



University  
of Victoria

## **BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

Tuesday, January 24, 2006  
11:00 a.m.  
Board & Senate Chambers

### **OPEN SESSION**

#### **MINUTES**

**Present:** Ms. Trudi Brown (Chair), Mr. Peter Ciceri, Mr. Eric Donald, Mr. Murray Farmer, Ms. Gail Flitton (Vice-Chair), Mr. Erik Haensel, Ms. Linda Jules, Ms. Michelle Kinney, Dr. Peter Liddell, Dr. Ronald Lou-Poy, Dr. David Turpin, Ms. Sarah Webb, Dr. Julia Eastman (Secretary).

**Regrets:** Dr. Peter Driessen, Mr. John deC. Evans, Ms. Jane Peverett.

**By Invitation:** Prof. Jamie Cassels, Mr. Jack Falk, Dr. Valerie Kuehne, Dr. Martin Taylor, Ms. Morag MacNeil.

#### **1. Approval of the Agenda**

Ms. Kinney proposed and the Chair agreed to add one item to the agenda under 'Other Business': Composition of the search committee for the Vice-President Finance and Operations. Ms. Kinney referred Board members to letters from the University of Victoria Students' Society and the University of Victoria Sustainability Project, copies of which she had distributed. With this addition, the agenda was declared approved.

#### **2. Minutes**

No changes being suggested, the minutes of the regular meeting of November 29, 2005 were declared approved.

#### **3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

Nil.

#### 4. Remarks from the Chair

Ms. Brown welcomed Board members to their first meeting of 2006. She noted that it was necessary to change the dates of the May Board meetings so that the financial statements could be prepared and approved within the time frame specified for public sector entities. The University Secretary's Office would canvas Board members concerning their availability on alternative dates.

#### CONSENT

Ms. Brown asked Board members if they wished to move any items from the Consent to the Regular agenda. No changes were suggested.

#### 5. University Operations and Facilities

##### a) Status Report on Capital Projects

MOTION

*THAT the Board of Governors receive for information the January 2006 Status Report on Capital Projects.*

##### b) Policy 1220 – Research Grant in Lieu of Salary Policy

MOTION

*THAT the Board of Governors repeal the existing Research Grant in Lieu of Salary Policy.*

*THAT the Board of Governors replace the existing Policy numbered 1220 with the attached.*

##### c) Graduate and Undergraduate Awards

MOTION

*THAT the Board of Governors approve the terms of reference for the following new and revised undergraduate and graduate awards:*

*Undergraduate:*

*Brian Hughes Soccer Award*

*George and Dorothy Smith Soccer Award*

*Graduate:*

*David and Joanne Bate Scholarship*

*Nora and Mark de Goutière Memorial Scholarship*

##### d) Appointments to Ocean Sciences Board

MOTION

*THAT the Board of Governors appoint Tim Walzak to the Ocean Sciences Board for a term ending 30 June 2008.*

**6. Finance Committee**

**a) VENUS/NEPTUNE Status Report**

MOTION

*THAT the VENUS/NEPTUNE Status Report be received by the Board of Governors for information.*

**Pro forma Motion (L. Jules/M. Farmer):**

*That the above items are approved and/or received for information by the Board of Governors by consent.*

**CARRIED.**

**REGULAR**

**7. University Operations and Facilities Committee**

**a) University of Victoria Staff Pension Plan Advisory Committee Member Appointment**

MOTION (M. Farmer/S. Webb)

*THAT the Board of Governors appoint Christopher Spratt to the University of Victoria Staff Pension Plan Advisory Committee for a one year period ending April 30, 2007.*

**CARRIED.**

**8. Executive and Governance Committee**

**a) University of Victoria Properties Investments Mission Statement**

Ms. Brown read the proposed Mission Statement, which had been reviewed by the Executive and Governance Committee. Ms. Webb asked if it would be desirable to list the designated properties. Ms. Brown suggested, given that the list might change, that it be left general but that Board members be informed periodically of what the designated properties are.

MOTION (G. Flitton/P. Liddell)

*THAT the Board of Governors approve the Mission Statement for the University of Victoria Properties Investments Inc.*

**CARRIED.**

**9. Community and Government Relations**

Ms. Flitton indicated that this Committee had not met since the last Board meeting and therefore had nothing to report.

## **10. Renewal of University of Victoria Strategic Plan**

Dr. Turpin provided an update on the process of renewal of the Strategic Plan, referring to a consultation schedule, copies of which had been distributed. He noted that consultations would occur through January and February, culminating in the Joint Senate/Board Retreat on March 4. The intention of the Planning and Priorities Committee was to produce a draft discussion paper over the summer and to release it for feedback in the fall.

## **11. President's Report**

Dr. Turpin reported that the search for a new Vice-President Finance and Operations was underway and listed the members of the Search Committee. He observed that the composition of the Search Committee, established by Board policy, differs from that of other vice-presidential committees and that its recommendation is not subject to faculty ratification, as are the recommendations of Search Committees for Vice-President Academic and Provost and Vice-President Research. The reason is that the University Act vests fiduciary responsibility with the Board, and the Vice-President Finance and Operations is the university's chief financial officer. The Board therefore, in establishing the policy by which searches for VPFO would be conducted, provided for stronger Board representation than on other Search Committees. Dr. Turpin indicated that the Committee would soon be approving an advertisement and developing a position profile. An invitation to provide input into the latter would be posted on the University Secretary's website. The President concluded by saying that, ideally, the successful candidate would be in office July 1. Dr. Liddell observed that there was some discomfort amongst faculty members that the position of VPFO is not subject to ratification. He asked if there was any prospect that this would be changed. Dr. Turpin replied that this would be up to the Board. To date, the view of the Board had been that it would be inappropriate to have appointments and reappointments of Vice-Presidents Finance and Operations ratified, because, in order to fulfill his or her fiduciary responsibilities and those of the Board, the Vice-President might have to make very difficult financial decisions – which would not necessarily be conducive to a successful ratification.

Dr. Turpin's report continued with an update on collective bargaining. He noted that the university had been in negotiations with its CUPE locals since 2005 and that the contracts with the Professional Employees' Association and the Faculty Association would expire in June 2006. He reported that the Public Sector Employers' Council (PSEC) had released a new bargaining mandate for public sector employers that contained strong incentives to reach agreements before the end of March. These included significant one-time bonuses for signing four year contracts by the end of March 2006. The university would be working hard with employee groups to try to enable employees to reap the benefit of these, but the time-lines would be extremely challenging. The Compensation and Review Committee might need to meet before the next scheduled Board meetings to review proposed agreements. If agreements required approval before the next regular Board meeting, a meeting of the Executive and Governance Committee would be called, as provided for in the Board Procedures. All Board members would receive the materials and be invited to attend.

Dr. Turpin also reported briefly on matters including:

- The presentation of the President's Distinguished Service Awards for 2005 to Yousef Ebrahim (Biology), Rosemary Pulez (Chemistry), and Terry Russell (Earth and Ocean Sciences) and to a team from the Student Transition Centre, led by Susan Corner.
- An upcoming student recruitment campaign in The Globe and Mail.
- The success of a recent event for business leaders in Vancouver, hosted by Board Member John Evans. Dr. Turpin expressed his thanks to Mr. Evans.
- The presentation of the Victoria Leadership Awards – jointly sponsored by UVic, Leadership Victoria, and the Rotary Club. Board Member Sarah Webb was congratulated on her nomination for an award.
- Recent visits to campus by the Minister and Deputy Minister of Advanced Education. Dr. Turpin thanked those who had participated – including students and faculty members in Fine Arts and other Faculties – for their contributions to the success of the visits.
- The university's annual budget and accountability meeting with officials from the Ministry of Advanced Education.

## **12. Other Business**

### **a) Search for Vice-President Finance and Operations**

Ms. Kinney invited other Board members to review the letters from the University of Victoria Students' Society (UVSS) and the University of Victoria Sustainability Project (UVSP) distributed at the outset of the meeting. She elaborated briefly on the concerns expressed in the letter from Penny Beames of the UVSS. She noted that, although she and Mr. Haensel were elected by students to the Board, they were not formally accountable to the student body – hence, the UVSS' desire for direct representation. Mr. Haensel then spoke to the issues raised by the UVSP, explaining the rationale for the proposed redefinition of the position. He said that he was pleased to learn that input would be sought into the development of the position profile. At the same time, he expressed discomfort that the Board as a whole had not chosen its representatives on the Search Committee. Ms. Brown said that she had, as Chair, chosen the latter. She said that she would bear Mr. Haensel's concerns in mind in the future and would review the procedures to ascertain whether, in deciding whom should represent the Board on the Committee, she had overstepped the boundaries of the Chair's role. She noted that recommendations for the appointment of all Vice-Presidents and the University Secretary are presented by the President to the Board.

After brief further discussion, Ms. Brown indicated that she was prepared to propose that the suggestions concerning the composition of the Committee made by the UVSS and the UVSP be considered for future searches. Given that the present search had been initiated under the existing procedures, they would not affect it. Ms. Brown said that she would ask the Executive and Governance Committee to review the proposals and to make recommendations to the Board concerning the desirability of any change.

Mr. Haensel suggested that better communication might have obviated some of the concerns. Dr. Liddell asked that it be recorded that he felt that Ms. Kinney and Mr. Haensel had represented the concerns of the UVSS and the UVSP very effectively and that those concerns deserved to be addressed.

**13. Adjournment**

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.