



University
of Victoria

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Tuesday, September 29, 2009

11:00 a.m.

Board and Senate Chambers, University Centre A180

OPEN SESSION

MINUTES

Present: Mr. Ray Protti (Chair), Ms. Jane Butler McGregor, Mr. Murray Farmer, Mr. Tony Gage, Dr. Robert Giroux, Ms. Susan Mehinagic, Mr. Edward Pullman, Dr. Eric Sager, Dr. David Turpin, Prof. Barbara Whittington, Dr. Julia Eastman (Secretary)

Regrets: Mr. John deC. Evans, Ms. Christine Comrie, Ms. Lydia Hwitsum, Mr. Chris Petter

By Invitation: Dr. Howard Brunt, Prof. Jamie Cassels, Ms. Gayle Gorrill, Dr. Valerie Kuehne, Ms. Morag MacNeil

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was declared adopted as circulated.

2. Minutes

a) Minutes of Regular Meeting of June 29, 2009

MOTION (E. Sager, R. Giroux)

That the minutes of the open session of the regular meeting of June 29, 2009 be approved.

CARRIED.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was none

4. Remarks from the Chair

The chair noted that, due to the lengthy agenda, the meeting time had been extended to 12:15 p.m. He asked for the cooperation of everyone in keeping to the time available for the meeting.

5. Correspondence

- a) **Child care at UVic:** The Chair explained that the members of the Board had taken the unusual step of approving Dr. Lynne Marks' request to offer a few remarks at the meeting about materials she had provided to the Board on behalf of the Childcare Action Group; he invited Dr. Marks to come forward. Dr. Marks thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak concerning the child care survey and letters. She said that the survey revealed a very serious shortage of access to high quality child care, such as that which the UVic Childcare Centre provides. Alternative arrangements are frequently very expensive or substandard. Impact on providing recruitment/retention and equity are issues of concern. She encouraged the unfolding of a thoughtful process where all stakeholders are brought together. The Chair thanked Dr. Marks for her comments and noted that there had been an extensive discussion of the topic at the Operations and Facilities Committee meeting.
- b) **Letter from the Graduate Student Society GSS Chair re: athletics fees:** The Chair introduced Ms. Adrienne Canning, Chair of the Graduate Students' Society, who was in the gallery, and invited Mr. Jim Dunsdon, Associate Vice-President Student Affairs, to provide an update on the issues raised in her letter. Mr. Dunsdon explained that consultations with student groups had taken place since the letter was received and that graduate students would vote in the consultative ballot separately from undergraduates as requested by the GSS. Balloting was scheduled to take place during the third week of October. The Chair thanked Mr. Dunsdon.

CONSENT

6. University Operations and Facilities Committee (J. Butler McGregor)

a) **Academic Staffing and Recruitment Report 2008/09**

MOTION:

That the Board of Governors receive and review the Academic Staffing and Recruitment Report (2008/09) for information.

b) **Status Report on Capital Projects**

MOTION:

That the Board of Governors receive the September 2009 Status Report on Capital Projects for information.

c) Revisions to policies referring to a former position title

MOTION:

That the Board of Governors approve the revisions in the Policy on Retention of External Legal Counsel, the Purchasing Services Policy and the Violence and Threatening Behaviour Policy.

d) Appointments to the Joint Senate/Board Retreat Committee

MOTION:

That the Board of Governors approve the appointment of Ms. Christine Comrie, Ms. Susan Mehinagic and Prof. Barbara Whittington to the Joint Senate/Board Retreat Committee.

7. Finance Committee (T. Gage)

a) Short Term Investment Report – June 30, 2009

MOTION:

THAT the Board of Governors receive for information the Short Term Investment Report for the period ended June 30, 2009.

b) Long-term disability trust – 2008/09 Financial statements

MOTION:

THAT the Board of Governors receive the 2008-2009 financial statements for the Long-Term Disability Trust for Faculty and Administrative and Academic Professional Staff for information.

c) Collection and remission of 2009/10 extended health and dental plan fees for GSS

MOTION:

THAT the Board of Governors collect and remit the fees as approved by the Graduate Students' Society (GSS) members and outlined in the letter dated June 4, 2009 from the GSS to the Vice-President Finance and Operations.

d) 2009/10 Budget Expenditure Allocation Report

MOTION:

That the Board of Governors receive for information 2009/10 Budget Expenditure Allocation Report.

Pro forma Motion (B. Whittington, E. Pullman)

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

CARRIED.

REGULAR

8. Operations and Facilities Committee (J. Butler McGregor)

- a) **Child Care Report:** Ms. Butler McGregor said that the Operations and Facilities Committee had discussed this report at length the previous day and had passed the motion shown on the final agenda for this meeting. She noted that the Board was taking this issue very seriously. Mr. Sager suggested the Board think about the meaning of “child care”. Is it a service to parents? Is it a form of education experience for young children? He said that Canada trails other OECD countries in its investment in early childhood education. He made reference to a paper prepared for the BC Business Council entitled “A comprehensive policy framework for investment in early childhood education in BC” and offered to provide the link to it. The Chair asked the University Secretary to forward the link to other Board members. Prof. Whittington, said she had provided several articles on the economics of childcare to Mr. Dunsdon. She supported improved access to child care would make UVic a better employer..

MOTION (J. Butler McGregor, S. Mehinagic):

That the Board of Governors receive and review the attached report and request that the administration:

- (1) *conduct further due diligence on Kids and Company and return to the Board in November with further information;*
 - (2) *prepare a report for submission to the Board in November including:*
 - (a) *an analysis of need and demand for childcare at UVic;*
 - (b) *a set of principled questions for the Board of Governors, including:*
 - (i) *whether it is appropriate for the university to provide childcare;*
 - (ii) *whether it is appropriate for the university to subsidize childcare;*
 - (iii) *if so, whether the level of subsidy should stay the same, decrease or increase;*
 - (iv) *what the opportunity costs are; and*
- depending on the Board’s answers to the above questions:*
- (c) *what options are possible; and*
 - (d) *what form of multi-stakeholder consultation might be appropriate.*

CARRIED.

Mr. Protti said that the Operations and Facilities Committee would return to the issues of childcare at its November meeting and that adequate time would be allocated for this item on its agenda. Mr. Protti said that the Board recognized that the time available for the administration to prepare the requested report was short and that the Board was not expecting a lengthy document. In response to a question from Prof. Cassels, Mr. Protti confirmed that the Board was not asking the administration to collect a lot of additional information but rather to take the information it had and incorporate it into the requested report.

- b) Enrolment Report:** Prof. Cassels indicated that enrolments were healthy and that good progress had been made over the last two years toward UVic's enrolment goal. In response to a question from the Chair, Prof. Cassels said that one major external factor affecting enrolment was the poor job market during the current economic downturn. The positive growth was also attributable to the hard work of the deans, chairs, recruitment and admissions offices and others in Student Affairs. In response to a question from Mr. Pullman, Prof. Cassels said that since 2003 UVic had been tracking soci-economic indicators to measure whether there have been significant changes in the status of student population. Although challenging to track, he said there appeared to be no changes in the soci-economic status of applicants or registrants.

9. Finance Committee (T. Gage)

a) Budget Update and Timeline

MOTION (T. Gage, J. Butler McGregor):
THAT the Board of Governors receive for information the 2010/11 Budget Update and Timeline.

CARRIED.

10. President's Report

- a) H1N1 Update:** Mr. Richard Piskor, Dr. Catherine Mateer and Mr. Jim Dunsdon gave a presentation about steps being taken at UVic to prevent and address the spread of the H1N1 virus on campus. The Chair thanked them for their report.

b) Other Matters

• Federal update

- Dr. Turpin gave a brief update on the activities of the Association of the Universities and Colleges of Canada, noting that its priorities included additional support for the federal granting council.

• Provincial update

- The President reported briefly on provincial budgeting prospects. He said that, although post-secondary education had fared relatively well in the Provinces September budget, the extent of the provincial revenue shortfall meant that the next few years were likely to be tough. The Province was reducing government programs and staffing. It was not clear whether the provincial government would make up the shortfall by cutting funding or increasing taxes or both. The province's mandate for collective bargaining in the public sector was 0%. The impact of the harmonized sales tax on BC universities had not yet been determined but could be very costly.

- **UVic update**

- Dr. Turpin referred to recent media covered of the reaction to the proposal by the country's first largest research universities that funding for research be concentrated on them. UVic had not engaged in the debate, maintaining that research excellence should be rewarded, not preordained, and that research dollars should be competitively allocated.
- Business Council of B.C. had hosted Outlook 2020 - a series of forums to consider the provinces development prospects. The President and Dr. Sager had made a presentation on the role of higher education and research in social and economic development and had prepared a related article which had appeared in the Vancouver Sun and was distributed at the meeting. They had been invited to present their paper at the upcoming Public Policy Forum and to the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. The President mentioned the need to engage government, the private sector and universities in the discussion.
- Over the summer, representatives from Hitachi had come to UVic to celebrate their collaboration with UVic in building a new microscope that views the subatomic universe. The microscope – the first of its kind in the world – is called a scanning transmission electron holography microscope (STEHM) and allows the observation of the inside of materials and their surfaces to an expected resolution of one-fiftieth the size of an atom. The purchase is being funded by \$4 million from the Canada Foundation for Innovation and \$4 million from the British Columbia Knowledge Development Fund. Dr. Rodney Herring of Mechanical Engineering is the lead researcher.
- In July, Japanese Emperor Akihito toured the Institute of Ocean Sciences in Sidney. Neptune Canada Director, Dr. Chris Barnes, and others escorted the Emperor and Empress on a tour of the institute.
- In July the School of Environmental Studies received funding for the Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan Professorship to which Dr. Brian Starzomski had been appointed. Dr. McTaggart-Cowan is a past Chancellor of UVic and one of Canada's foremost wildlife biologists.
- Steve Nash - two-time recipient of the National Basketball Association's most valuable player award, 6-time NBA all-star and creator of the Steve Nash Foundation for Underserved Children – accepted an honorary doctor of Laws degree from UVic at a special convocation ceremony on September 18.
- An exhibition of Ted Harrison's work is currently on display at the Legacy Gallery; the exhibit will run until November 29. Recently, Mr. Harrison donated two murals which are displayed in the Social Sciences and Mathematics Building.
- The United Way Campaign is underway with Norah McRae, Executive Director, Cooperative Education and Career Services, as United Way Campaign Chair for this year.
- On September 21, the Honourable Gary Lunn, Minister of State for Sport and MP for Saanich-Gulf Islands, announced federal funding to renovate Centennial Stadium and upgrade the other field upgrades at UVic. Funding for this investment is being provided under the Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RInC) program.
- On September 23, two new research chairs and three renewed research chairs were announced. The new research chairs are:
 - Dr. Clay Holroyd, Canada Research Chair in Cognitive Neuroscience
 - Dr. David Sinton, Canada Research Chair in Integrated Microfluids and Nanofluids
- The renewed research chairs are:
 - Dr. Sadik Dost, Canada Research Chair in Semiconductor Crystal Growth

- Dr. Cornelis van Kooten, Canada Research Chair in Environmental Studies and Climate Change
 - Prof. Jeremy Webber, Canada Research Chair in Law and Society
 - To date, UVic has been awarded 37 Canada Research Chairs.
 - Funding announced:
 - Funding to support the commercialization activities of Ocean Networks Canada (\$360,000)
 - Funding to support our Proteomics Centre for the purchase of Matrix-Assisted Laser Desorption Ionization equipment – Dr. Christopher Borchers (\$600,000)
- **Awards and Prizes**
 - The Order of Canada was awarded to Jack Hodgins, a former professor in the Department of Writing, for his contributions to Canadian literature and his leadership as a teacher and mentor, and to Nancy Turner, Professor in the School of Environmental Studies, for her contributions to the field of ethnobotany, notably her leadership in documenting the traditions of First Nations peoples.
 - Three UVic professors have been elected fellows of the Royal Society of Canada:
 - Dr. Lorna Crozier, Department of Writing
 - Dr. John Esling, Department of Linguistics
 - Dr. Ben Koop, Department of Biology
 - Dr. Gordon Smith has been awarded the 2009 Vanier Medal by the Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC).
 - Dr. John Langford received IPAC's Pierre De Celles Award for Excellence in Teaching Public Administration.
- **Media Coverage**
 - A video clip from CBC's *The National* (TV), featuring Steve Nash accepting an honorary degree from UVic on September 18 from UVic, was shown.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Ray Protti, Chair

Julia Eastman, Secretary