



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

NOVEMBER 21, 2024 – OPEN SESSION

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

PRESENT: Sarah Shortreed, Chair
Amy Bryson, Secretary

Michelle Banik	Marlene McGrath (Vice-Chair)
Arzie Chant	Geoff Pollock
Susan Clarke	Stephen Poloz
Greg Dick	Terry Rice
Ed Goehring	Cecil Rorabeck
Lee Greenberg	Alan Shepard
Kathleena Henricus	Jane Toswell
Lori Higgs	Joel Welch
Beth MacDougall-Shackleton	Ken Yeung
George McAuley	Noah Zabian

Regrets: Cameron Bailey, Kelly Meighen, Josh Morgan, David Simmonds

By Invitation: Althea Blackburn-Evans, John Doerksen, Paul Eluchok, David Foster, Eric Mallory, Jane O'Brien, Lesley Oliver, Opiyo Oloya, Florentine Strzelczyk, Caroline Whippey

Secretariat: Bonnie Brown
Resource:

Chair S. Shortreed called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

1.0 **Land Acknowledgement**

M. McGrath offered a land acknowledgement.

2.0 **Adoption of Agenda & Minutes**

2.1 **Adoption of Agenda – Open Session**

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

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

CARRIED

2.2 **Approval of the Open Session Minutes of the Meeting of September 26, 2024**

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

That the open session minutes of the meeting of September 26, 2024 be approved, as circulated.

CARRIED

2.3 **Business Arising from the Minutes**

None.

3.0 **Report of the President**

In addition to the written report provided in advance of the meeting, A. Shepard, President & Vice-Chancellor, reported on the following items:

He began his report by congratulating Dr. Rusty Gage on his receipt of the J. Allyn Taylor International Prize in Medicine.

A. Shepard extended his appreciation to the volunteers, faculty and staff who recently hosted prospective undergraduate students at Western's Open House. In terms of the current academic year, he reported that while the number of international students enrolled was lower than projected, the overall enrolment numbers for the 2024-2025 academic year exceeded projections.

A. Shepard continued his report by describing discussions with the provincial government regarding the Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA4) and noted the Council for Ontario Universities (COU) continues to advocate for an increase to the grants universities receive per student.

A. Shepard concluded his report by outlining three provincially-mandated consultations requiring institutions to review their off-campus housing policy, student mental health policy, and anti-racism/anti-hate policy. In addition, he reported there are four Western-driven consultations taking place this year in relation to MAPP 1.1- Use of University Facilities for other than Regularly Scheduled Academic Purposes; the Climate and Sustainability Strategy; the Open Space/Campus Development Strategy; and the Expressions of Concern on Investment.

F. Strzelczyk, Provost & Vice-President (Academic), provided an update on key activities in her portfolio including recent hiring; the three active Dean searches and

Faculty reviews underway; and the renewal of the Academic Leadership Academy program. She continued her report by highlighting key university initiatives such as the Brescia integration; the implementation of the Global Engagement Plan; the development of the aviation/aerospace research and teaching hub in partnership with Fanshawe College and the London Airport; and the Bioconvergence Centre.

In concluding her report, F. Strzelczyk described key initiatives aimed at ensuring Western's continued financial sustainability.

P. Pexman, Vice-President (Research), provided an overview of key initiatives in research that included activities aimed at achieving greater interdisciplinarity, expanded internationalization, and increased research funding.

Administration responded to questions of clarification regarding the curriculum planning framework, enrolment numbers, the research funding target, the importance of increased participation rates in research grants, and the potential impact of government caps on graduate international student enrolment.

4.0 **COMMITTEE AND SENATE REPORTS**

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

4.1 (a) **Revisions to Resolution re: Delegation of Authority**

G. Dick, Chair of the Property and Finance Committee, presented for approval revisions to the Resolution re: Delegation of Authority.

Questions of clarification regarding the evaluation of a property for disposition and the reporting of real property dispositions to the Board were addressed by Administration. Clarification was provided on the proposed amendments to the policy.

A. Shepard declared a conflict of interest and abstained from the vote.

Moved by G. Dick:

That, on the recommendation of the Property and Finance Committee, the Board of Governors approve the amendments to Resolution re: Delegation of Authority as outlined in Item 4.1(a).

CARRIED

4.2 **REPORT FROM SENATE**

4.2 (a) **Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Decolonization and Accessibility (EDIDA) Strategic Plan**

O. Oloya, Associate Vice-President (Equity, Diversity & Inclusion), and L. Oliver, EDI Specialist (Equity, Diversity & Inclusion), presented the EDIDA Strategic Plan for approval.

O. Oloya described the evolution of the plan, the broad consultation process that informed the plan, the five strategic priority areas advanced through the plan, and the accountability framework.

L. Oliver described the resources, steps, and timeline for implementing the strategic plan across the university in phase one.

O. Oloya responded to questions of clarification regarding the strategic plan.

Moved by J. Toswell, seconded by T. Rice:

That, on the recommendation of Senate, the Board of Governors approve the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Decolonization and Accessibility (EDIDA) Strategic Plan.

CARRIED

5.0 **UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA**

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

That the items listed in the consent agenda, save and except Items 5.1(c) and 5.3(a), 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) **Semi-Annual Ratio Report on Non-Endowed Funds**

The semi-annual report on non-endowed funds presented to the Property and Finance Committee was received for information.

5.1(b) **Annual Report on Endowments (Underwater)**

The annual report on endowments (underwater) presented to the Property and Finance Committee was received for information.

5.1(c) **Report of the Investment Committee**

Removed from the consent agenda. See item 6.1.

5.1(d) **Investment Committee Terms of Reference**

A report on the revised Terms of Reference for the Investment Committee, approved by the Property and Finance Committee, was received for information.

5.2 **ITEMS FROM GOVERNANCE AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE**

5.2(a) **Board of Governors Election Schedule for 2025**

The Board of Governors election schedule for 2025, that outlined the vacancies to be filled by the election in January/February 2025, was received for information.

5.2(b) **Revisions to the Board of Governors Election Procedures**

The following recommendation was moved by unanimous consent:

That, on the recommendation of the Governance and By-Laws Committee, the Board of Governors approve the revised *Board of Governors Election Procedures* as shown in Item 5.2(b).

5.3 **ITEM FROM THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

5.3(a) **Annual Report on the Non-Discrimination/Harassment Policy**

Removed from consent. See Item 6.2.

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

5.4(a) **University Discipline Appeals Committee (UDAC) Membership**

A report advising the Board of Governors on the appointment of two undergraduate students to UDAC, by the Senior Policy and Operations Committee, for the term July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 was received for information. The students appointed were Brooklin Begg and Ankita Mishra.

5.5 **ITEMS REFERRED BY SENATE**

5.5(a) **Annual Report of the McIntosh Gallery**

The Annual Report of the McIntosh Gallery was received for information.

5.5(b) **Honorary Degree Recipient – Autumn 2024**

A report describing the Honorary Degree recipient who was recognized during the autumn convocation ceremonies was received for information.

5.5(c) **Report of the Academic Colleague**

A report from the August and October meetings of the Academic Colleague was received for information.

5.5(d) **Academic Administrative Appointments**

A report on the academic administrative appointments as of October 11, 2024 was received for information.

6.0 **ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

6.1 **Report of the Investment Committee**

The report of the Investment Committee was received for information.

In response to a question regarding the timeline for the next publication of the *Responsible Investing Report*, L. Logan, Vice-President (Operations & Finance), advised the delay in its publication this year was due to the Brescia integration noting the significant time required by the financial team. She reported it is anticipated the report will be published in the coming weeks.

In response to a question regarding responsible investment that is mindful of social/human rights considerations, L. Logan advised that while the current focus has been on environmental considerations, she acknowledged the call from the community to evolve social/human rights considerations. The time to complete the necessary research and due diligence to bring forward a framework in this regard was described.

In response to a question regarding the timing of a policy that provides a process for receiving and responding to expressions of concern with respect to responsible investing, L. Logan advised that in consideration of the current consultation processes outlined in the President's Report, the work on this likely will start no earlier than in the spring of 2025.

6.2 **Annual Report on the Non-Discrimination/Harassment Policy**

The Annual Report from the Human Rights Office on harassment, discrimination and sexual misconduct addressed by the Human Rights Office and the Office of the Associate-Vice President, Human Resources, per MAPP 1.35 was received for information.

In response to a question, J. O'Brien, described the delineation between the work of the Human Rights Office and the Human Resources department.

7.0 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

None.

8.0 **OTHER BUSINESS**

There was a request that the Board consider the establishment of a university policy that directs an allocation for public art, as a percentage of the budget for new construction or major renovations. The value of public art on campus was promoted. It was noted that students in the Department of Visual Arts may be interested in bringing this forward to the Board.

There was a request that the Board receive an update on the implementation of the strategic plan.

9.0 **ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION**

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

S. Shortreed
Chair

A. Bryson
University Secretary