

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

The Board of Governors met at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, 20 April 2023 in the Chancellor's Room of the Wu Conference Centre on the Fredericton campus and using the Zoom meeting platform.

PRESENT

Mr. W. Carson	Mr. C. MacDonald
Dr. T. Chopin	Dr. J. MacLauchlan
Ms. R. Connors-Losier	Dr. D. MaGee
Mr. R. Cuming	Dr. P. Mazerolle
Ms. B. DeLong	Dr. A. McCain
Ms. S. DeVarenne (Secretary)	Ms. M. McNeil
Mr. W. Best	Dr. D. Perley
Dr. D. Ganong	Dr. C. Passaris
Mr. T. Gibbons (Vice-Chair)	Mayor K. Rogers
Mr. L. Hachey	Dr. K. Scott-Storey
Dr. P. Hauf	Mr. P. Syroid
Ms. J. Hoyt	Ms. R. Tingley (Chair)
Mr. K. Hoyt	Mr. N. Vibert
Dr. V. Husain	Mr. K. Walsh
Ms. J. Knox	Dr. K. Wilson
Dr. J. Light-Thompson	Dr. D. Woolnough

being members of the Board

Ms. M. Dawe, Chief of Staff, Office of the President
Ms. A. Ferris, Comptroller
Ms. E. Flemming, University Secretariat
Ms. M. Byers, University Secretariat
Ms. J. Morrison, Treasurer
Mr. M. Warren, Director, Resource Planning & Budgeting
Dr. J. Wright, Dean of Arts (Fredericton)

Regrets:

Dr. R. Currie	Mr. D. O'Brien
Mr. D. Debly	Ms. C. Prosser
Ms. R. Fairweather	Mayor D. Reardon
Ms. J. Jollineau	Dr. D. Stevenson
Dr. K. McCain	Ms. J. Ward
M. G. Noseworthy	

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OPEN SESSION

In advance of the formal call to order of the meeting the Chair welcomed the UNB Reds Men's Hockey team who had recently won the 2023 University Cup. The team's coach Gardiner MacDougall has led the team to eight national championships. The Board extended their congratulations and was introduced to members of the team.

1. Announcements for 20 April 2023 (posted with agenda)

A) The Chair welcomed members to the meeting, 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 unsurrendered 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) R. Tingley noted that J. Knox and D. O'Brien had sent their regrets for the meeting.

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

- 2.1 Summary of Resolutions** (posted with agenda)
- 2.2 Minutes of 2 March 2023** (posted with agenda)

The Chair noted that key items of business were the strategic discussion on Financial Matters, including consideration of the endowment spending rate, a briefing on UNB's debt, and discussion of the 2023-24 Consolidated Budget. The agenda for the meeting also included a recommendation from the Committee to Nominate the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board, and a presentation on the Faculty of Arts Academic Plan.

MOTION 2, 1: Woolnough/Scott-Storey "That the Board approve the agenda, as presented, and the Minutes of 2 March 2023, as presented."

CARRIED

R. Tingley reviewed items on the agenda where there could be potential conflicts of interest: she noted that T. Gibbons and J. Hoyt would step out of the meeting during consideration of the Report of the Committee to Nominate the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board.

No other conflicts were identified.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes (Open Session)

There was none.

CLOSED SESSION**OPEN SESSION****10. Board Chair's Report (verbal)**

The Chair reminded Board members that invitations to graduation ceremonies and related events had been circulated earlier that week and encouraged members to participate.

The Board also received the update that the dates for the Board Retreat are narrowing toward Tuesday and Wednesday, August 22 and 23. The new Board Chair and Vice-Chair will be working hard to plan this event and additional details will be circulated as available.

11. Senates' Business

P. Hauf and K. Wilson presented Senates' Business for the March Senate meetings.

11.1 14 and 15 March 2023

Joint Senates' Items for Information

12.1.1 Update on Provost Implementation

12.1.2 Strategic Discussion | Developing an Exceptional First Year Experience

12.1.3 President's Report

12.1.4 Fall 2022 Enrolment Report

Joint Senates' Items for Approval

12.1.5 Report of the Undergraduate Scholarships Committee

12.1.6 Report of the School of Graduate Studies

Fredericton Senate Items for Approval

12.1.7 Report of the Fredericton Admissions Committee

12.1.8 Report of the Senate Curriculum Committee

12.1.9 Report of the Academic Planning Committee

12.1.10 List of Humber College Nursing Graduates

12.1.11 Certificate and Diploma Candidates

Saint John Senate Items for Approval

12.1.12 Report of the Academic Planning & Resources Committee

12.1.13 Report of the Senate Curriculum Committee

12.1.14 Report of the Saint John Admissions Committee

12.1.15 Certificate and Diploma Candidates

11.2 22 and 28 March 2023

Joint Senates' Items for Information

12.2.1 President's Report

Joint Senates' Items for Approval

12.2.2 Report of the Undergraduate Scholarships Committee

Fredericton Senate Items for Approval

12.2.3 Appointments to the Fredericton Research Ethics Board

12.2.4 Report of the Senate Curriculum Committee

Saint John Senate Items for Approval

12.2.5 Report of the Senate Curriculum Committee

P. Hauf noted that on March 14 and 15 there had been additional Senate meetings scheduled to consider elements of the provost implementation with opportunities for Senators to provide feedback to the President.

The regular March meetings were held on March 22 and 28. Both Senates received an update from the Dean of Libraries and Reports from the School of Graduate Studies. In addition, both Senates considered, and approved, a bi-campus framework for academic program development and consultation.

P. Hauf provided additional context on the bi-campus framework noting that about two years ago the Liaison Committee was constituted by the Academic Planning & Resources Committee (AP&R) on the

Saint John campus and the Academic Planning Committee (APC) with a mandate to define academic duplication in a bi-campus, two Senate context. As the Joint Liaison Committee carried out their work, AP&R and APC agreed to an expansion of the mandate to include a framework for consultation for academic planning. The framework has been approved by both Senates and will be implemented with the goal of increasing transparency in the earliest stages of program development and encouraging increased collaboration across departments, faculties, and campuses.

11. **Senates' Business** (con'd)

K. Wilson noted that the Fredericton Senate also considered the Report of the Academic Planning Committee which included a proposal from Geodesy and Geomatics Engineering to incorporate remote learning opportunities throughout their course offerings on a continuing basis. The Committee also considered a new program proposal that will be considered under item 11.3 and the Faculty of Arts strategic plan that will be presented by Dean of Arts Joanne Wright under item 11.4.

MOTION 11, 1: Passaris/Vibert “That the Board approve Senates' Business, items 11.2.4 to 11.2.10, inclusive, as presented, and receive items 11.1.1 to 11.2.3 inclusive as presented.”

CARRIED

11.3 **New Program Proposals**

11.3.1 **BA in Critical Studies in Health** (linked to agenda)

K. Wilson noted that the Fredericton Senate considered a proposal for a BA in Critical Studies in Health. She highlighted widespread bi-campus engagement and consultation was undertaken during program development. The BA in Critical Studies of Health was designed with the intent for students to develop critical thinking skills in health care and health care policy. Housed in the Department of Sociology, this program will consist of social science and humanities courses in health, illness, and health care.

P. Hauf expressed support for the new program and highlighted the collaboration between the Dean of Arts (Fredericton) and the Associate Dean of Integrated Health (Saint John) as the proposal was being developed.

MOTION 11, 2 Hachey/Husain “That the Board approve the program proposal for the BA in Critical Studies in Health, as presented.”

CARRIED

11.4 **Faculty of Arts (F) Academic Plan** (posted with agenda)

K. Wilson introduced Dean of Arts, Dr. Joanne Wright, and spoke to the work undertaken over the past several years by the Faculty to build an academic plan for the Faculty: she expressed the view that the Academic Plan was the result of a collective effort and presented a new way forward. P. Mazerolle spoke to the importance of the Faculty of Arts within the University, describing it as fundamental to the success of UNB.

J. Wright presented a PowerPoint: “Five Years of Transformative Change: Faculty of Arts Academic Plan 2023 – 2028.” She opened her remarks by noting the intensive and highly participatory nature of the academic planning process. Background information was provided regarding the structure of the Faculty which includes ten academic departments.

The guiding principles used during the development of the plan were highlighted for members:

- Working collaboratively to achieve the goals outlined in UNB's Toward 2030 vision;

- Enhancing equity and accessibility to support a diverse cohort of students, faculty and staff;
- Acknowledging and valuing Indigenous perspectives in our activities;
- Considering student experience in all of our decision-making;
- Growing enrolment and enhancing retention at both the undergraduate and graduate levels; and
- Promoting research and enhancing our research impact.

11. Senates' Business (con'd)**11.4 Faculty of Arts (F) Academic Plan (con'd)**

Work on the plan began with the establishment of a steering committee which then worked to reaffirm the vision and mission of the Faculty. Based on a survey which identified subject areas for consideration in the plan, working groups were created. The working groups consulted with the Arts community to form reports. The recommendations of the individual working groups were then merged to inform the Academic Plan that is being presented to the Board.

J. Wright provided additional details with regards to the working groups noting there were five in total each with a specific focus: new program initiatives; student experience; graduate studies; equity, diversity, inclusion and Indigenous perspectives; and faculty structure. She further noted that extensive engagement was constant throughout all parts of development of the plan.

The merging of the working groups' reports resulted in the identification of five key priorities for transformative change:

- i. enhancing student experience;
- ii. strengthening our community and culture;
- iii. innovating curriculum for future students;
- iv. supporting our researchers; and
- v. telling our story.

Each theme includes a number of recommendations: J. Wright encouraged Board members to review each recommendation in the full planning document included in the agenda package and highlighted several examples:

- streamlining degree requirements;
- expansion experiential learning opportunities at undergraduate and graduate levels;
- Support the growth and health of interdisciplinary and interdepartmental programs in specialized areas;
- Find additional ways to enhance and support the inclusion of Indigenous perspectives;
- Support and celebrate the three Arts journals; and
- Improve communication and celebration of success stories, advising, and recruitment initiatives.

Next steps for the Academic Plan were outlined: under the leadership of the incoming Dean the next phase of the plan will focus on implementation of the recommendations of the Plan.

The presentation concluded, and the chair opened the floor to questions and discussions.

J. Wright responded to a Board member by noting that the Department of Psychology is the only department within the Faculty that has programs with accreditation requirements, although all programs are subject to quality assurances reviews through MPHEC.

There was additional discussion on the recommendation to streamline degree requirements. J. Wright

provided context that the Faculty of Arts currently has stringent degree requirements which include two years of diversity requirements: it is expected that during the implementation of the plan there will be an adjustment for one year of diversity requirements which is in line with arts programs across Canada.

In response to a follow-up question, J. Wright commented on the need to improve advising for students in the Faculty of Arts. As a result of the wide range of options available to students, advising in the Faculty

11. Senates' Business (con'd)

11.4 Faculty of Arts (F) Academic Plan (con'd)

is particularly challenging: the implementation plan will work on strategies and tactics for improvement. The President shared his thinking that the University needed to undertake a review student advising at an institutional level to consider improvements centrally as well as within Faculties.

A member asked for additional information regarding the recommendation for increased inclusion of Indigenous perspectives. J. Wright responded that the Indigenous Perspectives Committee has been tasked to find ways to enhance and support Indigenous perspectives within the Faculty and support the efforts of University-wide Indigenous initiatives such as those initiated by the Mi'kmaq Wolastoqey Centre. There would be mandatory courses in the fields of justice and climate and environment which will present these topics from a number of lenses, including an Indigenous perspective. During the implementation process consideration would be given to a mandatory course requirement in Indigenous Studies.

A member noted the support for the inclusion of the environmental studies and the importance of an interdisciplinary approach in this field. J. Wright noted her agreement of the importance of interdisciplinary programs: currently consideration is being given to the development of a minor in the Faculty of Arts.

There was additional discussion on the importance of students being exposed to a number of disciplines in support of graduating well-rounded students. J. Wright noted a number of shared degree programs between the Faculty of Arts and Faculty of Science. She added that there are no plans to remove the science requirements from the Bachelor of Arts degree program and spoke to excitement for the development of additional interdisciplinary programs.

In response to a question, J. Wright noted that the Faculty would welcome alumni support and partnership during the implementation phase of the academic plan, particularly to enhance experiential learning and to provide examples of workforce opportunities for Bachelor of Arts graduates. Further discussion included the potential collaboration between the Faculty of Arts and the Associated Alumni to improve communication and celebration of success stories.

MOTION 11, 3: Mazerolle/Woolnough “That the Board support senior management in pursing the Academic Plan from the Faculty of Arts (Fredericton).”

CARRIED

12. Consent Agenda Matters (Open Session)

12.1 Board Investments Committee – open items (See item 7.2)

12.2 Board Nominating & Review Committee – open items (See item 7.3)

MOTION 12, 1: Passaris/J. Hoyt “That the Board approve matters included in 12.1 and receive item 12.2 in the consent agenda (open session), as presented.”

CARRIED

13. Other Business (Open Session)

There was no other business.

CLOSED SESSION

Sarah DeVarenne
Secretary