



**BOARD OF GOVERNORS**  
**September 26, 2023**  
**Jorgenson Hall – JOR 1410**  
**380 Victoria Street**  
**1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**M I N U T E S**

Minutes of a meeting of the Board of Governors of Toronto Metropolitan University (the “University”) held on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

**Regrets:** J. Fukakusa, D. Miller, N. Mohamed, W. Soliman, T. Staffieri (Chair), B. Venkatesh, L. Williams

**Board Secretariat:**

W. Lawrence, General Counsel, Secretary of the Board of Governors, and Chief Privacy Officer  
V. Luckiram, Governance Specialist

J. MacInnis, Associate General Counsel and Assistant Secretary of the Board of Governors

A. Mall, Senior Legal Counsel and Governance Officer

**Others in Attendance:**

P. Albanese, Vice-Provost, Faculty Affairs

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

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

S. Fakirani, Director, Student Engagement and Experience

M. Forbes, Assistant Vice-President, University Relations

R. Frankle, Interim Vice-President, University Advancement

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

A. McWilliams, Interim Dean, Faculty of Science  
L. Nater, Senior Presentation Technology Specialist  
J. Neiman, Director, Pensions and Benefits  
J. Noronha, JD Student  
M. Robertson, Chief Librarian  
D. Young, Dean, Lincoln Alexander School of Law  
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

C. Paisley, Board Vice-Chair, acknowledged the land.

3.1.2 Chair's Remarks

C. Paisley, Vice-Chair of the Board, welcomed Board members to the first Board meeting of the year including the new Board members, O. Abdelgawad, M. Crosta, T. Darisi, N. Gupta, M. Knight, N. Sugunalan, B. Venkatesh, and L. Williams. C. Paisley congratulated W. Soliman on his reappointment to the Board for another three (3) years.

C. Paisley welcomed W. Lawrence, the new General Counsel, Secretary of the Board, and Chief Privacy Officer, and thanked J. MacInnis for her insight and guidance while acting in the interim role.

C. Paisley thanked S. Zolfaghari and R. Iannacito-Provenzano and their respective offices for the University-curated items provided for the Board members.

3.2 Approval of the September 26, 2023 Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

3.3 Chancellor Search Update

C. Paisley announced the start of the search process for the new Chancellor and explained the next steps in the process including the composition of the Chancellor Search Committee ("Search Committee"). C. Paisley explained that the Search Committee will be composed of

the President who shall chair the Committee; three members of the Board appointed by the Board; and three members of the Senate appointed by the Senate. C. Paisley advised that the Board Chair will announce the names of the three Board members at the next meeting.

On behalf of the Board Chair, C. Paisley asked M. Lachemi to speak to Senate at its next meeting about the appointment of three senators to the Search Committee and noted that once the search committee is formed, the Board Chair will ask the Search Committee to select an eminent individual who is well-respected in the community; has an excellent record of achievement; has a strong record of public service; is committed to the role of Chancellor and embodies the University's vision.

#### **4. REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT**

M. Lachemi welcomed new Board members O. Abdelgawad, M. Crosta, T. Darisi, N. Gupta, M. Knight, N. Sugunalan, B. Venkatesh, and L. Williams, as well as W. Lawrence to the University as the new General Counsel, Secretary of the Board and Chief Privacy Officer. M. Lachemi recognized J. MacInnis, Associate General Counsel and Assistant Secretary of the Board of Governors for her work as Interim General Counsel.

M. Lachemi acknowledged that this year the University will celebrate seventy-five (75) years as an institution, thirty (30) years of university status, and one (1) year with its new name. M. Lachemi noted that the University will continue to work towards being Canada's leading comprehensive innovation university guided by values that include infusing equity, diversity, and inclusion into all aspects of the University while continuing to move forward with action on truth and reconciliation with its indigenous community.

M. Lachemi noted the University's #1 position on Forbes's 2023 list of Canada's Best Employers for Diversity, which ranks organizations across the country promoting creative, diverse, equitable and inclusive workplaces.

M. Lachemi reported that the Bramalea Civic Centre building, home of the new School of Medicine, was acquired in August, and this addition along with the two (2) properties acquired in the spring will allow the University to plan for growth and increased capacity for enrolments.

M. Lachemi described the Image Centre's new fall exhibition titled "Stories from the Picture Press: Black Star Publishing Co. & The Canadian Press" and invited Board members to a special viewing of it after the November Board meeting.

M. Lachemi reported on the recent homecoming hockey game won by the men's hockey team in which the University's new mascot, Frankie the Falcon, was unveiled, and discussed the next stage of the "Made of Grit" campaign.

M. Lachemi provided an update on the changes to the *Benefactor Naming Policy* and noted that the comprehensive new policy applies to all namings of University assets, which result

from a gift or contribution or that are meant to be commemorative. M. Lachemi further explained that this new policy follows the recommendations of the Standing Strong Task Force Report. M. Lachemi noted that since the new policy expands upon and enhances the existing policy, it is being proposed that the existing policy be retired.

M. Lachemi noted that the fall 2023 convocation ceremonies will take place on October 12 and 13 and that the list of honorary doctorates will be shared with the community shortly.

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

W. Lawrence, Secretary of the Board, thanked C. Paisley for her welcome and advised that her report was in the materials.

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

R. Iannacito-Provenzano, Provost and Vice-President, Academic, advised that work has begun on the next academic plan and that extensive consultations will be held in the upcoming year. R. Iannacito-Provenzano provided an update on Orientation Week events noting that six thousand seven hundred (6,700) students attended one hundred sixteen (116) tailored events across campus.

R. Iannacito-Provenzano noted recent milestones for the School of Medicine including the submission of the preliminary accreditation documentation for the proposed MD program to the Council on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools and the grant of approval from the Ontario Universities Council on Quality Assurance to commence the proposed MD program. R. Iannacito-Provenzano advised that the priority now is the recruitment of physicians and securing clinical sites to support the school's undergraduate and postgraduate medical education programs.

R. Iannacito-Provenzano introduced Dr. T. Chan, Dean, School of Medicine and Vice-President, Medical Affairs; M. Robertson, Chief Librarian; and A. McWilliams, Interim Dean, Faculty of Science.

R. Iannacito-Provenzano recognized recent learning and teaching initiatives including the launch of the Faculty of Art's HOPE Centre; the launch of the Lincoln Alexander School of Law's student legal clinic; the opening of the new active learning classroom in Kerr Hall; and a "mini-masters" micro-credentials program at The Ted Rogers School of Management.

R. Iannacito-Provenzano acknowledged activities and accomplishments of the Indigenous Education Council Report including the annual awarding of the Indigenous Curriculum Development Fund to six (6) faculty members in 2022-23 and the input shared on various campus activities.

R. Iannacito-Provenzano shared an update on enrolment numbers noting that the number of incoming first-year students was higher in fall 2023 than in fall 2022 for both undergraduate

and graduate programs; the total number of students is roughly flat for domestic students and has increased for total international enrolment; and that the final enrolment figures will be available in November. R. Iannacito-Provenzano advised that early indications suggest that the University can be optimistic about meeting budget targets.

## **7. REPORT FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT, ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS**

S. Zolfaghari presented his annual report on the work being done by the Office of Administration and Operation and outlined the roles and responsibilities of the seven (7) units within his portfolio. S. Zolfaghari explained how the portfolios of the units are complex and diverse, focusing on people, infrastructure, and operations.

S. Zolfaghari provided a snapshot of success stories from the past year, including the University being selected as #1 on the Forbes list of Canada's Best Employers for Diversity 2023; the release of the first version of Indigenous Design Guidelines; the University's chiller towers being featured on CBC's *About That*; and the summer open farm on the rooftop of the Daphne Cockwell Health Sciences Complex.

## **8. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **8.1 Report from the Chair of the Governance Committee**

C. Paisley, Chair of the Governance Committee, reported that the committee met on August 24, 2023 and heard from J. MacInnis, then Interim General Counsel and Secretary of the Board and J. Lee, Director, Administration and Governance on the Governance Essentials Training Program; J. MacInnis and A. Mall, Senior Legal Counsel and Governance Officer, on the Annual Board and Committee Assessment Executive Summary for 2022-2023; and was presented with the Board members' terms and the Board and Committee meeting schedule for the upcoming year.

#### **8.1.1 Revised Board Committee Memberships 2023-2024**

C. Paisley noted that at the same meeting, the Governance Committee heard from J. MacInnis and J. Lee on the revised Board Committee memberships for 2023-2024 and recommended that the Board approve the revised committee membership as presented.

It was moved, seconded and carried that:

**BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:**

**THAT the Board of Governors approves the revised Board Committee Memberships for 2023-2024, as presented.**

## 8.2 Report from the Chair of the Employee Relations and Pensions Committee

### 8.2.1 Toronto Metropolitan University Pension Plan Updated Valuation Results at December 31, 2022

D. Porter, Chair of the Employee Relations and Pensions Committee, reported that the committee met on September 19, 2023, and heard from J. McKee, J. Neiman, Director, Pensions and Benefits; R. Bowen, Director, Retirement, WTW; and D. Kenny, Managing Director, WTW on the University's pension plan updated valuation results as of December 31, 2022, and recommended that the Board approve the filing of the valuation report.

It was moved, seconded and carried that:

**BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:**

**THAT the Board of Governors approves:**

- a) the filing of the valuation report prepared by WTW for the Toronto Metropolitan University Pension Plan as at December 31, 2022 as presented, with the Financial Services Regulatory Authority of Ontario; and
- b) that the contribution rates for non-faculty members be reduced effective November 1, 2023 to:
  - 9.5% of earnings up to and including \$3,500;
  - 7.4% of earnings from \$3,500.01 to the Years Maximum Pensionable Earnings (YMPE); and
  - 9.5% of earnings over the YMPE.

### 8.2.2 Appointment of the Actuary for the Toronto Metropolitan University Pension Plan

D. Porter reported that at the same meeting, the Employee Relations and Pensions Committee heard from J. Neiman on the appointment of the Actuary for the University's pension plan and recommended that the Board approve the appointment of WTW as the Actuary effective January 1, 2024.

It was moved, seconded and carried that:

**BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:**

**THAT the Board of Governors approves the appointment of WTW as the Actuary for the Toronto Metropolitan University Pension Plan ("TMUPP") effective January 1, 2024.**

### 8.3 Report from the Chair of the Finance Committee

#### 8.3.1 Review of Revenue and Expenditures for proposed Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Architecture

D. Porter, Chair of the Finance Committee, reported that the Finance Committee met on September 21, 2023, and heard from K. McCausland, Interim Vice-Provost, University Planning, on the Review of Revenue and Expenditures for the proposed Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Architecture and recommended that the Board approve that the proposed program is financially viable, and that it may be offered at the discretion of the Provost and Vice-President Academic.

It was moved, seconded and carried that:

**BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:**

**THAT on the basis of the review carried out, the program approvals of Senate, and the planned revenue and expenditures as presented, the Board of Governors approves that the proposed Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Architecture is financially viable, and that it may be offered at the discretion of the Provost and Vice-President Academic.**

#### 8.4 Lincoln Alexander Law Students' Society Referendum Proposal

J. McMillen, Vice-Provost, Students, and J. Noronha, a Juris Doctor (JD) student in the Lincoln Alexander School of Law, presented the Lincoln Alexander Law Students' Society ("LALSS") Referendum Proposal and explained how the proposed levy would help fund the operation of the LALSS and its clubs, associations, programs, and events. J. Noronha outlined the unique needs of law students and the various societies, community service groups, and associations that exist within the law school. J. Noronha explained how the levy would create a stable base of funding for the LALSS and the programs, initiatives, and student organizations it supports, allowing it to reliably plan out each semester. J. Noronha listed out how the funding will be used, the LALSS' oversight and accountability mechanisms, and student support of the levy.

O. Abdelgawad and T. Darisi are law students at the Lincoln Alexander School of Law and as such, declared a conflict of interest and abstained from voting on this resolution.

It was moved, seconded and carried that:

**BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:**

**THAT the Toronto Metropolitan University Election Procedures Committee be authorized to hold a student referendum at a time to be determined, for all students enrolled in the**

**Juris Doctor (JD) program at the Lincoln Alexander School of Law to seek approval for the creation of an annual fee of up to One Hundred and Forty Dollars (\$140.00) to support the operation of the Lincoln Alexander Law Students' Society.**

**THAT the compulsory fee be adjusted annually by the change in the Toronto Consumer Price Index (CPI); and**

**THAT the specific wording of the referendum question be subject to approval by the Vice-Provost, Students.**

## **9. FOR INFORMATION**

9.1 Toronto Metropolitan University Common Abbreviations

9.2 University Relations Monthly Metrics and Reach

## **10. CONSENT AGENDA**

10.1 Approval of the June 26, 2023 Minutes

10.2 TMU Capital Builds - Reporting on Capital Projects

10.3 Retirement of Benefactor Naming Policy

C. Paisley moved to adopt the items on the consent agenda including the following agenda item.

**BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:**

**THAT the Board of Governors approves the retirement of the Toronto Metropolitan University *Benefactor Naming Policy* effective October 2, 2023.**

## **10. TERMINATION**

**NEXT MEETING: November 28, 2023**