

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF GOVERNORS MINUTES

OPEN SESSION

June 5, 2014

The Open Session of the regular Board meeting was held on Thursday, June 5, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room (F303). The following members were present:

C. Dennis, Chair
Dr. T. Bachelder
M. Berubé (teleconference)
T. Curry (videoconference)
G. DuCharme
G. Durnan
J. Evans
C. Miller (videoconference)
B. Windsor
J. Zimbalatti
G. deBruyn (teleconference)
A. McDonald
C. Phillips
M. Shail
Dr. T. Campbell
Dr. J Kovacs
Dr. J. Scott
Dr. R. Vernescu (videoconference)
Y. Benoit
C. Burke
Dr. M. DeGagné, President & Vice-Chancellor
Dr. H. d'Entremont, Vice-President Academic & Research
R. Onley, Vice-President Finance and Administration
B. Keech, Vice-President Operations
S. Robineau, Board Secretary

Board Officers:

Guests:

Dr. S. Rich, Dr. C. Richardson, L. McLaren, B. Martin, J. Graham

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Dr. M. Couchie, R. De Bernardi, D. Forget, S. Portelli,
Dr. J. Dellandrea

WELCOME / SPECIAL GUESTS/ INTRODUCTIONS

The Board Chair extended a warm welcome to all Board members and acknowledged the senior administrators in attendance. He recognized Laurie McLaren's return to the university and welcomed her to the June Board meeting.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Resolution 2014-06-01: Moved by B. Windsor, seconded by D. T. Campbell that the minutes of the Open Session of the annual meeting of the Board of Governors held on May 1, 2014 be adopted as circulated.

Carried

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was sent to the Board from Dr. Saari, on behalf of his four brothers and one sister, expressing their gratitude for the donation made to Finlandia Village in tribute of his father.

A thank you card was received from former Board Chair Herb Brown, his son Marty, and his daughter-in-law Helena, in appreciation to the Board, faculty, staff and students for the expression of sympathy and donation made in memory of Mrs. Geetie Brown.

PRESENTATION

There was no presentation.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Board Chair extended his sincere thanks to all Board members for their commitment and service during the 2013-2014 academic year. He expressed his gratitude to Vice-Chair, Greg DuCharme and Vice-Chair Pro Tem, Marianne Berubé for their support throughout the past year.

The Board Chair noted that several constituency representatives would be returning next year including Donna Forget, Aboriginal Council on Education representative; Margarida Shail, non-academic representative; Al McDonald, Mayoral representative; and Drs. John Kovacs and Jeff Scott, faculty representatives. He stated, however, that the June Board meeting is always nostalgic because several members of the Board will complete their term at the end of the month. Mr. Dennis conveyed a special thank you to Drs. Roxanna Vernescu and Terry Campbell, faculty representatives, Genevieve deBruyn, Alumni representative and Casey Phillips, non-academic representative for their service to the Board of Governors.

The Board Chair recognized the excellent contribution given by external member, Greg DuCharme, who has been a Board member since April 2011. Mr. DuCharme served two years as Board Vice-Chair and was also Chair of the Advancement Committee for two years. For three years, he served on the Audit & Finance Committee, and was Chair in the final year. He also served as a Board representative on Senate. Mr. DuCharme will conclude his term on the Board on June 30, 2014. On behalf of the Board, Mr. Dennis commended Greg for his dedication of service and commitment to Nipissing University.

Mr. Dennis also informed Board members that the Chancellor's term would conclude at the end of June. Dr. Jon Dellandrea has been the titular head of Nipissing University since 2010. He has been an active member of the Board of Governors attending, and participating at, Board and Executive Committee meetings. The Chancellor has officiated at two President's installation ceremonies and served with three NU Presidents. The Board Chair announced, on behalf of the Board, sincere gratitude and thanks to Dr. Dellandrea for his commitment of service to the Board and his loyalty to Nipissing University's growth and future.

The Board Chair asked members to notify the Board Secretary of any changes to their contact information.

Board members were reminded to obtain a copy of the Board Bulletin to be informed of meetings and events that will occur in June and during the summer.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

The President strongly encouraged Board members to attend Convocation and show support for the graduates. A schedule of the Convocation ceremonies was made available at the back table. Board members were asked to confirm their attendance with the Board Secretary.

Dr. DeGagné echoed the sentiments of the Board Chair in acknowledging the volunteerism and contributions made by Board members. He stated that their true service to the community working weeknights, evenings and weekends was highly valued and appreciated.

The President indicated that discussions have been ongoing for several months with regard to redefining the roles of the senior administration. He therefore announced a realignment of the existing roles of the Vice-Presidents. He informed Board members that an announcement would be made to the NU community on June 6. The role of Provost will be added to the Vice-President Academic and Research to incorporate a leadership responsibility with regard to budgeting and planning. The President stated that Nipissing's adoption of this change should support our academic mission better. Dr. d'Entremont will assume a more active role in the budget process as chair of the committee. Additionally, he will assume the role of Acting President in Dr. DeGagné's absence. Given our current financial challenges, the President explained that the Vice-President Finance & Administration will change roles to incorporate more efforts on outreach, marketing, advancement and government relations, which are now priorities given current fiscal realities. Richard Onley's new title will be Vice-President Finance and External.

Dr. DeGagné informed Board members of the visit of COU President, Bonnie Patterson, to Nipissing University on May 15, 2014. He stated that much of what has occurred in the Ontario system is being experienced at Nipissing University as well. NU is not alone in facing the current challenges and pressures.

The President stated that he had participated in a COU teleconference on May 28 with the executive heads of Trent, Lakehead and Brock universities, for the purpose of discussing teacher education and possible advocacy. Nipissing's Provost will meet at Brock University in the coming weeks to strategize the effects of the budget cuts to education.

Dr. DeGagné commented briefly on the prestigious Administrative Sciences Association of Canada Conference held in Huntsville May 10-13 and hosted by Nipissing University's School of Business. He had the opportunity to provide remarks. The theme for the 2014 conference was *Sustainability and Innovation in Work and Leisure*. The event featured a panel discussed regarding the development of the rich Ring of Fire resource deposits.

The President hosted the new members of NUSU Executive at a gathering with the Vice-Presidents on May 27th to discuss common issues.

VICE-PRESIDENTS' REMARKS

The VPAR informed Board members that the program prioritization exercise was well underway. At a meeting held last week with the Chairs and program coordinators, it was decided to delay completion of the first phase for a few months to allow more time to prepare the documentation and conduct further analysis. Dr. d'Entremont stated that the project will still finish on time in the Fall. The VPAR announced, with sorrow, the recent and sudden passing of Dr. Anne Clendinning. A scholarship fund has been established in her name.

DEANS' REMARKS

There were no remarks from the Deans.

QUESTION PERIOD

In response to an inquiry, the President confirmed that a donation to the Capitol Centre had been re-established. As a follow-up question to the reference made in the Plant & Property Committee minutes regarding future plans for fundraising for the building that houses the Fine Arts department, it was noted that the VPAR/Provost and VP Finance & External will be examining, over the summer, a needs analysis for consideration by the Advancement Committee.

Dr. d'Entremont provided further explanation and definition regarding the role of Provost. He stated that 17 other universities have a Provost. Board members were informed that there are no financial ramifications to introducing a Provost at NU.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The Board Chair asked the President to speak about the Strategic Plan. Dr. DeGagné stated that NU has an existing strategic plan, but the new version is a much different piece in terms of its format. It examines three principal activities and includes reformed Vision, Mission and Values statements. The strategic planning process began with a meeting in Brantford 14 months ago with one reiteration in the Fall, followed by good feedback received as a result of the Board Retreat. Faculty were consulted through the Academic Senate and staff members also had opportunities for input. The President noted that strategic plans usually span five years; however, as a living document, the plan should be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that the institution is on track. Dr. DeGagné outlined the changes that had been made since Board members last viewed the document; these included additions, on a more substantive basis, of some concepts that were missing. New language was employed to reframe and strengthen the descriptions of the three main priorities of the strategic plan. The Mission statement remains the same apart from the addition of Northern communities, Aboriginal and international as areas of particular focus. One value, Integritas, was chosen to incorporate all the values for which Nipissing stands.

Interestingly, it was noted that as feedback was received, there was little direct contradiction in the volume of changes requested for the strategic plan. The President stated that every concept received had been integrated. Thus, Nipissing University has a very robust document and a high-level strategic plan that is reflective of the community as well as outside partners. The broad, unifying strategic plan will now be used as a guide for departments to develop their own individual plans with specific goals and objectives. Dr. DeGagné stated that the plan is only as effective as the number of times it is taken down from the shelf. The plan will be referred to as presentations are made to the Board. It will be a useful tool to explain to parents and students what Nipissing has to offer; what our directions are for the future and how we differentiate ourselves from other universities.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

The Board Chair presented two resolutions from the report dated May 27, 2014.

Resolution 2014-06-02: Moved by C. Dennis, seconded by G. Durnan that the Board of Governors approve the Nipissing University Strategic Plan.

Carried

Resolution 2014-05-03: Moved by C. Dennis, seconded by M. Shail that the Board of Governors accept the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the Annual Committee Reports for the 2013-2014 academic year be received.

Carried

Audit & Finance Committee

Committee Chair, Greg DuCharme, outlined the diligent work done by committee members over the course of the year. He stated that there is an \$11.8 million deficit projected for the budget. Mr. DuCharme assured the Board of three important points: (i) the university understands the seriousness of the budget; (ii) the reserves we have will see us through this year and (iii) the university is engaged in a number of activities that will help us turn the corner. Mr. Onley explained the system-wide challenges including declining, overall demographics in Ontario; fewer applications than last year; caps on tuition; and increased expenses. He also outlined what is happening to Nipissing University, specifically. Board members were provided with a high level review of the full budget package. Dr. d'Entremont explained various long-term scenarios and identified different options for action including what the results would be in terms of revenue generated. These represent key levers that Nipissing University can consider and the type of thinking to be done on a yearly basis.

The students presented a verbal statement against the budget and also voted against it.

The following resolutions were presented:

Resolution 2014-05-04: Moved by G. DuCharme, seconded by Dr. T. Bachelder that the Board of Governors accept the recommendation of the Audit & Finance Committee that the 2014-2015 operating budget be approved.
2 Abstentions: Yannick Benoit and Christopher Burke
Carried

Resolution 2014-05-05: Moved by G. DuCharme, seconded by Y. Benoit that the Board of Governors accept the recommendation of the Audit & Finance Committee that the 2014-2015 Ancillary Budget be approved as presented.
Carried

Plant and Property Committee

Plant & Property Chair, Jim Evans, informed Board members that the second phase of the renovation of the former Library space is now complete. The Centre for Physical Health and Education is essentially complete apart from some landscaping to be done. Preliminary designs for renovating the building on Jane Street have been completed and consultations with faculty have begun, but the project is on hold for the time being. The Student Centre design is underway and the students are negotiating with the university to lease a parcel of the Larocque property. An archaeological study has commenced to ensure that the land on which the proposed property will be built does not have any valuable artifacts. Mr. Evans stated that a new roof was recently installed on the house property in Brantford. He also reported that Nipissing University, in conjunction with Canadore, is implementing a new maintenance software program to document time utilization on projects.

University Governance Committee

Committee Chair, Dr. Trevor Bachelder, presented the six resolutions from the meeting held on May 27, 2014.

Resolution 2014-05-06: Moved by Dr. T. Bachelder, seconded by B. Windsor that the Board of Governors accept the recommendation of the University Governance Committee that the slate of nominations for the 2014-2015 Committee Structure be approved as circulated.

Carried

Resolution 2014-05-07: Moved by Dr. T. Bachelder, seconded by B. Windsor that the Board of Governors accept the recommendation of the University Governance Committee that the slate of nominations for the 2014-2015 Board Representatives on Other Committees be approved as circulated.

Carried

Resolution 2014-06-08: Moved by Dr. T. Bachelder, seconded by B. Windsor that the Board of Governors accept the recommendation of the University Governance Committee that the revisions to Policy 3.1.2012.B. Search/Appointment/Reappointment of Senior Academic Administrative Officers be approved as amended.

Carried

Resolution 2014-06-09: Moved by Dr. T. Bachelder, seconded by G. Durnan that the Board of Governors accept the recommendation of the University Governance Committee that Policy 1.2.2013.B Email Polling and Electronic Voting be approved as amended.

Carried

Resolution 2014-06-10: Moved by Dr. T. Bachelder, seconded by G. Durnan that the Board of Governors accept the recommendation of the University Governance Committee that Policy 1.1.2013.B Policy on Political Activities and Events be approved as amended.

Carried

Resolution 2014-06-11: Moved by D. T. Bachelder, seconded by Dr. J. Kovacs that the Board of Governors accept the recommendation of the University Governance Committee to revise the Board Bylaws, May 2014, Section VIII. Elected Officers of the Board, #5 Vice-Chair Pro Tem (f) to state: "Be given signing authority on behalf of the Chair, in the absence of the Chair **and Vice-Chair.**"

Carried

BOARD REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER COMMITTEES

Academic Senate

Janet Zimbalatti advised Board members that there had been two Senate meetings since the Board last met in May. She announced that Dr. Matti Saari would be one of the new Senate representatives on the Board. Ms. Zimbalatti stated that it was good that the Board had approved the new political procedures policy because it has been a heated topic of debate at Senate. She reported that there had been many questions about the genesis of the budget deficit and how faculty members may become involved in recruiting. The idea of a university-wide Town Hall meeting was suggested so that people can gain a better understanding of the budget. Ms. Zimbalatti noted that there were expressions of determination among senators to support the strategic plan moving forward.

Alumni Advisory Board

Genevieve deBruyn announced that the Alumni Advisory Board would be pleased to welcome new Alumni at the various Convocation ceremonies scheduled June 11-13, 2014.

Brantford

Ms. Miller stated that students and faculty had returned home safely from their studies in Italy and Kenya. She stated that she was looking forward to welcoming Board and staff members from the main campus to Brantford for the joint WLU/Nipissing Brantford Convocation ceremony on June 17th.

Bracebridge

Mr. Durnan stated that \$29,000 had been raised for the Board of Governors Student Emergency Fund. Casey Phillips provided a couple of examples showing how these monies had impacted students' lives. He noted that in both cases, the students probably would not have been able to continue university studies had there not been monies made available to them. The Board Chair thanked all Board members who had contributed to the fund. Mr. Phillips announced that the students had also made contributions to a student development fund and he expressed his gratitude to NUSU for their initiatives on behalf of the student body.

Dr. Roxana Vernescu spoke about part-time faculty initiatives including a radio show where students are actively recruited to be part of a radio broadcasting team. Faculty and students are engaged in several outreach projects to pay it forward and make an impact on the community. One example is a community garden that provides learning opportunities and good food practices for the participants.

Nipissing University Student Union

Yannick Benoit explained that permits for the new Student Centre are in the process of being vetted and signed. The goal to getting the property rezoned is well underway with the hope that some building construction may commence in early Fall. NUSU is near the close of finishing negotiations for a short-term occupation agreement with the college regarding the Wall. Canadore College plans to take over half the space of the Student Centre. Yannick informed Board members that NUSU's Orientation would occur in July.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Jeff Scott quoted an excerpt from the University Governance Committee report dated May 2, 2014 in reference to Board members' attendance at other committees. He expressed his opinion that the Board should be welcoming in allowing other members to attend as observers since this would help to create transparency within the Board.

Dr. Bachelder stated that the Board Bylaws, as they currently stand, allow visitors at Board meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

Resolution 2014-06-12: Moved by B. Windsor, seconded by Y. Benoit that the Open Session of the Board of Governors' regular meeting now adjourn: 7:50 p.m.
Carried

Secretary

Board Chair