



UNIVERSITY OF REGINA BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Meeting of the Board of Governors
Tuesday, May 4, 2021 via Video Conference (Zoom)

Present: R. Brandvold (Board Chair), G. Bosgoed, T. Chase, D. Chow, C. Delorme, P. Klein, M. Lang, C. Londoño Sulkin, A. Opseth, M. Smadu, H. Tait

Resources: D. Button, d. Gregory, K. McNutt, G. Sylvestre

Recorder: P. Daniels

Guests: J. Keshen, K. Kummerfield (part), L. Mitchell, G. Pennycook (part), R. Styles (part)

1. Call to order

The Board Chair called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m. and welcomed J. Keshen, H. Tait and G. Pennycook to the meeting.

2. Approval of the Agenda

An additional item 9.4 Main Campus Sanitary Backflow Prevention Valve – Request for Budget Increase was added to the agenda.

Londoño Sulkin – Chow
Moved approval of the agenda as amended.

CARRIED

3. Governor Conflict of Interest

The Chair asked Board members to declare a conflict of interest should they have one with any of the agenda items. T. Chase and P. Klein indicated that they would recuse themselves for agenda item 9.1.

4. Minutes

4.1 Approval of the Minutes of March 9, 2021

A request was made to amend the minutes to reflect the discussion of remote proctoring resulting from the URSU President's Report.

Smadu - Londoño Sulkin
Moved approval of the minutes as amended.

CARRIED

4.2 Approval of the Minutes of Email Vote of April 5, 2021

Londoño Sulkin – Bosgoed
Moved approval of the minutes as circulated.

CARRIED

5. Business Arising – None

6. Strategic Presentation

6.1 'Intuition, Reason and Social Media', Dr. Gordon Pennycook, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Business Administration

K. McNutt introduced G. Pennycook to the Board.

Following the presentation, discussion followed. All questions were addressed by G. Pennycook.

The Board Chair thanked G. Pennycook for his presentation.

The presentation is [appended to the Official File](#).

(G. Pennycook withdrew from the meeting at 8:55 a.m.)

7. Chair's Report

The Board Chair noted that he and the Vice-Chair recently attended the first of three sessions of the Canadian University Boards Association (CUBA) Conference.

The Board Chair also provided an update on activities and meetings since the last Board meeting, including:

- Conversations and meetings with Interim President Chase
- Weekly meetings with the incoming president
- Meetings with the Minister of Advanced Education.

8. Strategic Items

8.1 2021-2022 Tuition and Fees (A&RM)

Lang – Smadu

That the Board of Governors approve, to be effective for the Fall 2021 semester, the following tuition and fee actions:

- *That all tuition and fees be rounded to the nearest \$0.25 after percentage increases are applied.*
- *That tuition for undergraduate Business Administration credit hours be increased by 5.2%. Note that \$3 per credit hour was added to the tuition rate to replace a \$7 per credit hour fee that has now been eliminated, yielding an overall increase of only 2.0% for Business students.*
- *That tuition for all other undergraduate credit hours be increased by 4%.*
- *That tuition in the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy for the Master of Public Administration, the Master of Health Administration, the Master of Public Policy and certificate courses, and PhD programs be increased by 6% to match tuition charged at the University of Saskatchewan campus.*
- *That tuition for the Master of Computer Science program be increased to match tuition for the Master of Engineering program.*
- *That tuition for the Executive Master of Business Administration remain unchanged for the current year.*
- *That graduate tuition for all other master's and PhD students be increased by 4%.*
- *That the tuition for courses in the certificate programs in the Centre for Continuing Studies be increased by 4%.*

- *That the Co-op Fee be increased by 4%.*
- *That the Graduate International Surcharge be increased by 4%.*
- *That Graduate students from North Dakota and Montana not be assessed the Graduate International Surcharge.*
- *That the University replace the current Distance Delivery Fee of \$67.75 per course, for distance-delivered classes designed through the Centre for Continuing Education, with a new Academic Technology Fee of \$22.25 per semester to all students.*
- *That the equipment fee for students in Petroleum Systems Engineering be reduced from \$300 to \$200 per semester, to be consistent with all other Engineering students.*

M. Lang introduced the item to the Board and noted that the Committee had a thorough discussion on the rationale for the tuition increase and the impact on students, as well as tuition increases at other comparable universities. He also reminded the Committee of the 0% increase the previous year, in response to the difficulties faced by students as a result of the pandemic.

T. Chase noted the impact of each 1% tuition change on the University's overall revenue, and the previous year's loss due to shortfalls in international enrolment and ancillary revenues. He noted that even with the proposed tuition increase, there is still a shortfall to be bridged with a one-time adjustment to the University's carryforward policy. T. Chase also reported on the additional focus on student supports including provision of additional open-access resources, transfer credit recognition and increased student emergency aid.

Discussion followed. Topics included:

- Important to communicate that tuition revenue is used to recruit and retain highly-qualified faculty and staff, invest in required mental health and IT security resources, and continue to offer high-quality academic programs
- Importance of continued exploration of revenue generation opportunities, including increased traditional credit offerings as well as micro-credential programming for mid-career professionals
- Student support provided, including through student employment opportunities with the University, is an important message
- The MOU provides stable operating funding, but operating costs rise annually. There is impact on the level of tuition required to meet the University's obligations
- Tuition increase will impact different students in different ways, with some facing much larger financial challenges than others

The Committee also discussed the timing of the meeting, and the challenge for a new URSU president to fully participate. Management will investigate potential timing adjustment going forward.

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

8.2 2021-2022 Comprehensive Budget Plan (A&RM)

Lang – Opseth

That the Board of Governors approve the Comprehensive Budget Plan for 2021-22.

That the Board of Governors grant authority to the President to commit and spend the one-time funds received from the province as part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in accordance with the terms of the MOU.

M. Lang introduced the item to the Board and noted management's work to prepare the Comprehensive Budget Plan and the importance of careful monitoring of actual results against the approved budget.

Discussion followed. Topics included:

- The use of one-time funds will be reported to the Ministry semi-annually and will also require Board oversight and ongoing monitoring through the Audit & Risk Management Committee
- Importance of continued assessment of new revenue generation opportunities, in consideration of uses of the one-time funding
- The relationship between the operating budget with capital and ancillary budgets, as well as unit-level budgets and carryforwards

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

(R. Styles withdrew from the meeting at 9:50 a.m.)

8.3 Audited Financial Statements for the Pension Plan (A&RM)

Lang – Bosgoed

That the Board of Governors approve:

1. *the financial statements of the Pension Plan for the Academic & Administrative Employees of the University of Regina for the year ended December 31, 2020 (Appendix I); and*
2. *the financial statements of the University of Regina Non-Academic Pension Plan for the year ended December 31, 2020 (Appendix II).*

M. Lang introduced the item to the Board and noted that the Committee recommended minor amendments to the financial statement notes:

- Academic and Administrative Pension Plan Statements “Subsequent events of COVID-19” title to be changed to “Impact of COVID-19”
- Note 10 - Academic and Administrative Pension Plan Statements - change in wording to reflect an increase in obligation rather than a gain

Discussion followed. Topics included:

- The impact of changes for actuarial assumptions on the University's pension obligations
- The request for a future presentation regarding the inherent risks in the non-academic pension plan associated with staff retirements, discount rates and their impact on pension obligations.

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

A final version of the Pension Plan Financial Statements is [appended to the Official File](#).

8.4 10 Year Capital Plan (F&F)

Bosgoed – Chase

That the Board of Governors approve the development projects listed in Table 1 for submission to the Ministry of Advanced Education (soon to be the Ministry of SaskBuilds and Procurement, effective June 1) for incorporation into the Province Wide 2022-23 Integrated Capital Plan.

G. Bosgoed introduced the item to the Board and noted that the item includes a list of projects currently in the planning stage or considered for future development.

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

The Board Chair congratulated H. Tait on becoming the URSU president and invited H. Tait to introduce herself and say a few words about her background and experience.

(T. Chase and P. Klein withdrew from the meeting at 10:17 a.m.)

9. Administrative Items

9.1 Awarding the Title of Emeritus/Emerita Policy (EMP-105-010) (GOV&NOM)

Smadu – Bosgoed

That the Board of Governors approve the revised policy EMP-105-010 Awarding the title Emeritus/Emerita (Attachment A).

M. Smadu introduced the item to the Board and noted that the Governance & Nominations Committee requested an addition to the policy to reflect that the Chancellor must also be in “good standing”, similar to others awarded Emeritus/Emerita status. G. Sylvestre agreed to make that adjustment.

Discussion followed. Topics included:

- Privileges afforded to those with emeritus/emerita status
- Process for recommendation of faculty members by their academic unit with concurrence of the relevant Dean

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

The final version of the policy is [appended to the Official File](#).

(T. Chase and P. Klein returned to the meeting at 10:23 a.m.)

9.2 Academic and Administrative Pension Plan Amendment (HR)

Opseth – Chow

That the Board of Governors approves revised Amendment 2020-1rev in order to confirm the default option for Members who do not make an election within the time allowed.

A. Opseth introduced the item to the Board and noted the proposed amendments.

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

9.3 Governance Assessment 2020-2021: Compliance with the Adapted TSX Corporate Governance Guidelines (GOV&NOM)

Smadu – Opseth

That the Board of Governors approves the assessment of substantial compliance with the 14 categories as defined in the attached report Governance Practices (Fiscal 2020-2021): Compliance with the Adapted TSX Corporate Governance Guidelines.

M. Smadu introduced the item to the Committee noted the two items reported as “Partial Compliance”.

A question was addressed by management regarding the meaning of “selective disclosure” in section 1d. Management responded by stating that this pertains to transparency of minutes, which are publicly posted on the University’s website and are reviewed and approved by the Board to ensure unbiased reporting.

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

9.4 Main Campus Sanitary Backflow Prevention Valve-Request for Budget Increase

Bosgoed - Londoño Sulkin

That the Board of Governors approve a budget increase from \$650,000 to \$810,000 for the Main Campus Sanitary Backflow Prevention Valve project. This provides authorization to proceed with construction based on the total upset value of \$810,000 and a revised target completion date of October 2021.

G. Bosgoed introduced the item to the Board and noted that this was an additional item that was brought forward to the Finance & Facilities Committee for discussion. At the Committee meeting, a motion was made to recommend a budget increase for this project to the Board.

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

The Decision Item is [appended to the Official File](#).

10. Consensus Items

Chase – Klein

Agreed to move items 10.1 – 10.5 as an omnibus motion as follows:

10.1 Finance and Facilities Committee Membership (GOV&NOM)

That the Board of Governors approves the addition of the University of Regina Students’ Union (URSU) President, Hannah Tait, to the membership of the Finance and Facilities Committee.

10.2 Pension Committee Memberships (HR)

That the Board of Governors approves the appointment of Lamont Stradeski, Associate Vice-President (Finance), as a representative to the Academic and Administrative Benefits Committee (AABC) and the Non-Academic Benefits Committee (NABC).

10.3 Audited Health Canada Grant Funding Financial Statement (A&RM)

That the Board of Governors approve the Statement of Expenses for the Healthcare Professional Training and Retention Project for the period April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020 (Appendix I) as circulated.

10.4 Canadian Institute for Advanced Research Chair (CIFAR) (F&F)

That the Board of Governors approves Dr. Sandra Zilles as the Canada CIFAR Artificial Intelligence Chair in the Faculty of Science.

10.5 Statement of Investment Policies & Goals – U of R Pension Plans (F&F)

That the Board of Governors approves the March 2021 Statement of Investment Policies and Goals (SIP&G) for the Academic and Administrative Pension Plan – Defined Contribution Component (“Appendix D”).

The question was called on the omnibus motion.

CARRIED

(The Board had a brief recess from 10:30 – 10:35 a.m.)

The Board Chair noted that this would be the Interim President’s last Board meeting, acknowledged Dr Chase’s work and service to the University, and wished him all the best in his retirement.

11. Reports

11.1 Chancellor’s Report

P. Klein provided a brief update on meetings and activities, including:

- Presidential Transition Committee meetings
- May and June will be busy with the upcoming June Senate meeting and virtual Spring Convocation

11.2 President’s Report

11.2.1 President’s Report to the Board (GOV&NOM)

T. Chase highlighted items from his report, and provided other updates including:

- Information on Spring/Summer and Fall term enrolments
- Introduction of the MyCreds system, to better serve students in obtaining transcripts and other documents
- Continued discussions with the Rams club with regard to the varsity football team
- Updates on personnel and legal issues
- Rethinking focus and timing of the comprehensive capital campaign

11.2.2 Key Messages (GOV&NOM)

This report is regularly provided for the Board’s information. It provides a few key messages for the Board of Governors to speak to in their conversations with community members.

11.3 Report from the Vice-President (Research)

K. McNutt presented her report to the Board and highlighted the following:

- Recent launch of the Canadian Energy Transition Hub (CETH)
- Continued progress on support for the Cypress Hills Field Station
- Recent work with the City of Regina on various research initiatives

Discussion followed. Topics included:

- Interest in additional reporting related to environment and climate action research, including updates on the CETH and research related to alternative energy sources
- Success of University of Regina researchers in obtaining funding for COVID-19 related research projects

All questions were addressed by K. McNutt.

11.4 URSU President's Report

H. Tait noted her agreement with the items reported by the past president of URSU and noted the support for students provided by URSU during the previous year. She also noted the new URSU Awards program, and provided a status update on the hiring of a new general manager.

11.5 Committee Chair Highlights

M. Lang provided an update from the Audit and Risk Management Committee, including:

- Presentation by A. Exner on the results of the recent penetration testing engagement
- Internal Audit update, noting that the services and advice of the internal auditor are sought out by the University community
- Operating Fund report predicting a deficit less than previously expected

A. Opseth provided an update from the Human Resources Committee, including:

- Thanks to D. Chow for chairing during the Committee meeting
- K. Kummerfield's retirement as AVP Human Resources
- Review of the annual pension reports to members

M. Smadu provided an update from the Governance and Nominations Committee, including:

- Future Board training and educational opportunities
- Executive of Council report

G. Bosgoed provided an update from the Finance and Facilities Committee, including:

- Darke Hall update including photographs of progress
- Capital Fund report showing current projections to year end
- Advancement activity report, showing positive donor engagement and an improved fundraising pipeline

(P. Daniels, resources and guests with the exception of J. Keshen and G. Sylvestre withdrew from the meeting at 11:19 a.m. K. Kummerfield joined the meeting.)

12. In Camera Session I – 11:19 a.m.

These items are recorded in the In Camera minutes and are [appended to the Official File](#).

(K. Kummerfield withdrew from the meeting at 11:29 a.m. J. Keshen withdrew at 11:39 a.m.)

13. In Camera Session II – 11:39 a.m.

These items are recorded in the In Camera minutes and are [appended to the Official File](#).

(P. Klein withdrew from the meeting at 11:55 a.m.)

14. Adjournment – 12:02 p.m. Moved by Bosgoed.



Roger Brandvold
Chair



Glenys Sylvestre
University Secretary