

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MINUTES  
OPEN SESSION

October 1, 2015

The Open Session of the regular Board meeting was held on Thursday, October 1, 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  
T. Palangio  
S. Portelli  
J. Zimbalatti  
D. Forget  
M. Webster  
D. Shogren  
S. Minor  
C. Pigeau  
D. Geden  
R. Gendron  
N. Maynes  
M. Saari  
I. Hall  
M. Byblow  
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: S. Landriault

Guests: D. Belmonte, D. Decaire, J. Graham, S. Rich, C. Richardson, C. Sutton,  
M. Tuncali, R. Vanderlee

Absent with Regrets: G. DuCharme

## **WELCOME / SPECIAL GUESTS/ INTRODUCTIONS**

The Board Chair extended a warm welcome to all Board members for the beginning of a new academic year. She introduced four new Board members in attendance, Ms. Crystal Pigeau, Dr. Nancy Maynes, Dr. Dennis Geden and Dr. Robin Gendron. She acknowledged Mr. Domenic Belmonte, Partner and Education Leader from Price Waterhouse Coopers, who will give a synopsis of the PWC audit, as well as Mr. Dean Decaire, from BDO, who will speak about the audited financial statements following the presentation from the Audit and Finance Committee report.

## **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

Resolution 2015-10-01: Moved by M. Saari, seconded by D. Shogren that the minutes of the Open Session of the meeting of the Board of Governors held on June 4, 2015 be adopted as circulated.  
CARRIED

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

A card was received from Christine Jenkins upon her retirement thanking the Board for the support she received this past year while taking on the role of University Secretary.

## **PRESENTATION**

Dominic Belmonte from Price Waterhouse Cooper (PWC) presented a synopsis of the paper presented to the Ministry.

Dean Decaire from BDO presented the audited financial statements for the year ended April 30, 2015. The statements were prepared by the university and Mr. Decaire explained that his role was to review and comment on the audit, and present his opinion. He indicated that there were a lot of positives going forward. Hard decisions were made and there are no red flags in this report. He advised that he is not the bearer of bad news, and that he was impressed with the accounting impact. The university needed to act and the results prove that the Board works well together. Our long term debt is smaller than some other universities.

## **CHAIR'S REMARKS**

The Board Chair began her remarks by reminding Board members of the rules of confidentiality; this especially pertains to closed sessions discussion, and to be mindful of any possible conflicts of interest. A Board member's role is to ensure that the Board acts in the best interest of and does the right things for the University's future, not their own personal agendas. The President is responsible for managing the Executive Team and day to day operations of the University. Board members bring a lot of wisdom and expertise to the Board table. The Board Chair encouraged Board members to be open and engaged and ask questions.

Board members were reminded of the Board Retreat scheduled for October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> and encouraged to attend. An agenda will be sent out shortly. We are off to a good start, and need to look strategically ahead. We will be facing a lot of challenges but likewise there are also a lot of opportunities ahead.

## **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

The President welcomed everyone back for the new academic year. He commented on the recent Ontario Universities' Fair which was held September 25-27. A new attendance record was set this year with 135,000 attendees. Thanks to those who participated.

At the September 30<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council of Ontario Universities (COU), Executive Heads attended a presentation from the Premier. The focus of the Premier's remarks was on the labour market and what universities do to prepare a person to enter into the work force and the job market. Results of a public publications survey on the perceived value of a college education versus a university education were discussed.

Sheldon Levy, President and Vice-Chancellor of Ryerson University, will become the next Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU). His appointment will begin December 1<sup>st</sup>. It is good to know that we now have a friend and colleague at Queen's Park.

The upcoming Board Retreat will be focusing on fundraising and development. We will be developing a case for the University. We need to identify the top three priorities and fundamentally understand what fundraising will be for this institution. We need to find out what our needs are. Development for the future is important.

## **VICE-PRESIDENTS' REMARKS**

### **Provost Vice-President Academic and Research**

Dr. d'Entremont advised that the 2016-17 budget process will be starting shortly. Last year we asked for budget submissions to be handed in by November 15<sup>th</sup>. We hope to have the total ask ready for the next Board meeting in December.

### **Vice-President - Administration**

There were no remarks.

## **DEANS' REMARKS**

The Dean of Education, Dr. Carole Richardson, was asked by the Associate Dean, Dr. Barb Olmsted, to announce that the faculty is working on establishing an award to a deserving student in memory of Dr. Doug Franks. There was a lot of interest in the two year BEd program at the University Fair. The start of the Kinesiology program in 2016 is a long awaited beginning to the degree.

The Dean of Arts & Science, Dr. Murat Tuncali, advised that Dr. Pavlina Radia is the new Associate Dean of Arts and Science. She assumed her position on July 1<sup>st</sup>. On October 6<sup>th</sup> a First Year Arts and Science Symposium will be hosted. The event will be organized by Dr. Radia, jointly with Academic Advising and Student Services. Talk to students after one month. Hope to get 450 students and start a conversation. A number of new program initiatives, including Data Science, are in the first stages of development. Further information will be provided to the Board in the upcoming months.

The Dean of Applied and Professional Studies, Dr. Rick Vanderlee, gave congratulations to the School of Nursing for receiving a full 7-year accreditation for the second-degree SPP program in Toronto and a 5-year accreditation for the BScN collaborative program. Student and course enrolments are healthy and growing in

APS programs, specifically in nursing and business. New program developments in APS include: the professional 2-years in Social Work to begin in 2017-18; a joint 4 year degree-diploma between Nipissing and Canadore College in Social Welfare & Social Service Worker programs; potential development of delivering our Nursing program in Dubai; a degree completion program in Criminal Justice at Centennial College and further partnership development for the BComm program with professional associations such as the AOBA and industry.

## **QUESTION PERIOD**

Janet Zimbalatti asked for an update on the status of the search for our new Chancellor. The President responded by advising that a meeting was scheduled for next week to discuss progress on the search.

Dr. Gendron remarked that the PWC audit identified that the recruitment of international students has been identified as a potential area of growth for the university. Do we have any plans in this area? The President advised that a strategy has been developed through HESA and we are waiting for the final report. Dr. d'Entremont and Dr. Rich have attended meetings regarding the possible recruitment of students from China, and we also in discussions with India. Once the HESA report is available it will be distributed.

Dr. Gendron asked if a dissemination of the PWC report would be distributed to the broader university community. The President advised that the Assistant VP Finance and Human Resources has plans to hold Town Hall meetings and that this has been announced to the unions. Everyone will have the opportunity to ask questions.

## **ENROLMENT UPDATE**

Jamie Graham, Registrar and Assistant VP of Institutional Planning provided an enrolment and budget report to date. Comparing the number of registered students to the numbers on which the budget was projected, Mr. Graham advised that the estimates were very close. As a result, we should be on budget for grant and tuition numbers.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### Executive Committee

The Chair advised that the Board Committee meeting times will be changed. The current set of dates will be maintained.

### Audit & Finance Committee

Audit & Finance Committee Chair, Tom Palangio advised that he is relatively pleased with the status and encouraged by hearing that we have already started taking steps. He also commented on the importance of timeliness and regular reports. Dr. Gendron asked for further information regarding a line item increase of \$416,000. The Assistant VP Finance and Human Resources advised that it was to cover accounting adjustments for renovations for the Athletic Centre, Nursing Centre, old Library space and Memorial Gardens.

The following two resolutions were presented from the September 21, 2015 Audit and Finance Committee report.

Resolution 2015-10-02            Moved by T. Palangio, seconded by M. Webster that the Board of Governors accept the recommendation of the Audit and Finance Committee that the internally restricted net assets be increased by \$416,000 for the specific commitments as described in Note 11 to the April 30, 2015 financial statements.  
CARRIED

Resolution 2015-10-03            Moved by T. Palangio, seconded by M. Saari that the Board of Governors accept the recommendation of the Audit and Finance Committee that the Consolidated Audited Financial Statements for the year ended April 30, 2015 be approved.  
CARRIED

Plant and Property Committee

The Board Chair advised that she chaired the meeting in the absence of the Plant and Property Committee Chair, Greg DuCharme, and that there were no major capital projects going on at present.

University Governance Committee

Committee Chair, Colin Dennis, announced that the committee met and reviewed the committee's mandate. The 2014-15 Governance Annual Report was also reviewed. The focus of the committee is to complete the review by February. The committee is in receipt of a letter from Dr. David Tabachnick regarding hiring practices. Tom Curry has agreed to review the letter and it will be brought forward at the next meeting. Dr. Trevor Bachelder was elected as Vice-Chair of the committee.

Dr. Gendron spoke to a request made at a Senate meeting last year for a joint Board and Senate Committee to review policies. This request was tabled to the next Board meeting.

Advancement Committee

Committee Chair, Gord Durnan, advised that there will be a full discussion of the University Advancement Committee as well as the committee's mandate at the Board Retreat. Mr. Len Gamache has been hired pro bono. He has a great deal of knowledge and experience and is well known in the fund raising community.

**BOARD REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER COMMITTEES**

Academic Senate

The report was included with the agenda.

Senate Standing and Ad Hoc Committees

There were no reports.

Alumni Advisory Board

Board members were advised that Homecoming Weekend is taking place this weekend. A schedule of events has been created so that events can be attended at your leisure. Please check the website for further details.

The Aboriginal Council on Education

There was no report.

Brantford Regional Campus

A report was provided. Colleen Miller advised that the Brantford Campus is busy with 630 students returning this year. She also advised of a program change for year two students which will enable students to fast track through their program to accommodate the placement component for year five. This change has been well received by the students. Two international placements are being set for Ecuador and Italy and they are fully subscribed. NUSA is continuing this year with their Carnival for Life on October 2nd. The goal is to raise \$5000 for Cancer and they have already raised \$3500. NUSA and SAC are exploring joint events for the upcoming year.

Nancy Maynes asked for clarification of fast tracking of placement. Carole Richardson advised that as the Nipissing and Laurier campuses work together on placements, students don't have to remain in the current structure meaning that they don't have to return for a fifth year.

Muskoka Regional Campus

A report was provided. Gord Durnan also advised that the Muskoka Campus is still a great resource for the community.

Nipissing University Student Union

Ian Hall reported that unanimous approval of NUSU's By-laws had been secured at their Annual General meeting. NUSU is currently running a deficit, but has an interim financial management plan in place and finances are relatively stable. The Muskoka Campus has started a student food bank. If there is interest in making a food or cash donation, please contact the Board Secretary. This year's Shinerama raised \$13,000 in support of Cystic Fibrosis Canada. The Shine Gala has been rescheduled for November 14<sup>th</sup> and it is being held at The Wall. If you are interested in attending please contact Ian.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Research Ethics Board

Dr. d'Entremont presented a list of individuals for the Board's consideration for membership on the Research Ethics Board. These members are appointed by the Board on the recommendation of the PVPAR.

Resolution 2015-10-04:

Moved by M. Saari, seconded by R. Gendron that the Board of Governors ratify the following recommendation of individuals including their terms, for membership on the Research Ethics Board.

Existing Members:

- Steven Arnocky, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology , 2 year renewal – September 2015 – August 2017, not renewable
- Heather Rintoul, Associate Professor, Schulich School of Education, 1 year extension – September 2015 – August 2016, not renewable

New Members:

- Cameron McFarlane, Associate Professor, English, 3-year term- September 2015 – August 2018, renewable once
- Mike Parr, Associate Professor, Schulich School of Education, 3-year term- September 2015 – August 2018, renewable once
- Kathy Mantas, Associate Professor, Schulich School of Education, 3-year term- September 2015 – August 2018, renewable once
- Lanyan Chen, Associate Professor, Social Welfare and Social Development, 3-year term- September 2015 – August 2018, renewable once
- Tanya Lukin-Linklater, Director, Office of Aboriginal Initiatives, 3-year term- September 2015 – August 2018, renewable once

Sexual Violence Prevention Policy

Casey Phillips, Assistant Vice-President Students, reported that earlier this year, Nipissing created a Sexual Violence Prevention and Response committee, comprised of staff, faculty, students and community members. The goal was to develop a list of recommendations on education and prevention, policy, and institutional response to sexual violence on campus. A draft of the policy was included in the agenda.

Resolution 2015-10-05                      Moved by T. Bachelder, seconded by I. Hall that the Board of Governors accept the initial version of the Sexual Violence Prevention Policy.

R. Gendron requested further information regarding the policy. Dr. d'Entremont advised that a standalone policy has more focus and visibility on the website.

CARRIED

1 abstention

Janet Zimbalatti congratulated the staff who put together the Sexual Violence Against Women information on the website.

The Open Session of the Board of Governors meeting was adjourned at: 8:40 p.m.



Secretary



Board Chair