



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

The meeting was held at 1:00 p.m. on Zoom.

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

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

By Invitation: A. Blackburn-Evans, R. Chelladurai, K. Cole, P. Eluchok, A. Hrymak,
L. Koza, L. Logan, E. Mallory, J. O'Brien, T. Rice, L. Rigg [Lesley]

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

Regrets: C. Burghardt-Jesson, L. Hasenfratz, E. Holder

Land Acknowledgement

D. Keddy read a Land Acknowledgement.

Adoption of Agenda – Open Session

It was moved by D. Keddy, seconded by C. Rorabeck,

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

CARRIED

BG.20-92

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The Report of the President, distributed with the agenda, consisted of the following topics: COVID-19 update, Special Advisors appointed to continue anti-racism efforts, Parr family gift to support student mental health, Gray family gift to support mobility research, accolades for campus community members who were recognized with special honours, and leadership updates.

A. Shepard, President & Vice-Chancellor commended faculty, staff and students for their work to make the beginning of the fall term possible. He said that 20-25% of courses have a face-to-face component. Residence halls have been de-densified and are at approximately 70% capacity. He noted that the University has moved back to Phase 3 of the Return to Campus plan in wake of reports that a number of students tested positive for COVID-19. He indicated that the vast majority of these cases were located in off-campus housing. He reported that the testing centre on campus now has a capacity of approx. 500 tests per day. He provided his thanks to the volunteers and employees staffing the testing centre, as well as to the Middlesex-London Health Unit for its support and guidance. A. Shepard also thanked his senior leadership team for their constant engagement, for their monitoring, and for their great responsiveness to the community.

A. Shepard said that the University is committed to doing its part to control the viral spread in London. He said that he has written to all of the University's students urging them to follow the rules of public health. He also reported that the University has reduced the number of people students may host in their residence room down to one person. He said that the University hopes to be able to move back to Phase 4 of the Return to Campus plan in time.

Lastly, A. Shepard said that the University has now signed the Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA3) that the Board approved in March.

A Board member noted that police involvement with the Broughdale street party has largely been responsive in past years. The Board member asked if there was any indication that the police would take a more active role should the event recur this year, given the public health guidelines and rules with regard to the number of people who can assemble in a location. A. Shepard said that the University hopes that people will not assemble for a street party under these conditions.

A Board member inquired if a communication would be sent to students to provide an update on the implementation of the recommendations from the Anti-Racism Working Group. A. Shepard said that the two newly appointed Special Advisors to the President are working to establish a framework for an equity council. He noted that work would progress on the recommendations once the initial governance was established. He took the suggestion to provide an update to the community under advisement.

A Board member asked if the Parr family gift of \$9.2M for mental health would be used for the Thames Hall Building renovations. A. Shepard said that the gift will be used for additional resources for mental health. He noted that a unique feature of the gift is that it has funds set aside for Western to conduct pilot projects and experiments.

A Board member asked what the triggering conditions would be to return to Phase 4 of the Return to Campus plan. A. Shepard said that it would be a contextual decision. He indicated that he would like to see the Western case count drop down, and remain down, prior to returning to Phase 4.

BG.20-93 **UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA**

It was moved by H. Usher, seconded by S. Bennett,

That the items listed in the Unanimous Consent Agenda, except item 5.4(a) and 5.6(b), be approved or received for information.

CARRIED

BG.20-94 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The open session minutes of the meeting of June 25, 2020 and the open session minutes of the meeting of August 13, 2020 were approved as circulated.

BG.20-95 **Scholarships, Awards, and Prizes**

The 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.20-96 **Report of the Investment Committee**

The Report of the Investment Committee was provided for information in Item 5.1(b).

BG.20-97 **McIntosh Gallery Committee Membership**

On behalf of the Board of Governors, the Senior Policy and Operations Committee approved the appointment of Sara Mai Chitty to the McIntosh Gallery Committee as a member-at-large, effective October 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023.

BG.20-98 **University Discipline Appeals Committee (UDAC) – Membership**

On behalf of the Board of Governors, the Senior Policy and Operations Committee amended the graduate student membership for the University Discipline Appeals Committee (UDAC) to appoint the following three candidates (term from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021): D. Broberg (Schulich), E. Mohler (Health Sciences), and J. Saldua Toomath (Health Sciences).

BG.20-99 **Revisions to Special Resolution No. 3 – Banking**

It was moved by H. Usher, seconded by S. Bennett,

That the Board of Governors approve the revisions to Special Resolution No. 3 –
Banking, as shown in Item 5.3(a).

CARRIED (by Unanimous Consent)

BG.20-100 **Equity and Human Rights Annual Report**

The Equity and Human Rights Report was provided to the Board for information in Item 5.4(b).

BG.20-101 **Fund Raising Activity Quarterly Report at April 30, 2020**

The Fund Raising Activity Quarterly Report at April 30, 2020 was provided to the Board for
information in Item 5.5(a).

BG.20-102 **Fund Raising Activity Quarterly Report at July 31, 2020**

The Fund Raising Activity Quarterly Report at July 31, 2020 was provided to the Board for
information in Item 5.5(b).

BG.20-103 **2019-2020 McIntosh Gallery Annual Report**

The 2019-2020 McIntosh Gallery Annual Report was provided to the Board of Governors for
information in Item 5.6(b).

BG.20-104 **Acquisition of Painting by Kelly Greene**

The purchase of *They Were Planted and They Came (2015)*, acrylic on plywood by artist Kelly
Greene was reported to the Board for information in Item 5.6(c).

BG.20-105 **ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

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

That Item 5.4(a) and Item 5.6(a) be received for information.

CARRIED

BG.20-106 **Western Retirement Plans Report September 2020**

The Western Retirement Plans Report (September 2020) was provided for information in Item
5.4(a).

A Board member asked a question about the chart on p.49 showing that a substantial number of

academic plan members are not on track for a positive retirement. The Board member asked if the assessment as to whether the member is on track is based only on assets held in the Western plan or if the assessment also includes additional assets disclosed by the member. L. Koza, Director (Human Resources Digital and Operations) explained that the data comes from two different sources. The first source of data is from members who voluntarily complete a Sun Life retirement planning tool. This tool asks members to set out their retirement goals and to indicate any additional savings. The second source of data is from members who have not completed the tool. For this group, she explained that an assumption is made that members are looking for a replacement of 60% of their pre-retirement salary. The Board member expressed concern that the data was displayed in this form, arguing that it presents an incomplete picture of resources available to faculty members. The Board member noted that a significant number of people who did not complete the tool likely have additional assets available for retirement, and thus are in a better financial position than shown. L. Koza indicated that she would bring this feedback to the Academic Staff Pension Board.

BG.20-107 **McIntosh Gallery Year End Financial Statement**

The 2019-2020 McIntosh Gallery Annual Report was provided for information in Item 5(b).

Referencing the Statement of Operations table on p.72, a Board member asked for clarification on the value in the column labeled 'McIntosh Endowments'. R. Konrad clarified that the value is the income generated from the endowment fund, not the actual McIntosh endowments. In response to a question, L. Logan, Vice-President (Operations & Finance) reported that the value of the actual endowments was nearly \$2 million as of April 30, 2020.

BG.20-108 **Business Arising from the Minutes**

A report on business arising from the minutes of June 25, 2020 was provided in Item 6.0.

There were no items noted as business arising from the August 13, 2020 minutes.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR POLICY AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

BG.20-109 **Strategic Planning Process Update**

T. Rice, Executive Director (Marketing Communications) provided an update on the strategic planning process, detailed in Item 7.1. He reported that a Strategic Planning Steering Committee would be struck to help advise and steer the strategic planning process. He reviewed the draft Terms of Reference for the Committee and outlined the nomination process. He also provided an overview of a speaker series that will be used to engage the campus community in the strategic planning process.

A Board member inquired about the timeline for the strategic planning process. A. Shepard said that the initial timeline was disrupted by the pandemic. He noted that work was underway to revise the timeline and that he would bring this forward to the Board at a later date.

REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

BG.20-110 **Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended April 30, 2020**

S. Bennett, Chair of the Audit Committee provided an overview of the audit. She indicated that a note was included in the report with respect to disclosing the impact of COVID-19.

It was moved by G. Dick, seconded by M. Lerner,

That the Board of Governors approve the draft audited combined financial statements for the University for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2020 (Section 1 of the Audited Financial Statements).

CARRIED

BG.20-111 **Financial Statements – Related Companies**

The financial statements for related companies and other organizations of The University of Western Ontario for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2020 were provided for information. S. Bennett noted that these statements have all been approved by the Directors of the various companies.

BG.20-112 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

No questions were raised.

BG.20-113 **OTHER BUSINESS**

The Board recognized K. Cole, Vice-President (University Advancement) for her outstanding contributions to Western. K. Cole will leave Western to assume a new role as President and CEO of Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre Foundation, effective November 16, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT TO CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

The meeting adjourned to the confidential session at 2:00 p.m.

R. Konrad
Chair

A. Bryson
Acting Secretary