

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
January 29, 2024  
Jorgenson Hall – JOR 1410  
380 Victoria Street and By Video Conference  
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

Minutes of a meeting of the Board of Governors of Toronto Metropolitan University (the “University”) held on Monday, January 29, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Present:** O. Abdelgawad, S. Babikian, N. Chauhan, J. Cockwell, J. Dallaire, T. Darisi, M. Davis, I. Gammel, M. Knight, M. Lachemi, G. Leong, D. Miller, N. Mohamed, C. Paisley (Vice-Chair), D. Porter, R. Rodrigues, E. Shim, S. Sinha, W. Soliman, N. Sugunalan, L. Taylor Green, B. Venkatesh, L. Williams

**Regrets:** M. Crosta, J. Fukakusa, N. Gupta, T. Staffieri (Chair)

**Board Secretariat:**

W. Lawrence, General Counsel, Secretary of the Board of Governors, and Chief Privacy Officer

V. Luckiram, Governance Specialist

A. Mall, Senior Legal Counsel and Governance Officer

**Others in Attendance:**

M. Baker, Chief of Staff and Senior Director Government Relations

P. Barata, Executive Director, Future Skills Centre

T. Chan, Dean of the School of Medicine, Vice-President, Medical Affairs

T. Conte, Executive Director, Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic

T. De Mello, Vice-President, Equity and Community Inclusion

M. Dettweiler, Executive Director, Campus Development

M. Forbes, Assistant Vice-President, University Relations

R. Frankle, Assistant Vice-President, Development

G. Hudson, Interim Dean, Lincoln Alexander School of Law

R. Iannacito-Provenzano, Provost and Vice-President, Academic

S. Liss, Vice-President, Research and Innovation

G. Mallon, Assistant Vice-President, Facilities Management and Development

K. McCausland, Interim Vice-Provost, University Planning

J. McKee, Chief Financial Officer

J. McMillen, Vice-Provost, Students

K. Mehta, Vice-President, University Advancement and Alumni Relations

L. Nater, Senior Presentation Technology Specialist

J. O'Donnell, Chief Human Resources Officer

C. Searcy, Assistant Vice-President, International

A. Snobar, Executive Director of DMZ and CEO of DMZ Ventures

S. Zolfaghari, Vice-President, Administration and Operations

**1. IN-CAMERA DISCUSSION (Board Members Only)**

**2. IN-CAMERA DISCUSSION (Executive Group Invited)**

**END OF IN-CAMERA SESSION**

**3. INTRODUCTION**

3.1. Welcome

3.1.1. Land Acknowledgement

3.1.2. Chair's Remarks

C. Paisley, Vice-Chair of the Board, welcomed Board members to the first Board meeting of the new year and thanked Dean G. Hepburn at The Chang School of Continuing Education; S. Zolfaghari, Vice-President, Administration and Operations; and A. Snobar, Executive Director of DMZ and CEO of DMZ Ventures, and their respective offices for the University-curated items provided for the Board members.

**3.2. CONSENT AGENDA**

3.2.1. Approval of the January 29, 2024 Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

3.2.2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

3.2.3. Approval of the November 28, 2023 Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented.

**4. REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT**

M. Lachemi introduced K. Mehta as the new Vice-President, University Advancement and Alumni Relations; recognized S. Liss, the research team, and faculty members for the University's placement among the top five (5) comprehensive research universities in three (3) categories; and highlighted the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management's notable third place standing in Canada within the annual Global Ranking of Academic Subjects published by ShanghaiRanking Consultancy.

M. Lachemi shared updates on the University's public response to a letter from five (5) members of Parliament regarding the impact of the conflict in the Middle East and a working group convened by the Office of the Vice-President, Equity and Community Inclusion that will collaborate with other units throughout the University to plan, organize and host initiatives to respond to community needs.

M. Lachemi discussed the work of the Lincoln Alexander School of Law's ("LASL") Student Initiative Working Group; how co-authors R. Khouri and J. Wilkinson of *The Wall Between* will facilitate meetings with the LASL's Student Initiative Working Group to help build understanding and find common ground and shared values; and the collaborative support that will be provided by A. Elghawaby, Canada's Special Representative on Combatting Islamophobia, and D. Lyons, Canada's Special Envoy on Preserving Holocaust Remembrance and Combatting Antisemitism.

## **5. REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY**

W. Lawrence, Secretary of the Board, reported on the appeal of the Lincoln Alexander Law Student Society Fee referendum, the upcoming Board Elections, and the Governance Essentials training sessions.

## **6. REPORT FROM THE PROVOST AND VICE-PRESIDENT ACADEMIC**

R. Iannacito-Provenzano, Provost and Vice-President, Academic, provided an update on the development of the new academic plan; recent milestones for the School of Medicine; the search for the Vice-Provost, Faculty Affairs; and recent learning and teaching initiatives. R. Iannacito-Provenzano outlined the process for the development of the new academic plan and noted that the final plan will be presented to the Board and Senate in the fall of 2024. R. Iannacito-Provenzano discussed how the School of Medicine is engaging with and learning about the communities and community partners it will be working with, including key partnerships recently established, such as with the Indigenous Primary Health Care Council, the Peel District School Board and the Northern Ontario School of Medicine University. R. Iannacito-Provenzano introduced G. Hudson who will act as Interim Dean of the LASL until June 30, 2024, and C. Searcy who was recently appointed as Assistant Vice-President, International.

## **7. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**7.1. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

7.1.1. Introduction to the 2024-25 Budget Process

D. Porter reported that the Finance Committee met on January 23, 2024, and heard from M. Lachemi, R. Iannacito-Provenzano, K. McCausland, Interim Vice-Provost, University Planning, and J. McKee regarding the introduction to the 2024-25 Budget Process.

**8. FOR INFORMATION**

8.1. University Relations Monthly Metrics and Reach

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**NEXT MEETING: March 26, 2024**