



**University
of Victoria**

**UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Tuesday, September 29, 2015, 11:00 a.m.
Senate and Board Chambers**

MINUTES - OPEN SESSION

Present: Dr. Erich Mohr (Chair), Mr. Nav Bassi, Prof. Jamie Cassels, Dr. Hélène Cazes, Ms. Ida Chong, Ms. Daphne Corbett, Ms. Kayleigh Erickson, Mr. Michael Kennedy, Ms. Lindsay LeBlanc, Ms. Isobel Mackenzie, Dr. Ana Maria Peredo, Ms. Brontë Renwick-Shields, Ms. Shelagh Rogers, Ms. Beverly Van Ruyven, Dr. Julia Eastman (Secretary)

Regrets: Ms. Tracy Redies

By Invitation: Dr. David Castle, Ms. Gayle Gorrill, Dr. Valerie Kuehne, Ms. Carmen Charette, Ms. Jittiya Dearden

Welcome

Dr. Mohr welcomed two new Board members, Ms. Daphne Corbett and Ms. Brontë Renwick-Shields. He noted Ms. Renwick-Shields would be joining the meeting shortly.

1. Approval of Agenda

MOTION (N. Bassi/K. Erickson):

THAT the agenda of the open session of the regular meeting of September 29, 2015 be approved.

CARRIED

2. Minutes of Regular Meeting of June 29, 2015

MOTION (A. Peredo/L. LeBlanc):

THAT the minutes of the open session of the regular meeting of June 29, 2015 be approved.

CARRIED

3. Business Arising

There was none.

4. Remarks from the Chair

There were none.

5. Correspondence

There was none.

CONSENT

6. Audit Committee

- a. **Government Reporting Entity Quarterly Reports – period ending June 30, 2015**
BOG-Sept29/15-11

MOTION:

THAT the Audit Committee recommend that the budget for the purposes of inclusion in the reporting on the 2015/16 University of Victoria Consolidated financial statements prepared in accordance with the Public Sector Accounting Standards, be approved as per Schedule A.

7. Operations and Facilities Committee

- a. **Status Report on Capital Projects** BOG-Sept29/15-02

8. Finance Committee

- a. **Short Term Investment Report to June 30, 2015** BOG-Sept29/15-06
b. **Long-Term Disability Trust – 2015/16 Financial Statements** BOG-Sept29/15-08

Pro Forma Motion (N. Bassi/H. Cazes): *That the above items be approved by the Board of Governors by consent.*

CARRIED

REGULAR

9. Operations and Facilities Committee (M. Kennedy)

Mr. Kennedy informed the Board that the committee had received a briefing on a sexual assault that had taken place the previous weekend. He said the foremost concern was for the individual assaulted, to whom support was being provided. The committee had reviewed the steps that the university took to prevent sexualized violence, as well as the response to the incident. He thanked Saanich police for their response to the incident.

a. Academic Staffing, Recruitment, and Vacancies Report

Mr. Kennedy provided a brief summary of the academic, recruitment and vacancies report and noted that the committee had had a discussion of retirement patterns.

b. Preliminary Enrolment Update

Mr. Kennedy informed the Board that the committee had received a preliminary enrolment update which he summarized. Overall, enrolment was strong with growth in both graduate and international students.

Ms. Brontë Renwick-Shields joined the meeting.

10. Finance Committee (L. LeBlanc)

a. 2015/16 Budget Expenditure Allocation Report

Ms. LeBlanc reported that the committee had received information on the implementation of the operating budget as outlined in the 2015/16 budget framework.

b. Comparative Analysis of Fundraising Revenue

The committee had received a report on a comparative analysis of Canadian universities' fundraising revenues. It showed that UVic was doing relatively well and ranked well in terms of endowments and donations but had potential to do even better.

11. President's Report

a. Overview of key initiatives and achievements of 2014/15

Prof. Cassels informed the Board that he would be holding a campus update on October 6 for faculty, staff and students. In preparation for that, he had made available to members of the campus community a broad overview of key initiatives and achievements. He summarized the content of the latter very briefly.

Prof. Cassels invited comments and questions. Dr. Cazes commented on the inclusiveness of the development of the UVic Edge and on its potential impact. Prof. Cassels noted that Vice-President External Relations Ms. Carmen Charette and her team would provide the Board with informational reports on implementation plans and success measures for the UVic Edge.

b. Presentation to BC Government Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services

Prof. Cassels summarized the messages he had conveyed to the BC Government Select Standing Committee on Finance as follows:

- BC's universities are a valuable and critical social asset.
- Universities understand their missions and responsibilities to society.
- Universities need sustained investment in order to continue to deliver high quality programs and research.

Prof. Cassels elaborated on some of these messages and said he had thanked the government for its support for the universities and for students. He further elaborated on the need for:

- a provincial graduate fellowship program.
- universities to be able to incur non-taxpayer supported debt for self-financed projects like residences.
- restoration of capital funding for health and safety and deferred maintenance.
- some programs to have flexibility regarding tuition particularly where costs and economic returns to graduates are relatively high.

In response to a question about the impact of increased tuition fees for professional programs on access for low income students, Prof. Cassels said that, before the current cap on tuition fee increases, 25% of increased fee revenue had been devoted to financial assistance for students in need.

In response to a question about whether more capital funding would enable the university to reduce planned increases in residence fees, Prof. Cassels explained that government capital funding could not be used for residences. The current philosophy was that those who live in residences should pay for their operations and renewal.

There was a brief discussion of the provincial budget process.

c. Draft Strategic Research Plan

Dr. Castle provided an update on the process of renewing the university's strategic research plan. He noted that the draft plan had been made available on the website. The consultation period had started. Once appropriate revisions had been made, the new plan would come back to the executive for consideration and presidential approval in late fall.

d. Other matters

Prof. Cassels commented on the start of the term and the orientation program for new students.

Dr. Kuehne suggested that the Associate Vice-President Student Affairs, Mr. Jim Dunsdon be invited to the November Board meeting to provide more detailed information about the orientation for new students organized this fall in conjunction with the UVSS and GSS.

In the meantime, Dr. Kuehne provided a brief description of the six week orientation program. She expressed thanks to Student Affairs and to the student groups with whom they had collaborated in welcoming and assisting new students.

Prof. Cassels acknowledged recent challenges in sustaining a diverse, welcoming working and learning environment at the university. He reaffirmed the university's commitment and desire to continue to learn and improve.

At the municipal level, Prof. Cassels reported that there was tremendous awareness of the importance of post-secondary education. He provided a brief synopsis of a City of Victoria Task Force report on economic development which had major implications for UVic and other universities in the area and their students.

Prof. Cassels provided an update on developments at the provincial level. He noted that the Ministry of Advanced Education would be reviewing the process whereby proposals for new academic programs were approved by the Province. Prof. Cassels further noted the receipt of a budget letter which confirmed the assumptions underlying the budget framework the Board had approved.

Ms. Gorrill elaborated on the budget letter.

Prof. Cassels reported that in light of the pending federal election, efforts were underway to enable students to vote. Ms. Renwick-Shield described the measures being taken to enable and encourage students and others to vote including special polling booths on campus. Dr. Cazes and others applauded the UVSS's efforts.

Prof. Cassels provided an update on the recent Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) competition. The first round had been adjudicated. UVic's proposal was not among the 5 that were funded although it had received positive and useful feedback. Round 2 was underway with the letter of intent due on October 21 and the full proposal in March 2016. UVic would develop a new proposal focusing on energy, climate and oceans.

Prof. Cassels also reported that:

- the university community had taken steps to respond to the current international refugee crisis.
- the United Way campaign had kicked off.
- the Vikes Annual Breakfast had been very successful. He thanked the Board members who had attended the event that morning.

12. Other Business

There being no other business the Board meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Originals signed by Erich Mohr, Board Chair
and Julia Eastman, Secretary