



## University of Victoria

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
Tuesday, September 30, 2014, 11:00 a.m.  
Senate and Board Chambers

### OPEN MINUTES

**Present:** Dr. Erich Mohr (Chair), Mr. Nav Bassi, Prof. Jamie Cassels, Dr. Hélène Cazes, Ms. Ida Chong, Mr. Bradley Cranwell, Ms. Kayleigh Erickson, Mr. Murray Farmer, Mr. Peter Gustavson, Mr. Michael Kennedy, Ms. Lindsay LeBlanc, Ms. Isobel Mackenzie, Dr. Ana Maria Peredo, Ms. Beverly Van Ruyven, Ms. Tracy Redies, Dr. Julia Eastman (Secretary)

**By Invitation:** Dr. David Castle, Ms. Gayle Gorrill, Dr. Valerie Kuehne, Ms. Carmen Charette, Ms. Samantha Watkins

#### 1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was declared approved.

#### 2. Minutes of Regular Meeting of June 23, 2014

**MOTION (T. Redies/B. Van Ruyven):**

*THAT the minutes of the open session of the regular meeting of June 23, 2013 be approved.*

**CARRIED**

#### 3. Business Arising

There was none.

#### 4. Remarks from the Chair

Dr. Mohr welcomed new members.

#### 5. Correspondence

- a. Message from Minister de Jong, dated July 10, 2014
- b. Letter from Minister Virk, dated August 1, 2014
- c. Letter from Minister Virk, dated September 16, 2014

Dr. Mohr said that correspondence had been received from Minister de Jong and Minister Virk concerning the provincial government's new taxpayer accountability principles and standards of conduct for the BC public sector. Dr. Mohr said there had since been discussion between

government officials and the Research Universities' Council of British Columbia (RUCBC) about these matters. He said the Deputy Minister of Advanced Education had very recently written to ask board members to sign an Addendum to the Government Letter of Expectations (GLE).

It was observed that the boards of other BC universities had also received this request.

It was noted that the letter would be available in the Office of the University Secretary for those Board members who chose to sign it. Dr. Mohr emphasized that this was an individual decision.

In response to a question from Ms. Mackenzie about whether the document would be made available to the public, Dr. Eastman said that it would be posted on the university website.

Ms. Redies asked whether there had been any discussion of how the government would determine whether or not universities and other institutions are following the principles.

In response, Prof. Cassels described the annual accountability process and said there would be periodic meetings between government officials and board chairs.

## **CONSENT**

### **6. Audit Committee (B. Van Ruyven)**

- a. Government Reporting Entity Quarterly Reports – Period Ending June 30, 2014 and Approval of Budget for Audited Consolidated Financial Statements BOG-Sept30/14-16**

#### **MOTION:**

*THAT the Board of Governors approve the 2015 Public Sector Accounting Standards (PSAS) budget to be reported on the 2014/15 University of Victoria Consolidated Financial Statements as per Schedules A and B.*

### **7. Operations and Facilities Committee (M. Kennedy)**

- a. Status Report on Capital Projects BOG-Sept30/14-11**
- b. Annual report on University of Victoria approved Research Centres BOG-Sept30/14-28**

### **8. Finance Committee (L. LeBlanc)**

- a. Short Term Investment Report to June 30, 2014 BOG-Sept30/14-06**

#### **MOTION:**

*THAT the Board of Governors approve the revised Short Term Investment Policy FM5200 as per Appendix 8.*

- b. Long-Term Disability Trust – 2014/15 Financial Statements BOG-Sept30/14-08**

***Pro Forma Motion (P. Gustavson/I. Mackenzie): That the above items be approved by the Board of Governors by consent.***

**REGULAR****9. Operations and Facilities Committee (M. Kennedy)****a. Facilities Condition: Associated Risks BOG-Sept30/14-12**

Mr. Kennedy reported that the Operations and Facilities Committee had received a presentation the day before regarding deferred maintenance. He said it had received an updated assessment and a clarification of how risks are assessed and priorities are set.

**b. Academic Staffing, Recruitment, and Vacancies Report BOG-Sept30/14-01**

Mr. Kennedy reported that the Operations and Facilities Committee had received a report on these matters. He noted some highlights. He said that the number of faculty members over the age of 65 continued to grow.

**c. Campus Plan Update BOG-Sept30/14-13**

Mr. Kennedy said the university was about to embark on the process of updating the campus plan, which was primarily driven by the strategic plan. He said that a steering committee had been established and a process initiated. He said a draft plan would be created in 2015 and that members of the university and the external community would be consulted in the process. The target date for approval of the updated plan was January 2016.

**d. Update on the Strategic Research Planning Process BOG-Sept30/14-26**

Vice President Research David Castle was welcomed. Dr. Castle reported that preparations for updating the strategic research plan had started in 2012 but had been put on hold pending the appointment of a new president and vice-president research. He said the process would begin now and would include an assessment to benchmark UVic against comparable universities nationally and internationally. It would include strategies to maintain the great work underway at the university. He said this process was driven by the strategic plan and would include extensive consultation.

There was discussion of the relationship of the strategic research planning process to the priorities and expectations of the provincial government and other external stakeholders.

**10. Finance Committee (L. LeBlanc)****a. 2014/15 Budget Expenditure Allocation Report BOG-Sept30/14-04**

Ms. LeBlanc reported that unless there were significant changes, departments would not be asked to make across the board budget reductions in 2014/15. She said the Board would receive further information in November.

## **b. Update on Divestment Requests**

Ms. LeBlanc reported that the Finance Committee had had an extensive discussion of responsible divestment at its meeting the previous day. She said the Committee recognized that divestment of fossil fuels was an important issue.

Ms. LeBlanc said that the Finance Committee had received an update from the University of Victoria Foundation board on steps that the Foundation had taken in response to requests to divest. At her request, Vice-President Finance and Operations Gayle Gorrill summarized the steps the Foundation had taken. The Foundation would not divest but would be enhancing responsible investment practices. She said the Foundation would require annual reporting in writing from managers regarding how they take environmental factors into account in their decision making and the Foundation would enhance its commitment to responsible investing by becoming a signator to United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (UNPRI).

Ms. Gorrill said that becoming a signatory would increase transparency and prompt regular review and reflection on environmental social and governance factors. She reported that the Foundation would not divest at this time but would continue to be supportive of the university as it engaged in dialogue on these issues.

Ms. Gorrill reported on action taken by other universities.

Vice-President External Relations Carmen Charette reminded Board members that last May the Board had undertaken to promote dialogue. She announced a forum would be held in early January co-sponsored by UVic and the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS) to address issues of climate change including divestment. She said the university would create a website with pertinent information and perspectives and that a summary of the proceedings would be shared with the Board and the Foundation, and posted on the website in order to encourage the discussion to continue.

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

### **a. Community Engagement at the University of Victoria – Overview by Vice-President External Relations Carmen Charette with Leslie Brown, Special Advisor to the Provost on Community-University Engagement**

Ms. Charette provided an overview of community engagement at UVic. She said that UVic had a long history of positive and beneficial relationships with many external communities and had made a strong commitment in its strategic plan to enhance community engagement.

Ms. Charette introduced Special Advisor to the Provost on Community-University Engagement Leslie Brown.

Ms. Brown described the strengths for which UVic is known and strategies for building upon them in areas, including: knowledge mobilization; community engaged research; community engaged learning; and policy.

She provided information on developing a framework for moving forward strategically and on initiatives underway and planned.

Ms. Charette and Ms. Brown were thanked for their presentations.

**b. Other matters**

President Cassels provided his report.

He spoke about the following developments at the Provincial level:

- The Deputy Minister and Assistant Deputy Minister of Advanced Education's recent visit to UVic.
- The activities of the Research Universities Council of BC (RUCBC).
- An upcoming potential trade mission to India in which Prof. Cassels would be participating.
- The provincial governments Taxpayer Accountability Principles. Prof. Cassels said instructions had been sent to all public sector entities to develop a code of conduct. Ms. Charette said that UVic had a number of policies, procedures and provisions that contained elements of what would be considered a code of conduct. Working closely with RUCBC, UVic and other universities would provide to government a description of the existing components that address the requirements of a code of conduct and a link to all of these.

Referring to the federal level:

- Prof. Cassels congratulated the team that succeeded in securing further operating funding for Ocean Networks Canada (ONC).
- Prof. Cassel's reported on a meeting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Yukon MP Ryan Leef, Minister of Environment Leona Aglukka and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs Bernard Valcourt in Cambridge Bay at which UVic arctic initiatives had been highlighted.

Finally, President Cassels reported on campus events, including a terrific start to the year with orientations for new faculty and students, and the Vikes Breakfast that morning which had raised \$475,000 for student scholarships to support student athletes.

**12. Other Business**

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Original signed by Erich Mohr, Board Chair  
and Julia Eastman, University Secretary