

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MINUTES
OPEN SESSION

May 7, 2015

The Open Session of the regular Board meeting was held on Thursday, May 7, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room (F303).

The following members were present:

T. Bachelder
M. Berubé (vice-chair)
T. Curry (skype)
G. Durnan
J. Evans
D. Forget
T. Palangio
S. Portelli (videoconference)
B. Windsor
J. Zimbalatti
M. Webster
S. Minor
M. Shail
G. Black
J. Kovacs
M. Saari
J. Scott
M. Byblow
I. Hall
D. Shogren
M. DeGagné, President & Vice-Chancellor

Board Officers: H. d'Entremont, Provost Vice-President Academic & Research
C. Jenkins, University Secretary

Student Observers: J. Andrews, A. Deugo

Recording Secretary: S. Landriault

Guests: C. Cheng, H. Earl, M. Jones, S. Rich, C. Richardson, L. Shea, C. Sutton,
M. Tuncali

Absent with Regrets: M. Couchie, C. Dennis (chair), B. Keech, C. Miller

In the absence of the Chair, Marianne Berubé chaired the meeting.

WELCOME / SPECIAL GUESTS/ INTRODUCTIONS

The Board chair welcomed the new Executive members of the Nipissing University Student Union for the 2015-16 year. They are Ian Hall, President; Madison Byblow, Vice-President, External; Jordan Andrews, Vice-President, Internal; and Andrew Deugo, Vice-President, Student-Life.

Guests also included Dr. Hilary Earl from NUFA and the men's and women's varsity basketball coaches, Chris Cheng and Marg Jones.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Resolution 2015-05-01: Moved by J. Zimbalatti, seconded by D. Shogren that the minutes of the Open Session of the meeting of the Board of Governors held on February 5, 2015 be adopted as circulated.
CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

Included in the agenda package was a letter jointly submitted by the NUSU Board of Directors and the President of NUFA. In response to the question on how the University is replying to it, the President indicated that he would send a letter acknowledging receipt of it.

Also received were cards of thanks from the families of the late Dr. David Liddle and Dr. Herb Brown.

PRESENTATION

The Chair introduced men's and women's varsity basketball coaches, Chris Cheng and Marg Jones. The coaches provided an overview of the 2014-15 Laker's Basketball season. Both coaches stressed that part of their mandate was to recruit new student athletes. The recruiting process began last fall/winter.

From the women's side, 14 new athletes have accepted their offers to Nipissing University. Ms. Jones noted that this is a combination of new students coming in from high school and five transfers from other post-secondary institutions.

Mr. Cheng commented that despite the poor results on the men's side, the Lakers were awarded two OUA Rookie All-Stars this past year, the only university to have two awarded. Recruitment is still on-going and proving to be successful. He added that everyone is welcome to stop by the gym and watch the training from Monday to Thursday.

Both coaches commented that the athletes are involved in several community engagement initiatives and the branding of "Lakers Sports Camps." They wish to ensure that the athletes are good students and citizens. Some of the initiatives they are involved in are the basketball academies, Lakers Sports Days, multisport summer camps, etc. Another initiative was the development of a non-academic student-athlete discipline panel that was established this past academic year. The purpose is to enforce the athlete code of conduct. Student-athletes are part of this panel.

The President thanked the coaches for their commitment and added that varsity sports are an important part of the university experience. The coaches provided leadership and encouraged participation in our community.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Marianne Berubé advised members that there were several items on the back table for pick up. Among them was a list of convocation dates and times. She encouraged Board members to participate in one or more of the ceremonies when possible. Interested members should contact the Board Secretary or Lisa Shea.

She announced that Ms. Crystal Pigeau will be the new non-academic representative (administration). Crystal will begin her two-year term July 1, 2015. She will be replacing Margarida Shail.

Members were also asked to advise the Board Secretary of any changes to their contact information so that résumés for the Board binders can be prepared.

Committee chairs were reminded to have their annual reports submitted to the Board Secretary by Friday, May 22 and to submit their feedback for the President's review no later than Tuesday, May 12.

Ms. Berubé also provided some reflections on her attendance at the recent Canadian University Boards' Association (CUBA) meeting in Montréal. She noted the interesting speakers and learned that all universities across the country are facing challenging times. She came away from the conference with some good ideas for the Board Retreat and what the Board can do to be more effective.

CHANCELLOR'S REMARKS

None available.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

The President advised that he attended a Council of Ontario (COU) meeting recently held at Wilfrid Laurier University. Time was spent discussing money and the funding formula review. The process and policy rationale for the review was discussed including the broad consultation that the government will undertake. The full \$3.5B in operating grants is within the scope of the review while tuition, pensions and collective bargaining are not. It will likely be more of a realignment of what currently exists and a quest for a fairer plan.

The President also reported on the recent Association of Universities and Colleges in Canada (AUCC) meeting held in Halifax. The theme was 'Navigating the future.' This was in anticipation of a 2015 federal election and in the context of global trends in higher education. One of the small group sessions included a very interesting discussion on promoting the value of a liberal arts education.

Having taught two half courses this past academic year with another colleague, the President talked about the challenges that this opportunity provided. This experience gave him an appreciation of the work that faculty do and gave accolades to them for their efforts.

The March Open House event was a success and attracted the highest number of attendees ever. A group of international students spoke at a recent University Management Group meeting and provided comments on their Nipissing experience. The Athletics banquet held on April 2 attracted over 220 student athletes.

VICE-PRESIDENTS' REMARKS

Provost Vice-President Academic and Research

The Provost advised that beginning July 1, all four Canada Research Chairs (CRC) positions will have been filled. Dr. April James has been renewed and it was recently announced that Dr. Mark Bruner from the Schulich School of Education has been awarded a CRC in Youth Development through Sport and Physical Activity. Of the two other CRC's, one will be in history and the other in sociology.

In response to a question about what is a CRC, the Provost provided brief historical context about this federal government initiative. He explained that there are two types of CRCs, Tier 1 (\$200 000 per year) and Tier 2 (\$100 000 per year). CRC candidates receive teaching release (50%) in order to concentrate on research.

The Provost also advised Board members that Nipissing is one of the fastest growing institutions in research grants. Since 2012-13, Nipissing has gone from \$487K to \$806K in research grants.

The Provost was pleased to report that the agreement with Cape Breton University regarding the Purdy Crawford Chair in Aboriginal Business Studies will be formally announced shortly. He reminded Board members that Nipissing will be hosting the program in Ontario. The purpose of the project is to attract more Aboriginal students into business studies.

The budget process for 2015-16 is ongoing and will be brought forward to the May 19 Audit and Finance committee meeting. It will be presented at the May 29 Senate meeting for information and the June 4 Board meeting.

DEANS' REMARKS

Dean of the Schulich School of Education (interim)

Dr. Richardson indicated that this will be a momentous occasion at the education convocations this year as it will be the final group graduating from the one-year Bachelor of Education program. She acknowledged the work the faculty has given in this difficult year.

Dr. Richardson also announced that \$15K was received from the Ministry of Education for a project involving two local school boards and will focus on Associate Teachers and their importance to the Bachelor of Education programming. The proposal for funding came from constituent Board member Sandra Minor and interim Associate Dean Dr. Barb Olmsted.

The Dean noted that the teacher strike situation is being closely monitored as Nipissing still has students on placement. She also reported that some student teachers were involved in international placements in Ecuador, Nicaragua and Italy.

Dean of Arts and Science (interim)

Dr. Tuncali thanked his faculty for their work in what has been a challenging year. He is delighted to be participating in convocation in the Dean's role for the first time. He is looking forward to the new academic year, especially with the increase in acceptances. Over 600 courses will be offered which includes 18 majors and 21 minors.

QUESTION PERIOD

There was a question regarding the status of the search for a Chancellor. The Board Chair responded by stating that the Executive Committee received a verbal report outlining a summary of a recent meeting that had been held. A new slate of names was brought forward. The Committee narrowed the list to four names. The President will contact these individuals and report back to the Committee on progress. He also outlined a discussion that occurred during the selection committee meeting regarding the type of Chancellor the university was looking for.

Janet Zimbalatti indicated that she would like to hear further information on the value of liberal arts education as well as using business and entrepreneurship as a marketing tool. The President responded that this is a reaction to increasing demands from students and parents that education leads in a 'straight line' to a job. Liberal arts encourage students to develop inquiry, research and a variety of social skills such as working collectively with others. The President also spoke about the success of ENACTUS with their impressive group of speakers.

Trevor Bachelder asked to revisit the issue of international students. He reminded everyone that at the last Fall's retreat, this was discussed as a potential area of growth. He asked if international tuition fees are competitive. The Provost advised that we are reviewing what other universities are charging as well as graduate fees as our fees are higher than others. He also noted that we may have to focus on countries in addition to China.

ENROLMENT UPDATE

The Provost provided an update of enrolment numbers. He was pleased to report that acceptances from direct entry high school students (101's) are up 33% from the same time as last year. He reminded members that the university had projected a small increase in students and once all the acceptances are finally in, the results could be even higher. He attributed these encouraging numbers to the great job the recruiters have done and the revised concurrent BA/BSc/BE program. Dr. Richardson added that the structure of the concurrent program was changed so that students would have a dual intake into any undergraduate program (except nursing) and education.

In response to a question regarding a cut in programs and faculty, the President indicated that the non-renewal of the 22 LTA positions has been previously explained on numerous occasions, and the net impact of these cuts will be much less than 22 positions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

Marianne Berubé announced that there had been three meetings held since the February Board meeting. She indicated that the board is pleased with the fact that the auditors have started their review. The PriceWaterhouseCooper interim report should be available in June .

There was one resolution presented from the March 24, 2015 meeting and that was to approve the Solicitor of Record for the University.

Resolution 2015-05-02: Moved by D. Forget, seconded by D. Shogren that the Board of Governors accepts the recommendation of the Executive Committee that Gord Prisco from the firm of Valin and Partners be reappointed as Solicitor of Record for Nipissing University for 2015-16.
CARRIED

Audit and Finance Committee

There also had been three Audit and Finance Committee meetings since February. Marianne Berubé extended praise to Cheryl Sutton and her team for their work. She was pleased that the year end is looking more favourable than earlier predicted. Early indications are that the new budget will be half of what the deficit was last year. She added that very difficult decisions had to be made but the university must continue to move forward.

There were several resolutions that were presented.

Resolution 2015-05-03: Moved by T. Bachelder, seconded by J. Evans that the Board of Governors accepts the recommendation of the Audit and Finance Committee that the Toronto Dominion Bank Operating Loan (available credit limit) be increased from one million dollars (\$1,000,000) to five million dollars (\$5,000,000).
CARRIED

Resolution 2015-05-04: Moved by I. Hall, seconded by M. Shail that the Board of Governors accepts the recommendation of the Audit and Finance Committee that the "Protocol Agreement Statement and Guidelines for Compulsory Ancillary Fees" be accepted as presented.
CARRIED

Resolution 2015-05-05: Moved by J. Zimbalatti, seconded by G. Durnan that the Board of Governors accepts the recommendation of the Audit and Finance Committee that the Nipissing University Ancillary Fees be accepted as presented.
CARRIED

Resolution 2015-05-06: Moved by I. Hall, seconded by M. Saari that the Board of Governors accepts the recommendation of the Audit and Finance Committee that the Nipissing University Student Ancillary Fees be accepted as presented.
CARRIED

Resolution 2015-05-07: Moved by J. Zimbalatti, seconded by T. Palangio that the Board of Governors accepts the recommendation of the Audit and Finance Committee that the domestic tuition rates for 2015-16 be accepted as presented.
CARRIED
(Madison Byblow - opposed)
(Donna Forget - opposed)
(Ian Hall - opposed)
(Matti Saari - opposed)

Plant and Property Committee

There was no report.

University Governance Committee

This committee has met twice since February. Trevor Bachelder advised the Board that there were two ongoing issues. The first is the comprehensive review of the Board Bylaws on which the Governance committee is still working. The other main issue is the challenge of filling Board vacancies. There will be a new candidate brought forward for consideration at the June meeting. However in the meantime, Brian Windsor has advised he will be leaving the Board effective June 30 as he has been transferred out of the city. It was determined that the four resolutions for reappointments will be heard under the Closed Session portion of the meeting.

Advancement Committee

There was no report from the Advancement Committee as it is currently being restructured. However, the Chair, Gord Durnan, commented that he was looking forward to the time when the university will be undertaking a capital campaign.

BOARD REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER COMMITTEES

Academic Senate

The report was included with the agenda. The Board representative to Senate, Janet Zimbalatti did comment on the types of questions that were heard at Senate. She indicated that often the same question is asked several times and the President and Provost always provide informative and courteous responses.

Senate Standing and Ad Hoc Committees

No reports.

Alumni Advisory Board

Mark Webster advised that the Alumni Advisory Board has been working with Lisa Shea and her team on an indoor athletic facility. User groups have been contacted and letters of intent have been signed. He added that they are working with the University on this initiative and to contact him directly if anyone has any questions.

The Aboriginal Council on Education

Donna Forget indicated there was nothing to report. She did express concern about the challenges that the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives (OAI) has recently had. The President agreed that the University needs to reaffirm its commitment to OAI and thanked Donna for her hard work these past two years in addressing difficult membership issues.

Brantford Regional Campus

No report

Muskoka Regional Campus

Gord Durnan advised that the Muskoka campus is launching Ignite Canada in the hopes of raising funds for a 10 foot granite memorial monument in a tribute to all women in Canada who have experience violence. He also added that he and the President will be attending the Smart and Caring Muskoka luncheon in Huntsville. This will be an opportunity to celebrate philanthropy and leadership among young people. Students from Grade 3 and up will be in attendance, including two Nipissing Muskoka students fundraising for Ignite Canada.

Nipissing University Student Union

Ian Hall advised that NUSU is working on transitioning to the new executive as well as preparing for Shinerama and Frosh week. They are also busy working on a comprehensive review of NUSU's policies and procedures and a more transparent budget process.

In response to a request for an update on the Student Centre, the NUSU president reported that the architects are preparing a letter which they are reviewing with their legal counsel. Once finalized, they will be sending it to their trustee. They are also engaging in follow-up meetings with Operations and Facilities at Nipissing to coordinate efforts.

OTHER BUSINESS

There were two items requiring resolutions. The first was revisions to the Terms of Reference for the Research Ethics Board. The revisions were sent to the Ethics Secretariat for review. They made a couple of minor revisions and returned it to the Research Ethics Board.

Resolution 2015-05-08: Moved by T. Bachelder, seconded by T. Palangio that the Board of Governors approve the revisions to the Terms of Reference for the Research Ethics Board as outlined.
CARRIED

The second item was to approve the audited Nipissing University Pension Plan Financial statements. Members were reminded that the university pension plan is self-directed.

Resolution 2015-05-09: Moved by M. Shail, seconded by M. Webster that the Board of Governors approve the Nipissing University Pension Plan Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2014.
CARRIED

The Open Session of the Board of Governors meeting was adjourned at: 7:25 p.m.

 Secretary

 Board Chair