

**Brandon University Board of Governors
(Open Session)**

**Wednesday, April 22, 2009
Room 043 Health Studies – 5:00 p.m.**

Present: Mr. R. Lonstrup, Dr. L. Visentin, Mr. S. Stewart, Ms P. Gardner, Ms K. Janz, Mr. S. Montague, Ms L. Wishart, Ms K. Bayes, Mr. M. Bolley, Mr. J. Malik, Dr. F. Nichols, Dr. N. Neary, Ms J. Biggs, Ms L. McDougald-Williams

Resource: Dr. S. Grills, Mr. S. Lamont, Mr. K. Stifora, Mrs. K. Fisher (Recorder)

Regrets: Dr. R. Robinson

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Dr. Visentin stated that earlier in the day, the province announced that for the 2009-10 academic year, it will allow up to a 4.5% increase in university tuition fees. The province will not allow for an increase in ancillary fees but will allow an additional 1% provided it is allocated to student scholarships and bursaries. Dr. Visentin stated that he is trying to get clarification as to what classifies as ancillary fees and noted that the province has not expressed an opinion on foreign student differentials.

Because the University does not have a clear definition of what this increase means to us, Dr. Visentin did not think it prudent to bring forward the budget today but instead wait until May to allow for additional consultations with the President's Advisory Group and International Students.

2.0 AGENDA AND MINUTES

2.1 Approval of Agenda of April 22, 2009

Motion: Moved and seconded (S. Stewart/K. Janz)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda of the April 22, 2009, Board of Governors meeting (Open Session) be approved as amended:

Additions:

3.1 Moe Kuroda re International Student Fees

Subtractions:

6.5 a) Motion: 2009 – 2010 Operating Budget

**45 Apr09
CARRIED AS
AMENDED**

2.2 Move to Closed Session

Motion: Moved and seconded (M. Bolley/P. Gardner)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the meeting moves to Closed Session.

CARRIED

2.3 Approval of Minutes of March 26, 2009

Motion: Moved and seconded (S. Montague/L. McDougald-Williams)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the March 26, 2009, Board of Governors meeting Open session be approved.

**48 Apr09
CARRIED**

2.4 Motion(s) Raised from Closed Session

The Chair noted the following motions raised from Closed Session:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Governors approve Dr. Constance Irene (Renee) Will as the recipient of the 2009 Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Community Service.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Governors ratify the following recommendation passed by the President's Naming Committee:

“That the Health Studies Complex be named The Dr. James & Mrs. Lucille Brown Health Studies Complex”.

3.0 DELEGATIONS

3.1 Moe Kuroda – International Student Fees

The Chair introduced himself and thanked all for attending. The Chair explained the decision to defer the budget to the May Board of Governors meeting and noted that the Board is interested in hearing from international students and their supporters.

Ms Stacy Senkbeil, BUSU General Manager, introduced Ms Moe Kuroda, a 4th year Geology Student, who spoke on behalf of those in attendance.

A video organized by BUSU was shown, illustrating what they feel represents the real issues affecting Brandon University International Students.

A survey completed by BUSU in February 2009 indicates that the top three reasons international students chose Brandon University are: cost of tuition; small class size/student-teacher ratio; and cheaper cost of living. Of the 56 international students surveyed, 54 indicated that they would no longer stay at BU if international student fees were increased.

Ms Kuroda stated that many students consider the cost of tuition when deciding which institution they will attend and they also consider how the tuition and living expenses will affect their families, who in most cases provide some form of support. When making her decision, Ms Kuroda looked for an affordable university with quality programs. She appreciates that she knows her professors personally and that they are always available to help. Ms Kuroda expressed that it is this relationship that most students want and what makes Brandon University special. She feels that if international student fees are increased, students coming to Canada will not want to come here. Ms Kuroda thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak and asked that they do not agree to an increase in international student fees.

The Chair opened the floor to questions.

Ms Bayes thanked Ms Kuroda and noted that it is nice to hear from students who are content with our institution. Ms Bayes asked that if tuition fees were more comparable with universities in larger cities such as Vancouver or Toronto, would international students still choose Brandon University.

Ms Kuroda stated that from her experience here, Brandon University has very good programs and good services which they continually try to improve and she would recommend BU to new students.

Ms McDougald-Williams asked that if international student fees were raised to the equivalent of the University of Manitoba or The University of Winnipeg, would this have any affect on their decision.

Ms Kuroda stated that the size of our institution and city is smaller so if the cost of tuition was the same, students would choose the larger city. New students do not realize the benefits of our small institution until they arrive and would likely base their decision on size, choosing the larger city over Brandon.

Dr. Neary noted that the University's goal is to increase the number of international students at BU. He questioned whether this would be possible with the current structure.

A student in attendance noted that the main problem is not tuition, it is government barriers, specifically the need for students to take up to four months of English classes before they can apply and be accepted.

The Chair thanked everyone for taking the time to bring their views before the Board. The Chair also took the opportunity to introduce Ms Laura Balanko, the incoming BUSU Vice-President Academic who will replace Ms Bayes effective May 1, 2009.

4.0 CONTINUING BUSINESS

There was no continuing business.

5.0 CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 Letter of Resignation from Dr. Neil Neary dated March 19, 2009

The Chair thanked Dr. Neary for his valuable input during his time on the Board.

Dr. Neary apologized for not being able to fulfill his term as he fully intended to. Dr. Neary and his family will be relocating to Alberta at the end of this month.

6.0 REPORTS

6.1 Executive Committee

There was no report.

6.2 President (Dr. L. Visentin)

a) Other Matters

Other matters were discussed in Closed Session.

b) Motion: Board of Governors Entrance Scholarships and Bursaries

Motion: Moved and seconded (L. Visentin/S. Montague)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Governors approve the allocation of the unrestricted endowment funds for the 2009/2010 fiscal year as follows:

Faculty Research (BURC)	\$49,040.00
General Proficiency Scholarship (18 @ \$300.00)	\$ 5,400.00
Entrance Scholarships:	

- For students with entering averages of 95% or higher \$2,000.00
- For students with entering averages of 90% to 94.9% \$1,400.00
- For students with entering averages of 85% to 89.9% \$ 800.00

Total available from endowment funds for Entrance Scholarships \$41,910.00

TOTAL \$96,350.00

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CARRIED

6.3 Vice-President (Academic & Research) (S. Grills)

a) Other Matters

Dr. Grills reported the following:

- The search continues for the position of Director of the Rural Development Institute. Two candidates have been interviewed and input from the community is being collected before proceeding.
- The final copy of the FNAC review has been received. This review will proceed to Senate Planning and then on to Senate. Dr. Grills noted that the University may need to act on a portion of the review sooner rather than later.
- Midterm decanal reviews are underway for Dr. Austin Gulliver, Dean of Science, and Mr. Jerry Storie, Dean of Education.
- First year review process for new administrators is underway for Dean of Student Services, University Registrar, Dean of Health Studies, and Dean of Music. This process will provide an opportunity for a formative evaluation.
- The Faculty of Arts is looking forward to Dr. Strang joining us as Dean in August.
- Dr. Reinhold Kramer has been approved by Dr. Visentin as the Acting Dean for the Faculty of Arts for the month of July between Dr. Robinson's and Dr. Strang's terms.

Ms Gardner questioned how the ceramic area is progressing.

Dr. Grills noted that there is an upcoming meeting scheduled to discuss the relocation of the BJ Hales Museum collection. He noted that the University will be in a position to offer first year ceramics on campus this fall as Professor Xu will be able to make short-term accommodations.

Ms Gardner asked for a progress report at the May Board meeting.

Ms Janz noted that a few years back, an agreement with a Chinese university was signed and she questioned its status.

Dr. Visentin stated that the university she is referring to is likely Nan Jing. He noted that there was a change in Presidents during the term of the agreement which resulted in a different view with respect to international agreements. He stressed the importance of agreements such as this and noted the benefits to increasing the international student presence on campus.

Dr. Grills noted the immediate potential for additional international agreements with institutions such as Minot State University, but stated that the Board must first make a decision with respect to the direction of international student recruitment and agreements.

With respect to the proposed increase in the international student differential, Mr. Bolley noted that it would not come into effect until 2011/2012 and questioned why the Board is being asked for a decision now.

Dr. Grills agreed that we are in fact a long way out from actual implementation but noted that plans need to be developed for things such as services and recruitment well in advance. Dr. Grills noted that tuition fees are normally discussed as part of the budget process and stated that if we defer discussions, it may affect the implementation dates. He further stated that if the Board does decide to make a move in this direction, it should not be made on the basis of a bait and switch but rather in fairness to the students who are here and those who plan to come here.

Ms Janz asked if any of this year's budget dollars are attached to this decision.

Mr. Lamont noted that there are not any budget dollars attached to this decision this year but stated that it is part of the operational strategic planning for the institution and allows adequate lead time for proper estimates.

The Chair asked that any additional budget discussion be tabled until the May meeting.

6.4 Vice-President (Administration & Finance) (S. Lamont)

a) Other Matters

Mr. Lamont reported the following:

- Attended meeting in Victoria, BC on April 2nd with colleagues from Western Canada. Issues affecting institutions across Canada were discussed. Representatives from national associations were also in attendance, which provided a good opportunity to network.
- The University and IUOE A bargaining teams have not had an opportunity to meet since the last Board meeting.
- Bargaining with MGEU is progressing.
- Brandon University was recently featured in a Manitoba Hydro Power Smart television commercial on Global TV. The 30-second spot looks at the steps that Brandon University has taken to become as energy efficient as possible, and came at no cost to the University.

- Work will continue on the budget which will come back to Board next month.

6.5 Board Budget Committee (R. Lonstrup)

There was no report.

6.6 By-laws and Nominating Committee (K. Janz)

a) Motion: Knowles-Douglas Commission Vacancy

Motion: Moved and seconded (K. Janz/L. Visentin)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Mr. Matt Bolley assume the role of Board of Governors Representative on the Knowles-Douglas Commission for the remainder of the 2008-2009 term.

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Mr. Bolley expressed his interest in this position and stated that he would be happy to serve as there are many interesting things happening in this area.

CARRIED

b) Motion: Board Treasurer Replacement

Motion: Moved and seconded (K. Janz/L. Visentin)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Mrs. Laura McDougald-Williams be nominated for the position of Treasurer of the Board of Governors, effective June 1, 2009.

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Mr. Lamont noted that Mr. Stewart's OIC appointment expires on June 30, 2009, which creates a vacancy on the Executive Committee. Mrs. McDougald-Williams has agreed to put forth her name for the position of Treasurer.

CARRIED

c) Notice of Motion: Amendment of By-Law No. 11

Ms Janz noted that the proposed amendment to By-Law No. 11 will allow for a possible change in the Executive Committee meeting schedule. More specifically, it will allow the Board Executive to meet at least one week prior to the Board of Governors meeting rather than at least two

weeks prior. This change will better accommodate the members of the Executive Committee.

This motion will come before the Board of Governors at its next meeting. If anyone has any problems with the proposed motion, please report them to Kristen Fisher in the Office of the President.

6.7 Brandon University Foundation (S. Montague/K. Bayes/J. Malik)

The next meeting will be May 14, 2009.

6.8 Knowles-Douglas Student Centre (S. Lamont/Vacant)

Mr. Montague reported that the Committee last met two weeks ago to discuss repairs to a leaky roof as well as improved key access to the building and the monitoring of such access.

With respect to the expansion project, a new agreement has been provided by the architect. This agreement will be reviewed and the project will continue to move forward.

Through the tender process, the third floor vacant office space has been assigned to WUSC.

6.9 Board of Trustees of the BU Retirement Plan (S. Lamont/A. Gulliver –n/a)

There was no report.

6.10 Review Committee on the Status of Women (J. Malik)

Mr. Malik reported the following:

- Meetings were held on March 18th and April 22nd
- This year the CAUT Equity Conference was held February 6 – 8th. Dr. Marion Terry represented Brandon University and the following is her report:

“This was CAUT’s first forum for equity of individuals with differences of colour, race, physical ability, mental health, sexual orientation, etc. The purpose of this forum was to explore the ways that the universities disadvantage people with these differences and to identify means to address the problem.”

- Dr. Terry also reported that CAUT has developed an equity awareness workshop that universities can request to be held on their campus free of charge.
- “Making Time for Research” winter session of Women’s Research Network brown bag luncheon was held on March 26th. Dr. Pamela Rutherford was the presenter.

- 25 exceptional female students were featured on the BU homepage for International Woman's Day.
- Year-end celebration honouring students was held today.
- Ms Denise Merrill was invited to talk about the measures taken regarding campus safety and the future plans in this area.
- The next meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2009.

6.11 Senate (R. Robinson/M. Bolley)

The next meeting will be the inaugural 42nd meeting of Senate in June. The Senate Office is busy with Convocation preparations and congratulations were extended to convocating members Kristal Bayes and Matt Bolley.

6.12 Brandon University Alumni Association (R. Lonstrup)

The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 27, 2009.

6.13 Brandon University Students' Union (S. Montague/K. Bayes)

Mr. Montague noted that a number of students have expressed concerns with regards to the proposed budget. Mr. Montague shared Dr. Visentin's feelings regarding the Dr. Ben Levin report and is looking to discuss a plan for moving forward with the government.

Ms Bayes thanked the Board of Governors for the wonderful experience and introduced Ms Laura Balanko who will assume the position of Vice-President Academic effective May 1, 2009. Ms Bayes reported that she and Ms Balanko will work to better the online student tutor registry system throughout the summer months.

7.0 NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

8.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

9.0 INFORMATION

9.1 Transactions of \$25,000 or More – March 7, 2009 to April 10, 2009

9.2 Report of Staff Changes – March 2009

Items 9.1 and 9.2 were received for information.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Moved and seconded (M. Bolley/L. Visentin)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the meeting adjourn (6:33 p.m.)

CARRIED

Chair, Board of Governors

Secretary, Board of Governors