



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

SEPTEMBER 21, 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	Marlene McGrath
Cameron Bailey	Stephen Pitel
Michelle Banik	Geoff Pollock
Susan Bennett	Stephen Poloz
Arzie Chant	Terry Rice
Ethan Chen	Cecil Rorabeck
Greg Dick	Effie Sapuridis
Ed Goehring	Alan Shepard
Lori Higgs	Sarah Shortreed (Vice-Chair)
Beth MacDougall-Shackleton	Ken Yeung

Regrets: Susan Clarke, Kelly Meighen, Josh Morgan, David Simmonds,
Michael Surkont

By Invitation: Ruban Chelladurai, John Doerksen, Paul Eluchok, Dana
James, Lynn Logan, Eric Mallory, Ryan Palmer, Penny
Pexman, Florentine Strzelczyk, Caroline Whippey

Secretariat Bonnie Brown
Resource:

Chair K. Gibbons called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. and welcomed the new members to the Board.

Land Acknowledgement

S. Shortreed offered a land acknowledgement.

BG.23-138 **Adoption of Agenda – Open Session**

Moved by M. Banik, seconded by G. Pollock:

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

CARRIED

BG.23-139 **Approval of the Open Session Minutes of the Meeting of June 29, 2023**

Moved by B. MacDougall-Shackleton, seconded by L. Higgs:

That the open session minutes of the meeting of June 29, 2023, be approved, as circulated.

CARRIED

Business Arising from the Minutes – None.

BG.23-140 **Report of the President**

A. Shepard, President & Vice-Chancellor, began his report by describing the positive start to the year and acknowledging the staff, faculty, and student leadership that contributed to a successful orientation week.

A. Shepard continued his report by commenting on the activities planned for Homecoming, the upcoming Ontario Universities Fair, the strong enrollment for the coming year, and plans to build the two new student residences.

A. Shepard concluded his report by describing the various newspaper articles that highlighted positive news stories about Western.

A. Shepard responded to questions about Western's plan for student housing and changes to the online timetable.

COMMITTEE AND SENATE REPORTS

REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

BG.23-141 **Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended April 30, 2023**

S. Bennett presented for approval the audited financial statements for the year ended April 30, 2023.

S. Bennett reported on the timeline and process used by members of the Audit Committee to review the audited financial statements. She advised it was a clean audit and a very positive report. Appreciation was extended to Administration for their work.

In response to a question, it was clarified that the University participates in U.S. loan programs which require the reporting of specific information that would

otherwise not be included in the regular general purpose audited financial statements.

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

That, on recommendation of the Audit Committee, the Board of Governors approve the draft audited combined financial statements for the University for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2023.

And,

That, on the recommendation of the Audit Committee, the Board of Governors approve the draft special purpose audited financial statements for the University for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2023 for compliance with US reporting requirements.

CARRIED

REPORT OF THE FUND RAISING AND DONOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE

BG.23-142 **Quarterly Fundraising Report to April 30, 2023**

D. James presented for information the quarterly fundraising report to April 30, 2023 that outlined the total fund raising results for fiscal 2023.

BG.23-143 **Quarterly Fundraising Report to July 31, 2023**

D. James presented for information the quarterly fundraising report to July 31, 2023 that outlined the fund raising results for the first quarter of fiscal 2024. She highlighted that 31% of the \$85M fund raising goal for this year has been raised.

C. Rorabeck extended his appreciation to D. James and the team in University Advancement.

REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

BG.23-144 **Guidelines for the Identification and Appointment of External Board Members**

A. Bryson, University Secretary, presented for approval amendments to the *Guidelines for the Identification and Appointment of External Board Members*.

A. Bryson described the revisions noting information on the roles and responsibilities of Board members was removed as that information is contained in the *Principles of Engagement for Members of the Board of Governors*.

In response to a question, A. Bryson advised that being a Canadian citizen is no longer a legal requirement.

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

That, on the recommendation of the Governance and By-Laws Committee, the Board of Governors approve the revisions to the *Guidelines for the Identification and Appointment of External Board Members* as presented in item 4.3(a).

CARRIED

BG.23-145 **Comparison of Western’s Practices with Council of Ontario Universities’ Leading Practices in University Board Governance**

A. Bryson presented for information the summary comparison of Western’s practices with the Council of Ontario Universities’ *Leading Practices in University Board Governance*.

In her presentation, A. Bryson provided information on the work completed by the Council of Ontario Universities and the review she subsequently completed and reported to the Governance and By-Laws Committee. In summary, the university is meeting or exceeding 47 out of the 50 recommended best practices.

Of the three remaining areas, there is an opportunity for the Governance and By-Laws Committee to review current practice and determine whether it meets or exceeds the leading practice as defined by COU or whether there is an opportunity to improve the current practice.

In response to a question regarding next steps for improvement in the identified areas, S. Shortreed advised the University Secretary will lead that work with the support of the Governance and By-Laws Committee.

K. Gibbons recognized the Board’s strong governance practices.

REPORT OF THE MCINTOSH GALLERY ANNUAL REPORT

BG.23-146 **McIntosh Gallery Annual Report**

K. Gibbons advised the McIntosh Gallery Annual Report was provided for information. There were no questions.

BG.23-147 **McIntosh Gallery Year End Financial Statement**

K. Gibbons advised the McIntosh Gallery year-end financial statement was provided for information. F. Strzelczyk responded to a question regarding the limited information provided in the report.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR POLICY AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

BG.23-148 **Revisions to MAPP 1.52 – Policy on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence**

The item was deferred to the November 16, 2023 meeting.

BG.23-149 **UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA**

Item 5.3(a) was removed from the Unanimous Consent Agenda.

Moved by L. Higgs, seconded by G. Dick:

That the items listed in the consent agenda, save for item 5.3(a), be approved or received for information by the Board of Governors by unanimous consent.

CARRIED

ITEMS FROM THE PROPERTY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

BG.23-150 **New Scholarships, Awards, and Prizes**

A 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.23-151 **Renaming: Cassels Chair in Mining Law and Finance**

A report from the Property and Finance Committee on the approval of the renaming of the Cassels Brock Chair in Mining Law and Finance to the Cassels Chair in Mining Law and Finance was received for information in item 5.1(b).

BG.23-152 **Investment Committee Membership**

A report on the approved appointment of Greg Dick to the Investment Committee, by the Property and Finance Committee, was received for information in item 5.1(c).

ITEM FROM THE GOVERNANCE AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

BG.23-153 **Revisions to Resolution re: Banking**

On the recommendation of the Governance and By-Laws Committee and by unanimous consent, the Board of Governors approved the revisions to *Resolution re: Banking* to include banking authority for Ivey Spencer Leadership Centre, as presented in item 5.2(a).

BG.23-154 **Board Annual Work Plan**

The Board's Annual Work Plan for 2023-24 was received for information in item 5.2(b).

ITEM REFERRED BY SENATE

BG.23-155 **Academic Administrative Appointments**

A report presented to Senate regarding the academic administrative posts approved, on behalf of the Board of Governors, as of September 2023, was received for information in item 5.3(b).

ITEM REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

BG.23-156 **Proposed Undergraduate Program Name Change at Faculty of Information and Media Studies (FIMS)**

A proposed change in the name of the undergraduate program at FIMS from Media, Information, and Technoculture (MIT) to Media and Communication Studies (MCS) was presented for approval.

In response to a question regarding the effective date for the proposed name change it was confirmed that the date was September 1, 2023.

In response to a concern raised regarding the lack of policy guiding the appropriate use of the words "program" and "department", it was advised that the discussion on this point was under the purview of Senate.

Questions of clarification regarding the discussion and vote at Senate on this matter were addressed by those who attended the meeting.

Moved by A. Chant, seconded by B. MacDougall-Shackleton:

That the effective date for the proposed name change be revised to September 1, 2024.

DEFEATED

Moved by G. Pollock, seconded by G. Dick:

That, on the recommendation of Senate, the Board of Governors approve the change in the name of the undergraduate program at FIMS from Media, Information, and Technoculture (MIT) to Media and Communication Studies (MCS) effective September 1, 2023.

CARRIED

BG.23-157 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

In response to a question regarding the deferral of item 4.5(a), A. Bryson advised the policy requires further review because of feedback received. She further clarified that the obligation is to review the policy every three years and that approval may follow in a reasonable time.

In response to a question regarding the decision to no longer include the playing of God Save the King at convocation, it was noted that convocation is the responsibility of Senate.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

K. Gibbons
Chair

A. Bryson
University Secretary