



BOARD NOTES

St. Francis Xavier University Board of Governors

February 24, 2017

The Board of Governors met on Friday, February 24, 2017. The following is a summary of proceedings at the meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President MacDonald updated the Board on a number of topics:

1. **BurMac**
Representatives from the Student Union, MacIsaac and Burke Houses have made a presentation to the University regarding a renewed approach to the annual BurMac House Hockey Cup game. The proposal includes a number of recommendations including moving the game to a Saturday, inclusion of an Alumni game and a significant charitable involvement piece. Provisional approval has been given to proceed with the proposal.
2. **Legal Action - NSTU**
Joint legal action was initiated by 5 universities in the Province against the NSTU for failure to comply with provisions of the Education Act in not allowing education students in the classroom during the recent work-to-rule action. Now that the labour dispute has been settled through legislation education students are able to complete their required in-class experience.
3. **Mulroney Hall Project**
The required \$40 million fundraising target for capital costs associated with the Mulroney Hall project has been achieved. Contractor proposals are currently being reviewed and selection of a preferred contractor should be completed within the next week-10 days.
4. **Government Relations**
Work is on-going in building improved and stronger relationships with all levels of Government. Particular emphasis has been placed on working with the Provincial and Federal governments to identify funding opportunities for University initiatives. Mr. Michael Keenan has agreed to act as a Deputy Minister champion at the Federal level.
5. **President's Colloquium**
On February 28, 2017 a President's Colloquium focused on Social Justice from the African Heritage perspective will be held in Lane Hall at 6:30. Board members were encouraged to attend.

2017-18 CONSOLIDATED BUDGET:

Mr. Beckett presented the 2017-18 Consolidated Budget for the University and recommended Fee schedule. The budget calls for a consolidated deficit of \$749,000 for the year.

A detailed Priorities Framework was presented to the Board as part of the Budget. This Framework identifies initiatives that will be undertaken during 2017-18 to move the University towards achievement of the Goals and Objectives established in the University's Strategic Plan.

The 2017-18 Budget was approved as presented. A copy of the full report presented to the Board can be found on the University website:

http://www.sites.stfx.ca/financial_services/finance/University_Budget_Documents.

ACADEMIC VICE PRESIDENT & PROVOST:

Dr. Wamsley provided an update to the Board which included discussion of the challenges being faced by the Academic area in attempting to maintain quality programming in light of on-going budget reductions. He also noted the importance of implementing changes whilst not disturbing the cultural fabric of the institution. Changes can be made but they take time, typically 3-5 years.

RESEARCH

Dr. Richard Isnor, Associate Vice President Research & Graduate Studies, gave a presentation on faculty research activities.

STUDENTS' UNION

Mr. Taylor Chase, President of the Students' Union presented a report on the activities of the Students' Union.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Mr. Glenn Horne, President of the Alumni Association provided an update on the activities of the Alumni Council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Board received reports from Board Committees highlighting their activities over the past month.

The next meeting of the Board will be in mid June, 2017.