

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

**Saturday, March 25, 2017
Louis Riel Room
8:30 a.m.**

Present: Mr. G. Boyd, Mr. M. Cain, Dr. G. Fearon, Mr. D. Stewart, Ms. S. Senkbeil, Mr. N. Brown, Ms. J. Creasor, Mr. B. Schaffer, Dr. T. Corbett, Ms. C. Stitt, Mr. E. Strain

Resource: Dr. S. Robinson, Mr. S. Lamont, Ms M. Lamontagne (Recorder)

Regrets: Mr. S. Chambers, Mr. Michael Decter, K. Kerkowich

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:42 a.m.

The Chair announced that the terms on the Board of Bea Jolly and Jim Kilpatrick came to a close and announced that Caroline Stitt, Trudy Corbett, Ethan Strain and Katie Kerkowich have been appointed to the Board as Order-in-Council members. Round table introductions were made.

2.0 AGENDA AND MINUTES

2.1 Approval of Agenda of March 25, 2017

Motion: Moved and seconded (N. Brown/B. Schaffer)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda of the March 25, 2017, Board of Governors meeting (Open Session) be approved.

**039 Mar17
CARRIED**

2.2 Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion: Moved and seconded (N. Brown/G. Fearon)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT that the Consent Agenda be approved as follows:

- a) **Minutes of January 28, 2017**
- b) ~~**Report from the Vice-President (Academic and Provost)**~~
- c) **Report from the Vice-President (Administration and Finance)**

- d) **Transactions of \$25,000 or More – January 10 to March 9, 2017**
- e) **Report – Final List of February 2017 Graduates**

Member requested that item 2.2 b) be struck from the consent agenda and moved to item 4.5 a).

**040 Mar17
CARRIED AS AMENDED
BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

2.3 Moved to Closed Session

Motion: Moved and seconded (N. Brown/J. Creasor)

BE IT RESOLVED that the meeting move to Closed Session.

CARRIED

2.4 Motion(s) Raised from Closed Session

The following motions were raised from Closed Session:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following motions be raised to Open Session now that public announcements have been made:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Governors approve the purchase of The Strand Theatre property for the price of \$1.00.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Governors approve, in principle, the Agreement to acquire access to 901 Princess Avenue, 144 and 136 on 9th Street in Brandon from the Brandon Downtown Development Corporation for one dollar (\$1.00).

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Governors approve, in principle, the Agreement to acquire access to 156 on 9th Street in Brandon from the City of Brandon for one dollar (\$1.00).

CARRIED

3.0 DELEGATIONS

- 3.1 Presentation: Student Tuition Comparative Analysis by Mr. Scott Lamont, Vice-President (Administration & Finance)

Mr. Lamont welcomed everyone and noted that the purpose of the presentation is to provide context to Board members and the audience in regards to the budget and

tuition fees as well as challenges that administration faces in regards to the budget to inform discussions later on.

Mr. Lamont spoke to a PowerPoint presentation and the following is a summary of his presentation:

- The entire University budget is approximately \$60M;
- 80% of the budget is operating;
- 80% of operating revenues are acquired by provincial grants;
- For 2017/18, tuition increase has been set at the inflation rate of 1.3%. The new provincial government has introduced new legislation that would permit up to a 5% increase plus inflation for tuition starting in the 2018-19 year;
- Provincial government has provided information on tuition fees but has not provided information on grants as of yet. The provincial budget will be announced on April 11th, and until then, Administration is unable to make accurate budget decisions;
- Academic salaries and benefits make up about 68% of the budget, with Administration making up about 25%;
- Limited opportunities exist to address funding gaps, which include operating grants and tuition increases. Additional funding opportunities could include enrolment growth, ancillary services operations, faculty level fundraising and additional programming;
- Addressing the funding gap from the expenditure side can include expense constraint, reduction and efficiencies;
- University is trying to move forward and improve services for students.
- Brandon University's international tuition fees are approximately half of other PSE institutions in Canada;
- A chart sourced by the Canadian Federation of Students (of Canadian PSE tuition fees in 2011-2012) was displayed and it was noted that the amounts on the chart indicated the highest fees in the country. It was further noted that Manitoba was not included on the chart and that Manitoba is well under the average with Brandon being about one third of the average;
- International tuition revenues at BU are approximately \$533,000 (about 1.1% of budget). Budget expenditures which equal the international tuition revenue were displayed (i.e., the costs of operating the payroll department or cost of yearly Hydro bills) indicating that if international differential fees were eliminated, the revenues lost would be equivalent to eliminating revenue to fund one of those expenditures;
- Overall, tuition fees cover approximately 17.5% of the operating revenues.

Mr. Lamont noted that decisions in regards to domestic and international tuition fees are not taken lightly and are important for everyone to understand. He expressed that Brandon University values all students.

Dr. Robinson presented on International student services at Brandon University and the following points were highlighted:

- All universities should have an international dynamic and Brandon University wants to increase this dynamic;

- University has been working at putting additional resources into International student services;
- The current Office of International Activities is staffed by two individuals – David Rowland, Director and Iris Wang, Program Coordinator. The responsibilities of their office were outlined and it was noted that it has been a challenge to fulfill these responsibilities with only two staff members;
- Current supports for international students include personal counselling, academic advising and academic skills noting that there are long waiting lists for students to access counselling. More services are required and it was noted that BUSU has requested a new counsellor for international students;
- New positions are needed, which are highly tentative if there is not significant revenue;
- BU wishes to offer additional services to international students including: an on-site ICRC Immigration advisor; full-time recruitment & transition staff; international student engagement officer; “International House” or dedicated floor in residence; additional exchange opportunities; additional funding for international travel & study opportunities; cultural mentorship and pre-arrival programming; dedicated communications resources for international recruiting and Manitoba cultural field trips. It was noted that in order to acquire these services, additional resources are needed.

Member questioned which faculties international students are drawn to the most. Dr. Robinson responded that they are spread widely across all faculties.

Mr. Brown commented on Mr. Lamont’s graph showing differential fees for U of M and U of W. He noted that he has seen the largest increase of international student enrollments at BU this year and feels that it is because students have been pushed away from other universities because of increasing fees. Mr. Lamont noted that because this is speculation, he cannot confirm this is the case.

Dr. Fearon noted that the increase of international student enrollments at BU is likely due to the increased efforts of the Office of International Activities including the increase in number of signed Memorandums of Understanding. It was further noted that BU has a smaller international student population compared to other Manitoba universities.

Ms. Creasor commented that she has a math minor and that statistics are often used to tell different stories. She referenced the graph of Manitoba International Students in PSE and questioned any conclusion being drawn.

Mr. Brown commented that the Indigenous Peoples Centre (IPC) also has two staff members and have double number of students they service compared to the Office of International Activities. He noted that IPC does not receive differential fees for Indigenous students.

Mr. Lamont cautioned members about pinning one group of students against another.

Ms. Creasor expressed that she does not feel they are pinning students against another and that they are using it as a comparative and only looking at population.

Dr. Fearon recognized the importance for the debate, noting that it is important to ensure that all students are valued. The university is funded by different pools of funds and that the provincial and federal governments will target programs for different pools of students. The actual costs of these pools are different and how student support is delivered is dependent on what best meets students' needs. He noted that he does not want international students to feel that this dialogue is a statement about them (i.e., against) and expressed that the discussion is a statement about society at large as to how we fund PSE with fiscal conditions decided at provincial and federal levels. The dialogue should not be a statement of how much or how little students are valued.

Ms. Senkbeil commented that international students bring diversity for everyone and acknowledged that BU has the lowest fees. She noted that BU's fees are the most accessible for some economic backgrounds. She questioned whether the university has conducted surveys on international students and why they chose BU as well as gathering feedback regarding tuition fees.

Dr. Fearon responded that the Office of International Activities interacts with students regularly. It was noted that the university has not put forward a motion regarding international fees and that the topic is currently being debated in the Provincial Legislature and is difficult for the university to make statements when the province is still debating the future discussion of post-secondary education funding and students' tuition policy.

Mr. Brown expressed that he feels that students are already pinned against each other due to barriers that international students face compared to domestic students. He noted that in reference to the graphs on international student fees, he feels that international students are not picking the university in the context of Canada, but in context of world.

Dr. Fearon noted that Canada has one of the most cost advantageous, welcoming and inclusive societies in the world and that BU's tuition fees relative to our neighboring countries are in good standing. He expressed that as a society and as per the Legislature, the province is trying to reconcile tuition fees and private benefits (i.e., higher standard of living). The province is trying to balance what public and private benefits should be noting that domestic student families have been paying taxes for 18-20 years into the tax system whereas international students do not have that contribution built-up. International students are not asked to cover 100% of these taxes and they should not have to because the value they bring is significant but the cost of education programs and services cannot be fully ignored. We want to contribute to their long term success and further noting there has been no significant international fee increases and no intent to do so for 2017/18.

On a new topic, Ms. Creasor noted there are only two counsellors and that a new phone-in counselling service called "I am Well" will be launching so that students may have immediate access to counselling services.

4.0 REPORTS

4.1 Governance and Nominating Committee (S. Chambers)

a) Report from the Governance and Nominating Committee

The Governance and Nominating Committee met on Friday at 4:30 p.m.

Two items of continuing business were discussed in regards to the Committee Work Plan as well as an update on the review of Board policies. The updated Work Plan was distributed to the committee for information and feedback. The Board policies have been sent to the appropriate departments for review.

4.2 Finance and Audit Committee (D. Stewart)

a) Report from the Finance and Audit Committee

The Finance and Audit Committee met on Friday at 5:15 p.m.

Mr. Todd Birkhan from BDO Canada was in attendance in person and Mr. Brendan Thiessen from the Office of the Auditor General participated via telephone to present and discuss the Audit Plan for the March 31, 2017 year-end. The Audit Plan includes the Brandon University Financial Statements, Schedule of Public Sector Compensation, and the U.S. Department of Education William D. Ford Loan Program. The Audit Plan outlines the annual audit process as well as the responsibilities of the Auditor, Management, the Board of Governors and the Finance and Audit Committee. The approach for key risk areas is outlined and materiality of \$1,100,000 (the same level was 2016) has been established.

The following reports were received for information:

- Financial Summary as at February 28, 2017
- Financial Summary by Object as at February 28, 2017
- Transactions of \$25,000 or More from January 10, 2017 to March 9, 2017

4.3 Executive Committee (D. Stewart)

a) Report from the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met on Friday at 6:00 p.m.

Reports were received from the Governance and Nominating Committee, Finance and Audit Committee, the President, and the Vice-Presidents. The

reports and all other Executive business are included on the Board of Governors agenda for discussion and approval.

4.4 President (G. Fearon)

a) Report from the President

A copy of Dr. Fearon's written report was included in the package and presented. A set of key priorities have been identified and a number of corresponding activities and engagements that are in support of these priorities were noted.

Dr. Fearon noted that unless there are any questions, there is nothing additional to report. There were no questions.

4.5 Vice-President, Academic & Provost (S. Robinson)

a) Report from the Vice-President (Academic & Provost)

A copy of Dr. Robinson's written report was included in the package.

Mr. Boyd asked for additional information on the "Let's Talk Science" partnership and the involvement with high schools.

Dr. Robinson reported that the university has partnered with Let's Talk Science noting that this is the first time BU has been involved with the organization. The partnership has been developed with assistance of Dr. Bernadette Ardelli. A student coordinator will be hired as soon as possible. BU Science students will volunteer in providing lectures and workshops to high school students with the goal is to enhance science literacy so that more students pursue Science in PSE.

Members acknowledged and commended Dr. Robinson's support on the Sexual Assault Advisory Group.

Dr. Fearon highlighted that BU participated along with a number of professors and judges at the Westman Manitoba Science Fair and that next year's science fair will be held on campus at BU.

4.6 Brandon University Foundation (G. Boyd/M. Cain/Vacant)

Mr. Boyd reported that the Annual General Meeting will be held on May 12th and that an update will be provided by Heathbridge Capital Management. He noted that if any members who have a background in finance and investments to feel free to put names forward for an additional Board representative.

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

Mr. Lamont reported that two meetings have been held and decisions have been made to put cameras in the building. There have been discussions regarding the campus bar and some discussion regarding space for student collectives within a portion of building.

4.8 Board of Trustees of the BU Retirement Plan (S. Chambers/S. Lamont)

Mr. Lamont reported that a meeting was held on February 16th and the following items were highlighted:

- A report was provided to trustees to provide information on how investments are made. It was reported that BU's investments did well and exceeded requirements;
- T. Birkan from BDO came and did an audit plan for the pension trustees;
- Eckler had discussions on pension increases for pensioners. Some discussion was had on plan evaluation parameters as well as federal government changes to pension plans and effects on university's pension plan. Longevity risk was also discussed.

4.9 Brandon University Senate (G. Boyd/M. Cain)

As Mr. Boyd and Mr. Cain were both unable to attend the last Senate meeting, Dr. Robinson provided a report on their behalf. It was reported that a couple of minor items including policy business and courses changes were discussed for the Faculties of Music and Science. In addition, a series of updated terms of reference for scholarships and awards were discussed.

4.10 Status of Women Review Committee (Vacant)

No report.

4.11 Brandon University Alumni Association (D. Stewart)

D. Stewart reported that the last meeting was held on February 13th. The following items were highlighted:

- Westman chapter has been launched and an Alumni night was held on Feb 14th;
- Winnipeg Chapter will hold event on June 21st at St. Charles Golf and Country club;
- Planning is underway for the 2017 Homecoming. This year is BUSU's 50th anniversary and there may be a possible joint celebration for the University's 50th; and
- Alumni Association participated at the Long Night Against Procrastination event.

4.12 Brandon University Students' Union (N. Brown/J. Creasor)

Mr. Brown reported the following:

- Two student representatives from Brandon-Souris and Portage-Lisgar will be representatives in the House of Commons in the Daughters of the Vote event;
- Whitney Hodgins spoke at a conference regarding accessibility;
- BUSU held a general election and there are a number of returning directors and new directors;
- Wintervention was held on March 8th as a 'getaway' from the winter storm;
- Annual General Meeting was held on March 21st;
- BUSU provided breakfast at Long Night Against Procrastination; and
- Family Fun Week is coming up.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Motion: Revised Ethical Consideration in the Administration of Awards Policy

Motion: Moved and seconded (N. Brown/B. Schaffer)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Governors approve the changes to the ethical considerations in the administration of awards policy as follows:

PROPOSED POLICY

ETHICAL ADMINISTRATION OF AWARDS POLICY

I. PREAMBLE

Brandon University seeks to recruit, retain, and support its students through the administration of a robust scholarship, bursary, and award portfolio which is made possible through the generosity of a wide network of dedicated donors. In the administration of this financial support program, Brandon University is bound to respect the statutes of the Human Rights Code of Manitoba, particularly sections 9(1) and 9(2):

"Discrimination" defined

9(1) In this Code, "discrimination" means:

- a) differential treatment of an individual on the basis of the individual's actual or presumed membership in or association with some class or group of persons, rather than on the basis of personal merit; or**
- b) differential treatment of an individual or group on the basis of any characteristic referred to in subsection (2); or**
- c) differential treatment of an individual or group on the basis of the individual's or group's actual or presumed association with another individual or group whose identity or membership is determined by any characteristic referred to in subsection (2); or**
- d) failure to make reasonable accommodation for the special needs of any**

individual or group, if those special needs are based upon any characteristic referred to in subsection (2).

Interpretation

9(1.1) In this Code, "discrimination" includes any act or omission that results in discrimination within the meaning of subsection (1), regardless of:

- (a) the form of the act or omission; and
- (b) whether the person responsible for the act or omission intended to discriminate.

Applicable characteristics

9(2) The applicable characteristics for the purposes of clauses (1)(b) to (d) are:

- a) ancestry, including colour and perceived race;
- b) nationality or national origin;
- c) ethnic background or origin;
- d) religion or creed, or religious belief, religious association or religious activity;
- e) age;
- f) sex, including sex-determined characteristics or circumstances, such as pregnancy, the possibility of pregnancy, or circumstances related to pregnancy;
- g) gender identity;
- h) sexual orientation;
- i) marital or family status;
- j) source of income;
- k) political belief, political association or political activity;
- l) physical or mental disability or related characteristics or circumstances, including reliance on a service animal, a wheelchair, or any other remedial appliance or device; and
- m) social disadvantage.

Discrimination on basis of social disadvantage

9(2.1) It is not discrimination on the basis of social disadvantage unless the discrimination is based on a negative bias or stereotype related to that social disadvantage.

For the purpose of brevity, the term "award(s)", when appearing independently in this document without further definition, is intended to refer to all specific award types offered at Brandon University: scholarships, bursaries, scholarship-bursaries, awards, and medals.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

As a matter of principle, Brandon University will not administer any new scholarship, award, fellowship, or bursary that discriminates on the bases of the 'applicable characteristics' enumerated in section 9(2) of the Manitoba Human Rights Code.

Exceptions are occasionally warranted when it can be demonstrated that systemic discrimination may exist that results in the under-representation of identified sub-populations in Manitoba and/or when the proposed award has as its object the

amelioration of conditions of disadvantaged individuals or groups, including those who are disadvantaged because of any applicable characteristic referred to in subsection 9(2) of the Manitoba Human Rights Code (and acknowledging the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms). Any exception to this principle shall be made only with the consent of the Faculty/School concerned (if applicable), the appropriate Senate Committee (Scholarships, Bursaries, Medals & Awards Committee or Athletic Awards Committee), and the Senate. A formal request for such an exception shall be provided to Senate by the appropriate Senate Committee (Scholarships, Bursaries, Medals & Awards Committee or the Athletic Awards Committee).

Preamble and policy wording borrowed and adapted with permission from the University of Manitoba's policy on Non-Acceptance of Discriminatory Awards http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/academic/370.html (accessed November 3, 2016).

036 Mar17

Dr. Robinson spoke to the motion and noted that the current policy is out of date and the language used refers to terminology and documents that have changed over time. The policy has been updated to include current terminology and definitions and refers directly back to the Human Rights Code of Manitoba so that the policy does not need to be updated each time the code is revised. The purpose of motion is to update the ethical awards and administrative policy.

CARRIED

5.2 Motion: Brandon University Sexualized Violence Policy

Motion: Moved and seconded (J. Creasor/N. Brown)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Governors approve the Brandon University Sexualized Violence Policy.

038 Mar17

Dr. Robinson reported that Carla Navid, Sexual Violence Education and Prevention Coordinator, gave a presentation at the January 28th Board meeting where she provided an information session on the policy. Board members received a copy of the draft policy at that time.

Dr. Robinson distributed a copy of the most recent draft protocol which outlines the administrative procedures for implementation of the policy. The protocol provides detailed steps that follow a report of sexualized violence. It was noted that sexualized violence has been the cause of a number of incidents on university campuses in Canada. Efforts have been made to solve this and improve efforts. The Sexual Assault Advisory Group (SAAG) has had a great deal of scholarly and legal professional input and Dr. Robinson feels that this policy is state of the art.

The policy will be reviewed in one year and then will be reviewed every three years thereafter.

Dr. Fearon commended Dr. Robinson and everyone involved in the development of the policy noting that this is a very significant development.

CARRIED

5.3 Motion: Tuition Fee Increases

Motion: Moved and seconded (N. Brown/J. Creasor)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT tuition increase at no more than the rate of inflation in Manitoba.

023 Jan17

Mr. Brown spoke to the motion noting the same motion was put forward to the Board in January 2017 in response to rumors that the provincial government would propose changes to the Protecting Affordability Act (PAA), which has now been announced by the introduction of Bill 31. The PAA has been changed so that tuition fees can be increased by the rate of inflation plus an additional 5 percent. BUSU wants to tell the government that this is not the direction they want to go.

Ms. Creasor commented that if tuition is increased by 7 percent, a continual increase of this nature will cause drastic increases for undergraduate students. She noted that the purpose of the motion is to try to ensure that BU stays affordable for all students. She noted that BU has always raised tuition to the maximum of the cost of inflation. This motion is trying to say that instead of choosing the maximum, BU should put students first and allow education for all by maintaining that tuition fees increase only at the cost of inflation.

Ms. Senkbeil asked when the budget will be approved. It was confirmed that it would be approved at the May Board meeting.

Mr. Schaffer expressed that he wishes that tuition fees did not have to increase. However, the problem with the motion is that the Board is responsible to ensure a balanced budget and that it meets the needs of the university. If the Board does not do that, they are doing students a disservice. He noted that 80 percent of revenue comes from province and it is not known yet what that amount will be meaning that it is difficult to support the motion without this information. If the same level of funding is not received, there will be additional issues faced and it would be irresponsible for the Board to take away opportunities to balance the budget. It was expressed that the hope is that tuition fees do not have to increase above the rate of inflation. He noted that this decision would affect the Board of Governors in the future and therefore finds it difficult to support this motion if it 'handcuffs' their situation in the future.

Ms. Senkbeil commented that budgets are difficult and that tuition and access play a big part. She agreed that without knowing the budget information from the province, decisions cannot be made now.

Ms. Senkbeil proposed the following amendment to the motion:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT future budget proposals include an option in which tuition would not increase beyond the rate of inflation.

Moved and seconded: (S. Senkbeil/E. Strain)

Ms. Senkbeil stated that the amendment would mean that the budget would propose what the university would like to do and that there would also be an alternative included as to what the impact would be if tuition did not increase beyond inflation so that the Board can see what the difference is so that an informed decision can be made.

Dr. Fearon noted that this is already done as part of the Budget Estimates.

Ms. Creasor expressed concerns with the wording of the motion noting that it would allow the university to propose what the deficit would be and that would be it.

Mr. Brown expressed that the amendment does not carry the intent of the original motion which is to not increase tuition more than the rate of inflation and is instead talking about a procedure of how the budget is approved.

The Chair called the question and the majority of members opposed the amendment resulting in the amendment to fail.

The Chair re-read the original motion and asked if there were any additional questions or comments.

Mr. Boyd expressed that students are first priority and acknowledged that without students, the university would not exist. He noted that no rates are included in the budget that are greater than what the university can operate with. He stated that a number of issues are coming forward with the budget and until we find out full details on from the province on April 11th (i.e., the level of the provincial operating grant of BU), there is real concern with tying the university's hands. It was noted that there has been increases in contracts and there is uncertainty about increases of rates (i.e., hydro rates). Mr. Boyd stated that he cannot vote in favour of the motion for these reasons.

Ms. Creasor commented that the Indigenous student population has grown (at BU) and viewed that some students have left the university due to the strike in the past. She expressed her belief that by growing only by the rate of inflation compared to

other universities, BU will probably have more Indigenous students because their funding can go further.

Dr. Fearon noted that each year, the university has requested additional funding from the Province for Indigenous students. Independently, the University has taken action setting aside funds to try to reduce program costs (i.e., PENT) and increase scholarships for students to improve accessibility.

Ms. Creasor stated that the motion is talking about all students and that it will affect all students.

Member asked if the motion would be permanent. Mr. Brown confirmed that the intent is that it would be permanent.

The Chair called the question and majority of members opposed the motion.

DEFEATED

5.4 Motion: International Tuition Fees

Motion: Moved and seconded (N. Brown/J. Creasor)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the differential fees charged to international students be no higher than 100% of domestic student tuition.

026 Jan17

Mr. Brown presented a chart showing a comparison of domestic and international tuition rates between BU, University of Manitoba and University of Winnipeg and what he anticipates the projected rates will be up until 2022 with Bill 31 in affect. He stated that the line indicating BU's future international undergraduate fees was based on his best guess at a motion he thought was coming to the Board from administration.

Dr. Fearon noted that the BUSU projections for BU are not what the university is proposing and confirmed that this is only a guess made by Mr. Brown, BUSU President.

Mr. Brown shared a video of recorded interviews with BU students who expressed how they would feel if international tuition fees were increased at BU.

Mr. Brown stated that international students make the university a better institution and allow more programs to exist with a worldlier view (i.e., Rural Development Institute). He also shared his opinion that increasing differential fees will only drive students to larger cities and other institutions.

Mr. Boyd commented that he understands the concerns and issues and stated that the Board will try to limit increases in the future if possible. He expressed the

hope that international students are not only coming here because it is more cost effective and hopes they are also coming because of what BU offers including professors and degree programs.

Mr. Brown responded that students are choosing BU not only because of cost, but mostly because they can afford it. He stated that BU allows students from poor economic backgrounds to experience post-secondary education and to better themselves and their children. He added that if this barrier increases, they will not go to PSE or get a higher paying job and that maintaining or lowering the differential fee will keep it affordable.

Mr. Schaffer stated that he cannot support the motion as it will tie the hands of the Board moving forward. He pointed out that in terms of support for international students, the tradition has been that BU has always had the lowest fees in the province and this supports that BU does not easily break tradition.

Dr. Fearon stated that over the years, the university has been increasing scholarships for international students and has signed a number of agreements through international activities for sponsorship funds. In addition, there have also been more sponsors for WUSC students. He reiterated that BU has the lowest international fees and continues to be active in seeking additional funds and these efforts should not be overlooked as these contributions help to maintain affordability for international students.

Ms. Creasor stated that she feels this motion has the same budget implications as other motions that have been passed such as the creation of new programs and departments and feels this motion is the same premise as those examples. In addition, she referenced a letter from 2016-17 proposed budget and rationale which noted that a 12-month study would be done on international students and factors that are limiting success. She asked where the university stands on the study.

Dr. Fearon stated that this is done in orientation and through the Institutional Data and Analysis (IDA) office. He stated that there is also a Senate committee looking at internationalization which is available for participation by Senators where the plan is to have the committee provide a report to Senate and then to the Board.

Dr. Fearon reported that as per the normal budget process, administration holds budget consultations and town hall meetings for faculty, staff and students to attend. He noted BUSU is part of the board who dictates the balanced budget.

Mr. Brown commented that the motion is to maintain status quo and if the university feels that status quo is “tying the hands” of the Board, he believes that the intent is that increasing international fees is imminent.

Dr. Fearon responded that there is legislation being debated and there is uncertainty on the framework. There is also uncertainty on the policy framework that will be communicated to post-secondary institutions.

Ms. Creasor reiterated that the motion is not “tying hands” but maintaining status quo. She noted that in the April 29th report from Senate, there is no mention of the internationalization committee and has not seen any studies come forward.

Dr. Fearon responded that the Senate committee is meeting and there needs to be respect that the policy environment has changed and is changing at a governmental level. He expressed that ultimately, Board members have to grapple with the budget and not just administration noting the Board also includes students. In addition, it was expressed that administration is not against the students and that collectively, everyone is grappling with the same consideration of providing quality education at an affordable cost.

Mr. Schaffer pointed out that the assumption always seems to be status quo and that there is uncertainty if status quo can be maintained with provinces decisions.

The Chair called the question and majority of members opposed the motion.

DEFEATED

6.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7.0 INFORMATION

7.1 Brandon University Campus Master Plan Briefing

Mr. Lamont reported that the process is coming to an end. A final report will be presented at the end of April. It was noted that a presentation will be provided to the Board in May by the consultants from Dialog. Board members will have the opportunity to ask questions.

The Chair announced that Thank you letters written by students who received scholarships and awards were provided at the front of the room for viewing.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

Moved (B. Schaffer)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the meeting adjourn at 11:44 p.m.

CARRIED