

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

**Friday, October 24, 2014
Following Prologue
CE-339**

1 – 5 Opening Information/Discussion

1. Roll Call

Present:

Dr. David Wheeler (President), Dr. Dale Keefe (Secretary), Ms. Judy Bailey, Mr. Clayton Locke, Dr. Scott Moir, Mr. Andrew Petrie, Mr. Mitch Mader Ramsey, Ms. Carmelita Cechetto-Shea, Dr. Eddie Davis, Mr. Rany Ibrahim, Mr. Terry Kelly, Mr. Keith MacDonald, Ms. Daphne Hutt-MacLeod, Dr. Anne Frances D'Intino, Mr. Bob Fowler, Mr. Gordon MacInnis (Treasurer), Mr. John Paul, Ms. Carol Ripley, Mr. Mark Shannon, Dr. Dianne Calvert-Simms, Mr. Roland Thornhill (Vice Chair), Mr. Ambrose White (Chair), Ms. Carol Beaton

Regrets:

Dr. Scott Stewart, Mr. Brandon Ellis, Ms. Sarah Hines, Mr. Ken Crawford, Mr. Leo MacIntosh, Mr. Steven Wadden, Mr. Howard Windsor, Mr. Ben Cowan-Dewar, Mr. Brian LeBlanc

The Chair declared quorum and called the meeting to order and welcomed new Board members: Mr. Keith MacDonald, Ms. Carol Beaton, and Dr. Anne Frances D'Intino.

2 Minutes

2.1 - It was moved by Ms. Ripley, seconded by Mr. Shannon to approve the '*in camera*' Minutes of June 20, 2014. It was noted that the report of Senate was presented by Ms. Bailey and the start of classes should read 2016. With the noted changes accepted, **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 highlighting the following:

- Welcomes to new members were echoed with thanks for interest in CBU's Board of Governors.
- The very sad passing of Purdy Crawford and his very strong impact on CBU and the importance of his continued legacy within CBU.
- Dean Rae and Dean Vanino-Matillia have integrated to the CBU community over the summer months and working diligently, along with the other Deans to ensure strategic alignment within the academic leaderships.

On the question of what might be driving Mount St. Vincent enrolment numbers, President Wheeler deferred the question to VP Brown. Dr. Brown believes that the enrolment decline at St. Mary and an increase of NSCC transfer credits are contributing to the enrolment increase for Mt. St. Vincent.

In follow up to Mr. MacDonald point of information on sessions he will be hosting regularly with practitioners on settlement services under the scope of immigration, President Wheeler added that a proposal submitted to the Provincial Department of Immigration has garnered much interest and would benefit greatly from this newly formed group. Dr. Brown added that the project was finalized and full approval should be granted on October 28th or 29th.

On the question of the Provincial consultation process announced by Minister Regan, Mr. White replied that the Chairs of all universities have been contacted and will be meeting next week. Mr. MacDonald and Mr. Petrie also noted that the sessions have also occurred with student groups and business community. President Wheeler replied that universities had prior knowledge of this process and some were not encouraged by it. CBU welcomes the process and believes it could result in improvements to the sector. President Wheeler agreed with Dr. Davis's point that the funding formula should be reviewed. For the benefit of new members, he repeated that CBI represents 12% of the population of Nova Scotia yet CBU receives only 6% of the available funding and his hope is that acknowledgement of this point may result in changes to funding formulation.

For the information, Mr. MacInnis reported on the status of the Board membership. ACOA has passed their right to assign members to the ECBC category to the Board. Therefore, the Nominating committee will be meeting prior to the December board meetings to fill the current vacancies in this category along with those in the Board appointed category. Members were asked to forward names of individuals who may be interested in joining the CBU Board of Governors prior to this meeting.

4.2 Report of Senate

Dr. Moir reported Senate has met twice since the beginning of the Academic term and highlighted the following from these meetings:

- Doug Lionais has been elected Chair, Tom Urbaniak as Vice Chair, and Sheila Profit as Secretary.
- Ashley Consolo-Wilcox has been appointed as a member of the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists, and Scientists.
- Dale Keefe has been appointed as a member of the MPHEC.
- The Fall graduands list was approved.
- The Senate retreat and follow up continue and the addition of a consent agenda has been added to the meeting proceedings to expedite the Senate meetings.
- Student's Union reported on their ongoing legal involvement with the CFS.
- The privacy of student data policy was updated.

Members sitting on Senate as Board members expressed their interest in sitting on committees of Senate and it was suggested this be brought to the Senate executive for further discussion.

4.3 Special Announcements, Questions – N/A

5 Treasurer's Report

Mr. MacInnis 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 have decreased slightly due mainly to a decline in the Saudi Scholarship program student enrolment.
- The receivable from the Province includes an amount for the 2014/15 Nursing Program subsidy.
- A significant increase to other receivables includes monies owing from Follett Canada (CBUs new bookstore operator) related to the transition of bookstore management, a balance owing from public sector funding partners for the VC operations, and amounts owing from the Cape Breton Health Recreation Complex.
- Investments held for endowment purposes continue to grow and currently total \$29.2 million market value (a book value of \$24.4 million).
- Long-term debt consists mainly of residences and the SOFI loan, which will be called in March 2015. Options for repayment of the SOFI loan were outlined for information.
- Spring/Summer tuition has generated a positive variance and fall/winter is projected to meet budget targets.
- Fall 2014 enrolment for the Saudi Sponsorship Program enrolment has declined.
- Expenditures are reporting as representative of CBU's normal operations.
- A modest improvement is being reported for residence operations finances.

On the question of research funding, Dr. Keefe replied this funding is awarded on an individual basis and the majority of funding national rather than provincial. CBU is very competitive in comparison to other small universities across the country but do struggle to compete with the larger institutions.

On the question of residence operations, Mr. MacInnis replied that an optimum rate would be 90% and CBU currently has an 80% occupancy rate. This number is slightly increased over last year and efforts continue to bring students to campus and build the reputation of residence as an attractive accommodation option.

On the question of enrolment numbers and the possibility of increased number of nursing seats to CBU, Mr. MacInnis replied that at this time, this option is not being further explored by the Province.

6 Committee Reports

6.1 Executive Committee

Chair, Mr. Ambrose White reported that the Executive Committee met on October 23rd and that all items discussed have been, or will be, covered on the Prologue or Public agendas.

6.2 Investment Committee

On behalf of the Chair, Mr. MacInnis reported that the committee deferred their meeting until November.

7 Items Requiring Action \ Decision

7.1 Board Retreat

President Wheeler referred to the proposed agenda for the December 4th and 5th retreat. Slight changes will be updated to include a time for external members meet with Mr. Miller, Deputy Minister of Planning and Priorities.

8 New Business

8.1 Fiscal Outlook – 2015/16

Mr. MacInnis referred to the informational document circulated with the meeting package noting it could be reviewed and used as focus of thoughts and discussion for the upcoming retreat conversations.

9 Presentations

9.1 Rany Ibrahim – Alumni Engagement

Referring to the document circulated during the meeting, Mr. Ibrahim brought a point of information to members of a new tool being offered through LinkedIn and how the tool could be used as for marketing and a connection tool to CBU alumni. Mr. Ibrahim felt that an endorsement from the Board or administration to connect via this online engagement tool would prove to be quite beneficial for CBU.

Paula MacNeil reported that CBU has approximately 20,000 alumni and an internal strategy is in creation to reach out to more of these individuals. With the addition of the LinkedIn tool mentioned by Mr. Ibrahim, CBU is now cross referencing the list currently on file to ensure we have the most up-to-date contact information for alumni. It was suggested that later in the academic year, a more concrete proposal be presented for the Board's consideration.

9.2 Donnie MacIsaac – Campus Deferred Maintenance

In a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. MacIsaac defined deferred maintenance as as an identifiable backlog of major maintenance projects unfunded in capital or operating budgets and deferred to a future budget cycle. The causes and problems of deferred maintenance were described and the importance of developing a multi-year operational and financial plan to address maintenance was noted as a priority.

Mr. MacInnis noted for members that past revenue surpluses have been used to address these issues but due to the current fiscal environment this option is no longer available to CBU. He further noted that mechanisms to address deferred maintenance must be identified and members were asked to keep this in mind for the Board retreat talks.

10 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Friday, February 27, 2014.

11 Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Petrie to adjourn the meeting at 12:04 pm.



Dr. Dale Keefe, Secretary to the Board