



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

**JUNE 29, 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

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

Regrets: Geoff Pollock, Michael Surkont

By Invitation: Althea Blackburn-Evans, Mark Daley, John Doerksen, Paul Eluchok, Brent Fowles, Sydney Kruth, Lynn Logan, Eric Mallory, Bryan Neff, Jane O'Brien, Jeff O'Hagan, Terry Rice, Caroline Whippey

Secretariat

Resource: Bonnie Brown

Chair K. Gibbons called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

K. Gibbons expressed his appreciation to outgoing Board members Wade Boye and Sam Trosow. K. Gibbons also welcomed Susan Clarke, who many members were meeting for the first time in person.

**Land Acknowledgement**

S. Poloz offered the land acknowledgement.

BG.23-87 **Adoption of Agenda – Open Session**

Moved by W. Boye, seconded by M. McGrath:

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

CARRIED

BG.23-88 **Approval of the Open Session Minutes of the Meeting of April 27, 2023**

Moved by S. Trosow, seconded by M. Banik:

That the open session minutes of the meeting of April 27, 2023, as amended, be approved.

CARRIED

**Business Arising from the Minutes**

None.

BG.23-89 **Report of the President**

A. Shepard, President & Vice-Chancellor, began his report by expressing his appreciation to all those involved with convocation this year. He noted approximately 8,000 students graduated with more than 5,000 students participating in the convocation ceremonies. The University Secretariat team was recognized for the organization and delivery of the two-weeks of ceremonies.

A. Shepard continued his report by noting admissions for September are looking positive. He reported domestic student admissions are up relative to the previous year; international student admissions are down noting this is consistent across the sector in Ontario and may be the result of the ongoing delays in the approval of international student visas.

In concluding his report A. Shepard shared a number of positive news items including Western's rise on the QS World University Rankings, the success of Western Research in attracting major research grants, continued strong student enrollment, and the success of the fundraising efforts this year.

In responding to a question regarding the delay in the issuing of student visas and the differential impact on student recruitment results for universities and colleges, A. Shepard described the differences in the student demographic for universities and colleges and the credentialing offered through colleges that provide for permanent residency in Canada sooner. Efforts by Western to begin to address the latter were noted.

## **AGENDA**

### **COMMITTEE AND SENATE REPORTS**

#### **REPORT OF THE PROPERTY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

G. Dick introduced the two items on the agenda from the Property and Finance Committee. He reported the recommendations in relation to the Tuition Anomaly Adjustments report were approved by the Property and Finance Committee and are recommended to the Board for final approval.

#### BG.23-90 **Capital Projects Update**

L. Logan, Vice-President (Operations & Finance), provided an update on the status of current major capital projects in progress including the biomedical research facility, the Ronald D. Schmeichel Building for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, and the numerous infrastructure projects underway.

She continued her report by providing updates on the projects in the planning and design phases. These included: the Bioconvergence Centre, University Drive bridge, the Gathering Hub, the engineering building, the two new residences planned for University Drive and Platt's Lane East, 450 Talbot, and the parking structure and field house.

L. Logan concluded her report by noting the Open Space Strategy is in phase III and advised the plaza planned for the bottom of University Hill has been paused in consideration of the University Drive bridge project.

L. Logan responded to questions of clarification regarding plans for 450 Talbot and the construction plans contemplated for the University Drive bridge.

#### BG.23-91 **Government Approved Tuition Anomaly Adjustments**

A. Shepard introduced the implementation of tuition rate increases for domestic students in undergraduate Computer Science and undergraduate Management & Organizational Studies (MOS). A. Shepard described the tuition anomaly adjustment proposal process offered through the Ontario provincial government to allow for tuition rate increases for certain programs with lower-than-sector-average tuition rates for comparable programs in Ontario.

A. Shepard outlined the implementation plan noting there will be a shadow tuition rate increase applied in 2023-2024 with the actual tuition rate increases starting in 2024-2025.

R. Chelladurai, Associate Vice-President (Institutional Planning & Budgeting), further described the tuition anomaly adjustment proposal process and advised

on the support of the Deans in both departments.

In responding to questions, R. Chelladurai clarified that the proposed tuition rate increases only apply to new/incoming students. With respect to the increased rates, he advised that 10% of the incremental domestic tuition revenue goes toward needs-based student financial aid. He further advised Western uses a formula whereby 50% of the incremental tuition revenue goes back to the Faculties that teach the students.

Moved by S. Trosow, seconded by A. Chant:

That the decision regarding the increase to the tuition rates proposed in item 4.1(b) be deferred to the 2024 – 2025 budget process.

DEFEATED

K. Yeung declared a conflict of interest.

In speaking in favour of the motion to defer, members described their preference for the proposed tuition rate increases to go through the budget process to allow for broader consultation, the opportunity for Senate and the affected departments to consider the implications of the decision (i.e., academic policy), and to have a better understanding of the distribution of revenues.

Those speaking against the motion to defer raised concerns regarding the impact the delay in approval would have on implementation and suggested moving forward with the decision would not preclude the provision of additional information on the distribution of revenues.

In responding to questions about the main motion, R. Chelladurai provided information on the comparators the Ontario provincial government used in its determination of the tuition rate increases for Western; he provided information on Western's budget for student bursaries; and he advised on the process whereby Deans would be looking at their staff/faculty complements. It was further clarified that existing students in the program will not be impacted by the tuition rate increase, the increase is for incoming students only.

Moved by G. Dick, seconded by S. Bennett:

That, on the recommendation of the Property and Finance Committee, the Board of Governors approve the implementation of tuition rate increases for domestic students in undergraduate Computer Science and undergraduate Management & Organizational Studies (MOS), as follows:

1. As approved by the Province, the allowable 7.5% increase for incoming domestic students be applied in 2023-24 to

undergraduate Computer Science and undergraduate MOS tuition rates – resulting in an increase to \$6,504 in 2023-24 from \$6,050 in 2022-23;

2. Given the late timing of the Government’s announcement and in order to allow the University adequate time to communicate to students and develop the necessary procedures/systems for implementation of the increased tuition rates, students will not be charged the increased tuition rates until 2024-25; and
3. The tuition rates for 2024-25 will be determined based on the 2023-24 rates.

CARRIED

Those speaking against the motion expressed concerns with the process, the potential impact on students, implications with respect to academic policy, and the lack of clarity regarding the distribution of monies that would go back to the departments.

Those speaking in favour of the motion identified the opportunity to improve programming for students noting that tuition rates have been frozen for several years.

**REPORT OF THE SENIOR POLICY AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

BG.23-92 **Annual Report on the Code of Student Conduct**

The Annual Report on the Code of Student Conduct for the period from May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023 was provided for information.

BG.23-93 **Annual Report on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence**

The Annual Report on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence (GBSV) for the period from May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023 was provided for information.

J. Doerksen, Vice-Provost (Students) responded to questions of clarification regarding the change of involvement of two community organizations in the delivery of training.

BG.23-94 **Revisions to MAPP 1.35 – Non-Discrimination/Harassment/Sexual Misconduct Policy and Related Procedures**

P. Eluchok, University Legal Counsel, presented for approval amendments to *MAPP 1.35 - Non-Discrimination/Harassment/Sexual Misconduct Policy*.

P. Eluchok advised on the new legislation from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities requiring explicit policies on the sexual misconduct between employees and students. He advised the proposed changes to the policy reflect the requirements of the legislation.

Moved by M. Banik, seconded by M. McGrath:

That, on the recommendation of the Senior Policy and Operations Committee, the Board of Governors approve the amendments to *MAPP 1.35 – Non-Discrimination/ Harassment/Sexual Misconduct Policy* as outlined in Item 4.2(c).

CARRIED

BG.23-95 **Introduction of Electronic Monitoring Policy and Related Procedures**

P. Eluchok presented for approval the new Electronic Monitoring Policy. He advised there is a requirement under the Employment Standards Act for employers to have an Electronic Monitoring Policy that identifies whether the employer is electronically monitoring its employees, and if so, how and why.

P. Eluchok and J. O'Brien, Associate Vice-President (Human Resources) responded to questions of clarification.

Moved by A. Chant, seconded by S. Poloz:

That, on the recommendation of the Senior Policy and Operations Committee, the Board of Governors approve the Electronic Monitoring Policy as outlined in Item 4.2(d).

CARRIED

**REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

BG.23-96 **Annual Report of the Working Group on Information Security (WGIS)**

S. Bennett advised the Annual Report of the Working Group on Information Security (WGIS) is provided for information and noted a presentation on the report was received by the Audit Committee.

B. Fowles, Director (Cybersecurity and Business Services), responded to questions of clarification regarding technologies in place to block phishing/spam. He further advised on engagement efforts with USC and Western International to organize meetings with groups of students for training.

S. Shortreed commended the team on the level of maturity reached over the last 12 months with respect to information security.

**REPORT FROM SENATE**

BG.23-97 **Global Engagement Plan**

K. Gibbons referred to the presentation received by the Board at their annual retreat on Western's Global Engagement Plan. Appreciation was extended to F. Strzelczyk. There were no additional questions.

Moved by S. Trosow, seconded by L. Higgs:

That, on the advice of Senate, the Board of Governors approve Western's Global Engagement Plan as set out in Item 4.4(a).

CARRIED

BG.23-98 **UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA**

Moved by A. Chant, seconded by G. Dick:

That the items listed in the consent agenda, with the exception of 5.2(b), be approved or received for information by the Board of Governors by unanimous consent.

CARRIED

**ITEMS FROM THE PROPERTY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

BG.23-99 **New Scholarships, Awards, and Prizes**

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.23-100 **2022-23 Operating Budget Update (Year-End) as at April 30, 2023**

A year-end update on the University's 2022-23 operating budget was received for information in item 5.1(b).

BG.23-101 **Ancillary Financial Report as at April 30, 2023**

The preliminary financial results for the 2022-2023 student fee-funded units, ancillaries, academic support units, and associated companies was received for information in item 5.1(c).

BG.23-102 **Semi-Annual Ratio Report on Non-Endowed Funds**

The quarterly activity of the non-endowed funds and report on the ratio of investments to obligations against the target ratio was received for information in item 5.1(d).

BG.23-103 **Report of the Investment Committee**

An update on the activities of the Investment Committee, a subcommittee of the Property and Finance Committee, was received for information in item 5.1(e).

BG.23-104 **Faculty Scholar Awards**

A report from the Property and Finance Committee recommending to the Board of Governors the approval of an additional four (4) Faculty Scholar awards as outlined in item 5.1(f) was received and approved by unanimous consent.

**ITEMS FROM THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

BG.23-105 **Western Retirement Plans Report**

The report on the Western Retirement Plans presented to the Audit Committee was received for information in item 5.2(a)

**ITEM FROM THE SENIOR POLICY AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

BG.23-106 **University Discipline Appeals Committee Membership**

On recommendation of the Senior Policy and Operations Committee in the report received in item 5.3(a), and by unanimous consent, the Board of Governors approved the appointment of Joel Welch to the University Discipline Appeals Committee for the term July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

**ITEMS REFERRED BY SENATE**

BG.23-107 **Honorary Degree Recipients - Spring 2023**

A report listing the Honorary Degree recipients and the Spring 2023 convocation ceremonies at which they were awarded their degree was provided for information in item 5.4(a).

BG.23-108 **Annual Report of the Office of Academic Quality and Enhancement (OAQE)**

The first annual report presented to Senate from the Office of Academic Quality and Enhancement (OAQE) was received for information in item 5.4(b).

BG.23-109 **Report of the Academic Colleague**



The report from the May meetings of the COU Academic Colleagues was received for information in item 5.4(c).

BG.23-110 **Academic Administrative Appointments**

A report presented to Senate regarding the academic administrative appointments approved, on behalf of the Board of Governors, as of May 2023, was received for information in item 5.4(d).

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

BG.23-111 **Annual Report on Non-Discrimination/Harassment Policy**

The Annual Report on the Non-Discrimination/Harassment Policy presented to the Audit Committee was received for information in item 5.2(b).

In response to questions, J. O'Brien advised on the time frame for conducting and concluding an investigation and the factors affecting the timeline. She further advised an investigation is completed in the situation where a complainant has since left the University.

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

None.

BG.23-112 **OTHER BUSINESS**

As a follow up to the discussion under item 4.1(b), there was a comment about the importance and value of engaging in early and transparent consultation.

Outgoing members S. Trosow and W. Boye reflected on their time on the Board and expressed their insights and appreciation.

**ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION**

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

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K. Gibbons  
Chair

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A. Bryson  
University Secretary