MINUTES: OPEN SESSION

1.0 Call to Order and Introduction of Guest(s)

Day called the meeting to order at 3:32 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

01-10-29-2014/15 Moved and seconded to approve the agenda and consent agenda as circulated. Carried.

1.2.1 Previous Meeting Minutes: September 18, 2014
Correspondence
Students’ Association of MacEwan University
MacEwan Staff Association
Faculty Association
Academic Governance Council (AGC) Report
Audit Committee Report, including the Committee’s Terms of Reference
Campus Planning Committee Report, including the Committee’s Terms of Reference
External Relations Committee Report, including the Committee’s Terms of Reference
Finance Committee Report, including the Committee’s Terms of Reference
Foundation Board of Directors Report
Policy Approval
  • Safe Disclosure D7020 (Revise)
  • Smoking D5090 (Revise)

2.0 Business Arising From Previous Meeting(s)

No items of business from previous meetings were brought forward.

3.0 New Business

3.1 2013-14 Audited Financial Statements and Internal Restrictions to net assets

Quinton advised that the 2013-14 Financial Statements have been reviewed and endorsed by the Finance Committee as well as the Audit Committee. He noted the results for the year are positive. Although the initial budget forecast indicated the University would end the year with a deficit, this was not the case as strategies to reduce the deficit were implemented sooner than expected. The reductions that had been incorporated into the 2014-15 and 2015-16 budgets have been removed. He remarked that he does not believe the University will continue to generate surpluses as costs continue to increase and there is uncertainty regarding future funding.

Quinton reported that no new recommendations were brought forward by the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) and a number of previous recommendations have been cleared. There are still some recommendations outstanding as the OAG has not had an opportunity to assess the controls associated with those recommendations. Graham commented that the Audit Committee supports all note disclosures and indicated the meeting with OAG went very well.

02-10-29-2014/15 Moved and seconded that the Board of Governors approves the June 30, 2014 consolidated financial statements for MacEwan University and, effective June 30, 2014, including the appropriation of:

$161,935 from accumulated surplus from operations for the purpose of future campus development and
$702,874 from accumulated surplus from operations for student technology
Carried.

3.2 Foundation Trust Transfer 2014
Quinton stated the Foundation Trust Transfer occurs every year explaining that the Foundation accepts and receipts all donations made to the University. At the end of the fiscal year, those assets are transferred to the University to manage on behalf of the Foundation. The Foundation Board approved the transfer at its meeting on October 9, 2014.

03-10-29-2014/15 Moved and seconded that the Board of Governors of MacEwan University approve the transfer of $2,094,890 from Grant MacEwan University Foundation, in accordance with the Transfer Agreement. Carried.

3.3 Association Presentations
3.3.1 MacEwan Staff Association

Donna Mae Winquist, President of the MacEwan Staff Association (MSA) thanked the Board for the opportunity to present information about the Association. She highlighted the history of the Association, noting it began as a society before becoming an official bargaining agent recognized by the Alberta Labour Relations Board in 2006. She stated that MSA is “committed to enhancing the work environment and advocating the interests of its members while contributing to the success of the University.” Winquist emphasized that the MSA and its members have a vested interest in the success of the University and they wish to collaborate across the University with all staff, students, faculty, Board members and external stakeholders. Current priorities for the MSA include collective bargaining, meeting with Human Resources to discuss issues of mutual concern and working with Human Resources to support recruitment practices so as to provide more opportunities for its membership to be promoted and to take on leadership positions. Other ongoing work with Human Resources involves promoting a healthy and safe work environment. Winquist spoke of the educational workshops offered by MSA, noting the one hour sessions have been very appealing and will continue. She mentioned that the recent move of staff from South Campus allowed for increasing MSA campus representation for City Centre Campus. Winquist reported MSA has hired a part time administrative assistant to work with its office manager and is in the process of hiring a director of labour relations. Looking ahead, Winquist indicated MSA will be reviewing its governance model and intends to develop a strategic plan for 2015 and beyond. She commented that she looks forward to continuing her work to support MSA members ensuring their voices are heard and they are valued and empowered.

3.4 Integrated Strategic Plan Website- Overview

Alan Linklater began the presentation noting he and Tyler Butler are providing an overview of the Integrated Strategic Plan website (www.macewan.ca/ISP) to demonstrate some of the interactive ways information can be presented on the University’s website. The site will be a dynamic way to illustrate the accomplishment of goals relative to the Integrated Strategic Plan. Butler explained the website will be updated regularly with infographics including pie charts. The site will be very responsive and will reshape for viewing on mobile devices. While the content for the site is text heavy, the web designers focused on readability and pulled out key quotes and created headings throughout to enable readers to skim the material easily. He pointed out some of the animations available on the site and explained that the pages have links to strategies, goals and success indicators. Responding to a question about how often the site would be updated, Linklater reported they expect to update it on a quarterly basis.
4.0 Reports
4.1 Board Chair's Report

Day highlighted the following events that have taken place since the last Board Meeting:

- September 19 – Faculty Barbecue
- October 1 – News conference and demolition of LazerQuest Building
- October 2 – Students’ Association Speaker Series with Jennifer Jones
- October 3 – Joint Board/AGC Workshop with Karen McBride. He extended appreciation to Elizabeth Hurley for chairing the workshop. He noted the recent appointment of Kimberly Howard as the Executive Director of MacEwan International.
- October 15 – President’s reception. Day noted there was a good turnout, which provided opportunities for networking.
- October 16 – Day met with the SAMU Executive.
- October 19-21 – The Council of Western Canadian University Board Secretaries (COWCUBS) held its annual workshop in Edmonton and was cohosted by MacEwan University, Concordia University and the University of Alberta. Day acknowledged Enzo Barichello who attended the opening session, brought greetings from MacEwan University’s Board and thanked the keynote speaker, the Right Honourable Kim Campbell. Elizabeth Hurley was also recognized for her assistance in providing welcoming remarks to the participants during the sessions at MacEwan University. Margo Baptista and her staff were also thanked for their part in organizing this event.
- October 20 – Day and Atkinson attended the Campus Alberta Strategic Directions Committee (CASDC) meeting, which was hosted by the Deputy Minister as Minister Scott was unable to attend.

Upcoming Events:

- October 29 to November 8, MacEwan University’s Theatre Program presents “Catch Me if You Can”
- November 4 at 11:00 a.m. is the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the new Centre for Arts and Culture building.
- November 14 is the National Philanthropy Day Luncheon at the Shaw Conference Centre
- November 18 – Fall Convocation Ceremonies
- December 18 – Next regular Board of Governors’ meeting

Day reported that former Board member and Vice Chair Oryssia Lennie received the Peter Lougheed Award for Leadership in Public Policy on October 23rd. He noted that the Provincial Government has recently reorganized some of the departments within Innovation and Advanced Education. He also commented on the recent by-elections which resulted in the election of Premier Jim Prentice, Minister of Health Stephen Mandel and Minister of Education Gordon Dirks to the Legislative Assembly.

5.0 Adjournment of Open Session

The Board of Governors’ Meeting - Open Session adjourned at 4:01 p.m.


Gail Jones
Executive Assistant
Board of Governors’ Office