

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

The Board of Governors met at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, 18 February 2021 by videoconference using the Zoom platform.

PRESENT

Mr. B. Baxter	Dr. J. Light-Thompson
Mr. S. Brittain	Mr. C. MacDonald
Mr. W. Carson	Mr. S. MacKenzie
Mr. R. Cuming	Dr. J. MacLauchlan
Ms. K. Cunningham	Dr. G. MacLean
Ms. B. DeLong	Dr. D. MaGee
Ms. S. DeVarenne (Secretary)	Dr. P. Mazerolle
Dr. D. Ganong	Dr. A. McCain
Mr. T. Gribbons	Ms. K. 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	Dr. D. Woolnough
Ms. J. Knox	

being members of the Board

Ms. H. Campbell, Associate Director, Communications  
Ms. M. Dawe, Advisor and Senior Director, Office of the President  
Ms. M. Grant-McGivney, Acting Vice-President (Advancement)  
Mr. L. Henderson, Assistant Vice-President (Recruitment and Strategic Enrolment Management)  
Ms. C. Holtmann, Director, Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research  
Ms. J. Redstone-Lewis, University Secretariat

Regrets:

Dr. J. Andrews	Mayor D. Darling	Dr. D. Stevenson
Dr. T. Chopin	Ms. R. Fairweather	Ms. J. Ward
Dr. R. Currie	Mayor M. O'Brien	

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1. **Announcements**

1.1 **Announcements for 18 February 2021** (posted with agenda)

A) The Chair welcomed members to the meeting, referring them to the written announcements included with the agenda. He welcomed K. Wilson to her first meeting as Acting Vice-President Academic (Fredericton). The President recognized that the Board was gathering on the traditional territory of Wolastoqiyik. L. Hachey noted that J. Andrews and T. Chopin had sent their regrets for the meeting.

2. **Approval of Meeting Agenda and Minutes of Previous Meeting**

2.1 **Summary of Resolutions** (posted with agenda)

2.2 **Minutes of 3 December 2020** (posted with agenda)

The Chair noted that key items of business were a discussion on the Growth Agenda for the University and a presentation on the Sexual Assault Policy Review Task Force.

**MOTION 2, 1:** Baxter/Brittain “That the Board approve the agenda as presented, and the Minutes of 3 December 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)**

There was none.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**OPEN SESSION**

10. **Senates' Business**

P. Hauf and K. Wilson presented Senates' Business for the January meetings. K. Wilson noted the approval of the Graduation List for the Bachelor of Nursing Advanced Standing Program, the re-appointments to the UNBF Research Ethics Board, the Report of the Academic Planning Committee and the grade relief options for Fall Term adopted by the Academic Sub-Committee of the UNB COVID-19 Emergency Response Steering Committee. P. Hauf spoke to the strategic discussion about the Integrated Libraries, the Report of the Academic Planning and Resources Committee and the Undergraduate Scholarships Report. She noted that she and the Saint John Campus Deans were

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

requesting the deferral of approval of the three proposed Engineering programs for the Saint John campus to allow for additional consultation with colleagues in Fredericton. This additional time will also allow for consultation with colleagues at NBCC and for consultation with external reviewers as required for submission to MPHEC. The Chair expressed support for withdrawing the Engineering programs for further consultation.

10.1 **24 and 25 November 2020**For Information**JOINT SENATES' ITEMS**

- 10.1.1 President's Report
- 10.1.2 Report of the Vice-President (Research)
- 10.1.3 Strategic Discussion

**SAINT JOHN SENATE ITEM**

- 10.1.4 Strategic Discussion

For Approval**JOINT SENATES' ITEMS**

- 10.1.5 Report of the Academic Sub-Committee of the UNB Bi-Campus COVID-19 Response Steering Committee
- 10.1.6 Report of the Undergraduate Scholarships Committee
- 10.1.7 Report of the School of Graduate Studies

**FREDERICTON SENATE ITEMS**

- 10.1.8 Report of the Senate Admissions Committee
- 10.1.9 Certificate and Diploma Candidates
- 10.1.10 Graduate List
- 10.1.11 UNBF Research Ethics Board Appointments

**SAINT JOHN SENATE ITEMS**

- 10.1.12 Report of the Saint John Senate Curriculum Committee
- 10.1.13 Report of the Senate Admissions Committee
- 10.1.14 Report of the Academic Planning & Resources Committee

**MOTION 10.1:** MacLauchlan/Tingley "That the Board approve Senates' Business, items 10.1.5 to 10.1.14, inclusive, as amended to defer consideration of the proposed Bachelor of Science in Engineering programs, and receive items 10.1.1 to 10.1.4, inclusive, as presented."

**CARRIED**

11. **Board Chair's Report**

L. Hachey spoke to feedback from members about additional time for strategic discussion, noting that managing issues related to the global pandemic has been the focus of the past few meetings, usurping discussion time. He noted that D. Ganong would be presenting to the Board about its role within the University, how to support the President through implementation of the Strategic Plan, and how to communicate Board priorities to the University community. He spoke to the potential of blended online/in-person meetings in the Spring.

12. **President's Report** (posted with agenda)

P. Mazerolle drew members' attention to the President's Report posted with the agenda. He spoke to an article published by Alex Usher on the Higher Education Strategy Associates blog suggesting that UNB, like Concordia, St. Thomas and a few other universities, was in dire financial straits. Although the blog post noted that UNB, perhaps should not be included in that group. The post was a reaction to Laurentian University's declaration of bankruptcy, reviewing the finances of universities Usher identified as struggling and in danger of a similar future. The President noted that K. Cunningham had performed an analysis of the data used by A. Usher and found that UNB is in a different position than the other universities mentioned in the post. UNB had savings to draw on to mitigate deficits and a pension plan structure that mitigates liability. The President noted that the Ontario provincial government had also made significant cuts to the post-secondary education sector. He noted that Laurentian had also used external funding for capital development for several large projects. In comparison, UNB has very little external debt. He noted that K. Cunningham could provide more information, should members wish to see the detailed analysis.

The President spoke to the Strategic Plan goals, noting that the COVID-19 pandemic has slowed progress. He suggested that the past year be considered as a baseline, allowing systems to be put in place and reporting frameworks to be set up. He spoke to government relations, noting that the four university presidents had written to the Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Labour and Training asking to meet to discuss concerns before the Province releases its budget. He noted that the Nova Scotia government had provided \$25 million in COVID assistance to its universities. The NB presidents were asking for similar funding in addition to clarification on the memorandum of understanding and what the Province was planning for the next year. P. Mazerolle noted that the letter had been leaked to the press, but that the leak did not come from UNB. He noted that he expected constructive discussions with government and that UNB had a positive relationship with the Province.

Members discussed the report. One member applauded the efforts of the NB university presidents seeking similar contributions from government as received by the Nova Scotia universities, noting the financial hardships universities have faced related to COVID-19. Members discussed the Laurentian bankruptcy, noting that its location meant that it faced a similar demographic decline to UNB. T. Gibbons spoke to research into Laurentian's finances, noting that it had a defined benefit pension plan, unlike UNB's share risk plan, and that continued cautious investments from UNB should continue to provide financial sustainability. He suggested that it was an error on A. Usher's part to include UNB in its list of universities in financial distress. A member asked about funding for the Nursing program. The President explained that the University was in discussions with the Province and considering different funding models.

13. **Consent Agenda Matters (Open Session)**13.1 **Board Advancement Committee - Open Session** (see item 7.1)

The report of the Advancement Committee was received for information.

13.2 **Board Executive Committee- Open Session** (see item 7.2)

The report of the Executive Committee was received for information.

13. **Consent Agenda Matters (Open Session)** (cont'd)13.3 **Report of the Board Investments Committee – Open Session** (see item 7.4)

The report of the Board Investments Committee was received for information.

13.4 **Board Nominating and Review Committee - Open Session** (see item 7.5)

The report of the Board Nominating and Review Committee was received for information.

MOTION 13, 1:      Baxter/Cuming      "That the Board receive items 13.1through 13.4, inclusive, as presented."

CARRIED

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

There was none.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

16. **Additional Opportunity for In Camera Discussion** (Not Minuted)

Sarah DeVarenne  
Secretary