



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

SEPTEMBER 26, 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

Cameron Bailey
Susan Bennett
Arzie Chant
Susan Clarke
Greg Dick
Ed Goehring
Kathleena Henricus
Lori Higgs
Beth MacDougall-Shackleton

Marlene McGrath (Vice-Chair)
Stephen Poloz
Terry Rice
Cecil Rorabeck
Alan Shepard
David Simmonds
Jane Toswell
Joel Welch
Ken Yeung

Regrets: Michelle Banik, Kelly Meighen, George McAuley, Josh Morgan, Geoff Pollock

By Invitation: Karen Bertrand, Althea Blackburn-Evans, John Doerksen, Paul Eluchok, Lynn Logan, Eric Mallory, Eric Morse, Ryan Palmer, Penny Pexman, Florentine Strzelczyk, Caroline Whippey

Secretariat: Bonnie Brown
Resource:

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

S. Shortreed welcomed the following individuals as new members of the Board of Governors: Kathleena Henricus, George McAuley, Jane Toswell, and Joel Welch; she extended appreciation to Susan Bennett for her years of service to the Board; and congratulated Steve Poloz for his recent appointment as an Officer of the Order of Canada.

1.0 **Land Acknowledgement**

Lori Higgs offered a land acknowledgement.

2.0 **Adoption of Agenda and Minutes**

2.1 **Adoption of Agenda – Open Session**

The agenda for the open session was adopted, as circulated.

2.2 **Approval of the Open Session Minutes of the Meeting of June 27, 2024**

Moved by M. McGrath, seconded by S. Bennett:

That the open session minutes of the meeting of June 27, 2024, be approved, as circulated.

CARRIED

2.3 **Business Arising from the Minutes**

None.

3.0 **Report of the President**

A. Shepard, President & Vice-Chancellor, opened his remarks by highlighting the success of Orientation Week and extending his appreciation to the student leadership and to the volunteers. He commented on the preparations in place for Homecoming weekend and highlighted the positive relations with the City of London in this regard.

A. Shepard continued his report by describing the rationale for the closure of roadways on campus and the outreach to student organizations in the lead up to October 7.

In relation to his recent opinion article in the Toronto Star criticizing the lack of a coherent federal policy on international students, A. Shepard described the government's latest inclusion of graduate students in the number of allowable permits and his concern for the longer-term impacts this will have on Canada and the sector.

A. Shepard advised consultations regarding proposed changes to MAPP 1.1 will begin this fall, primarily with constituted groups on campus. As a reminder to the Board, he advised there were 47 formal protests on campus since last October.

In concluding his report, A. Shepard announced the opening of the new Ronald D. Schmeichel Building for Entrepreneurship and Innovation and described some of the programming to be offered in the facility. He expressed his gratitude for the philanthropic gifts that were relied upon to support its construction.

A. Shepard welcomed E. Morse, Special Advisor to the President (Entrepreneurship), to the meeting and invited him to provide information on the Morrisette Institute for Entrepreneurship that will be housed in the Ronald D. Schmeichel Building for Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

E. Morse provided an overview of the entrepreneurship program that supports student entrepreneurs from discovery and start-up, through to growth and transition. He further described how the new facility will be used by students.

A. Shepard responded to questions of clarification regarding student enrolment, the campus road closures, and the rationale for the proposed revisions to MAPP 1.1.

4.0 **COMMITTEE AND SENATE REPORTS**

4.1 **REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

4.1 (a) **Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended April 30, 2024**

L. Higgs presented for approval the audited financial statements for the year ended April 30, 2024.

L. Higgs reported on the process used by members of the Audit Committee to review the audited financial statements, the due diligence completed, and the role of the external auditors. She noted the committee has an opportunity to meet with the external auditors without management.

L. Higgs advised it was a clean audit. There were no concerns or control deficiencies; and there were no exceptions or corrections to the financial statements.

L. Higgs further advised Western's financial sustainability metrics were reviewed noting all metrics were met and there was no action required by the Ministry. Based on the financial performance of this year end, it is anticipated there will be a no action result.

Appreciation was extended to Administration in recognition of their work.

Moved by L. Higgs:

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, 2024.

CARRIED

In response to a question, L. Logan advised the financial statements are posted on Western's public accountability webpage once they are approved by the Board.

L. Logan responded to a question of clarification regarding the audit of the Ivey group of companies.

In response to a question, L. Higgs described the due diligence completed when appointing the external auditors.

5.0 **UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA**

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

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**

A 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.

It was noted that two of the scholarships are in memory of two students.

5.1(b) **Supply Chain Canada Chair**

A report on the new criteria for the selection of the Supply Chain Canada Chair in the Ivey Business School, approved by the Property and Finance Committee, was received for information.

5.1(c) **First and Second Wolfe-Western Fellowships At-Large for Outstanding Newly Recruited Research Scholars**

A report on the amended criteria for the first and second Wolfe-Western Fellowships At-Large for Outstanding Newly Recruited Research Scholars, approved by the Property and Finance Committee, was received for information.

5.2 **ITEMS FROM THE FUND RAISING AND DONOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

5.2(a) **Fund Raising Quarterly Report to July 1, 2024**

A report outlining the fundraising results for the first quarter of fiscal 2025 was received for information.

5.2(b) **Naming Opportunities**

A report advising the Board of Governors on the naming of various rooms and building components approved by the Naming Sub-Committee of the

Fund Raising and Donor Relations Committee was received for information.

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

5.3(a) **Board By-Election Schedule**

The schedule for a by-election to elect an undergraduate representative to the Board was received for information.

6.0 **ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

None.

7.0 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

None.

8.0 **OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

9.0 **ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION**

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

S. Shortreed
Chair

A. Bryson
University Secretary