



BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Approved Minutes of the Meeting (Open Session) held on
Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 3:00 p.m.
Videoconference

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cheryl Fraser (Chair), Paul Beesley, Level Chan, Glen Dexter, Cassandra Dorrington, Jonathon Frontain, Angeline Gillis, Frank Harvey (Acting President), Kristan Hines, Joyce Hoeven, Shona Kinley, Murray Lyu, Jay MacIsaac, Merle MacIsaac, Catherine MacPherson, Aparna Mohan, Arvin Ramlakhan, Louise Spiteri, Caroline Zayid

MEMBERS REGRETS:

Scott Brison, Anne Campbell, Ahsan Habib, Devarsh Sood

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT:

Alice Aiken (Vice-President Research & Innovation), Sheila Blair-Reid (Acting VP Advancement), Kim Brooks (Acting Provost & Vice-President Academic), John Hope (General Counsel & University Secretary), Gitta Kulczycki (Vice-President Finance & Administration), Cheryl MacDonald (Associate Secretary, Board of Governors)

NON-MEMBERS REGRETS:

Matt Hebb (Vice-President Government & Global Relations), Judith Ng'ethe (Associate Secretary of Senate)

GUESTS:

Tim Maloney (Executive Director, Athletics & Recreation), Laurel Munroe (Director Communications and Public Relations), Matt Proctor (Assistant Vice-President Communications, Marketing and Creative Services), Mary-Ann Rowston (Director, Budgets & Financial Analysis), David Westwood (DFA Observer)

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

2. Presentation: Student-Athlete Engagement

C. Fraser introduced T. Maloney, Executive Director of Athletics and Recreation.

T. Maloney presented on the work of the Athletics and Recreation Department, noting that the primary areas of focus in relation to varsity athletes are combined excellence in academics, athletics, and community involvement, with the acknowledgement that the athletes are students first. Maintaining academics as a priority has resulted in 57% of student athletes achieving U SPORTS Academic All-Canadian status during 2021-22. T. Maloney spoke to the tremendous success of Dalhousie's varsity teams, who won 9 of 16 conference championships for the second year in a row.

T. Maloney spoke to the Department's various community relations and outreach efforts both on and off campus. Through the wide variety of programming available, including camps, varsity games and special events, as well as recreational facilities on offer, the Athletics Department serves, in addition to students, members of Dalhousie's faculty, staff, alumni, and community members and youth. He noted that varsity students are also actively engaged in off-campus volunteering and support a variety of causes including CIBC's Run for the Cure, Ronald McDonald House, the Pride Parade and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. He reported that Dalhousie is set to support the 2023 North American Indigenous Games in Halifax, which is set to be the largest multi-sport games Halifax has hosted. More than 5000 participants from across North America are expected to attend the games, and more than 1100 participants will live on Dalhousie's campus during the event.

Board members thanked T. Maloney for his presentation and commended him on the impressive work being done through the department of Athletics and Recreation.

3. Consent Agenda

All items were adopted by consent.

3.1 Minutes of Meeting of November 22, 2022

THAT the minutes of the meeting of November 22, 2022 be approved as presented.

Approved by CONSENT.

3.2 Matters from Senate

3.2.1 Jean Monnet European Union Centre of Excellence – Proposal for Creation as a Centre

THAT the Board of Governors approve the establishment of the Jean Monnet European Union Centre of Excellence as presented.

Approved by CONSENT.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business noted.

5. Chair's Report

C. Fraser began her report by acknowledging African Heritage Month and the events happening at Dalhousie in recognition and celebration of the vast contributions of African-Canadians to Canadian society.

C. Fraser recognized that December was particularly difficult for the Dalhousie community and acknowledged the passing of two students in residence. As well, she noted the passing of Ben McIsaac, co-Acting Vice-President Advancement, in January.

C. Fraser reported on her attendance at the Women in Excellence dinner and also highlighted the recent achievements of the Dalhousie men's and women's swim teams who captured AUS titles.

C. Fraser congratulated Board member Dr. Ahsan Habib. Dr. Habib is leading a research project aimed at improving the understanding of greenhouse gas emissions that has been selected to receive \$3.6 million over five years through Canada's Climate Action and Awareness Fund.

C. Fraser reported on the joint Board and Senate Officers meeting that was held on January 19th; the focus of the meeting was on current transitions in leadership and the continued work of the Bicameral Governance Working Group.

C. Fraser referred Board members to the Report of the Executive Committee in the meeting materials and the motions approved on behalf of the Board. The motions are as follows:

Acting Vice-President Advancement Appointment (January 12, 2023)

THAT the Board Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Governors, approve the appointment of Sheila Blair-Reid as Acting Vice-President Advancement for a term from the date of approval to October 17, 2023.

THAT the Board Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Governors, authorize Sheila Blair-Reid to sign on behalf of the University all documents covered under the Document Execution/Contract Signing Authority Policy while serving as Acting Vice-President Advancement.

Presidential Search Committee – Board Appointees and Committee Membership (January 12, 2023)

THAT the Board Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Governors and on the recommendation of the Board Governance and Human Resources Committee, approve the appointment of Paul Beesley to the Presidential Search Committee, effective immediately.

THAT the Board Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Governors and on the recommendation of the Board Governance and Human Resources Committee, approve the appointment of Level Chan to the Presidential Search Committee, effective immediately.

THAT the Board Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Governors and on the recommendation of the Board Governance and Human Resources Committee, approve the appointment of Cassandra Dorrington to the Presidential Search Committee, effective immediately.

THAT the Board Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Governors and on the recommendation of the Board Governance and Human Resources Committee, approve the appointment of Kristan Hines to the Presidential Search Committee, effective immediately.

THAT the Board Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Governors and on the recommendation of the Board Governance and Human Resources Committee, approve the appointment of Catherine MacPherson to the Presidential Search Committee, effective immediately.

That the Board Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Governors, ratify the Presidential Search Committee membership as presented.

Chair:

Cheryl Fraser (Chair, Board of Governors)

Board-appointed members:

Paul Beesley

Level Chan

Cassandra Dorrington

Kristan Hines

Catherine MacPherson

Non-Board-appointed members:

Senate-appointed members:

Hany El Naggat (Faculty of Engineering)

Graham Gagnon (Dean, Faculty of Architecture and Planning)

Louise Spiteri (Chair of Senate; Faculty of Management)

Dalhousie Student Union appointed member:

Aparna Mohan (Dalhousie Student Union President)

Staff member:

Matt Hebb (Vice-President Government and Global Relations)

Ratification of Collective Agreement with Dalhousie Faculty Association (January 31, 2023)

THAT the Board Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Governors, ratify and approve the collective agreement with the Dalhousie Faculty Association for the three-year period from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025.

C. Fraser closed her report by noting her upcoming visit to Dalhousie's Agricultural Campus.

6. President's Report

F. Harvey began his report by thanking Board members for their support during his transition to the role of Acting President.

F. Harvey noted the flag raising event held on February 1 to launch African Heritage Month on campus and highlighted key priorities and initiatives including the ongoing implementation of the African Nova Scotian strategy through the work of the African Nova Scotian Advisory Council and the advancement of the cluster hiring initiative in support of the Black and African Diaspora Studies program.

F. Harvey spoke to Dalhousie's recent partnership with Cape Breton University to establish a medical campus in Cape Breton by 2025 and acknowledged the tremendous work by David Anderson, Dean of Medicine, and Matt Hebb, Vice-President Government and Global Relations, on this initiative. He also noted the recent challenges faced by the Office of Advancement and acknowledged their continued work on the comprehensive campaign and thanked Sheila Blair-Reid for her leadership.

Closing his report, F. Harvey noted Tim Maloney's (Executive Director, Athletics & Recreation) presentation on student-athlete engagement at Dalhousie and shared further information on the achievements of Dalhousie's student athletes.

7. Dalhousie Student Union President's Report

A. Mohan referred members to her report included in the meeting materials and reported on the DSU's community engagement efforts at various University and DSU-hosted events. She spoke to a summit co-hosted with Rick Ezekiel, Vice-Provost Student Affairs, with a goal to develop an integrated transition and engagement framework for students entering University beginning fall 2023. She also noted the active role the DSU has played in addressing the issue of unsanctioned street parties, including co-facilitating student consultations with Student Affairs this term.

A. Mohan spoke to the success of the Giving Tuesday campaign, which raised \$72,000 for the DSU Food Bank and the Agricultural Campus Food Pantry. She highlighted long-term issues related to operational sustainability, noting a potential partnership with Student Affairs is being explored.

Lastly, A. Mohan spoke to the climate crisis, the topic of divestment, and the importance of an ongoing commitment to climate action, noting that the DSU's recommends that the University regularly evaluate progress on the "Investing to Address Climate Change" charter objectives.

8. Items for Information

8.1 Draft Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) Report LXIII

K. Brooks and G. Kulczycki presented the draft Budget Advisory Committee Report LXIII. K. Brooks spoke to budgetary challenges, noting that the projected university operating costs increase at a faster rate than government support resulting in a gap that needs to be addressed by increasing revenue and/or adjusting expenditures.

G. Kulczycki noted the two main sources of revenues supporting the overall operating budget are tuition and the Provincial operating grant at 47.3% and 41.4% respectively, with other various revenues such as endowment income totalling 11.3%. The current Memorandum of Understanding with the Province, which expires March 31, 2024, is a block grant and does not provide additional funding based on increased enrolment. She also reviewed comparisons between Dalhousie and U15 and other Nova Scotian universities regarding administrative costs, noting that Dalhousie spends significantly less than comparators.

G. Kulczycki spoke to assumptions in the balanced 2023-24 budget plan. Overall, an increase is expected in tuition revenue based on enrolment compared with 2022-23. Additionally, increased support of \$6.5M will come from Endowments, largely as a result of the integration of the Dalhousie Medical Research Fund. Faculties and units will be asked to address a 1.5% gap between budget allocation and overall cost increases. As well, BAC is recommending a 3.0% increase on domestic tuition and an overall average increase of 7.5% for returning international students or those not included in the new tuition cohort model. Areas of priority investment include an inflationary adjustment of 2% applied to Faculty/unit non-salary budgets and library acquisition costs; continued investment in Third Century Promise priorities, facilities renewal and cybersecurity; and an investment of \$4.0M in Accessibility and code modifications. As well, an additional \$1.1M will be allocated to student assistance, including an allocation to support international students under the new tuition model. G. Kulczycki spoke to the challenges related to securing funding for physical infrastructure. While the budget does not include a base budget allocation for capital investment, opportunities presented by either greater than budget revenues or less than budgets expenditures will be used for pressing one-time capital investments.

G. Kulczycki noted the draft BAC report has been released to allow for consultation and consideration of feedback, which includes a student survey, a Senate think tank session, and written feedback via email. The final budget is expected to be presented to the Board for approval in March in advance of the new fiscal year. Going forward, priorities include development of a new budget model and continued implementation of the UniForum global benchmarking program.

Following the report, G. Kulczycki responded to a question of clarification related to the \$4M allocated for accessibility improvements and code modifications.

It was noted that in addition to capital needs, increases in student services on campus to match growing enrollment numbers is also an important consideration.

8.2 Board Standing Committee Report

C. Fraser referred members to the reports included in the meeting materials. There were no comments on the reports.

9. In Camera Session

The Board moved to the *in camera* session.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm.