

**Brandon University Board of Governors
(Special Meeting - Open Session)**

**Tuesday, December 15, 2009
Louis Riel Room**

Present: Ms S. Armstrong, Ms L. Balanko, Dr. D. Brandt, Dr. P. Carrabré, Ms K. Janz (via teleconference), Mr. R. Lonstrup (Chair), Mr. J. Malik (via teleconference), Mr. S. Montague, Dr. F. Nichols, Dr. D. Poff

Resources: Dr. S. Grills, Mr. S. Lamont, Ms K. Gross, Ms K. Fisher (Recorder)

Regrets: Ms J. Biggs, Mr. M. Abbey, Ms L. McDougald-Williams

Absent: Mr. I Doherty

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

2.0 AGENDA AND MINUTES

2.1 Approval of Agenda of December 15, 2009

Motion: Moved and seconded (L. Balanko/F. Nichols)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda of the December 15, 2009, Board of Governors special meeting (Open Session) be approved.

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CARRIED**

2.2 Move to Closed Session

Motion: Moved and seconded (S. Montague/P. Carrabré)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the meeting moves to Closed Session.

CARRIED

3.0 CORRESPONDENCE

3.1 Correspondence dated November 30, 2009, from Refreshments Canada

The letter from Refreshments Canada was received. No discussion took place.

4.0 REPORTS

4.1 President (D. Poff)

a) Report from the President

A copy of Dr. Poff's report was included in the package. Highlights of said report are as follows:

- Successful Alumni event held at the home of alumnus Andrew Souvaliotis in Toronto. It was a stunning performance and the event was well attended.
- The Association of Manitoba Municipalities asked Dr. Poff to give a brief presentation on models of medical education at their annual meeting. Over 200 people were in attendance and they overwhelmingly supported a resolution that BU be involved in solving the recruitment and retention issues of primary care physicians in rural Manitoba.
- The AMM wants to start community meet and greets, which Dr. Poff has agreed to take part in.
- The Premier is on record saying that he is expecting us to submit a proposal for a feasibility study to COPSE. We are working on this and hope to submit such a proposal in January.
- Dr. Poff noted that BU will continue to move forward and will be responsive on the issue of medical education.

A discussion took place regarding the possibility of hiring a consultant to help with project preparation. Dr. Poff felt that this can be done internally as she is familiar with the costing model and programming.

Ms Janz noted that the publicity following the AMM meeting has been great exposure for BU. Ms Janz was in attendance at the meeting and noted that local communities as well as communities in rural and northern Manitoba were very supportive of the idea.

4.2 Vice-President (Academic and Research) (S. Grills)

a) Report from the Vice-President (Academic and Research)

A copy of Dr. Grills' report was included in the package. Highlights of said report are as follows:

- Met with Vice-President from Winnipeg's Booth College to discuss possibilities for student transitions from Booth to BU, more

specifically into our Faculty of Education After Degree program and our Masters in Rural Development program.

- Dean of Education search is underway. Ms Maureen Geldart has been contracted as the search consultant. The first meeting has taken place and a draft ad and position description have been circulated for feedback.
- Represented Brandon University at the SSHRC of Leader's meeting in Ottawa. Long-range planning, similar to that of NSERC, was discussed. This type of planning could be strategic and useful for the social sciences.
- Senate approved a Bachelor of Indigenous Health and Human Services program as part of the implementation of the recommendations arising from the review of the FNAC program. This will require action by COPSE as it is a new credential.
- Senate has approved a concurrent B.A./B.Ed. program which will allow BU to recruit directly into Education. A similar program in Science is planned.
- The Brandon University Research Committee has met and allocated its full allotment of funding.
- Ads are posted for a CRC position in Science (Geochemistry) and in Arts (Native Studies).

Ms Janz questioned what avenues are open for those who did not receive funding from BURC.

Dr. Grills noted that some applications were not funded because of the quality of the application and others because of lack of funding. Dr. Grills noted that BU has a strong professional development allowance program and faculty members can use these resources for their travel.

A discussion took place regarding the concurrent B.A./B.Ed. program. Dr. Grills noted that this program is fundamentally different than the former B.G.S. degree. This is a much more rigorous program which will be more appropriate for teacher education. This has been designed in cooperation with the Faculty of Education to ensure that graduates meet the requirements.

4.3 Vice-President (Administration and Finance) (S. Lamont)

a) Report from the Vice-President (Administration and Finance)

A copy of Mr. Lamont's report was included in the package. Highlights of said report are as follows:

- Healthy Living Centre campaign – the Foundation is working to be ready for a quick start on a campaign once the government dollars are announced. Dr. Tom Breneman has been selected as Campaign Chair.
- H1N1 preparedness – a vaccination clinic was held on campus and approximately 175 people attended.
- Unfair labour practise – a preliminary hearing was held to determine whether a *prima facie* case had been established and it was determined that it had not. The case regarding pension benefits being applied retroactively was dismissed in its entirety.
- Knowles Douglas Building expansion – plans have stopped for the building expansion. During the planning of the expansion, it became clear that the minimum necessary for the facility will cost more than what is available. The students plan to approach the Province for assistance. The current plans have been shelved and the levy will continue until circumstances will allow for the construction of the project.
- Physical Plant Building – continues on budget. It is expected to be completed by January 21, 2010. The old Physical Plant Building will be demolished once the transition to the new building is complete.

As part of Mr. Lamont's goals and objectives, he prepared a status report for the 2009 – 2010 budget. Highlights of his report are as follows:

- Projected unappropriated surplus is \$1.358 million at March 31, 2010.
- Projected 2009/10 surplus is \$171,583. Mr. Lamont noted that the enrolment did not decline as we had anticipated.
- \$250,000 has been realized with failed searches and vacant positions.
- Some positions still remain vacant and will be available for savings if they do not get filled by the end of March.
- The basic legal and audit budget is \$50,000. This year's anticipated costs are \$230,000, resulting in a shortfall of \$180,000. Mr. Lamont noted that we may need to increase the annual budget as legal fees have been extraordinarily high the past few years.
- Enrolment is up 1.9%.
- Credit hours are up 1.0%.

Mr. Lamont stated that the surplus will be used for necessary but unbudgeted repairs. He further stated that the University is entering into a strategic planning exercise which will likely result in some recommendations being made. It is possible that some of these recommendations will require one-time money.

Mr. Lamont stated that the preliminary budget for 2010/2011 presents a \$2.1 million shortfall. This preliminary figure does not incorporate any government grants or changes in tuition fees or enrolment.

Mr. Montague stated that the Knowles Douglas Expansion Committee has not yet had an opportunity to meet but when they do, they will be looking at all avenues to keep the project moving forward.

Dr. Nichols asked if there is a decision regarding the pension benefits arbitration.

Mr. Lamont stated that the arbitrator who handled the case has been very busy and he has not yet announced a decision. He is apparently working on the case and should have a decision shortly.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Motion: Borrowing Funds for Deferred Maintenance Repairs

Motion: Moved and seconded (D. Poff/D. Brandt)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the University agree to borrow one million one hundred eighty thousand dollars (\$1,180,000) from the Province of Manitoba, on December 31, 2009, at an interest rate on the outstanding principal sum to be determined at the time of the loan, repayable in monthly instalments on the last business day of each month.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the University agree to borrow the remainder of the \$3.2 million from the Province of Manitoba, on such dates and at such interest rates as may be determined at the time of the loan, repayable in monthly instalments on the last business day of each month.

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Mr. Lamont noted that a similar motion was passed by the Board of Governors in January 2009 for the first instalment of funds. This \$1.18 million is the second instalment of the \$3.2 million that the University is to receive from the Province to repair facilities on campus as part of deferred maintenance. If approved, payments would begin after December 31, 2009, and the funds for the payments will come from the Province, having no effect on the University's operating budget.

Mr. Lamont asked that Board members consider the second portion of the motion which would approve the final instalment of the \$3.2 million once the Province is prepared to release the funds, which will likely take place in the next budget year.

CARRIED

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Moved and seconded (D. Brandt/F. Nichols)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the meeting adjourn (6:00 p.m.)

CARRIED

Chair, Board of Governors

Secretary, Board of Governors