



THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF GOVERNORS PUBLIC MEETING

Friday, December 01, 2023

1:30 PM

The Terrace, Campus Activity Centre, 2nd Floor

MINUTES

Board members Present:

Marilyn McLean (Chair), Shariyer Chowdhury, Tracy Christianson, Hee-Young Chung, Hasnat Dewan, Heather Fader, Brett Fairbairn, Jim Hamilton, Jasmine Haskell, Nathan Matthew, Anshuman Walia

Regrets: David Hallinan

Absent: Katy Gottfriedson-Jasper, Jimmy Lulua

Executive and Others Present:

Gillian Balfour (Provost and Vice-President Academic), Baihua Chadwick (Vice-President International), Brian Daly (Vice-President University Relations), Matt Milovick (Vice-President Administration and Finance), Shannon Wagner (Vice-President Research), Scott Blackford (Acting General Counsel), Robert Koopmans (Marketing and Communication), Charlene Myers (Manager, University Governance), Lynda Worth (University Governance Coordinator)

1. CALL TO ORDER

The chair, M. McLean called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The chair delivered the territorial acknowledgment. She also made a statement on the tragic accident involving TRU students.

3. RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE — Marilyn McLean

- a. Veterinary Technology Canadian Veterinary Medical Association accreditation
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Heather Shannon, Department Chair, accepted a framed certificate from the board chair and then said a few words.

4. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The chair proposed two amendments to the agenda, namely to remove agenda items 12.c. to 12.g. (Senate Report items that had been pending approval by senate) and 13.a.iv. (report titled “Re: Impact of the Elimination of Four Programs: Faculty of Arts”), which had been circulated subsequent to the agenda package.

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the agenda be adopted as amended.*

5. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES**

Governor J. Haskell declared a conflict regarding agenda item 12.a. (Research Centre Proposal: Institute for Wildfire Science, Adaptation, and Resiliency).

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. Minutes of September 29, 2023

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the public board meeting of September 29, 2023 be approved as circulated.*

7. **BOARD CHAIR’S REPORT**

M. McLean delivered the board chair’s report.

- a. Resignation of Governor Kathleen Kendall

M. McLean notified governors of K. Kendall’s resignation and expressed appreciation for her service on the board. She also thanked governors T. Christianson and J. Haskell for their service, as their terms on the board were ending.

- b. Change of Board meeting date: June 21, 2024 moved to June 14, 2024

M. McLean asked governors to note the change of date for the June senate meeting.

8. REPORT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

In the absence of D. Hallinan, Finance Committee chair, M. McLean presented the committee's report.

- a. 2023-24 Second Quarter Financial Results and Forecast
- b. Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (Government) Second Quarter Forecast

Y. Laflamme presented the second quarter results for agenda items a. and b. together, for information.

- c. 2024-25 Budget Context presentation

G. Balfour and M. Milovick presented the budget context. Discussion ensued.

- d. 2024-2025 Domestic Tuition and Other Fees

G. Balfour served notice of motion for domestic tuition and fees, to come back to the February board meeting for consideration. Questions and answers ensued.

- e. 2024-2025 International Tuition and Other Fees

G. Balfour also served notice of motion for international tuition and other fees, also to be considered by the board at the February board meeting. Discussion ensued.

9. REPORT FROM THE AUDIT COMMITTEE — Hee-Young Chung

The report from the Audit Committee was presented by the committee's chair, H. Chung.

- a. BRD 27-0 Fraud Risk Management Policy

The chair invited S. Blackford to speak to this agenda item. S. Blackford noted the policy would be posted for notice of motion.

[Link to background information](#) (*policy subsequently revised, and also reviewed by the Audit Committee*)

10. REPORT FROM THE GOVERNANCE AND HR COMMITTEE

J. Hamilton, chair of the Governance and Human Resources Committee, delivered the committee's report.

a. Communications Strategy

J. Hamilton reported that the committee had reviewed the updated Communications Strategy and recommended approval by the board.

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the board approve the communications strategy as circulated.*

11. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

a. President's Report to the Board

President Fairbairn spoke to some matters in his written report, a copy of which had been circulated with the agenda package.

b. President's Reports to Senate

President's Reports to Senate for the following months were circulated with the agenda package, for information:

- i. September 2023
- ii. October 2023
- iii. November 2023

12. SENATE REPORT

B. Fairbairn, Chair of Senate, delivered the report from senate.

a. Research Centre Proposal: Institute for Wildfire Science, Adaptation, and Resiliency

B. Fairbairn noted that the board had already heard a great deal about the Institute, which was a very important development for TRU.

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the board approve the Research Centre Proposal: Institute for Wildfire Science, Adaptation, and Resiliency.*

b. Senate advice regarding Visual Arts programming under Policy BRD 08-4

B. Fairbairn read some motions approved at the senate meeting on November 27 and indicated that the effect of those motions was such that senate would not provide advice to the board until the terms outlined in them were met.

M. McLean read a statement on the board's intention to consider the elimination of Visual Arts programming.

B. Fairbairn stated that, given that the board was planning to move towards considering the elimination of Visual Arts programming, he wanted to draw to the board's attention several documents the board may wish to review prior to that consideration:

- Policy BRD 08-4 Program Reductions and Eliminations (on which B. Fairbairn commented)
- Memorandum from Dean McCutcheon dated October 20, 2023 (to which G. Balfour spoke)
- Memorandum to senate (and subsequent correction) from Brett Fairbairn, Chair of Senate, dated November 10, 2023
- Link to media coverage

Discussion ensued.

13. BUSINESS

- a. Consideration of the Elimination of Visual Arts programs pursuant to Policy BRD 8-4 Program Reductions and Eliminations

The chair noted that several documents had been circulated on Wednesday pertaining to this agenda item, following the senate meeting late in the day on Monday.

- b. Proposed revisions to Signing Authority Policy (BRD 02-1)

S. Blackford reported that this policy had received several comments that resulted in further work being required on the policy, so it would be brought back to the board when it was ready for consideration, expected to be for the next board meeting.

- c. Proposed new policy BRD 28-0 Indigenous Building Naming

M. Milovick provided background information about the policy, including the consultation that had been undertaken. He noted the policy was being brought to the board for notice of motion at this time, to be considered for approval by the board at its next meeting.

- d. Proposed revision to academic appeal fee

G. Balfour spoke to the proposed revision to the academic appeal fee.

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the board approve the consolidation of formal grade appeal fees for both online and on campus students effective immediately, at the current on campus appeal fee of \$32.29.*

- e. Proposed changes to Applied Sustainable Ranching Program

G. Balfour presented the proposed changes to this program.

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the Board approve the changes to the Applied Sustainable Ranching program as presented.*

- f. Indigenous student tuition fees, scholarships, and awards

G. Balfour informed the board about awards and financial aid supporting Indigenous students at TRU.

14. NEXT BOARD MEETING

- a. The next board meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 23, 2023, in the Clock Tower Boardroom.

15. TERMINATION OF MEETING

There being no further agenda items, the meeting terminated at 4:08 p.m.