



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

**NOVEMBER 19, 2020**

The meeting was held at 1:30 p.m. on Zoom.

PRESENT: R. Konrad, Chair  
A. Bryson, Acting Secretary

S. Bennett	S. Pitel
C. Burghardt-Jesson	C. Rorabeck
W. Boye	B. Ross
G. Dick	A. Shepard
K. Gibbons	S. Shortreed
E. Holder	C. Stephenson
C. Karakatsanis	M. Surkont
D. Keddy	P. Thomlinson
J. Kum	J. Toswell
M. Lerner	S. Trosow
S. Neiman	H. Usher
G. Parraga	

By Invitation: B. Barron, A. Blackburn-Evans, R. Chelladurai, P. Eluchok, A. Hrymak,  
D. James, L. Logan, E. Mallory, L. Rigg [Lesley]

Secretariat Resource: L.A. McKivior, D. Salim, C. Price, M. O'Connor, L. Rigg [Lisa]

Regrets: L. Hasenfratz

**Land Acknowledgement**

D. Keddy read a Land Acknowledgement.

**Adoption of Agenda – Open Session**

It was moved by H. Usher seconded by D. Keddy,

That the agenda for the Open Session be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

BG.20-114     **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

The Report of the President, distributed with the agenda, consisted of the following topics: COVID-19 update, new anti-racism and EDI Initiatives, financial aid for students raised in foster care, renewal of the President’s Advisory Committee on Environment & Sustainability, Strategic Planning Steering Committee update, and leadership updates.

A. Shepard, President & Vice-Chancellor welcomed new board member M. Surkont to the Board of Governors. During the COVID-19 update, the President stated that the University is committed to doing its part to control the viral spread within the London community and commended faculty, staff and students for their continued work in supporting the ongoing endeavors of the University over the past nine months. He reported that there has been discussion in the media of other post-secondary institutions extending the winter break, but Western University does not intend to extend the break at this point in time.

The President concluded his report by highlighting that the University has had several members of Western Faculty elected to the Royal Society of Canada this year with both the outgoing and incoming President for the Royal Society of Canada being Western Alumni.

BG.20-115     **UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA**

It was moved by H. Usher, seconded by W. Boye

That the items listed in the Unanimous Consent Agenda, save and except items 4.2(c), 4.4(b) and 4.5(a), be approved or received for information.

CARRIED

BG.20-116     **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The open session minutes of the meeting of September 22, 2020 were approved as circulated.

BG.20-117     **New Scholarships, Awards, and Prizes**

The new scholarships, awards, and prizes approved by the Property and Finance Committee, on behalf of the Board of Governors, were provided for information in Item 5.1(a).

BG.20-118     **Semi-Annual Ratio Report on Non-Endowed Funds**

The Semi-Annual Ratio Report on Non-Endowed Funds was provided for information in Item 4.2(b).

BG.20-119     **University Discipline Appeals Committee (UDAC) - Membership**

The confirmed appointment of Wolfgang Lehmann (Social Science) to the University Discipline Appeals Committee as approved by the Senior Policy and Operations Committee on behalf of

the Board of Governors was reported to the Board for information in Item 4.3(a).

BG.20-120 **Strategic Planning Steering Committee – Board Representatives**

The confirmed appointments of Susan Bennett and Keith Gibbons to the Strategic Planning Steering Committee as approved by the Board of Governors on October 23, 2020 was reported for information in Item 4.3(b).

BG.20-121 **Board Member Leave of Absence**

The leave of absence of Governor D. Simmonds from the Board of Governors until December 2020 as approved by the Chair of the Board was reported for information in Item 4.3(c).

BG.20-122 **Senior Appointment – Extension of Acting Dean, Faculty of Social Science**

The confirmed extension of the appointment of John Finegan as Acting Dean of the Faculty of Social Science, for the term July 1, 2021 to July 31, 2021 as approved by the Senior Policy and Operations Committee on behalf of the Board of Governors was reported to the Board for information in item 4.3(d).

BG.20-123 **Senior Appointment – Dean, Faculty of Social Science**

The confirmed appointment of Nicholas Harney as Dean of the Faculty of Social Science, for the term August 1, 2021 to June 30, 2026 as approved by the Senior Policy and Operations Committee on behalf of the Board of Governors was reported to the Board for information in Item 4.3(e).

BG.20-124 **Senior Appointment – Dean, Faculty of Education**

The confirmed appointment of Donna Kotsopoulos as Dean of the Faculty of Education, for the term January 1, 2021 to December 25, 2025 as approved by the Senior Policy and Operations Committee on behalf of the Board of Governors was reported to the Board for information in Item 4.3(f).

BG.20-125 **Senior Appointment – Acting Associate Vice-President (Principal Gifts)**

The confirmed appointment of Abbey Baran as Acting Associate Vice-President (Principal Gifts), effective November 16, 2020 as approved by the Senior Policy and Operations Committee on behalf of the Board of Governors was reported to the Board for information in Item 4.3(g).

BG.20-126 **Senior Appointment – Acting Vice-President (University Advancement)**

The confirmed appointment of Dana James as Acting Vice-President (University Advancement), effective November 16, 2020 as approved by the Senior Policy and Operations Committee on behalf of the Board of Governors was reported to the Board for information in Item 4.3(h).

BG.20-127 **Revisions to the Special Resolution No. 4 – Investments**

It was moved by H. Usher, seconded by W. Boye,

That the Board of Governors approve the revisions to Special Resolution No. 4 – Investments, as shown in Item 4.4(a).

Revisions to the Special Resolution No.4-Investments was provided for approval in Item 4.4(a).

CARRIED (Unanimous Consent)

BG.20-128 **Report of the Academic Colleague**

The Report of the Academic Colleague was provided for information in Item 4.6(a).

BG.20-129 **Academic Administrative Appointments**

Academic Administrative Appointments were provided for information in Item 4.6(b).

BG.20-130 **ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

It was moved by H. Usher, seconded by C. Rorabeck,

That Item 4.2(c), and 4.5(a) be received for information.

CARRIED

BG.20-131 **Annual Report on Underwater Endowments**

The Annual Report on Underwater Endowments was provided for information in Item 4.2(c).

A Board member requested clarification regarding a statement in the Annual Report on Underwater Endowments that states an endowment becomes underwater when the current market value becomes less than the original donated amount noting the statement did not take into consideration the role of inflation. L. Logan, Vice-President (Operations & Finance) stated that the definition for underwater endowments is driven by accounting standards and is considered market value less original donated capital otherwise known as legal capital. She noted that the original capital does not grow at the rate of inflation and stated that each overall endowment grows by investment returns less allocation for spending, noting that inflation is built into the return objectives.

A Board member requested further information regarding the University's response to the volatility of returns in the underwater endowments. L. Logan reported that in 2008/09 the University reduced the percentage rate of payout on newer endowments that had not yet had the opportunity to build the returns on investment. Additionally, she reported that the University typically uses a 3-year average to calculate the payout rate, and during 2008/09 the

University moved to a 5-year average to calculate the payout rate in order to reduce the volatility of returns. She stated that, in response to the volatility in the markets caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the University's Investment Committee met bi-weekly for several months in order to be able to respond quickly to any impacts resulting. She reported that while monitoring the returns, the Investment Committee also performed a number of stress tests and sensitivity analyses to understand under what scenarios action might be required.

BG.20-132 **Revisions to Special Resolution No. 9 – Election Procedures**

It was moved by S. Bennett, seconded by C. Rorabeck,

That Special Resolution No. 9 – Election Procedures be revised as shown in Item 4.4(b), effective November 19, 2020.

Revisions to Special Resolution No. 9 – Election Procedures was provided for approval in Item 4.4(b).

A Board member inquired whether the web page URL should be embedded in the policy noting that webpages are often renamed. A. Bryson, Acting University Secretary stated that it was considered appropriate by the University Secretariat to include the URL within the policy as it is unlikely that URL would change as it directs the individual to the University Secretariat website and provides clear direction on where to find the nomination form which is relevant to the specified part of the policy. It was noted that feedback regarding the policy could be provided to the Governance and By-Laws committee for further discussion and amendments if appropriate at a future meeting.

A Board member highlighted that the policy requires undergraduate and graduate students to remain as students within their respective constituency in order to retain their elected position, noting that the same requirements are not outlined for elected Faculty or Staff. A. Bryson reported that additions were made to the student section of the policy as a result of an issue that arose within the student constituency this past year and agreed that it would be relevant to include the additions to the other constituencies outlined within the policy. It was agreed that the Board would approve the motion presented but would refer the feedback provided to the Governance and By-Laws Committee for further discussion and review of the other constituencies within the policy and other amendments that may be required.

CARRIED

BG.20-133 **Acquisition of paintings by A.Y. Jackson and Ashoona**

The report on the acquisition of paintings by A.Y. Jackson and Ashoona was provided for information in Item 4.5(a).

A Board member inquired how the A.Y. Jackson painting, which is a painting from the "Group of Seven", aligns with the decolonization policy of the McIntosh Gallery and queried whether the explanation should be clarified to state that not all acquired pieces have to align with the decolonization policy. A. Bryson reported that the Chair of the McIntosh Gallery Committee

indicated that the donated painting is not burdened or associated with any colonial practices which would make it problematic to accept and as such, is in keeping with the decolonization policy.

BG.20-134 **Business Arising from the Minutes**

There were no items noted as business arising from the September 22, 2020 minutes.

**REPORT OF THE PROPERTY & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

BG.20-135 **Enrolment Update**

R. Chelladurai, Associate Vice-President (Planning, Budgeting and Information Technology) provided an update on the final full-time Fall 2020 student enrolment numbers, detailed in Item 6.1. He reported that the total number of international undergraduate and master's level graduate students fell short of projected numbers, as did domestic master's level graduate students, however domestic undergraduate students had increased above projected numbers. He reported that the summer 2020 term enrolment was the highest that the University has had to date for a summer term. He noted that part-time students are not included in the total numbers provided.

A Board member asked what the difference was between international and domestic undergraduate tuition. R. Chelladurai reported that domestic students pay approximately \$6,000 and international students pay approximately \$30,000-\$40,000 for undergraduate.

A Board member inquired whether summer courses are available to casual or part-time students or if they were primarily for full-time students. R. Chelladurai reported that summer students are typically casual or part-time students.

A Board member inquired whether the University was aware of how many students are living in London. R. Chelladurai reported that any evidence provided to the University is anecdotal, but it is assumed that approximately 75% of students are residing within the London vicinity.

BG.20-136 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

A Board member inquired whether the University offers assistance to international students regarding immigration. B. Baron, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (International) reported that International Student Services within Western International has four employees who are qualified as immigration advisors. She reported that these employees are meeting the required standards as outlined by Immigration Canada in advising international students in the immigration process.

BG.20-137     **OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was noted

**ADJOURNMENT TO CONFIDENTIAL SESSION**

The meeting adjourned to the confidential session at 2:27 p.m.

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R. Konrad  
Chair

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A. Bryson  
Acting Secretary