

UNIVERSITY OF REGINA BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Meeting of the Board of Governors
Tuesday, December 17, 2024
AH 527

Present: C. Delorme (Board Chair), K. Addison, L. Bellegarde, A. Cameron, M. Deters (via videoconference), K. Howlett (via videoconference - part), J. Keshen, P. Klein, M. Lang, A. Russell

Regrets: M. Ahmad

Resources: D. Biesenthal D. Ford, d. Gregory, G. Sylvestre, C. Yost

Recorder: S. Nelson

1. Call to order and Introductions

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

1.1 Reconciliation

The Chair acknowledged that the University of Regina and its federated colleges are on Treaty 4 and Treaty 6 — the territories of the nêhiyawak, Anihšīnāpēk, Dakota, Lakota, and Nakoda peoples, and the homeland of the Michif/Métis nation.

2. Approval of Agenda

Cameron - Lang

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. M. Lang indicated that he is a retired partner with KPMG who completed the external review of internal audit. This was identified during the vendor selection process and the Audit and Risk Management Committee determined it did not present a conflict.

No further conflicts were declared.

(All resources with the exception of G. Sylvestre withdrew from the meeting at 8:35 a.m.)

4. In Camera Session

The Board held an *In Camera* session with resources excused.

(All resources returned to the meeting at 9:19 a.m.)

5. Minutes

5.1 Approval of Minutes of September 24, 2024

Addison - Russell

Moved approval of the minutes of September 24, 2024 as circulated.

CARRIED

6. Business Arising

None

7. Strategic Items

7.1 Global Institute for Energy, Minerals, and Society (GIEMS) (I&I)

Bellegarde - Addison

That the Board of Governors approve the University of Regina becoming a founding member and support the incorporation of a new non-profit research institute to be named the Global Institute for Energy, Minerals, and Society (GIEMS).

L. Bellegarde introduced the item to the Board and invited C. Yost to provide more details. C.

Yost noted:

- The not-for-profit entity is a collaborative effort between three institutions - University of Regina, University of Saskatchewan, and Saskatchewan Polytechnic
- The work aligns with the province's focus to advance clean energy
- It will be beneficial to have all three entities taking a unified approach

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

7.2 Performance Measurement Framework – 2024-2025 Update (I&I)

L. Bellegarde introduced the item to the Board and highlighted the results indicating there were no significant concerns with the targets that were missed. The Committee is looking forward to discussion of appropriate targets for next year at a future meeting.

8. Administrative Items

8.1 Provincial Auditor's Audit Planning Memorandum (A&RM)

Lang – Russell

Moved that the Board of Governors approve the 2025 Audit Planning Memorandum prepared by the Office of the Provincial Auditor of Saskatchewan.

M. Lang introduced the item to the Board and noted the Audit and Risk Management Committee met with representatives of the Office of the Provincial Auditor (OPA). The auditor anticipates no significant changes to audit procedures, and no new risks were identified. There was a small increase in materiality and the timing of the audit will meet July Board approval timelines.

The meeting with the OPA included the annual inquiries from the auditors about potential for and incidents of fraud. No significant incidents were reported as a result of the annual fraud reporting or safe disclosure submissions.

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

8.2 Tuition Deposit for Non-thesis International Graduate Students (A&RM)

Lang - Russell

That the Board of Governors grant approval for a non-refundable tuition deposit of \$1,000 for all non-thesis international graduate students effective upon approval.

M. Lang introduced the item to the Board and noted this is in response to the federally-imposed limitations on international admissions, which has now been extended to graduate students.

Discussion followed and included:

- The introduction of the \$1,000 non-refundable tuition deposit for undergraduate students has resulted in improved conversion rates
- Impact of delayed visa processing and negative perception of Canada as a welcoming place to study on international student enrolments
- Necessity to recognize the impact of these regulatory changes on future revenues and plan accordingly

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

8.3 Tuition Deposit for International Francophone Minority Communities Student Pilot Project (A&RM)

Lang - Howlett

That the Board of Governors grant approval to require admissible international students participating in the FMCSP project to pay a non-refundable tuition deposit of \$500.

M. Lang introduced the item to the Board and noted this is the maximum allowable deposit based on the terms of the program.

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

8.4 Fighting Forced Labour and Child Labour (A&RM)

Lang – Cameron

That the Board of Governors approve the proposed reporting for compliance with the Fighting Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains Act (Canada) (the Act) (Attachment A) as well as the responses to Public Safety Canada's on-line questionnaire (Attachment B).

M. Lang introduced the item to the Board and noted this is newly-required reporting for institutions.

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

8.5 Academic and Administrative Benefits Committee (AABC)/Non-Academic Benefits Committee (NABC) Terms of Reference (HR)

Howlett – Russell

That the Board of Governors approves the updated terms of reference for the Non-Academic Benefits Committee (NABC) and the Academic and Administrative Benefits Committee (AABC):

- *NABC Terms of Reference (Attachment "A")*
- *AABC Terms of Reference (Attachment "B")*

K. Howlett introduced the item to the Board and noted that the terms of reference are reviewed annually, and only minor adjustments have been recommended.

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

8.6 Statements of Investment Policies and Goals – University of Regina Pension Plans (HR)

Howlett – Deters

That the Board of Governors approves the 2024 Statements of Investment Policies and Goals (SIP&Gs) for the University of Regina Academic & Administrative Pension Plan and Non-Academic Pension Plan:

- *Defined benefit component ("Attachment A")*
- *Defined contribution component ("Attachment B") and*
- *Non-Academic Pension Plan ("Attachment C")*

K. Howlett introduced the item to the Board and noted the main changes were related to the management and reporting of environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors, and update of minimum return expectations for the defined benefit plans to be consistent with the actuarial discount rate.

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

8.7 Statements of Investment Policies and Goals – University of Regina Trust and Endowment Funds (I&I)

Bellegarde – Cameron

That the Board of Governors approves the attached Statement of Investment Policies & Goals (SIP&G) for the University of Regina Trust and Endowment Fund (TEF).

L. Bellegarde introduced the item to the Board and noted that discussion by the Committee focused on the changes to ESG considerations.

Discussion followed and included:

- ESG was already reflected in the SIP&G, but is now a much more explicit consideration in selection and monitoring of investment managers
- It is possible that overall financial returns could be higher if ESG was not as strongly weighted
- The expectation to achieve the highest returns to maximize scholarships or other investments must also be considered

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

(K. Addison and M. Lang opposed)

8.8 Saskatchewan Police College Expansion – Level 3 (I&I)

Bellegarde - Cameron

That the Board of Governors approve a \$1.2M maximum upset project with Level Three approval (approval to tender and construct) for renovation of College West 218 for the Saskatchewan Police College (SKPC), contingent on the Ministry of SaskBuilds and Procurement and the University of Regina entering into a Tenant Improvement Agreement.

L. Bellegarde introduced the item to the Board noting that the project has proceeded more slowly than expected due to involvement of multiple external parties.

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

8.9 LAB 309 Benchtop Replacement – Level 3 (I&I)

Bellegarde - Cameron

That the Board of Governors approve a \$320K maximum upset budget with Level Three Approval (approval to tender and construct) for the replacement of benchtops in Laboratory Building, Room 309.

L. Bellegarde introduced the item to the Board. It was noted that the project also includes the replacement of the related fixtures and faucets.

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

8.10 Kinesiology Chlorine System Safety Upgrades – Level 3 (I&I)

Bellegarde – Cameron

That the Board of Governors approve a \$300,000 budget with Level Three Approval (approval to tender and construct the project) for the recommended safety upgrades on the chlorine/chemical management system and flagged code compliance concerns of the Centre for Kinesiology, Health and Sport (CKHS) Aquatic Centre.

L. Bellegarde introduced the item to the Board and noted that many of the system components are close to 50 years old and have resulted in significant expense to operate and maintain. The repairs will be timed to coincide with a planned shutdown. The funding for this project will come from the Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies.

The question was called on the motion.

CARRIED

(Board recessed at 10:01 a.m. and returned at 10:19 a.m.)

9. Consensus Items

Bellegarde – Klein

Agreed to move items 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, and 9.4 as an omnibus motion as follows:

9.1 Appointment of CUPE 5791 Representative to the Non-Academic Benefits Committee (NABC) (HR)

Moved that the Board of Governors approves the appointment of Danette Andrews as a CUPE 5791 representative to the Non-Academic Benefits Committee (NABC).

9.2 Appointment of Retiree Representative to the Academic and Administrative Benefits Committee (AABC) (HR)

That the Board of Governors approves the appointment of Danette Andrews as a CUPE 5791 representative to the Non-Academic Benefits Committee (NABC).

9.3 Policy Update – GOV-022-015 Appointing Employees to External Boards and Committees (GOV&NOM)

That the Board of Governors approve the revised policy GOV-022-015 Appointing Employees to External Boards and Committees.

9.4 Policy Update – GOV-070-005 Records and Information Management (GOV&NOM)

That the Board of Governors approve the revised policy GOV-070-005 Records and Information Management.

The question was called on the omnibus motion.

CARRIED

10. Reports

10.1 Board Chair's Report

A written report was circulated prior to the meeting. The Board Chair spoke to highlights within the report and noted his attendance at the Fall meeting of Senate.

10.2 Chancellor's Report

The Chancellor provided highlights from her written report circulated prior to the meeting and also noted her attendance at the Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards on October 19th.

The Board Chair thanked P. Klein for her report.

10.3 President's Report

J. Keshen provided a verbal update on events and activities since the last meeting noting his appreciation for attendance by both the Chancellor and Board Chair at so many University events. He thanked both for their contributions.

The Board Chair thanked J. Keshen for his report.

10.4 Key Messages

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.

10.5 URSU President's Report

The URSU President's written report was included in the materials distributed prior to the meeting.

10.6 Report from the Vice-President (Research)

C. Yost presented his report to the Board and highlighted:

- The Office of Research Services and Office of Research Partnerships & Innovation have supported researchers in grant submissions, resulting in over \$50 M of research awards
- The University is performing well in terms of research impact and community outreach
- Taste of Research event was even more successful than the first year and included a number of graduate student presentations

The Board Chair thanked C. Yost for his report.

11.7 Committee Chair Highlights

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

- A presentation was provided by A. Exner, Associate Vice-President (Information Services) on cybersecurity
- An Internal Audit update was provided by Y. Yevlanova including an external review of the internal audit function
- The Committee received an Enterprise Risk Management update and reviewed the Operating Fund Report

K. Howlett noted that the Human Resources Committee items had all come forward for approval by the Board earlier in the meeting.

L. Bellegarde provided an update from the Investment and Infrastructure Committee, including:

- Performance Measurement Framework outcomes and progress on achievement of strategic goals
- The Major Capital Project Status report has been improved to enable at-a-glance information on approval dates, total budget and spend to date

A. Russell provided an update from the Governance and Nominations Committee, including:

- Annual board evaluation survey will be distributed
- Board retreat is February 4 and will utilize an external facilitator. Materials to be reviewed to prepare for the meeting will be distributed in advance

(Resources, with the exception of D. Ford and G. Sylvestre withdrew from the meeting at 10:47 a.m. K. Howlett also withdrew at this time.)

11. In Camera Session I – 10:47 a.m.

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

(D. Ford withdrew from the meeting at 11:19 a.m.)

(G. Sylvestre and J. Keshen withdrew from the meeting at 11:25 a.m.)

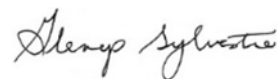
12. In Camera Session II – 11:25 a.m.

The Board held an *In Camera* session with the President excused.

13. Adjournment – 11:40 a.m. Moved by Lang.



Cadmus Delorme
Board Chair



Glenys Sylvestre
University Secretary