

BOARD OF GOVERNORS - PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

Saturday, November 14, 2015

8:59am – 10:42am

UNBC Senate Chambers Room 1079

Participants:

Karin Beeler, Andy Clough, Carolee Clyne, Eric Depenau, Katherine LaForge, Kathy Lewis, John MacDonald, Shannon MacKay, Judy Mason, Ryan Matheson, Harry Nyce Sr., Daniel Weeks, Simon Yu, Julie Ziebart

UNBC Representatives (Non-Voting):

Geoff Payne (Interim Vice-President Research), Colleen Smith (Director of Finance & Budgets), Barb Daigle (Interim Vice-President Administration and Finance), Daniel Ryan (Acting Vice-President Academic and Provost), Katherine Scouten (Development Manager), Heather Sanford (University Secretariat), Denise Nagy (EA, Board of Governors - Recording)

1. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the last Board of Governors meeting of the year and acknowledged that the meeting is being held on the traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh. New Board member K. Beeler was welcomed to her first meeting as she is the UNBC Faculty representative from the College of Arts, Social and Health Sciences. The Chair advised that there are replacements already in place for the two outgoing Board members, and they will be joining the Board in December. We continue to strive to make UNBC a better place.

NOTE: *The Board of Governors Agenda for the Public Session consists of a consent agenda and a regular agenda. The consent agenda contains items that are routine and non-controversial, and discussion is not necessary. The consent agenda is moved and approved as a group. The Chair will inquire whether there are any items that need to be removed from the consent agenda and if so, these items will be placed on the regular agenda. The Chair will ask for approval of the items or motions on the consent agenda as follows:*

MOTION: 2015BP11.14.01

Mover: S. Yu Seconder: J. Ziebart

That the motions on the consent agenda, except for those removed for placement on the regular agenda, be approved as presented.

CARRIED

2. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: 2015BP11.14.02

Mover: J. Mason Seconder: H. Nyce Sr.

That, the Agenda for the Public Session of the November 14, 2015 meeting of the Board of Governors be approved, as presented.

CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes

September 12, 2015

MOTION: 2015BP11.14.03

Mover: E. Depenau Seconder: C. Clyne

That, the Public Session Minutes of the September 12, 2015 meeting of the Board of Governors be approved as presented.

CARRIED

4. Business Arising

5. Human Resources Committee – Judy Mason, Chair

- Regular a. Notification of Upcoming Promotion & Tenure Process (information) – D. Ryan
In the meeting package is the brief notification of the regular process that takes place.
- Regular b. Currently Advertised Faculty Positions (discussion) – D. Ryan
D. Ryan provided a summary reporting on the currently advertised positions.
- Consent c. Report on Elevating Devices Safety Regulation & Power Engineers, Boiler, Pressure Vessel & Refrigeration Safety Regulation (information) – B. Daigle
- Consent d. Report on Employment Standards (information) – B. Daigle

6. Finance and Audit Committee – Andy Clough, Chair

- Regular a. Planning Update (discussion) – B. Daigle/R. Ryan
D. Ryan provided an overview to the Board of the powerpoint presentation provided in the meeting session. D. Weeks advised that this presentation was provide to the University Community and another presentation will be provided to the students in the near future. This is part of the budget cycle and the academic planning process. The budget will serve and support the academic plan. UNBC has just been through the last of the imposed provincial government budget cuts. The provincial government is not interested at this time in any conversations regarding tuition increases or in proposals from post-secondary institutions regarding ongoing funding requests. They may however be open to considering proposals that are for one time funding. D. Ryan commented that Phase 1 of the Academic planning process is nearing the end and that we will soon be entering into Phase 2. B. Daigle provided narration to the Board of the Budget powerpoint presentation, noting that to balance the budget with one-time adjustments the gap is widening. Going forward we are projecting another shortfall to the Budget and we will need to make priority strategic decisions based on the academic plan to mitigate this. In the past we have taken a reactive approach without a proper planning process. We will need to be more creative to sourcing different revenue opportunities as across the country the trend is declining student enrolments and tuitions. Currently 70% of the budget is for salaries and benefits. If the Faculty agreement results in an award that is more than the provincial government funding we currently receive, we will then have to come up with the difference. The Public Sector Employers Council may lift the current freeze that we have been under for the last four years for management positions. The timeline as presented is aggressive but coincides with the planning process. The Board was reassured that new sources of revenue are always being explored. Members of the Board expressed a strong recommendation that institutions such as UNBC, need to keep in mind the pace of change and become more nimble as processes need to expedited. D. Weeks ended the dialogue by reminding the Board that in the past the academic plan has been attempted but failed for a variety of reasons and one time funding provided a cushion, which we don't have anymore, we must fix this now or we may not be here in the future.
- Regular b. Report on Ancillary Operations (discussion) – B. Daigle
D. Weeks commented on the format of the data being presented to the Board and the need for this report to be in an easier to read format in the future.

ACTION: B. Daigle will work with A. LeBlanc on reformatting this report to ensure the kind of information brought forward to the Board is more accurate.

- Consent c. Quarterly Reports (information) – C. Smith
(i) General Operating Fund Report to September 30, 2015
(ii) Consolidated Financial Report to September 30, 2015
(iii) Quarterly Forecast
- Regular d. Capital Projects Update (discussion) – B. Daigle
We have received a loan of 14.8 million dollars towards the residences renewal project to refresh the student residences and this project is scheduled to start soon. There is discussion in the very early stages regarding an expansion to the Northern Sport Centre in which the City of Prince George is a stakeholder.

- Regular e. Enrolment Report (discussion) – D. Ryan
The report is provided in the meeting package and contains standard information. The College of Arts, Social and Health Sciences is down a little bit as this is based on the cohort intake cycle. D. Weeks expressed that there is a need for an international plan and we are starting to put this into place. In the absence of a plan the President is quite pleased with our efforts to recruit internationally and he has reached out to the provincial group that works in the area of international recruitment. The Dean of Regional Programs has introduced a new delivery method in the northeast which provides a blended learning experience. T. Hanschen highlighted that there is a lot going on in the regions.

ACTION: D. Ryan to include in the next Enrolment Report to the Board a breakdown of the regional enrollment numbers, along with graphs to reflect targeted number versus actual numbers and the cost per student to provide rural education in the regions.

- Consent f. Agreements, Scholarships, Bursaries and Awards (information) – D. Ryan

7. Governance Committee – Ryan Matheson, Chair

- Regular a. Summary of Maclean’s Magazine and Globe & Mail (information) – D. Ryan
UNBC is ranked #1 in its category and it is a great day for us due to the hard work of staff, faculty and students. This ranking gives us the opportunity to ask questions and focus on the areas that we can improve upon, which will tie into our academic plan. D. Weeks noted that the one measure of concern is our reputation and we should be doing way better in the area, as we just don’t have enough of a reputation outside of Northern British Columbia. A recruitment blitz is going to take place over the next week to capitalize on our #1 ranking. R. Matheson expressed his thanks to faculty, students and staff.

8. Office of External Relations – Daniel Weeks

- Regular a. Office of External Relations Report (discussion) – D. Weeks/K. Scouten
(i) Fundraising Report
(ii) Communications with Stakeholders
(iii) Report on Government Relations
The report is provided in the meeting package and we are tracking well this year. Foundation success is up and the number of donors has increased. There will be an update provided at this afternoon’s in-camera meeting session with regards to the fundraising campaign. In response to a question raised regarding the contributions from Alumni, the President advised that an alumni tour started last year as part of an Alumni engagement process. There is a new coordinator in the Alumni office and we will soon be hiring a new Vice-President Advancement and Communications to better communicate externally and within the University community.

9. Office of Research – Geoff Payne

- Regular a. Office of Research Report (discussion) – G. Payne
The report is provided in the meeting package. There has been an increase in funding up 21% over last year. The new chair positions are going to be filled in 2016. We have made a submission of a grant for 30 million dollars. In the 2016 strategic vision there will be a link to the academic plan. In 2016 the number of researchers will increase as we look at research space and how it is utilized for the type of research being conducted.

10. President’s Report

- Regular a. Report on President’s Activities (information)
D. Weeks has been very busy the past couple of months both on and off campus. The President is looking forward to opportunities to meet with the new federal government and the Prime Minister in Ottawa. There have been meetings during the Alumni tours in the regions and opportunities to meet with donors. D. Ryan, G. Payne and B. Daigle were thanked for coming on board to the Senior Administration team and the search for two new Vice-Presidents is progressing well, as the head hunters are doing an excellent job. B. Krane continues to make health improvements and is in the rehab center at Vancouver General Hospital as there is still a long road ahead for him in the recovery process. Once we come to closure on B. Krane’s intentions, there will be a statement regarding the conditions and terms of the Acting Vice-President position.

At the in-camera meeting session this afternoon there will be a discussion around the facts regarding the stepping down of the Vice-President Research.

11. Chancellor's Report

J. MacDonald reiterated his thoughts with to regards the expansion from the “in the north for the north theme” and encouraged the idea of recognition as a world class institution. We need to be globally famous as we can no longer make money in the market that we are in, starting with research and secondly in teaching.

12. Other Business

R. Matheson acknowledged departing board member A. Clough, who has served on the Board since 2012. A. Clough is moving on to new adventures and was thanked for his contributions and expertise he had provided in his term to the Board. J. Mason was also acknowledged and thanked for her contributions as a departing Board member as this is her last meeting with her term on the board ending in December. J. Mason has served on the Board since 2009, as an Alumni Representative and a mentor to R. Matheson.

13. Adjournment

MOTION: 2015BP11.14.04 Mover: S. MacKay Secunder: H. Nyce Sr. CARRIED
