

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

The Board of Governors met at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, 15 October 2020, using the Zoom meeting platform.

PRESENT

Mr. B. Baxter	Dr. J. Light-Thompson
Mr. W. Carson	Mr. C. MacDonald
Dr. T. Chopin	Mr. S. MacKenzie
Mr. R. Cumming	Dr. J. MacLauchlan
Ms. K. Cunningham	Dr. G. MacLean
Ms. B. DeLong	Dr. D. MaGee
Ms. S. DeVarenne (Secretary)	Dr. P. Mazerolle
M. T. Gribbons	Dr. A. McCain
Mr. L. Hachey (Chair)	Ms. M. McNeil
Dr. P. Hauf	Mr. D. O'Brien
Mr. P. Hickey	Dr. C. Passaris
Ms. J. Hoyt	Ms. C. Prosser
Mr. K. Hoyt	Dr. K. Scott-Storey
Dr. V. Husain	Ms. J. Sutherland-Green
Ms. C. Jardine	Ms. R. Tingley (Vice-Chair)
Ms. J. Jollineau	Ms. J. Ward
Ms. J. Knox	Dr. D. Woolnough

being members of the Board

Ms. M. Dawe, Advisor and Senior Director, Office of the President
Ms. A. Ferris, Comptroller
Ms. S. Gilks, Director of Communications
Ms. J. Redstone-Lewis, University Secretariat
Mr. R. Skillen, Vice-President (Advancement)
Mr. M. Warren, Director, Resource Planning & Budgeting

Regrets:

Dr. J. Andrews	Dr. D. Ganong
Mr. S. Brittain	Ms. K. McCain
Dr. R. Currie	Mayor M. O'Brien
Mayor D. Darling	Dr. D. Stevenson
Ms. R. Fairweather	

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OPEN SESSION

1. **Announcements**1.1 **Announcements for 15 October 2020** (posted with agenda)

A) The Chair welcomed members to the first Board Meeting of the academic year, referring them to the written announcements included with the agenda. The President acknowledged that the Saint John and Fredericton campuses of the University sit on unsundered and unceded traditional Wolastoqey land. The lands of the Wabanaki people were recognized in a series of Peace and Friendship Treaties to establish an ongoing relationship of peace, friendship, and mutual respect between equal nations.

B) L. Hachey introduced new Board members and noted that J. Andrews and K. McCain, had sent their regrets for the meeting.

C) Information on Convocation ceremonies was provided in the written announcements posted with the agenda. Due to the current health emergency, ceremonies will be held online.

D) The Chair noted that conflict of interest forms have been electronically circulated and should be returned to the Secretary's office upon completion.

2. **Approval of the Meeting Agenda and Minutes of Previous Meeting**2.1 **Summary of Resolutions** (posted with agenda)2.2 **Minutes of 26 May 2020** (posted with agenda)2.3 **Minutes of 28 July 2020** (posted with agenda)

The Chair noted that key items of business were the Graduation list and the review of the audited financial statements.

There were no items lifted from the Consent Agenda.

MOTION 2, 1: Baxter/Passaris “That the Board approve the agenda, as presented, and the Minutes of 26 May 2020 and 28 July 2020, as presented.”

CARRIED

L. Hachey reviewed items on the agenda where there could be potential conflicts of interest. No items of conflict were brought forward by members.

3. **Business Arising from the Minutes (Open Session)**

There was none.

4. **Other Business (Open Session)**

It was noted that faculty member and former Board member Gary Waite had been invited to join the Royal Society of Canada. The Chair expressed his congratulations and indicated that he would send a congratulatory letter on behalf of the Board to Dr. Waite.

11. **President's Report**

11.1 **President's Report** (posted with agenda)

The President drew members' attention to his October Report which was been posted with the agenda. He noted that Statistics Canada had estimated a cost \$370 million - \$3.4 billion to the university sector related to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. He spoke to an equality, diversity and inclusion survey that would be circulated to faculty and staff in November. He highlighted a decision by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada to allow international students to come to UNB for Winter Term. He noted that UNB had moved from eighth to sixth place in the Macleans comprehensive university rankings for 2021; Nursing and Mathematics and Statistics were ranked in the top 20 in their respective categories. He extended congratulations to UNB's student athletes, noting that there were a higher number of Academic All-Canadians this year over last year.

11.2 **Preliminary Enrolment Figures** (posted with agenda)

The President drew members' attention to the Preliminary Report on 2020-21 Enrolment to October 1, 2020, noting that enrolment for the Fall Term was better than predicted although still down from the previous year.

11. **President's Report** (cont'd)

11.2 **Preliminary Enrolment Figures** (cont'd)

G. MacLean noted a decrease of 2.7% in undergraduate enrolment on the Fredericton campus, explaining that models had predicted up to a 15% decrease due to the global pandemic. He suggested that there may be a 'double cohort' effect in the 2021-22 academic year, noting that due to global uncertainty, many students were taking a 'gap year' this academic year. He highlighted a high level of student retention in upper years and stable international student numbers, explaining that most continuing international students remained in New Brunswick for the duration of the pandemic. He noted that graduate numbers remained in flux throughout the fall and would be more stable in December due to the nature of the graduate calendar.

P. Hauf indicated a similar situation on the Saint John campus, noting that full-time equivalents and international student numbers were in line with last years' enrolment figures. She highlighted the success of the new Bachelor of Health program, noting that enrolment projections were for 25 students in the first year of the program, but there were now 28 students enrolled. Enrolment in the Faculty of Science, Applied Science, and Engineering was also higher due to the Licensed Practical Nurse Bridging Program. Graduate enrolment on the Saint John campus was lower than last year, due to the

inability of international students to come to Canada to begin the MBA program. A second intake of the MBA program would begin in January to accommodate these students.

D. MaGee spoke to graduate enrolment, noting that numbers remain consistent with last year, which had an increase over the previous year. He noted that the only area where student numbers had decreased was the MBA program in Saint John. It is expected that those numbers will increase to normal levels in January with the program's second intake.

Members asked about surveying students who are accepted to UNB but do not come. G. MacLean noted that the University does reach out to those students with a survey, but response rates are low. He explained that a number of students have deferred their acceptance until next year, hoping that things change in 2021. Efforts are being made to stay engaged with those students. D. MaGee noted that graduate students are not surveyed; students are struggling with the inability to travel and acquire visas during the global health emergency. Members noted that some students may find the sudden transition to online classes challenging.

Members discussed the quality of alternate delivery methods and potential to create micro-credentials now that a greater proportion of coursework is available online. P. Hauf spoke to efforts over the summer from the Centre for Enhanced Teaching & Learning, ITS and the College of Extended Learning to prepare instructors for using alternate delivery methods. She noted that a student survey was being circulated to help with planning for the Winter Term. G. MacLean noted that before the pandemic, the University was moving to an online Student Opinion Survey (SOS) and making other changes to build its online presence which also helped it to adapt to current circumstances. One member noted that students have expressed appreciation for virtual lectures.

11. **President's Report** (cont'd)

11.2 **Preliminary Enrolment Figures** (cont'd)

Members discussed enrolment in the Faculty of Education. It was noted that there was a nation-wide teacher shortage and that the global pandemic was interfering with the ability of education students to complete practica. G. MacLean noted that enrolment in the Faculty of Education had decreased by two full-time equivalents but that graduate student numbers had increased in the Faculty. He noted that Bachelor of Education in Wabanaki Education has boosted enrolment numbers. P. Hauf noted that enrolment in the Education program on the Saint John campus has increased over last year.

Members discussed the challenges that faculty members were encountering using alternate delivery methods. It was noted that some faculty members were missing the responsive nature of face-to-face teaching and that replicating laboratories online was challenging. Members discussed sector-wide concerns around academic integrity with respect to examinations and tests. One member noted that it took students, faculty and staff a couple of weeks to become accustomed to the technology and expressed appreciation for the efforts of faculty members in the preparation and delivery of course materials. The Student Union is preparing a survey to gauge student experience and compare it with other jurisdictions. Members spoke to the opportunities created by the

increase of online course content and the potential for bi-campus collaborations. It was suggested that the University use social media to share the positive experiences of students and that the work of faculty and staff be celebrated.

11.3 **Update on Health Emergency Planning** (verbal)

The President spoke to the work of the Bi-Campus COVID-19 Steering Committee, noting that Fall Convocation Ceremonies will be held online this year. He noted that Winter Term dates had been shifted to accommodate a 14-day isolation period for students who travel outside the Atlantic Bubble over the holidays. The e-Proctoring Working Group has selected a software package and is beginning work on the implementation phase of the project. P. Mazerolle expressed gratitude to faculty and staff for their ability to adapt and overcome the challenges presented by the pandemic.

11.4 **Other** (verbal)

Members discussed government relations, noting that open communication with government and engaging with cabinet ministers will help create advocates for the University. The President noted that the University is investing in government relations and targeting industry and business to build the University's stakeholder support network. It was suggested that a list of MLAs who attended UNB be circulated to the Deans so that they can be personally invited to events at the University and so that the University can build on alumni achievements. Members discussed how online and alternate delivery method courses could benefit the University once the pandemic has ended. The President explained that the University wanted to expand its online offerings and use technology to foster bi-campus connectivity to facilitate student choice and build greater breadth into upper level course offerings. Members discussed tuition increases and the work of continually monitoring tuition at other institutions and making adjustments to UNB's tuition structure as needed. The President noted that the University was mindful of

11. **President's Report** (cont'd)

11.4 **Other** (cont'd)

charging sustainable fees, while balancing the accessibility of its programs for students. He expressed appreciation for the support of the Board through the pandemic.

12. **Board Chair's Report** (verbal)

The Chair noted that an in-person/online meeting was being considered for the Board's December meeting. He acknowledged that there were logistical complications, noting that those who wished to attend from outside the Atlantic Bubble would be required to self-isolate for 14 days prior to the meeting at their own expense. The Secretary's Office would be contacting members to gauge interest and investigate the costs related to this type of meeting. Members discussed the costs and merits of organizing this type of meeting.

The Chair noted that Gordon Pitts, an alumnus, had written a book about 'backwoods' New Brunswick and the University's role in the founding and success of Q1 Labs and Radian 6. The book is called "Unicorn in the Woods"; an invitation to the virtual launch

will be circulated to members.

13. **Consent Agenda Matters (Open Session)**

13.1 **Board Advancement Committee**

13.1.1 **Report of 24 September 2020– open items** (See item 8.1.1)

The Board Advancement Committee Report was received for information.

13.2 **Board Executive Committee**

13.2.1 **Report of 18 June 2020– open items** (see item 8.2.1)

13.2.2 **Report of 16 July 2020 – open items** (see item 8.2.2)

13.2.3 **Report of 9 September 2020 – open items** (see item 8.2.3)

13.2.4 **Report of 2 October 2020 – open items** (see item 8.2.4)

13.2.5 **Report on E-mail Ballots – open** (posted with agenda)

The Board Executive Committee Reports were received for information.

13.4 **Board Nominating & Review Committee**

13.3.1 **Report of 18 June 2020 – open items** (see item 8.5.1)

13.3.2 **Report of 9 September 2020 – open items** (see item 8.5.2)

The Board Nominating & Review Committee Reports were received for approval.

13.4 **Report of the Committee to Nominate the Nominating & Review Committee**
(posted with agenda)

The Report of the Committee to Nominate the Nominating and Review Committee was received for approval.

13. **Consent Agenda Matters (Open Session)** (cont'd)

13.5 **Appointments to the Student Disciplinary Committee for 2019-20** (posted with agenda)

The appointments to the Student Disciplinary Committee were received for approval.

MOTION 13, 1: DeLong/Baxter “That the Board approve matters included in items 13.3 and 13.5 of the consent agenda (open sessions), and received items 13.1, and 13.2, as presented.”

CARRIED

14. **Senates' Business**

P. Hauf and G. MacLean presented Senates' Business for the July, August, September, and October meetings. P. Hauf drew members' attention to the approval of delegation of authority from the Senates to the Academic Sub-Committee of the Bi-Campus COVID-19 Steering Committee and the ratification of the sub-committee's reports. The Undergraduate Scholarships Reports, and the Strategic Discussion about UNB's Learning Future. G. MacLean noted the approval of Certificate and Diploma Candidates, the

Report of the Teaching Excellence and Policy Committee, the Annual Report of the Student Standings and Promotions Committee and the Annual Report of the Student Services Committee.

14.1 **8 July 2020** (posted with agenda)

For Information

JOINT SENATES' ITEMS

14.1.1 President's Report

14.1.2 Report of the School of Graduate Studies

14.1.3 Update on Health Emergency Planning

14.1.4 Report of the Undergraduate Scholarships Committee

14.2 **20 August 2020** (posted with agenda)

JOINT SENATES' ITEMS

14.2.1 President's Report

14.2.2 Update on Health Emergency Planning

14.3 **15 and 16 September 2020** (posted with agenda)

JOINT SENATES' ITEMS

14.3.1 President's Report

14.3.2 Report of the Vice-President (Research)

FREDERICTON SENATE ITEM

14.3.3 Amendments to the 2020 Encaenia Graduation List

SAINT JOHN SENATE ITEM

14.3.4 Amendments to the 2020 Spring Convocation Graduation List

14. **Senates' Business** (cont'd)

14.3 **15 and 16 September 2020** (cont'd)

For Approval

JOINT SENATES' ITEMS

14.3.5 Graduate Matters: Scholarships

14.3.6 Report of the Undergraduate Scholarships Committee

14.3.7 Update on Health Emergency Planning

14.4 **13 and 14 October 2020**

For Information

JOINT SENATES' ITEMS

14.4.1 President's Report

14.4.2 Preliminary Enrolment Reports

14.4.3 Strategic Discussion

14.4.4 Report of the Teaching Excellence and Policy Committee

FREDERICTON SENATE ITEMS

14.4.5 Student Services Committee Annual Report for 2020

- 14.4.6 2020 Annual Report of the Student Standings and Promotions Committee
- 14.4.7 Report of the Academic Planning Committee

For Approval

JOINT SENATES' ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

- 14.4.8 Report of the Undergraduate Scholarships Committee
- 14.4.9 Report of the School of Graduate Studies
- 14.4.10 Update on Response to Health Emergency
- 14.4.11 Report of the Vice-President (Research)

FREDERICTON ITEM FOR APPROVAL

- 14.4.12 Certificate and Diploma Candidates

SAINT JOHN ITEM FOR APPROVAL

- 14.4.13 Certificate and Diploma Candidates

MOTION 15, 1: J. Hoyt/DeLong “That the Board approve Senates’ Business, items 14.3.5-14.3.7, inclusive, and 14.4.8-14.4.13, inclusive, and receive 14.1.1 – 14.3.4, inclusive, and 14.4.1 through 14.4.7, inclusive, as presented.”

CARRIED

Sarah DeVarenne
Secretary