know that the Board would be considering the issue thoroughly and that a vote would be deferred to September.

Members expressed concern about the potential for increased costs for retirees if they moved to a commercial provider. It was noted that RIF members had implicit trust in Western's program that would not be there for an outside provider. It was also pointed out that faculty are experts in their areas of research, not finance. A detailed and careful transition plan would need to be in place if the decision was taken to discontinue.

Responding to questions regarding the RIF membership, M. Belanger advised that participation rates have dropped from 50% in 2005 to 12% in 2013. There are approximately 380 active members. In 2000, when the plan was implemented, the projection was 550 members by 2009. He said that at age 65 one-third of the members have withdrawn from the RIF. There is a concern that plan members should have the ability to invest their pension funds in ways that provide better returns. Third party options have improved and can now offer investment options not available through Western's plan.

J. O'Brien noted that she appreciated the concerns that had been raised but stressed it is important that members have access to an advising function relative to investing funds. Human Resources has two benefits consultants that can assist with information and education but cannot give investment advice. This is a serious disadvantage to members.

The Chair drew the discussion to a close noting that, assuming the results of the RFP for an external provider were satisfactory, the matter would be on the agenda at the September meeting.

BG.14-62

#### **Information Items Reported by the Audit Committee**

The report of the Audit Committee, detailed in Appendix IV, contained the following items that were received for information by unanimous consent:

- Western Retirement Income Fund – KPMG Audit Findings Report
- Western Retirement Plans – Report to the Audit Committee for the year ended December 31, 2014
- Health, Safety and Wellness Annual Report 2013-14

**REPORT OF THE FUND RAISING AND DONOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE** [Appendix V]

BG.14-63 **Information Items reported by the Fund Raising and Donor Relations Committee**

The Report of the Fund Raising and Donor Relations Committee, detailed in Appendix V, contained the following items that were received for information by unanimous consent:

- Quarterly Report on Fundraising
- Imagine Canada Renewal

**ITEMS REFERRED BY SENATE** [Appendix VI]

BG.14-64 **MAPP 7.9 – Policy on Collaborative Research**

The Board was advised that subsequent to the Senate meeting at which the revised policy was approved for forwarding to the Board, there was a suggestion that the term limit of five years for the initial term of an institute might not be appropriate in all cases. The Board approved a minor amendment (shown in bold, italics) to paragraph 2.00 in Section C: Terms and Renewal for Centres and Institutes as shown below:

The initial term of a Centre or Institute shall not ***normally*** exceed five years.

It was moved by C. Beynon, seconded by R. Konrad,

That MAPP 7.9, Policy on Collaborative Research revised as shown in Appendix VI, Annex 1 and as further amended by the Board of Governors at paragraph 2.00 of Section C: Terms and Renewal for Centres, be approved.

CARRIED

BG.14-65 **Name Change – Department of Pathology to Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine**

It was moved by J. White, seconded by M. Wilson,

That the proposal to change the name of the Department of Pathology in the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry to the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, be approved effective July 1, 2014.

CARRIED (by Unanimous Consent)

BG.14-66 **Information Items Referred by Senate**

Appendix VI, Items Referred by Senate, contained the following items that were received for information by unanimous consent:

- Update on Re-Profiling Internal Research Funding and dissolution of SUPAD
- Western International Report
- Faculty of Education; Revisions to the Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) Program and Withdrawal of the Diploma in Education (Technological Studies)
- Reports of the Academic Colleague

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

BG.14-67 **Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL)**

A member asked about the impact of CASL on Western. Mr. Jarrett, Western's legal counsel, advised that Western's core activities do not fall under the new Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL) that takes effect July 1. There are a series of exemptions in CASL and one of those exemptions pertains to fundraising. An area of concern is affinity programs but there is a four-year window for implied consent. Western is currently developing best practices to address CASL.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

BG.14-68 **Retiring Board Members**

The Chair, on behalf of the Board, thanked Denis Lemieux, Jerry White, Stephen Sims, Michael Dietrich and Ahsan Syed, whose terms end June 30, 2014, for their time and contributions to the work of the Board and its committees.

The meeting adjourned to the *confidential* session.

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C. Shah  
Chair

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I. Birrell  
Secretary