



BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Monday, April 27, 2015
Jorgenson Hall – JOR 1410
380 Victoria Street
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Minutes of a meeting of the Board of Governors of Ryerson University held on Monday, April 27, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. in Jorgenson Hall, JOR-1410.

ATTENDANCE:

Present: J. Fukakusa (Chair), M. Maheux (Vice Chair), C.A. Bissonnette, L. Bloomberg, J. Cockwell, M. Dionne, M. Frazer, N. Geist, B. Halilovic, C. Hilkene, S. Levy, N. Mohamed, B. Richards, A. Snobar, D. Sookram, R. Traill, K. Varma, J. Vukovic, T. Webb, P. Yaffe

Regrets: M. Al Zaibak, L. Amleh, H. Rosen,

Board Secretariat:

J. Shin Doi, General Counsel and Secretary of the Board of Governors
C. Redmond, Governance Officer

Others Attending

M. Lachemi, Provost and Vice President Academic
J. Winton, Vice President Administration & Finance and Chief Financial Officer
A. Kahan, Vice President University Advancement
E. McGinn, Assistant Vice-President, Communications, Government and Community Engagement
P. Stenton, Deputy Provost and Vice Provost University Planning
M. Ng, Executive Director, Office of the President
S. Zolfaghari, Interim Vice Provost Faculty Affairs
D. O'Neil Green, Assistant Vice President and Vice Provost Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
H. Lane Vetere, Vice Provost, Students
J. Root, Vice President Education
R. Hoilett, President, Ryerson Student Union

- 1. IN-CAMERA DISCUSSION (Board Members Only)**
- 2. IN-CAMERA DISCUSSION (Senior Management Invited)**

END OF IN-CAMERA SESSION

- 3. INTRODUCTION**

3.1 Chair's Remarks

The Chair offered condolences on behalf of the Board to Mohamed Lachemi on the recent death of this father.

The Chair encouraged Board members to attend the upcoming June convocation convocations and Honorary Doctorate Dinners and informed them that the annual June Board Dinner would be postponed until the fall because of Ramadan.

The Chair congratulated Julia Shin Doi for recently receiving the 2015 Ontario Bar Association Linda Adlam Manning Award for Volunteerism; thanked Tyler Webb for providing complimentary tickets to Ryerson University Film Festival; and spoke of the Board invitation to the 25 Year Club Reception and Awards Ceremony.

The Chair noted that the Vice President Education of the Ryerson Students' Union, Jesse Root would speak to the Board about the RSU' Alternative Budget.

3.2 Approval of the April 27, 2015 Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

4. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The President gave background information on the Helen Keller Award which Ryerson recently received.

The President spoke of a small addendum to the budget which would reflect most recent information from the provincial budget.

The President spoke of Canada's Best Diversity Employers Award received by the University in 2015. The leadership of the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) was especially noted and its commitment to diversity and inclusion.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mitch Frazer reported that the Finance Committee considered the 2015-16 budget on April 16, 2015. At a previous Finance Committee meeting in February they reviewed the environmental scan and met as a Committee in March to discuss tuition fees. All this was done in advance of considering the budget.

In March, the Chair reported that the Finance Committee heard from the Ryerson Student Union on their alternative budget and at that meeting heard the administration's response to the alternative budget.

Mr. Frazer said that there were a several points the Finance Committee wanted the Board to consider going into the budget discussions:

- The Ontario university system has begun a formula funding review which will impact all universities- some positively some negatively. Also the funding universities have received for growth over the last decade is soon to end with a declining enrollment in the system

- These funding and enrolment issues have been taken into account by the Administration and as a result they have presented a balanced budget that has a solid foundation. This is a budget that is cautious and does not make forward-looking assumptions to solve today's problems.
- The RSU's alternative budget asks the Finance Committee to recommend a freeze on fees. The cost to do so has long term implications and would be unwise to consider in light of the changes to the funding system. No university in the system is taking this approach and Ryerson happens to be one of the lowest funded universities.
- At the same time the University's management is making recommendations to freeze PhD fees and lower other Master fees as well as add \$1.8 million to bursaries.

With this as background the Mitch Frazer reported that the Finance Committee is recommending management's strong, balanced budget to the Board.

Mitch Frazer reported that during the upcoming presentation the President would provide an overview of the budget and the Provost will describe the budget process. The Deputy Provost will walk us through some of the details of the budget and the VP Administration will then show the impact on the University's financial statements.

4.1 Ryerson Student Union – Alternative Budget

Jesse Root, Vice President Education of the Ryerson Student Union presented RSU's rationale for the alternative budget which makes university education more accessible and will ensure a high quality education while allowing for long-term planning and student need.

Several students read excerpts from a petition circulated on behalf of the Ryerson Student Union.

The President of RSU, Rejean Hoilett and other students spoke of his background and the impact of debt on his and other families.

Mohamed Lachemi clarified some of the comments made during Mr. Root's presentation and in particular the comparative data on schools. The Provost added that the University's budget continues to put students first and will continue to work with student on their financial issues.

Jesse Root added that student stories should not be ignored when considering a decision on the budget.

4.2 Budget Priorities and Expenditures 2015-16 Operating Budget and Consolidated Budget

The President provided a brief context for the budget and spoke briefly of the impact of the April 23, 2015 provincial budget on the university's budget. The President said that the budget is conservative because universities are going into a period of formula revision and demographic decline and many variables cannot be predicted

The President spoke of the budget's response to student need. Heather Lane Vetere spoke of the deployment of assistance to students and who the funding affects and the rules of Ontario Student

Assistance Programme.

Board members wanted clarification on the increase in revenue; the fees collected on behalf of students and the growth for new programmes.

Mohamed Lachemi spoke of the timeline of consultations and the budget development process.

Paul Stenton reported that the budget promotes the University's four strategic priorities He spoke of the various elements that influence the budget such as enrolment, revenue, programs, zone learning, research funding, new partnerships and the academic plan.

Paul Stenton added that the budget covers inflationary costs and salary costs and requires an overall average tuition fees increase by 3% in 2015-16. The budget contemplates a 2.5% across-the-board base budget reduction, of which 1% is reallocated as base strategic budget allocations, and \$30.7 million in one-time-only strategic allocation expenditures.

Janice Winton spoke to the operating and consolidated budget and fee schedules.

It was moved, seconded and carried:

BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:

THAT the 2015-16 Tuition Fees (both Domestic and International); Non tuition-Related Fees; Departmental Lab/Ancillary Fees; Service Fees; Residence Fees and Food Plans be approved as presented.

Michelle Dionne asked for more clarification on graduate fees and competitor universities' fees. Ms. Dionne requested that there be more discretionary spending on graduate students.

The Provost responded that the Administration had allocated an additional \$1.35 million for support of graduate programs.

Darius Sookram spoke to the student's personal narratives and spoke of the experience of being a student and the equality of the budget.

Nadir Mohamed asked about the possibility of providing relief to students financially. The President responded that the government controls this through OSAP

Nadir Mohamed said that privately funded bursaries could be an avenue to assist students.

Janice Fukakusa recommended that the University examine how students receive financial assistance and Nadir Mohamed added that the University should explore ways to increase financial accessibility within the University system.

Bob Richard moved a friendly amendment to the resolution

It was moved, seconded and carried:

BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:

THAT the 2015-16 Budget be approved as presented and;

THAT as per the Ryerson Student Union's Alternative Budget recommendation No. 4 all future Schedule One – Operating budget presentations include an additional year of budget and actuals.

5. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE EMPLOYEE RELATIONS AND PENSION COMMITTEE

Mitch Frazer reported that the Employee Relations and Pension Committee met on April 16, 2015. At that meeting Karen Burnett from Towers Watson had presented an overview of the assumptions for the January 1, 2015 valuations. Mr. Frazer reported that the President would speak briefly to the assumptions and Christina Sass-Kortsak would be available to answer any questions Board members may have about the assumptions.

Mr. Frazer reported that at the April 16, 2015 meeting the 2014 Environmental Health and Safety Report was presented; a recommendation for the RRPP annual expense budget was approved and an update on RRPP activities was discussed. The Environmental Health and Safety report and the RRPP expense recommendation will be brought to the June Board meeting.

5.1 Proposed Assumption Changes for 2015, Plan Valuation & Funded Status Projections

The President spoke to the proposed assumption changes and reported that Tower Watson recommended that updates be made to the mortality tables to reflect the pension size adjustments. The President said the pension plan, subject to market influences still remains solvent.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

10.1. Approval of the March 30, 2015 Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented.

Janice Fukakusa thanked the students for respecting the process.

7. TERMINATION