



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

FEBRUARY 2, 2023 – OPEN SESSION

The meeting was held at the Western Interdisciplinary Research Building, Room 3000 and on Zoom.

PRESENT: Keith Gibbons, Chair
Amy Bryson, Secretary

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| Michelle Banik | Stephen Pitel |
| Susan Bennett | Geoff Pollock |
| Wade Boye | Stephen Poloz |
| Arzie Chant | Cecil Rorabeck |
| Susan Clarke | Bruce Ross |
| Greg Dick | Effie Sapuridis |
| Lori Higgs | Alan Shepard |
| Beth MacDougall- Shackleton | Sarah Shortreed (Vice-Chair) |
| Marlene McGrath | David Simmonds |
| Josh Morgan | Sam Trosow |
| | Ken Yeung |

Regrets: Kenisha Arora, Ethan Chen, Linda Hasenfratz, Michael Surkont

By Invitation: Althea Blackburn-Evans, John Doerksen, Paul Eluchok, Lynn Logan, Eric Mallory, Bryan Neff, Jeff O'Hagan

Secretariat Resource: Bonnie Brown

Chair K. Gibbons called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Land Acknowledgement

G. Dick offered a land acknowledgement.

A. Bryson, University Secretary, welcomed and introduced Caroline Whippley, the new Associate University Secretary.

K. Gibbons extended sincere appreciation to Bruce Ross for his insights and advice noting his term on the Board expires in April. B. Ross reflected on his time on the Board and expressed his own appreciation for the opportunity.

New Board members, Mayor Josh Morgan, representative for the City of London and Councilor Susan Clarke, representative for Middlesex County were welcomed.

BG.23-001 **Adoption of Agenda – Open Session**

Moved by G. Dick, seconded by W. Boye:

That the agenda for the open session be approved, as circulated.

CARRIED

BG.23-002 **Approval of the Open Session Minutes of the Meeting of November 17, 2022**

Moved by S. Trosow, seconded by C. Rorabeck:

That the open session minutes of the meeting of November 17, 2022, be approved, as circulated.

CARRIED

Business Arising from the Minutes – None.

BG.23-003 **Report of the President**

A. Shepard, President & Vice-Chancellor, opened his remarks by highlighting the events planned for Black History month. Information may be found at: <https://www.president.uwo.ca/black-history/>.

A. Shepard continued his report by advising the Provost & Vice-President (Academic) has embarked on a new global engagement strategy process that will involve consultation with Senate and the Board. He noted this is in alignment with the third pillar of Western's strategic plan.

A. Shepard further reported on the Weldon Library renovations; the Ivey Business School year-long celebrations planned in recognition of their 100-year anniversary; and the December 1, 2022 visit to Western by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to announce the new Federal dental program.

A. Shepard extended his appreciation to L. Logan, E. Mallory, M. Bélanger, and the Investment Committee for their exceptional work on the investment portfolio.

A. Shepard reported the searches for several leadership positions continue including the Vice-President (Research), Dean of Arts and Humanities, the Registrar, and the Vice-Provost (International).

In concluding, A. Shepard reported on the senior leadership review of the Open

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Space Strategy that originally was completed in 2018. He further added the principles contained in the report were affirmed.

In responding to questions regarding the Open Space Strategy, A. Shepard confirmed the goal of reducing the cross-through traffic through the University continues to be a focus. He recognized, however, the challenges in making progress given the change in the rapid transit plans around the University.

J. Morgan described the City of London's 25-year Mobility Master Plan for movement of people and goods across the city. Currently the city is in the early phases of the consultation. The importance of Western engaging closely in these efforts was identified especially as it relates to higher order transit options around the University.

L. Logan advised on the quarterly meetings with the City and advised the mobility component of the Open Space Strategy will be reopened given the delay in implementing a bus rapid transit strategy around the University.

In responding to a question regarding Western's focus on global engagement and the scope of this initiative, A. Shepard advised the focus is on increasing the number of international students at Western and the number of international research partnerships. In reaching those goals, he advised Western will be looking at where to put recruiters, the cultivation of research partnerships, and potential for "outposts" in other countries. It was noted F. Strzelczyk is hosting consultation sessions regarding the global engagement strategy.

In responding to questions regarding Western's current masking mandate and comments regarding the difficulties experienced in enforcing the mandate in instructional spaces, A. Shepard advised the mandate may be coming to an end. It was clarified instructors are not expected to 'police' the classroom; safety representatives from the Health and Safety team are available and may be arranged through the HR main line.

In response to a comment regarding an earlier request that the library be designated as instructional space, A. Shepard advised that was considered but ultimately it was determined to not make that designation.

In response to a question regarding Fall Preview Day, it was confirmed the number of students participating on campus this year was slightly below pre-pandemic numbers.

The discussion considered the evolving field of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the current/future impact on higher education. A. Shepard advised departments and Faculties are paying attention to this. There was a suggestion that the Board have an educational session on this topic.

AGENDA

COMMITTEE AND SENATE REPORTS – See Unanimous Consent Agenda.

BG.23-004 **UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA**

Moved by S. Shortreed, seconded by K. Yeung:

That the items listed in the consent agenda be approved or received for information by the Board of Governors by unanimous consent.

CARRIED

ITEMS FROM THE PROPERTY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

BG.23-005 **New Scholarships, Awards, and Prizes**

The report on the terms of reference approved by the Property and Finance Committee for the new scholarships, awards, and prizes was received for information in item 5.1(a).

BG.23-006 **Key Financial Indicators Report**

The Key Financial Indicators report presented to the Property and Finance Committee was received for information in item 5.1(b).

BG.23-007 **Ancillary Financial Report**

The Ancillary Financial report presented to the Property and Finance Committee was received for information in item 5.1(c).

BG.23-008 **Update on Operating Budget as of December 31, 2022**

The update on the operating budget as of December 31, 2022 was received for information in item 5.1(d).

BG.23-009 **Annual Report on Trademark Licensees doing Business with the Western Bookstore**

The annual report on trademark licensees doing business with the Western Bookstore, presented to the Property and Finance Committee, was received for information in item 5.1(e).

BG.23-010 **CFMM MR Scanner Purchase**

A report on the approved purchase by the Property and Finance Committee, pursuant to its authority under MAPP 2.8, of a BioSpec 152/11 MR scanner with

a complementary Avance NEO BioSpec console and a three-year extended service package was received for information in item 5.1(f).

ITEM FROM THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

BG.23-011 **Western Office of the Ombudsperson Annual Report 2021-22**

The annual report from the Western Office of the Ombudsperson was received for information in item 5.2(a).

ITEMS FROM THE FUND RAISING AND DONOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE

BG.23-012 **Quarterly Report on Fund Raising at October 31, 2022**

The quarterly report on fund raising at October 31, 2022, presented to the Fund Raising and Donor Relations Committee, was received for information in item 5.3(a).

BG.23-013 **Naming Opportunities**

A report advising the Board of Governors on the naming of various rooms approved by the Naming Sub-Committee of the Fund Raising and Donor Relations Committee was received for information in item 5.3(b).

ITEMS REFERRED BY SENATE

BG.23-014 **Academic Administrative Appointments**

A report presented to Senate regarding the academic administrative posts approved, on behalf of the Board of Governors, as of the month of November 2022, was received for information in item 5.5(a).

BG.23-015 **Introduction of an Articulation Agreement for the Admission of Graduates of the Nutrition and Food Service Management Diploma at Conestoga College into the Bachelor of Science (Foods and Nutrition): Honours Specialization in Nutrition and Dietetics, Honours Specialization in Foods and Nutrition, or Specialization in Foods and Nutrition at Brescia University College**

On the recommendation of Senate, and by unanimous consent, the Board of Governors approved the introduction of an articulation agreement for the admission of graduates of the Nutrition and Food Service Management Diploma at Conestoga College into the Bachelor of Science (Foods and Nutrition): Honours Specialization in Nutrition and Dietetics, Honours Specialization in Foods and Nutrition, or Specialization in Foods and Nutrition at Brescia University College. The report was received in item 5.5(b).

BG.23-016 **Annual Report of the University Librarian**

The annual report of the University Librarian was received for information in item 5.5(c).

BG.23-017 **Report of the Academic Colleague**

The report from the December 2022 meetings of the COU Academic Colleague was received for information in item 5.5(d).

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

ITEM FROM THE SENIOR POLICY AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

BG.23-018 **Board Skills Needs Assessment**

A summary of the identified needs/skills to be considered when filling external Board member vacancies was presented for information in item 5.4(a).

In response to a question regarding the identified need for greater Board diversity, K. Gibbons advised on the work of the Senior Policy and Operations Committee (SPOC) to identify potential candidates who will address the gap in the identified skills and qualities needed on the Board, including diversity.

Through discussion, several suggestions came forward to support greater diversity on the Board. These included an open call for Board members, canvassing of current Board members for suggestions, and internal candidates encouraging Indigenous colleagues to run for election. It also was suggested that while the UWO Act dictates Board membership, there may be an opportunity by resolution of the Board, to designate an Indigenous seat on the Board.

It was noted the process for succession planning through SPOC was reviewed in recent years by the Governance and By-Laws Committee. As a next step, the suggestions provided by Board members will be reviewed by the subcommittee of SPOC as they begin their process of identifying potential candidates for the Board.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS FOR THE OPEN SESSION

None.

BG.23-019 **OTHER BUSINESS**

E. Sapuridis reported on the recent activities of the graduate student community as it relates to housing and funding. She highlighted a report recently published that described the results of a survey conducted by the Society of Graduate

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Students (SOGS) on the scope of housing and food security challenges faced by current graduate students. She further reported the Teaching Assistant and Postdoctoral Associate union (PSAC Local 610) is holding a rally on campus next week in relation to this subject.

There was a request to share the SOGS report with the University Secretary for dissemination to the Board.

ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION

The meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

K. Gibbons
Chair

A. Bryson
University Secretary