MINUTES: OPEN SESSION

1.0 Call to Order and Introduction of Guest(s)

Day called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. and introduced Darrell Halliwell, who was appointed to the Board as a public member in July to replace John Mitchell who had completed his six year term. He also extended a welcome from the Board to the staff, students and faculty who recently relocated from the South Campus to City Centre Campus.

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

No conflicts were declared.
1.2 Approval of Agenda/Consent Agenda

Day requested item 3.1 Memorandum of Understanding with Students’ Association of MacEwan University regarding a Students’ Association Building which is currently included on the Closed Session agenda be added to the Open Session agenda.

01-09-18-2014/15 Moved and seconded to approve the agenda and consent agenda as revised to include item 3.1 Memorandum of Understanding with Students’ Association of MacEwan University regarding a Students’ Association Building. Carried.

1.2.1 Previous Meeting Minutes: May 22, 2014
1.2.2 President’s Newsletter: July, 2014 and September, 2014
1.2.3 Correspondence
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) Report
   1.2.7.1 AGC Bylaw Amendment
   1.2.7.2 Appointment of AGC Members
1.2.8 Campus Planning Committee Report
1.2.9 External Relations Committee Report
1.2.10 Governance and Human Resources Committee Report
1.2.11 Investment Committee Report
1.2.12 Policy Approval
   • Policy D7120 Internal Audit Program (Retire)
1.2.13 Update from Chief Information Officer
1.2.14 Items approved 2013-14 Open Session

2.0 Business Arising From Previous Meeting(s)

No business from previous meetings was brought forward.

3.0 New Business

3.1 Memorandum of Understanding with Students’ Association of MacEwan University regarding a Students’ Association Building

Day noted the Memorandum of Understanding was discussed by the Campus Planning Committee at its meeting on September 8, 2014 and is being recommended to the Board for approval.

02-09-18-2014/15 Moved and seconded that the Board of Governors approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Students’ Association of MacEwan University (SAMU) and MacEwan University regarding the proposed construction and operation of a new SAMU building. Carried

Following the approval, Day and McCoy signed two copies of the MOU and posed for photographs. Day acknowledged this as an historic moment in the evolution of the Students’ Association and the University.
3.2 Board Standing Committee Membership

Day asked for approval of the Board Standing Committee Membership with two changes to the document circulated with the agenda; Quinton to be included as a resource to the Governance and Human Resources Committee and Plouffe to be included as a resource to the Finance Committee as it also serves as the Foundation Board of Directors.

03-09-18-2014/15 Moved and seconded to approve the Board Standing Committee Membership as amended. Carried.

Day advised the decision regarding Vice-Chair will be conducted via electronic vote in the coming weeks.

3.3 Academic Administrative Structure

Corlett and Atkinson provided the Board with additional background information regarding this proposal, noting structures within the faculties are not standardized across the University and many do not follow best practices for a Canadian university. Corlett indicated this change will be significant for some faculties and will require a considerable amount of work to reach a July 1, 2015 implementation date. Atkinson noted approval of this motion will begin the process and final approval of the structures will be brought to the Board subsequent to AGC review.

04-09-18-2014/15 Moved and seconded
1. That the Board of Governors endorse the use of an administrative structure within Faculties in keeping with practice at Canadian universities.
2. That the Board of Governors direct the Faculties to develop by December 31, 2014 a model of administrative structure in keeping with item #1.
3. That subject to the recommendation of the Academic Governance Council and the approval of the Board of Governors, that any new structure be implemented by July 1, 2015 noting the timelines may require adjustment.

Carried.

Atkinson was excused for the remainder of the meeting as he was out of town attending a special event at Brock University.

3.4 Association Presentations

3.3.1 Faculty Association

Aimee Skye, President, Grant MacEwan Faculty Association (GMFA) provided the Board with an overview of the Faculty Association, noting it represents 400 full time continuing faculty and 800 contract staff. The Association is governed by a 10-person board and employs 2 staff members. Skye indicated that in the last five years, GMFA has built its expertise and professionalism; it is a passionate and engaged group that provides leadership and acts as role models to all other faculty. She commented that a highlight of the past year was the collaboration with John McGrath and the University's Information Technology department to provide meaningful dialogue and forums on the use of technology in the classroom for faculty. She added she is encouraged to see
new faces and roles in Human Resources and looks forward to working with them on faculty relations. Other accomplishments highlighted by Skye included: building relationships within the University, across the province and nationally; getting involved in the University’s United Way campaign and working on a Habitat for Humanity build; and providing support for the requested change in status within the Post-secondary Learning Act. Skye concluded her presentation by advising the Board that faculty have now embraced what it means to be university faculty and they look forward to concluding the transition, including the aforementioned changes to the administrative structures.

3.3.2 Students’ Association

Cam McCoy, President, Students’ Association of MacEwan University (SAMU) thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak about some of SAMU’s initiatives. He advised that SAMU is the fastest growing student association in the province. He indicated they have developed a strategic plan which aims to enrich the lives of students and provide them with the support they require to be successful. He noted SAMU will be providing a number of services to support students’ mental health including Stress Less Day, My Wellness Program, Student Food Bank and Safe Walk. McCoy added SAMU will be lobbying alongside other provincial university students’ associations on matters of mental health, tuition and fees. McCoy reported SAMU is also conversing with the City and currently meets with representatives from the City every two months to discuss matters such as transportation. As the University is an integral part of the downtown core, McCoy indicated SAMU plans to connect further with and offer support to downtown businesses.

McCoy announced that this year has the highest number of students running for student governance positions, including serving on Academic Governance Council.

In closing, McCoy remarked the key project for SAMU in the next five years is the student building. He indicated he is honored by the support from the Board and administration on this matter and sees a strong future for the building.

3.5 Access to the Future Fund

Day reported the University has been advised it will receive $7.6 million over two years to “satisfy all contractual obligations and expectations regarding past Access to the Future Fund commitments” (excerpt taken from Premier Dave Hancock’s letter of September 11, 2014). Quinton noted the University is awaiting direction from the Ministry regarding the terms and conditions of this allocation.

4.0 Reports

4.1 Board Chair’s Report

Day reported on the following activities which took place since the May Board Meeting:

- May 28: Career Milestones Event for staff.
- June 17-19: Convocation Ceremonies. Recognition given to:
  - Susan Green, Liz O’Neill and Maureen Collins as Distinguished Citizens.
  - Megan Dart The McDades and Patricia Garrett as Distinguished Alum
• July 14: Meeting of the Campus Alberta Strategic Directions Committee with the Premier/Minister. Discussion held with the Premier regarding moving MacEwan University and Mount Royal University from Part 2 to Part 1 of the Act. The Premier requested a business case be prepared; a consultant has been hired to assist with this work.
• September 4 and 5: Students’ Association Welcome Back Events
• September 9: Joint Welcome Back event with Norquest College for staff and students
• September 10: Welcome Back event at current CFAC campus

He noted the following upcoming events:
• September 19: Faculty Association Barbecue
• October 2: Students’ Association Speaker Series begins for the year with Jennifer Jones, 2014 Gold Medalist in Curling as the first speaker
• October 3: Fall Workshop from noon to 4 p.m. on the topic of International education.
• October 15: President Reception
• October 19-21: COWCUBS (Council of Western Canadian University Board Secretaries) Fall Workshop. Co-hosted by MacEwan, Concordia and the U of A.
• October 23: Regular Board Meeting
• November 4: Groundbreaking ceremony for new CFAC Building. Plans are under development.
• November 18: Fall Convocation Ceremonies

5.0 Adjournment of Open Session

The Board of Governors’ Meeting - Open Session adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Next Meetings:

Gail Jones
Executive Assistant
Board of Governors’ Office