

**NIPISSING UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MINUTES
OPEN SESSION**

December 3, 2015

The Open Session of the regular Board meeting was held on Thursday, December 3, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room (F303).

The following members were present:

T. Bachelder
M. Berube (chair)
T. Curry (skype)
C. Dennis
G. Durnan (vice-chair)
J. Evans
C. Miller (polycom)
T. Palangio
S. Portelli (polycom)
J. Zimbalatti
S. Minor
C. Pigeau
R. Gendron
N. Maynes
M. Saari
I. Hall
M. Byblow
G. Jodouin
M. DeGagné, President & Vice-Chancellor

Board Officers: H. d'Entremont, Provost Vice-President Academic & Research
B. Keech, Vice-President Administration

Student Observers: J. Andrews, A. Deugo

Recording Secretary: K. Murphy

Guests: J. Graham, C. Richardson, M. Tuncali, C. Phillips, U. Boyer, A. Fera,
K. Clausen, D. Walters, J. Scott, A. Burke, D. Hay

Absent with Regrets: D. Forget, M. Webster, D. Shogren, D. Geden, S. McLeod

WELCOME / SPECIAL GUESTS/ INTRODUCTIONS

The Board Chair extended a warm welcome to new Board member Gary Jodouin. Ian Hall (NUSU representative) advised the Board that he had accepted a position elsewhere in the community and therefore was resigning. NUSU will inform us of his replacement.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Resolution 2015-12-01: Moved by T. Palangio, seconded by C. Dennis that the minutes of the Open Session of the meeting of the Board of Governors held on October 1, 2015 be adopted as circulated.
CARRIED

Question was raised regarding formal meetings the Board had on November 25th and November 27th. The minutes should have been tabled and the President indicated we would table those minutes at the next meeting.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Board Chair indicated she had attended the COU conference and it was very informative with training for Board meetings. She encouraged Board Members to discuss tonight the recent events of the NUFA strike and move forward.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

The President mentioned the Annual Board Retreat held in October, where we heard from past President Dennis Mock and conducted an exercise on our Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats. At the Annual Board Retreat we also developed a more detailed plan for fundraising through a case statement strategic management exercise. This also brought to light some Key Performance Indicators. Because Nipissing's systems are not highly automated, immediate financial information is not always available. Requested for a mid-year update regarding financial position.

The President then distributed the "Highlights of the 2015 Agreement" with FASBU, the Full-time Academic Staff Bargaining Unit (Nipissing University Faculty Association – NUFA). These highlights include where three years became four, progress through the ranks, changes to group benefits, professional expense reimbursements, etc. There is also a Memorandum of Agreement in respect of governance. This is an opportunity for two senators, two external board members and a student representative to use nine months to analyze the collegial governance (strengths and weaknesses) and measure against best practices. Question was raised if this replaces the "By-Law Review Subcommittee" however the NU Act dictates how this functions and the by-laws of Senate are separate from the Board. This review is part of the ongoing tasks of the University Governance Committee. NUSU questioned if the student representative has to be a NUSU board member, however the wording says "one student elected by NUSU".

Jamie Graham was asked by the President to comment regarding the class schedule. This will not be an easy process and they are still taking into consideration all the ramifications. To summarize, the fall term for 2015 has been compressed into an 11 week period where practical classes would be done by December 18th. One week in January would be set aside as a transitional week and allow for extra time for delivery of material (providing some flexibility). There is a cancellation of the formalized exam period and faculty will adjust curriculum to make sure the achievement of requirements is accomplished without the December exam period. Winter term will start on January 18th and be a 12 week term ending April 19th. All of this will need to be approved through Senate.

The President also requested an update on enrollment from Jamie Graham. Our original budget was based on 4500 FTE and we are at approximately 4300 FTE. Professional development courses for teachers are off and also the BEd program (due to shift to a two year program). Our numbers are up in business and nursing and

down in the BEd program. There has been a slightly larger number of withdrawals compared to the same time last year.

The President asked Casey Phillips to comment on funds available to students. Casey indicated that he had received a few e-mails from referrals at the finance office or staff members and his office is looking at how to best support. They have also provided extra funding to NUSU for the student food bank. NUSU commented that it was nice to have someone to direct students to at the University and expressed appreciation.

VICE-PRESIDENTS' REMARKS

Provost Vice-President Academic and Research

Dr. d'Entremont indicated that he had promised to have more regular financial updates. He distributed a "Statement of Operations" for the period ending October 31, 2015 and also Cash Flow Projections. Grants still appear to be on target. Ursula Boyer addressed some timing differences because we received more from Nursing in October than we did last year and printing being done for Canadore is an additional \$45,000 in revenue not expected. Salaries and benefits are a little below last year due to less positions and some of the LTA positions that were terminated. We are endeavoring to be more up to date with moving funds rather than waiting until year end and doing more journal entries to accommodate. Question was raised since this information is as of October 31, would we have any variance in terms of revenues brought in and expense paid out, however no significant change would be experienced as a result of the NUFA strike. Interest was expressed in receiving this type of report for every Board meeting.

Vice-President - Administration

Bob Keech indicated his area was involved with the development of a jointly sponsored pension plan, however there was a long way to go and meetings with various union groups, administration. Between the finance and IT department we are pushing for equipment and systems to give more frequent financial information and bring the system up to be more contemporary. They have purchased some software reporting material and the President indicated we had positive signs that we will have support from the Ministry especially related to financial systems.

DEANS' REMARKS

The Dean of Education, Dr. Carole Richardson, said they are looking for schedules from the Registrar's Office and getting rolling.

The Dean of Arts & Science, Dr. Murat Tuncali, said it had been a tough year for us all and wished everyone the best of the season.

The Dean of Applied and Professional Studies, Dr. Rick Vanderlee, was not in attendance and had not submitted remarks.

QUESTION PERIOD

Dr. Gendron indicated he had many questions and would save those for the end of the Board Meeting.

Question arose from previous minutes where Janet asked for an update on Chancellor Selection. The President responded that the candidate was brought to Senate, but the process discussion resulted in postponement. The

Board will be looking for two new members to participate on the Chancellors Selection Committee, two Senators and one student representative to continue with existing members the work begun.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The November 16th Committee meetings were cancelled and therefore there is no information to report.

BOARD REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER COMMITTEES

Alumni Advisory Board

There was no report.

The Aboriginal Council on Education

There was no report.

Brantford Regional Campus

There was no report.

Bracebridge Regional Campus

There was no report.

Nipissing University Student Union

No comment.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion amongst Board Members regarding the stress everyone experienced and appreciation for negotiating team for the work done throughout the NUFA strike. Frequent and numerous changes in Administration could be a contributing factor. There was expression of a desire to return to the feeling of family environment. NUSU said the student attendance and cooperation in Senate speaks to the environment. Students are grateful the two sides have put aside differences and are working together.

Dr. Gendron wants to improve on how things are done at this Board so that we can cooperate and trust each other. Healing must be based on complete understanding of what happened, particularly governance. He inquired if there were more than two Board meetings during the strike and the Chair indicated there were weekly phone call updates with one agenda item. The November 27th meeting there was no need for faculty to declare a conflict because it was declared a conflict at the November 25th meeting. Dr. Gendron questioned if the faculty representatives were only declared in a conflict on November 25th, then why did they not receive notice of all meetings. The Chair stated that the discussion clearly related to salary and remuneration of faculty and was therefore a Conflict of Interest for faculty. Dr. Gendron disputes the validity of the process until November 25th. The President said that this conflict is encapsulated in the declaration that all signed. What would a reasonable person in this community think if faculty contributed to any discussion regarding salary? The Board had obtained a legal opinion on this matter.

The students have been admirable throughout the NUFA strike. From a student perspective they must feel confident we are learning from what happened and moving forward. The element of trust must be restored at this institution, hopefully through communication. We need to agree to disagree, but respect the opinion of each other.

Dr. Gendron raised another question regarding why the decision was made to block faculty e-mails rather than capture and store them. Bob Keech indicated that there was no way to do so with Google. When a server is suspended and someone tries to send to it, the message is never delivered and the sender receives a response saying the message will not be delivered.

The President said we have a desire for a certain informality at this institution in the hopes that we will respect each other in what we do. Trust is not something that will emerge as we discuss the past and what happened. Trust is a decision to make every day to move forward. We support our faculty and appreciate the work done by faculty.

The Chair said that from her perspective and listening to students, faculties and other Universities this has been evolving for a few years. We have room for improvement, but we need to move forward.

The Chair also mentioned that Greg DuCharme has resigned from the Board and therefore there are changes to Committee Chairs (Jim Evans is now Chair of Plant and Property, Colin Dennis is now Chair of Human Resources and Trevor Bachelder is the Chair of University Governance Committee). She will have the Board Secretary send out an updated list of Committee Members and upcoming meeting dates and times.

ADJOURNMENT

Resolution 2015-12-02:

Moved by G. Durnan, seconded by C. Dennis that the Open Session of the meeting of the Board of Governors regular meeting now adjourn at 7:40 p.m.
CARRIED


Secretary


Board Chair