

UNIVERSITY OF REGINA BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, July 27, 2021
College Avenue Campus, Room CB234

Present: R. Brandvold (Board Chair), G. Bosgoed, D. Chow, C. Delorme, J. Keshen, 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: L. Mitchell, L. Stradeski, S. Stewart (Technical Assistance), R. Styles, M. Voss (part)

1. Call to order

The Board Chair called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

An amendment was requested to move the Strategic Presentation from 8 to 7.2b.

Londoño Sulkin – Opseth
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. No conflicts were declared.

4. Minutes

4.1 Approval of the Minutes of May 4, 2021

Bosgoed – Smadu
Moved approval of the minutes as circulated.

CARRIED

4.2 Approval of the Minutes of Email Vote of May 10, 2021

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

CARRIED

5. Business Arising

An additional discussion on pension investments will occur as part of agenda item 9.4.

6. Chair's Report

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

- Attendance at the Canadian University Boards Association (CUBA) Conference
- Participated in the mental wellness session
- Hosting the Town Hall to bid farewell to Interim President Chase
- Meetings with Dr Chase, Minister Makowsky, and Dr Keshen
- Discussions with key community partners
- Presidential Transition Committee meetings

The Board Chair commended J. Keshen on his commitment to the University, including engagement in many meetings prior to his start date.

7. Strategic Items

7.1 Annual Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ending April 30, 2021 (A&RM)

Lang – Delorme

That the Board of Governors approve the financial statements (Attachment I) of the University of Regina for the year ended April 30, 2021.

M. Lang introduced the item to the Board and noted that the Committee held detailed discussions the day prior. The Committee also met with the representatives from the Provincial Auditor's Office, who did not identify any significant items of concern.

J. Keshen also noted that management will be working hard to respond to the financial pressures resulting from pandemic impacts.

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

7.2 2020-2021 Annual Report (A&RM)

Lang – Smadu

That the Board of Governors approve the content for the 2020-21 Annual Report and authorize the President to approve additional material and amendments as necessary to satisfy the Provincial Auditor's requirements, consistent with the draft material.

J. Keshen introduced the item to the Board.

At the Committee meeting, changes to correct a typographical error and improve formatting were recommended.

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

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

7.2b Strategic Presentation - 'Fall Transition 2021: Risk Mitigation', Dr. David Gregory (Interim Provost and Vice-President, Academic), Dave Button (Vice-President, Administration)

The presentation included key risks, proposed mitigation strategies, budget history and challenges, as well as information on the activity expected in Fall 2021 and Winter 2022 as the University returns to normal capacity.

Discussion followed. Topics included:

- Impact of the pandemic on ancillary operations, impact of first-year residence experience on student retention, and experience of other universities related to residence vacancies
- Importance of looking at cost reductions and efficiencies, including creative considerations, prior to introduction of significant tuition increases
- Contractual salary obligations are the most significant cost and will require additional revenue generation, even if no economic increases are negotiated
- Use of the non-base government funding
- Additional academic program offerings (e.g. Faculty of Nursing pathway program, micro credentialing)
- Leveraging community partnerships, productivity of internal resources, and utilization of student employees and volunteers
- Importance of the nitôncipâmin omâ Student Success Program (OMA Program) and other supports for the retention of Indigenous students
- Reliance on international recruitment and use of agents, and recent challenges with travel restrictions and visa requirements
- Lessons learned from the global pandemic regarding demand for flexible learning options, and recognition that there is expectation for change

All questions were addressed by management.

The Board Chair thanked d. Gregory and D. Button for their presentation and noted the possibility of discussion of many of these items at a future Board retreat.

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

7.3 Operations Forecast (A&RM)

Lang – Bosgoed

That the Board of Governors approve the attached 2022-23 Operations Forecast.

After consideration of the presentation and resulting discussion, the Board agreed to approve the proposed operations forecast for submission to government, recognizing that the budget for 2022-2023, including tuition levels, will be approved by the Board in Spring 2022.

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

7.4 Performance Measurement Framework: 2020-2021 Results (GOV&NOM)

M. Smadu introduced the item to the Board and noted the discussions with the Committee the day before, including recognition that further analysis is required in relation to the gender pay gap target and result.

Discussion followed. Topics included:

- Whether investment in sustainability initiatives is an adequate indication of effectiveness or spending efficiency
- Measuring progress on Truth & Reconciliation, and linkages to the TRC calls to action
- Further explanation of field weighted citation impact (FWCI) as a measure of the University's research impact

All questions were addressed by management.

(At the beginning of the meeting, an adjustment was made to the agenda to reflect the renumbering of #8 Strategic Presentation to 7.2b)

(The Board had a brief recess from 10:14 – 10:24 a.m. and M. Voss withdrew from the meeting at this time.)

9. Administrative Items

9.1 Strategic Preventative Maintenance and Renewal Submission (F&F)

Bosgoed – Opseth

That the Board of Governors approve the following four projects for Facilities Management's (FM) submission to the Ministry of SaskBuilds and Procurement for consideration of funding through the Strategic Preventative Maintenance and Renewal (SPMR) Program.

- 1) *Emergency Power Enhancement Project – Phase II*
- 2) *Research and Innovation Centre Roof Replacement*
- 3) *Power Factor Correction Project*
- 4) *Cypress Hills Field Station Facility Replacement – Phase II*

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

9.2 UR International Office Renovation Phase III – Request for Budget Increase (F&F)

Bosgoed - Londoño Sulkin

That the Board of Governors approve a budget increase from \$250,000 to \$400,000 for the UR International Office Renovation Phase III project. This provides authorization to proceed with construction based on the total upset value of \$400,000 and a target completion date of January 2022.

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

9.3 Riddell Centre Elevator Replacement – Request for Budget Increase (F&F)

Bosgoed – Opseth

That the Board of Governors approve a budget increase from \$600,000 to \$700,000 for the Riddell Centre Elevator Replacement project. This provides authorization to proceed with construction based on the total upset value of \$700,000 and a revised completion date of April 2022.

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

9.4 Pension Plan Master Trust Asset Mix (F&F)

Bosgoed – Lang

That the Board of Governors approves changes to the Master Trust Asset Mix as recommended by the Joint Pension Investment Committee.

G. Bosgoed introduced the item to the Board.

An additional discussion on pension investments followed, specifically related to the potential of pension funds holding investments in companies that are damaging Amazonian land and harming Indigenous peoples. Topics included:

- Role of the Board and the Joint Pension Investment Committee in oversight of pension investment and return, and potential strategic or reputational risk
- Compliance by investment managers with the Board-approved investment policies

The President noted that the management team would need some time to consider these specific concerns, including in relation to the roles of the pension committees and the Board of Governors.

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

9.5 Pension Funding Policies (HR)

Opseth – Bosgoed

That the Board of Governors approves the Academic and Administrative Benefits Committee (AABC) and the Non-Academic Benefits Committee (NABC) pension funding policies (Appendices 1 and 2).

A. Opseth introduced the item to the Board and noted that the recommended changes to the funding policies result from the pension governance review previously undertaken.

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

9.6 Non-Academic Pension Plan Amendment (HR)

Opseth – Delorme

That the Board of Governors approves Amendment 2021-1 as recommended by the Non-Academic Benefits Committee (NABC) in order to modify the termination benefit, to move the terms of reference of the Non-Academic Benefits Committee to a separate document, and to clearly set out the administrative deadlines and defaults for members who are entitled to a pension.

A. Opseth introduced the item to the Board and noted that the retention of employer contributions in the plan for non-vested members was ultimately supported by CUPE members and their national body.

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

9.7 2021-2022 Board Meeting Schedule – Revisions (GOV&NOM)

Smadu – Opseth

That the Board of Governors approve revisions to the 2021-2022 Board Meeting Schedule (September 2021 - July 2022) as attached.

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

10. Consensus Items

Smadu – Bosgoed

Agreed to move items 10.1 – 10.3 as an omnibus motion as follows:

10.1 Fedoruk Chair in Neutron Imaging (F&F)

That the Board of Governors approve the creation of the Fedoruk Chair in Neutron Imaging.

10.2 Awarding the Title of Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Emeritus (GOV&NOM)

That the Board of Governors confers upon Dr Thomas Chase the title of Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Emeritus.

10.3 Acting President Assignment (GOV&NOM)

That the Board of Governors, in the absence of the President for periods of normal business travel, illness, or vacation, approve the following priority for Acting President:

- 1. The Provost and Vice-President (Academic) or, if absent,*
- 2. The Vice-President (Research) or, if absent,*
- 3. The Vice-President (Administration)*

If all the vice-presidents will be absent, the President may designate another member of the senior leadership team as Acting President for a period of not more than five days.

The question was called on the omnibus motion.

CARRIED

11. Reports

11.1 Chancellor's Report

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

- June Senate meeting and various Senate committee meetings
- Presidential Transition Committee meetings
- Participation in the wellness session arranged for Board members
- The town hall to bid farewell to Interim President Chase
- Introduction of Dr Keshen to members of the community

The Board Chair thanked the Chancellor for her report.

11.2 President's Report

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

J. Keshen highlighted items from his report, and provided other updates including:

- Meetings with donors and community members

- Focus of the comprehensive fundraising campaign
- Recent student concerns regarding diversity and inclusion on campus

All questions were addressed by J. Keshen.

The Board requested that Management share the 4 Seasons of Reconciliation training link with the members.

The Board Chair thanked J. Keshen for his report.

11.2.2 Key Messages (GOV&NOM)

This report is regularly provided for the Board's information. It provides a few key messages for 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.

Discussion followed and included:

- Care not to limit the University's focus too much, to only southern Saskatchewan
- Large increase in the number of research chairs

All questions were addressed by K. McNutt.

11.4 URSU President's Report

H. Tait presented her report to the Board, and highlighted student uncertainty due to the pandemic, increased privacy concerns related to remote learning, and work by URSU to provide leadership development opportunities for its members.

Discussion followed. In response to a question, H. Tait noted that URSU currently has vacancies in two Indigenous student positions.

The Board Chair thanked H. Tait for her report and noted that University leadership is aware of student concerns regarding racism, and is taking these concerns very seriously.

11.5 Committee Chair Highlights

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

- Executive of Council report
- Exploring future potential dates for a Board retreat
- Board self-evaluation survey will be distributed shortly

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

- Current statutory remittances are confirmed up-to-date
- Accounts receivable write-offs and bad debts are similar to prior years
- Carryforward balances have decreased compared to the prior year-end
- internal audit consulting services continue to be sought out by the University community

- G. Bosgoed provided an update from the Finance and Facilities Committee, including:
- Discussion of a program for Indigenous procurement, with more information to be brought to the Committee at its next meeting
 - Advancement results, including funds provided for student financial support
- A. Opseth provided an update from the Human Resources Committee, including:
- 2020-2021 Respectful University Services Annual Report, with reduced incidents reported possibly due to fewer in-person interactions during the past year

(P. Daniels, resources and guests with the exception of G. Sylvestre withdrew from the meeting at 11:37 a.m.)

12. In Camera Session I – 11:37 a.m.

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

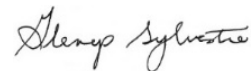
(J. Keshen withdrew from the meeting at 12:01 p.m.)

13. In Camera Session II – 12:01 p.m.

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

14. Adjournment – 12:05 p.m. Moved by Londoño Sulkin.


Roger Brandvold
Chair


Glenys Sylvestre
University Secretary