



BOARD NOTES

St. Francis Xavier University Board of Governors
June 17th and 18th 2021

The Board of Governors met on Thursday and Friday, June 17th & 18th, 2021. The following is a summary of proceedings at the meetings.

President's Report:

President Hakin updated the Board on a number of topics:

- Changes in the senior Academic Leadership Team- Dr. Hakin noted the recent announcement that Dr. Wamsley had accepted the position of President at Nipissing University in Ontario. Dr. Hynes has agreed to be Interim Academic Vice president & Provost. There are also several changes at the Dean's level. Dr. Jeff Orr has completed his second term as Dean of Education and did not seek reappointment. A new Dean of Education has been hired who starts on July 1, 2021 – Lace Marie Brogden. Dr. Dan Belliveau has resigned as Dean of Science due to health issues. Dr. Joe Appaloo has agreed to serve as Interim Dean of Science. Dr. Bobbi Morrison has agreed to serve as Interim Dean of Business.
- President's Action Committee on Anti-Racism (PACAR) - Thirteen individuals have been appointed to serve on the committee that is co-chaired by Elizabeth Yeo (VP Students) and Robert Upshaw (President's appointment who has vast experience in working with the African Nova Scotian community and all manner of equity, diversity, and inclusion matters
- Teaching and research virtual retreat - A StFX Virtual Spring Teaching Retreat, Mawita'yk Mawkina'masultimk (Come together; learn together) was held May 10-14, 2021
- Statement by the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities of Canada (ACCUC) - The membership of the ACCUC came together on June 4 to discuss the release of a statement concerning the recent discovery of the mass grave of 215 children in the former Kamloops Residential School in Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc territory and the need for a meaningful and sustained response. A copy of the statement subsequently issued by the ACCUC was provided to the Board
- QEII Chair in Mental Health - StFX University, the QEII Foundation and NS Health have collaborated on a MOU related to joint plans to raise funds for and recruit an endowed research chair in mental health and addictions.

IT UPDATE

Mr. John Delorey, Director of Information Technology Services, made a presentation on efforts being made to address on-going Security concerns for the university's IT network. He also provided background for work needed to upgrade the university's core information systems.

CAMPUS REOPENING – FALL TERM

The Board was provided with a copy of a University Reopening Framework document that was developed by CONSUP members and has now been approved by Public Health. Ms. Yeo provided an overview of planning that is being done to prepare for the return of students in the Fall. Incoming students will need added supports to adapt to an environment with reduced public health regulations and some will need academic supports to help transition back to face-to-face learning.

The Good Neighbours Strategy is being revised and includes new COVID-19 Protocols, a Socially Responsible Community Guide and Resources and aligned Residence Orientation and Welcome Week activities.

Dr. Hynes advised that academic programming would be returning to normal operations in the Fall. Most courses will return to face-to-face delivery. Consideration is being given to requiring mask wearing in classrooms for the first 4-6 weeks of the academic term as students complete receiving vaccinations.

Mr. Kyte spoke to the on-going communication effort that will be needed leading-up to the Fall reopening and throughout the Fall. Efforts will focus on promotion of vaccines and the Good Neighbour Strategy.

VP STUDENTS UPDATE

Ms. Yeo provided summary comments related to the report that was provided to the Board. Areas noted included:

- Progress being made with the President's Action Team on Anti- Racism Committee
- Residence Renewal Project - The recommendations of the residence review that was conducted in 2017 are being revisited, focusing on the roles and structure of residence life to continue to enhance the residence experience.
- Strategic Planning – focus areas will include mental health, first year student experience and a student experiential learning framework.

ACADEMIC VICE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST'S UPDATE

Dr. Tim Hynes noted that a final report on the year's academic activities had been provided to the Board from Dr. Wamsley. Dr. Hynes acknowledged Dr. Wamsley's contributions to the University. Other items discussed by Dr. Hynes included: Enrolment, EDI Funding, Service Learning, Academic Planning, Coady Institute.

2020-21 FINANCIAL RESULTS

Mr. Andrew Beckett provided an overview of the 2020-21 operating results. Operations has a surplus of \$5.5m netted against a deficit in Ancillary of \$3.2m for an overall surplus of \$2.2m. A full copy of the report on the 2020-21 Financial results can be found at:

https://www.mystfx.ca/financial-services/sites/financial-services/files/2021-07/STFX_Financials_Mar31_2021.pdf

2021-22 OPERATING BUDGET

Based on the current enrolment numbers for the Fall Mr. Beckett advised that Tuition & Fee revenue could be \$1.5-2 million higher than the current budget number. In addition, residence application numbers are trending higher than budgeted amounts. As a result, Residence and Food Service revenues could also be \$1.5-2 million higher than budget.

On the expenditure side, tight controls are remaining in place during the 2021-22 Operating year given that we are still experiencing impacts associated with the pandemic. Travel is being limited for the balance of the 2021 calendar year. It is anticipated that varsity sport programs will be back in full

operation for the Fall Semester. There will be some additional expenditures, approximately \$500,000, in the Student Services area to properly address residence life issues and student conduct.

Mr. Beckett advised that revised budget numbers would be finalized in late September for presentation to the Finance Committee and the Board in October.

BOARD COMMITTEES

The Board approved a realignment of the Board's Standing Committees. The new Committees will be as follows:

- Advancement & External Relations
- Audit & Investment
- Executive
- Finance
- Governance & Nominating
- Human Resources
- Risk and Property Management

MULRONEY INSTITUTE EXTERNAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

On recommendation of the Governance & Nominating Committee the Board approved the Terms of Reference for the Mulronev Institute External Advisory Committee. The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to raise funds to support the operations of the Mulronev Institute.

STUDENT UNION REPORT

Mr. Jack Irvin, Student Union President provided an update on the activities of the Student Union. He highlighted several items from the written report submitted to the Board.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION REPORT

Mr. Marc Rodrigue, Alumni Association President provided an update on Alumni Association activities. He highlighted several items from the written report submitted to the Board and in addition advised that Dr. Dan Beliveau had been granted Honorary membership on the Alumni Council

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Board's Committees presented reports on their activities.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Following the regular Board Meeting the Board met for the Annual General Meeting.

Audited Financial Statements:

Mr. Tom Langley, interim chair of the Audit Committee, presented the Audited Financial Statements of the University for the year ended March 31, 2021. He noted that the Committee had met with the auditors to review their audit plan and results. The Auditors have presented an unqualified report of the Financial Statements.

Mr. Langley provided brief commentary on the financial results for the year noting that the General Operating Fund ended the year with a surplus of \$2,185,263. On a consolidated, all fund basis, the University had a surplus of \$3,120,451.

A copy of the audited financial statements can be found at: https://www.mystfx.ca/financial-services/sites/financial-services/files/2021-07/STFX_Financials_Mar31_2021.pdf

President's Annual Report:

Dr. Andy Hakin provided commentary on the activities of the University over the past year. He highlighted several items from a written report submitted to the Board.

Following Dr. Hakin's report the Board approved the following motion:

Members of the Board of Governors of StFX University wish to formally record their sincere appreciation of the outstanding efforts of the senior leadership team, faculty, staff, students, and community members who collectively worked together to successfully complete the 2020 – 21 academic year; a year that will be remembered as the year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Members of the Board are grateful of the response of all members of the StFX University community who rose to the many challenges presented by the pandemic.

By-law Amendments:

Ms. Mary Lou O'Reilly, chair of the Governance & Nominating Committee introduced recommendations for amending the University By-laws. Most of the proposed amendments deal with a change in Board Committee structure and a few title changes that are needed to reflect current organization structure. The one other amendment of note is the proposed combining of two current Sections that deal with the Coady International Institute and the Extension Department. The Coady Institute has been operating under in a combined manner for several years as they focus on local to global initiatives. The combining of the two By-law Sections better reflects this operational reality. The employment issues associated with this were addressed during the last round of negotiations with the StFX AUT. The Board approved the By-law amendments as presented.

New Board Members:

Mr. Boyd welcomed Ms. Lisa Raitt to the Board for a three-year term that commences on July 1, 2021. He also welcomed Mr. Dennis Flood who has been appointed as Board Chair for a three-year term commencing on July 1, 2021.

Departing Board Members

Mr. Boyd thanked and acknowledged the contributions of Ms. Nikki Robar during her 6 years as a member of the Board.

Dr. Andy Hakin thanked and acknowledged Mr. Mike Boyd for his contributions during his time as Chair of the Board of Governors. Thanks were also provided by Chancellor Peacock and Vice Chair O'Reilly.