



UNIVERSITY OF REGINA BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Meeting of the Board of Governors
Tuesday, May 5, 2020 by Video Conference

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

Regrets: G. Singh Lehal

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

Recorder: P. Daniels

Guests: D. Cherwaty, A. Exner, L. Mitchell

1. Call to order – 8:03 a.m.

Chair R. Brandvold provided a welcome to all at the meeting.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Bosgoed – Opseth

Moved approval of the agenda as circulated.

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. No conflicts were declared.

4. Approval of the Minutes of March 10, 2020

Klein – Lang

Moved approval of the minutes as circulated.

CARRIED

5. Business Arising

A question was raised related to Item 8.9 Code of Conduct (GOV-022-005) from the March 10, 2020 Minutes. It was noted that the policy was adjusted to reflect the Board's feedback prior to finalization and posting.

6. Strategic Presentation “Pandemic Emergency Response”, Darren Cherwaty and david Gregory

Dr. Chase introduced d. Gregory to the Board and noted that D. Cherwaty and A. Exner would be in attendance as resources if there were specific technical questions.

d. Gregory provided an overview of the University's risks, mitigations and actions related to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Discussion followed. Topics of discussion included:

- Spring and Fall course delivery to be provided remotely to enable flexibility in teaching and learning while ensuring quality of instruction
- Feedback from students related to their experience
- Increased risk of cyber incidents in a remote delivery and remote work environment
- Additional resources offered to admitted high school students in light of the early end to the school year, and international student enrolment numbers
- Potential need for increased mental health services during these times of increased stress, and the ability for students and staff to receive these services remotely
- Consistent and centralized communication approach to the campus and wider community
- An increase in student emergency fund applications, and additional fundraising to meet the increased demand
- Impact on researchers and graduate students, and work underway on a phased-in approach to assessment of safe research practices and gradual return
- Opportunity to reconsider and reimagine what differentiates us from other comprehensive universities

The Chair thanked d. Gregory for the presentation and his leadership throughout the process.

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

(D. Cherwaty and A. Exner withdrew from the meeting at 9:07 a.m.)

7. Chair's Report

The Board Chair provided a brief update on his activities since the last Board meeting, including:

- Initial meeting with the presidential search consultant
- Conversations with Minister Tina Beaudry-Mellor
- Various meetings and conversations with Dr. Chase and Ms. Sylvestre

The Board Chair commended the University leadership for their efforts during the COVID 19 crisis, and noted his appreciation for the information flow between management and the Board.

8. Strategic Items

8.1 2020-2021 Comprehensive Budget Plan and Tuition and Fees (F&F)

Bosgoed – Chase

That the Board of Governors approve the attached Comprehensive Budget Plan for 2020-2021.

That the Board of Governors approve, to be effective September 1, 2020, the following tuition and fee actions:

- *That all Undergraduate tuition and fees remain unchanged from the previous year;*
- *That all Graduate tuition and fees remain unchanged from the previous year with the exception of MBA tuition in the Levene Graduate School of Business;*
- *That the MBA tuition rate in the Levene Graduate School of Business be reduced from \$1,136.50 per credit hour to \$890.25 per credit hour.*

G. Bosgoed introduced the decision item to the Board and noted that this was an important decision to alleviate the financial pressures on students.

Discussion followed. Topics of discussion included:

- Future planning through modeling of various contingencies and careful monitoring of student enrolments
- Maintenance of revenue streams, with limited flexibility on expenses which are largely fixed regardless of activity level
- Utilization of prior year favourable enrolment impacts plus additional provincial funding, in order to balance the current year's budget
- Anticipated impact of COVID 19 on costs, both negative and positive
- Future student enrolment opportunities, especially for domestic students and mid-career professionals
- Use of current year projected results in determination of 2020-2021 budgeted figures

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

8.2 Audited Financial Statements for the Pension Plans (A&RM)

Smadu – Opseth

Moved that the Board of Governors approve:

- *the financial statements of the Pension Plan for the Academic & Administrative Employees of the University of Regina for the year ended December 31, 2019 as circulated (Appendix I); and*
- *the financial statements of the University of Regina Non-Academic Pension Plan for the year ended December 31, 2019 as circulated (Appendix II).*

M. Smadu introduced the item to the Board and summarized the in-camera discussion with the Provincial Auditor's representatives, who noted that there were no issues of concern identified during the audit.

Discussion followed. Topics of discussion included:

- Fund performance against benchmarks
- Small number of reclassification errors reported, and the responsibility of the auditor to report all errors to the Board, whether adjusted or not

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

8.3 President's Performance Objectives 2020-2021 (GOV&NOM)

Smadu – Opseth

That the Board of Governors approve the President's objectives for May 2020-June 2021

M. Smadu presented the item for approval and summarized discussions held at the Committee meeting the day prior.

The Board Chair noted that the objectives focus on the fiscal, academic and research health of the University. It was noted that Dr. Chase proposed new objectives that will provide continuity to June 2021.

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

9. Administrative Items

9.1 President's Residence (F&F)

Bosgoed – Lang

That the Board of Governors approve the sale of the University private residence at 1001 McNiven Avenue. The home has traditionally been occupied by the University President and family.

G. Bosgoed presented the item for approval and summarized discussions held at the Committee meeting the day prior.

Discussion followed. Topics of discussion included:

- Value of the property based on recent appraisals
- The difficulty in measuring the intangible benefits

All questions were addressed by management.

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

9.2 Annual Assessment of Board Governance (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 (Attachment A), Governance Practices (Fiscal 2019-2020): Compliance with the Adapted TSX Corporate Governance Guidelines.

M. Smadu presented the item for approval, summarized discussions held at the Committee meeting the day prior, and noted the two items assessed as partially compliant.

Discussion followed on communications by the Board and the public posting of Board minutes.

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

9.3 Compensation for Out-of-Scope Employees - Policy (HR)

Opseth – Lang

That the Board of Governors approves the revised policy EMP-030-005 Compensation for Out-of-Scope Employees as attached (Appendix I).

A. Opseth presented the item for approval and summarized discussions held at the Committee meeting the day prior.

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

9.4 Financial Statement Audit Completion (A&RM)

Smadu – Opseth

That the Board of Governors move Board approval of the University of Regina's April 30, 2020 Financial Statements from the July 10th Board meeting to the September 15th meeting.

M. Smadu presented the item for approval and summarized discussions held at the Committee meeting the day prior with the Provincial Auditor. It was noted that the auditors agreed with a delayed schedule, and an addendum would be made to the Audit Planning Memorandum to reflect the change in dates. Legislative requirements would still be met in accordance with the Tabling of Documents Act, and lenders are in agreement with this change. The delayed audit will allow for increased accuracy to avoid potential scope limitation, and alleviate pressure on the management team.

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

(The Board had a brief recess from 9:58 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.)

10. Reports

10.1 Chancellor's Report

The Chancellor provided an update on recent meetings and activities, including:

- Meetings related to presidential search
- Meeting of the Senate Appeals Committee

The June meeting of Senate will take place remotely, using Zoom.

10.2 President's Report

10.2.1 President's Report to the Board (GOV&NOM)

Dr. Chase presented his report to the Board and thanked the Board Chair for his continued support. He also noted the support received from the Ministry of Advanced Education.

Dr. Chase also shared that Dr. Carlos Londoño Sulkin received the Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award for his outstanding research record and has been invited to conduct a research project in Germany.

All questions were addressed by the President.

10.2.2 Key Messages (GOV&NOM)

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

10.3 Report from Vice-President (Research)

K. McNutt presented her report to the Board and highlighted the University's recent research successes including in the areas of mental health and anxiety, child trauma, and the spread of harmful misinformation.

Discussion followed. Topics of discussion included:

- Recent funding available for COVID 19-related research
- Opportunities related to training and workplace uses of virtual/augmented reality, including health care applications
- Expansion of PTSI research and service-delivery, including on-line therapy

All questions were addressed by K. McNutt.

10.4 Committee Chair Highlights

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

- Delay in preparation of the 2020-2021 Annual Report
- Internal Audit Update provided by Y. Yevlanova
- External Review of the Internal Audit function, and four minor opportunities for improvement identified
- Annual Enterprise Risk Management and Policy update
- High-level review of the Operating Fund Report
- In Camera sessions with the Internal Auditor and the Provincial Auditor's Office

A question was raised regarding the placement of emergency response and business continuity plan on the risk register. It was noted that approval of the risk register occurred in early March 2020, prior to the major impacts of COVID 19 on University operations. COVID 19 has since impacted nearly every item on the risk register (financial risk, cyber security, mental health, etc.) and this emerging situation will be monitored, and updates to the Board will continue to be provided.

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

- Status of the Business building project and potential government funding
- Major capital projects status update
- Operating Fund expected surplus
- Success of the Development team in exceeding their target for the year
- Funding application for potential additional maintenance projects (library podia, roof replacements, energy-saving initiatives)

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

- Pension Plan annual reports and Committee discussion, including expected early valuation filings due to recent volatility in the markets
- Suggestion of a future presentation to the Board of Governors by the Pension Plans' pension and investment consultant

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

- Regular report on Executive of Council
- Update on the presidential search process and planned consultations

- Discussion of the annual call for Committee preferences and proposed postponement until 2021, due to recent Committee assignments of new Board members. However, a potential change in the Chair of the Audit & Risk Management Committee could occur shortly, as new members have had some time to learn about University governance
- Discussion of the Board meeting schedule. Although financial statements will not be approved until September, the July Board meeting will proceed to enable the Board to continue with other scheduled and unscheduled business

The Board Chair expressed his thanks to M. Smadu for chairing two Board Committees.

(P. Daniels and all resources except for G. Sylvestre withdrew from the meeting at 11:12 a.m.)

11. In Camera Session I – 11:12 a.m.

These items are recorded in the *In Camera* minutes and **appended to the Official File**.

(T. Chase and G. Sylvestre withdrew from the meeting at 12:02 p.m.)

12. In Camera Session II – 12:02 p.m.

13. Adjournment – 12:11 pm. Moved by Bosgoed.



Roger Brandvold
Chair



Glenys Sylvestre
University Secretary