



BOARD NOTES

St. Francis Xavier University Board of Governors
October 21st & 22nd 2021

The Board of Governors met on Thursday and Friday, October 21st & 22nd 2021. The following is a summary of proceedings at the meetings.

President Report:

President Hakin updated the Board on several topics:

- COVID related activity: Mandatory testing; asymptomatic testing; general campus readiness for opening and mandatory vaccination requirement for Varsity and Club sport participants.
- Student culture: elevated levels of student activity; building of expectations around community norms; return of AUS athletics program; actions taken to curb potential problems around Homecoming Weekend and the work being done by the President's Advisory Committee on Anti-Racism.
- Academic Activity: significant rebuilding of academic leadership team underway; welcoming of new faculty and Black Students Matter workshop.
- Community Building Activities: National Day for Truth & Reconciliation and Treaty Day activities; weekly radio spots and several other activities.

Appointment of Chancellor:

Mr. John Peacock was reappointed as Chancellor of the University for a second three-year term commencing September 1, 2021.

Strategic Planning Update:

Dr. Hakin provided an overview of the integrated planning framework being developed which starts with a Strategic Plan which provides the context for three core elements: an Academic Plan; a Research & Creative Works Plan and a Student Experience & Opportunity Plan. Several other plans will be developed that facilitate these core elements including a People Plan, a financial plan, a campus plan.

Enrollment Update:

Dr. Tim Hynes, Interim Academic Vice President & Provost provided an overview of enrolment numbers for the 2021-22 academic year as reported to the Atlantic Association of Universities on October 1, 2021. A few highlights included:

- Full-time undergraduate enrolment increased by 5.7% year-over-year (compared to 2.2% growth across all 16 Atlantic Canada Universities)
- Overall full-time enrolment increased by 7.8% which was highest in Atlantic Canada
- Part-time enrolment is down which was expect as students transitioned back to a full course load with less uncertainty associated with the pandemic.
- Growth has been experienced across all academic programs and all major recruitment target markets.

2021-22 Revised Budget

Mr. Frank vanSchaayk, Chair of the Finance Committee provide introductory commentary related to the University's financial position and the added complexity that has been created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This complexity was noted when the Board approved the 2021-22 Operating Budget in March. At that time the Board approved the budget with a \$4.3 million deficit but requested that a revised budget be brought forward in October to reflect more accurate enrolment and residence occupancy assumptions.

Andrew Beckett, Vice President Finance & Administration provided an overview of the revisions being proposed for the budget. He noted that the revisions were limited to a few key areas including Tuition and Fees, Residence Fees, Food Service fees and a few expenditure areas that have been impacted by the pandemic. As a result of the proposed revisions the budgeted deficit has been reduced from \$4.3 million to \$2.3 million. On Recommendation of the Finance Committee The revised 2021-22 operating budget was approved as presented.

2021-22 Financial Projections:

Mr. Beckett provided a brief overview of the financial projections that have been prepared based actual results to the end of September. The projections show an overall projected deficit of \$2.77 million. On an overall basis he advised that the deficit for the year could be \$1-1.5 million lower than currently projected. Key factors include potential increases in tuition fee revenues from January intake; conservatism in the current projected operating expenses; reduction in discretionary spending; on-going travel restrictions associated with the pandemic.

Student Services Update:

Ms. Elizabeth Yeo, Vice President Students provided an overview of the material that was sent to the Board.

- Focus on Student readiness for the freedoms associated with university life. Actions taken included developing a series of preparatory modules for students to take during the summer months. The module themes included: Sexual Violence; Racism; Safe Socializing and Respect.
- The staffing model in residences was changed to provide more oversight and support for the community building process in the residences

Advancement Update:

Mr. Murray Kyte, Vice President Advancement noted that a written report on activities within his area had been circulated to the Board. He then invited Mr. Kyler Bell, Director of Communications to make a brief presentation on the Being Xaverian communications strategy.

Students' Union Report

Mr. Jack Irvin President of the Students' Union presented a report on the Union's activities.

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 noted that Kathleen Sheridan would be taking over as Alumni Association President on January 1, 2022.

Committee Reports:

The Board Committees presented reports on their activities.