

**Cape Breton University
Board of Governors
Public Meeting**

**Friday, October 25, 2013
Following Prologue
CE-339**

1 – 5 Opening Information/Discussion

1. Roll Call

Present:

Dr. David Wheeler (President), Dr. Robert Bailey (Secretary), Ms. Judy Bailey, Mr. Clayton Locke, Dr. Scott Moir, Dr. Scott Stewart, Ms. Patricia McCann, Mr. Brennan Boudreau, Mr. Andrew Skinner, Ms. Norma Boyd, Dr. Eddie Davis, Mr. Kenneth Crawford, Mr. Steve Wadden, Mr. Ben Cowan-Dewar, Mr. Rob Fowler, Dr. Hayes MacNeil (Chair), Mr. Brian LeBlanc, Dr. Dianne Calvert-Simms (via teleconference), Mr. Mark Shannon, Mr. Roland Thornhill, Mr. Ambrose White, Mr. Gordon MacInnis (Treasurer), Mr. Howard Windsor, Ms. Marlene Usher

Regrets:

Mr. Matt Latimer, Ms. Connie Boone, Mr. Rany Ibrahim, Mr. Leo MacIntosh, Mr. Tony Mozvik, Dr. Rex Dunn (Vice-Chair), Mr. John Paul, Ms. Carol Ripley

The Chair declared quorum and called the meeting to order.

2 Minutes

2.1 - It was moved by Ms. Boyd, seconded by Mr. Shannon, to approve the minutes of June 21, 2013. **Motion carried.**

3 Business Arising – N/A

4 CEO/CAO

4.1 Report of the President

President Wheeler referred to the Report of the President circulated with the meeting package. In a PowerPoint presentation President Wheeler highlighted the following, responding to questions as they arose:

- The current overall status of Cape Breton University.
- Building on the strengths of CBU through reputation, student experience and future strategies.
- Areas of interest to showcase CBU's uniqueness.
- Strategic reviews and targets for academic planning, internationalization, student experience, development, a new finance model, marketing/communications plan and research, innovation and commercialization plan.
- Program renewal and development possibilities
- Strategic priorities and timelines

On the question of public accountability, President Wheeler referred to CBU as a University that identifies itself as an institution that asks what it can do for its students and community rather than one with a sense of entitlement.

President Wheeler reiterated in his report in stating that as the only University on Cape Breton Island, serving 15% of the Nova Scotia population, we currently receive only 6% of the Provincial funding envelope. Through new initiatives that could be of mutual benefit to the Province, the hope is that this gap could be reduced. Bilateral conversations with DLAE continue. President Wheeler believes these discussions could be of benefit to CBU in reinforcing our case and a strategy for these conversations could be discussed during the November retreat.

On the question on funding for the Innovation Fund, Mr. MacInnis replied this funding would be sourced from profit distribution from the CBU Foundation and would depend entirely on the profitability of the Foundation's companies.

With regard to the planned public consultations, a suggestion was put forth to target displaced Cape Bretoners that have moved to other Provinces for work, such as Alberta.

On the question of the Muskrat Falls development and where CBU could fit in, President Wheeler replied that it could be very important to Cape Breton and the Verschuren Centre could assist should the development proceed.

4.2 Report of Senate

Dr. Stewart reported that the committees of Senate are in the process of electing Chairs and setting their agendas. A more detailed report should be expected for the December meeting.

4.3 Special Announcements, Questions – N/A

5 Treasurer's Report

For the benefit of the new member Mr. MacInnis gave a brief overview of finances for the last five year period and more recent developments that have lead to the current financial status. Referred to the Financial Statements circulated with the meeting package, the following key items were highlighted and discussed:

- Current cash position remains healthy.
- Student receivables as well as those from the Province of Nova Scotia, Fundraising, the CBU Foundation and Endowment funds.
- Investments held for endowment purposes continue to grow and reflect ongoing fundraising efforts and realized gains/income distributions on investments.
- Brief overview of the CBU Foundation and Learncorp relationship and where profit distributions are allocated.
- Capital assets reflecting the value of completed capital projects.
- Work in progress projects funded by the Special Projects Fund.
- Deferred service awards and vacation entitlement balances have been adjusted to March 31st obligations and this number will be a constant in all interim reports.

- Deferred revenue including two main categories: deferred tuition revenue and monies collected pertaining to the VCSEE operations and the SSOB building project.
- Saudi student enrolment has exceeded budgeted enrolment, although not to the previous year's enrolment level; other international enrolments as a whole have increase which will offset the decrease in domestic enrolment for this fiscal period. With a view of 2014/15 and beyond, budget planning a sense of urgency has arisen due to a decline in domestic enrolment.
- Long-term debt consisting mainly of residences and the SOFI loan.
- Revenues generated from student academic fees, government grants, ancillary enterprises.
- To date expenses are on target with projections.

On the question of the Foundation and LCI relationship, Mr. MacInnis replied that a presentation was made to the Board during a past meeting and this presentation will be made available for the benefit of the new members during a orientation session.

On the question of the nursing program, Mr. MacInnis replied that a portion of the enrolment is included in the calculation of operating grant. However, due to the relative newness of the CBU Nursing Program, incremental provincial funding is granted to compensate for this high cost program. This subsidized funding has been secured thru 2015/16 at which time the results of the current Nursing Program review will determine funding going forward. The BEd program follows a similar structure.

On the question of increased tuition fees, Mr. MacInnis replied that this is necessary due to decreased government funding and increased operating costs. Further to residence operations, Mr. MacInnis replied that the reported results do not include expenses that will be incurred by fiscal year end and indicators reveal that residence may not operate at a breakeven basis this year.

6 Committee Reports

6.1 Executive Committee

Chair, Dr. Hayes MacNeil reported that the Executive Committee met on October 24th and that all items discussed have been, or will be, covered on the Prologue or Public agendas.

6.2 Investment Committee

Chair, Mr. Steve Wadden reported the committee is scheduled to meet in the coming weeks and will have a report for the December meeting of the Board.

7 Items Requiring Action \ Decision

7.1 Honourary Degree Nomination Policy

In a PowerPoint presentation, Ms. Paula MacNeil presented a draft version of revised honorary degree nomination guidelines, process and nomination form as circulated with the meeting package. Ms. MacNeil explained the guidelines were created in 1987 and have not been updated since that time. **It was moved** by Mr. Boudreau, seconded by Mr. White, to accept the revised policy as presented. **Motion carried.**

7.2 Naming Policy

President Wheeler referred to a draft policy circulated with the meeting package. It was explained that this is a new policy being presented to ensure consistency with respect to the naming buildings, rooms etc. within the University. It is the intent to have a very clear and simple policy that can easily be followed. Ms. MacNeil detailed the proposed for members. **It was moved**, by Mr. Skinner-Ryan, seconded by Mr. Wadded to approve the naming policy as presented. **Motion carried.**

8 New Business – N/A

9 Presentations

9.1 Enrolment Realities & Proposed Directions

In a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. MacInnis, Dr. Bailey and Dr. Brown presented members with a directional sense of discussions to take place at the retreat to be held in November. Mr. MacInnis detailed the financial implications of current and projected enrolment; Dr. Bailey explained the current and projected enrolment numbers and demographics; and Dr. Brown detailed current and future strategies for international recruitment and retention.

9.2 Centre for Student Success

Ms. Manley, Mr. Mayich and Ms. Byrne, in a PowerPoint presentation explained the creation of the Student Success Committee. Areas of highlight included building on 1st year experience, relationships and emphasis on academics and the newly implemented supports to increase student success and satisfaction. The next steps for the committee for continued success and growth were noted.

Chair, Dr. MacNeil recognized all those involved in the preparation and presentation of the information.

10 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Friday, December 6th, 2013.

11 Adjournment

It was moved by Dr. Stewart to adjourn the meeting at 4:17 pm.



Dr. Robert Bailey, Secretary to the Board