

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

February 25, 2016
Open Session
Grant MacEwan University
Governors' Boardroom 7-218, City Centre Campus

PRESENT:	J. Day, Chair, via conference call D. Atkinson, President E. Barichello, Vice Chair D. Halliwell, Public Board Member S. Hamilton, Public Board Member E. Hurley, Vice Chair, via conference call B. Pitruniak, Students' Association Member A. Rhoads, MacEwan Staff Association Member
Vice Presidents:	J. Corlett, Provost and Vice President Academic J. McGrath, Vice President Integrated Information and Communication Services and Chief Information Officer - yes M. Plouffe, Vice President, General Counsel, via conference call B. Quinton, Vice President, Finance and Administration
Board Office:	M. Baptista, University Secretary G. Jones, Governance Assistant (Recording secretary)
Absent, with regrets:	M. Fyfe, Public Board Member S. Digweed, Faculty Association Member C. Graham, Public Board Member W. Grieve, Public Board Member
Guest(s):	K. Boros, Director, Human Resources Services A. Canto Ellis, Executive Director, Alumni and Development M. Chisholm, Associate Vice President, Human Resources R. Ellis, Associate Vice President, Finance and Chief Investment Officer J. French, Executive Director, Faculty Association B. Horan, Internal Auditor M. Leathem, Chief of Staff M. Sekulic, University Registrar K. Warkentine, Secretary, Academic Governance

MINUTES: OPEN SESSION

1.0 Call to Order and Introduction of Guest(s)

Barichello called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

1.1 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest and Commitment (Real, Potential or Perceived)

No conflicts of interest were declared.

1.2 Approval of Agenda/Consent Agenda

01-02-25-2015/16 Moved and seconded to approve the agenda and items on the consent agenda subject to the following revisions to the December 17, 2015 minutes:

Item 3.4 2016-17 Tuition and Service Fees

Adjust minutes to record that Pitruniak was opposed to motion 06-12-17-2015/16, not motion 07-12-17-2015/16

Item 3.5 2014-15 Annual Report.

... *The report as shared with the Board has been reviewed by a number of people across the institution. Ellis added that the Auditor General has also reviewed the annual report and is prepared to provide approval to include his signature on the Independent Auditor's Report when the annual report is approved by the Board.*

Carried.

- 1.2.1 Previous Minutes: December 17, 2015
- 1.2.2 Correspondence
- 1.2.3 President's Newsletter: January 2016
- 1.2.4 Students' Association of MacEwan University
- 1.2.5 MacEwan Staff Association
- 1.2.6 Faculty Association
- 1.2.7 Academic Governance Council (AGC)
 - 1.2.7.1 AGC Report
 - 1.2.7.2 Proposed Program Terminations – *for approval*
 - Bachelor of Applied Communications in Professional Writing
 - Design and Photography, Design and Digital Media and Design and Illustration Diploma Program
- 1.2.8 Audit Committee Report
- 1.2.9 Campus Planning Committee Report
- 1.2.10 Finance Committee Report
- 1.2.11 Foundation Board of Directors Report
- 1.2.12 Investment Committee Report
- 1.2.13 Board Committee Appointments – External Advisors
 - Finance Committee Terms of Reference (*revisions for approval*)
 - Governance and Human Resources Committee (*revisions for approval*)
 - Standing Committee Membership (*revisions for approval*)
- 1.2.14 Items approved Jul 1, 2015 to Dec 31, 2015
- 1.2.15 Update from Chief Information Officer

2.0 Business Arising From Previous Meeting(s)

2.1 International Tuition Fees

Atkinson introduced the recommendation regarding International Student Tuition Fees. As requested by the Board in December 2015, administration has reviewed international student tuition fees to determine if the University's fees are comparable to other institutions in the province and whether or not the fees cover the costs incurred to provide services to international students. The results of that review were provided in the briefing materials along with a recommendation to increase international student tuition by 2.4% for 2016/17. He noted that recruitment of international students has begun and any extraordinary increase to international tuition at this time could hamper recruitment and potentially damage the institution's reputation. The process to review the University's international student agenda

is underway and a review of international student tuition and fees will be included as well as a plan to offer financial aid to international students.

The Board discussed the matter, expressing a desire to increase international student tuition by more than 2.4% to better align with fees charged by other institutions in the province. Members inquired as to whether the unknowns with respect to the provincial government's plans related to tuition could impact the University's ability to increase international tuition in the future. Corlett and Atkinson indicated that it would be unlikely for a government (federal or provincial) to regulate international tuition fees, adding they have not seen this done in any jurisdiction in Canada.

It was noted that international tuition fees are expressed in Canadian dollars and a suggestion was made that consideration be given to stating tuition in US dollars. Corlett advised such a move would likely be contrary to current practice among Canadian universities and also indicated it could create uncertainty regarding revenue predictions. He further observed that the Canadian dollar is performing well relative to the Mexican peso and Mexico is a focus for the University's international recruitment plan.

Responding to a comment that it may be easier to implement an increase over two years as opposed to one significant increase next year, Corlett explained that when the increase is introduced next year, recruiters will also be able to promote a financial aid program for those students who may be challenged with paying the increased tuition fee.

The Board accepted administration's assertion that it is too late to make a significant increase to international student tuition fees for 2016/17, acknowledged the intention to align the University's fees with those charged at other institutions, and requested that the plan for future year tuition rates be more competitive and aggressive.

02-02-25-2015/16 Moved and seconded that the Board of Governors approve an international student tuition fee increase of 2.4% for the 2016/17 academic year. Carried. (Pitruniak opposed)

2.2 Admission Confirmation Deposit

Sekulic and Ellis indicated that the motion as passed by the Board in December required clarification in order to ensure implementation of the provisions set out in the motion are consistent with the intent of the motion.

03-02-25-2015/16 Moved and seconded that the Board of Governors rescind motion 07-12-17-2015/16 as approved at the December 17, 2015 Board meeting. Carried

04-02-25-2015/16 Moved and seconded that the Board of Governors approve the following for the academic year 2016/2017:

1. No increase in the tuition tables
 2. The introduction of the Bachelor of Social Work at tuition table #3
 3. The alignment of the tuition for the degree and the diploma in Music at table #3
- Carried.

05-02-25-2015/16 Moved and seconded that the Board of Governors approve the following effective on approval:

1. Rename the Program Deposit Fee to "Admission Confirmation Deposit".
2. For the winter 2017 intake, set the Admission Confirmation Deposit at \$400 for

Canadian/Domestic students, excluding those registering for School of Continuing Education (SCE) programs.

Carried.

3.0 New Business

3.1 Letter of Intent – new major for Bachelor of Science

Corlett indicated the proposal for a new Applied Statistics Major within the Bachelor of Science program provides a new opportunity for students without using new resources. He commented that use and analysis of data is becoming more pervasive throughout society and demand for expertise in the area is increasing.

06-02-25-2015/16 Moved and seconded that the Board of Governors approve the Letter of Intent to allow the Faculty of Arts and Science to develop a full Part A proposal for the Applied Statistics Major within the BSc for Ministry consideration. Carried.

4.0 Reports

4.1 Board Chair's Report

On behalf of Chair Day, Baptista gave the following summary of events that have taken place since the December Board meeting:

January 13 – Willie Grieve attended the Institute of Corporate Directors seminar featuring guest speaker Richard Dicerni, Deputy Minister of Alberta Executive Council and head of the Alberta Public Service on the topic of Governance and Leadership in the Public Sector.

January 26 – a special workshop related to the CFAC Campaign was held with Board members and Campaign Cabinet members.

January 26 – Atkinson hosted a number of MLAs for lunch at the University.

Upcoming events to note, include:

March 2 – Minister Marlin Schmidt will be on campus to meet with various constituencies of the University.

March 9 – Allard Chair in Business Luncheon.

April 17 – 19 – Annual AGB Conference which will be attended by Stewart Hamilton and Myrna Fyfe.

April 29-30 – Annual Canadian University Boards Association (CUBA) Conference in Halifax which will be attended by Day and Hurley.

5.0 Adjournment of Open Session

The open session adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

Gail Jones
Governance Assistant