MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

FEBRUARY 1, 2024 – OPEN SESSION

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

PRESENT: Keith Gibbons, Chair
Amy Bryson, Secretary

Michelle Banik
Susan Bennett
Arzie Chant
Ethan Chen
Susan Clarke
Greg Dick
Ed Goehring
Lori Higgs
Beth MacDougall-Shackleton
Marlene McGrath
Kelly Meighen
Stephen Pitel
Geoff Pollock
Stephen Poloz
Terry Rice
Cecil Rorabeck
Alan Shepard
Sarah Shortreed (Vice-Chair)
David Simmonds
Ken Yeung

Regrets: Kenisha Arora, Cameron Bailey, Lee Greenberg, Josh Morgan, Effie Sapuridis

By Invitation: Althea Blackburn-Evans, Ruban Chelladurai, John Doerksen, Paul Eluchok, Lynn Logan, Jane O'Brien, Florentine Strzelczyk, Caroline Whippey

Secretariat Resource: Kseniia Kotsiuruba

Chair K. Gibbons called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

1.0 Land Acknowledgement

B. MacDougall-Shackleton offered a reflection and land acknowledgement.

2.0 Approval of Agendas and Minutes

2.1 Adoption of Agenda – Open Session

Moved by A. Chant, seconded by L. Higgs:

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

CARRIED

2.2 **Approval of the Open Session Minutes of the Meeting of November 16, 2023**

Moved by M. Banik, seconded by T. Rice:

That the open session minutes of the meeting of November 16, 2023, be approved, as circulated.

CARRIED

2.3 **Business Arising from the Minutes**

None.

3.0 **Report of the President**

A. Shepard, President & Vice-Chancellor, referred to the written report provided in advance of the meeting. He highlighted several items from the report including Western being named as one of Southwestern Ontario's best employers. He thanked and recognized Human Resources and Faculty Relations staff for their work in welcoming Brescia staff and faculty. He also highlighted Western's high QS rankings for sustainability both internationally and nationally.

A. Shepard advised there has not been a formal response from the Government of Ontario to the Blue-Ribbon Panel recommendations. On a positive note, he shared how recent lobbying efforts have resulted in changes to eligibility criteria that now permit universities to apply for low-cost federal loans for student housing.

Board members acknowledged Western's employee groups for their contributions in ensuring Western is a top employer.

4.0 **COMMITTEE AND SENATE REPORTS**

4.1 **ITEM FROM THE GOVERNANCE AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE**

4.1(a) **Principles of Engagement Statements for Board Members, Board Chair, and Board Committee Chairs**

D. Simmonds presented for approval revisions to the Principles of Engagement Statements for Board Members, Board Chair, and Board Committee Chairs.

Questions of clarification regarding the proposed edits were addressed by D. Simmonds and A. Bryson.

Moved by D. Simmonds, seconded by M. McGrath:

That, on the recommendation of the Governance and By-Laws Committee, the Board of Governors approve the revisions to the *Principles of Engagement for Members of the Board of Governors; Principles of Engagement for the Board Chair; and Principles of Engagement for Board Committee Chairs* as presented in item 4.1(a).

CARRIED

4.2 ITEM FROM THE PROPERTY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

4.2(a) Key Financial Indicators Report

L. Logan, Vice-President (Operations & Finance), presented the Key Financial Indicators report noting it is a culmination of the financial monitoring/compliance reporting that is provided to the Audit and Property and Finance Committees throughout the year.

L. Logan noted there are some changes to the reporting resulting from the new Financial Accountability Framework implemented by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. She further advised that Western continues to advocate for improvements/refinements to the framework.

In response to a question, L. Logan confirmed the reporting requirements through the Financial Accountability Framework were implemented in response to the Auditor General report on Laurentian University and that the reporting is annual.

4.3 ITEM FROM THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

4.3(a) Western Office of the Ombudsperson Annual Report 2022-23

S. Bennett presented, for information, the report of the Western Office of the Ombudsperson that is presented annually to the Audit Committee.

A Board member raised concerns that staffing levels in the Office of the Ombudsperson have not changed in over 20 years, while the student population has increased.

5.0 UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by T. Rice, seconded by S. Shortreed:

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

CARRIED

5.1 ITEMS FROM THE PROPERTY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

5.1(a) New Scholarships, Awards, and Prizes

The report on the terms of reference approved by the Property and Finance Committee for the new donor-funded scholarships, awards, and prizes was received for information.

5.1(b) Ancillary Financial Report

The Ancillary Financial report was received for information.

5.1(c) Update on Operating Budget as of December 31, 2023

The update on the operating budget as of December 31, 2023 was received for information.

5.1(d) Annual Report on Trademark Licensees doing Business with the Western Bookstore

The annual report on trademark licensees doing business with the Western Bookstore was received for information.

5.1(e) Report of the Investment Committee

The report of the Investment Committee was received for information.

5.1(f) Investment Committee Membership

A report on the approved reappointment of Douglas Porter to the Investment Committee, by the Property and Finance Committee, was received for information.

5.1(g) Faculty Scholar Awards

By unanimous consent and on the recommendation of the Property and Finance Committee, the Board of Governors approved the addition of three (3) Faculty Scholar Awards as outlined in item 5.1(g).

5.1(h) Evolution of Work Teaching Scholar

A report advising the Board of Governors of the approved establishment of the Evolution of Work Teaching Scholar with an appointment in the Ivey Business School, by the Property and Finance Committee, was received for information.

5.2 ITEM FROM THE FUND RAISING AND DONOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE

5.2(a) Fund Raising Quarterly Report (Q2)

The quarterly report on fund raising at October 31, 2023 was received for information.

5.3 ITEM FROM THE SENIOR POLICY AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

5.3(a) Board Succession Planning Update

A summary of the identified qualities to be considered when filling external Board member vacancies was received for information.

5.4 ITEMS REFERRED BY SENATE

5.4(a) Annual Report of the University Librarian

The annual report of the University Librarian was received for information.

5.4(b) Report of the Academic Colleague

A report summarizing the October and December 2023 meetings of the Academic Colleague was received for information.

5.4(c) Academic Administrative Appointments

A report on the academic administrative appointments as of January 19, 2024 was received for information.

5.4(d) Annual Report of the Office of Academic Quality and Enhancement (OAQE)

The annual report from the Office of Academic Quality and Enhancement was received for information.

5.4(e) School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Introduction of a new degree designation of Master of Kinesiology (MKin) (Major Modification to the Course-Based Master of Arts (MA) and Master of Science (MSc) in Kinesiology)

By unanimous consent and on the recommendation of Senate, the Board of Governors approved that effective September 1, 2023, a new degree designation of Master of Kinesiology (MKin) be introduced as shown in item 5.4(e).

6.0 **ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA** – None.

7.0 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS FOR THE OPEN SESSION**

In response to a question regarding Western's investment strategy, Administration advised that the policy approved by the Board in April 2022 is currently being implemented. The policy direction will be reviewed no earlier than 2025.

8.0 **OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

9.0 **ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION**

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

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K. Gibbons
Chair

A. Bryson
University Secretary