



BOARD NOTES

St. Francis Xavier University Board of Governors
December 8th 2020

The Board of Governors met on Tuesday, December 8th 2020. The following is a summary of proceedings at the meetings.

President's Report:

President Hakin updated the Board on a number of topics:

- Planning Framework Update
 - Committees chaired by the President are being reorganized. New structure will have four Committees: President's Executive Committee; Academic Advisory Committee; Non-Academic Advisory Committee and; Leadership Council.
 - Learnings from operating in a pandemic are being collected from across the University and consolidated.
 - Work will commence in January on collecting information on progress that has been made relative to the current strategic plan and work has commenced on development of an Academic Plan.
- Capital Project Update
 - Centre for Innovation in Rural Health
 - Central Heating Plant replacement
 - donor meetings
- Navigating the pandemic
 - Impact of community outbreak in Halifax and collapse of the Atlantic bubble
 - AUS decision to cancel winter competitive sports competition
 - X-Ring ceremony moved to virtual delivery format
- An overview of selected activity in the President's Office

ENROLMENT/RECRUITING UPDATE

Dr. Kevin Wamsley, Academic Vice President & Provost provided an update on enrolment levels for the Winter Term and early application/confirmation numbers for the 2021-22 Academic year. Our enrolment numbers are very good to date. Last year was exceptional and we are doing very well in comparison to last year's numbers

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Mr. Andrew Beckett, Vice President Finance & Administration provided an update on the financial outlook for the 2020-21 Fiscal year. He noted that the next set of detailed projections for the year will be prepared based on December results and will be available by mid-January

Dr. Hakin provided an update on discussions with the Province on funding assistance. Department of Labour and Advanced Education (LAE) officials have met with each individual institution to assess their financial challenges. CONSUP has been meeting with the Province and have been advised that LAE has made recommendations to Treasury Board.

JANUARY REOPENING PLANS

Dr. Wamsley provided an overview of key academic dates for the Winter Term. To accommodate students that are self-isolating classes will commence on-line on January 13, 2021. Face-to face course delivery will commence on January 20, 2021. There will be no Reading Week in the Winter Term however two reading days will be provided.

Mr. Beckett provided an overview of plans for residence and food service operations to support self-isolating students. We expect to have approximately 400 students self-isolating in residence in January. Self-isolating students have to be in residence by no later than January 6, 2021. Students unable to return by this date will have to make alternative arrangements for their self-isolation. All residences will be staffed 24 hours a day to monitor compliance with the self-isolating protocols. Students will pick-up their meals at the Meal Hall twice a day and return to their residence to eat. They will also be provided with snacks and beverages.

Mr. Beckett also discussed the University's responsibilities related to self-isolation for international students under the Federal Government's Designated Learning Institution program. The University is required to designate where all international students who will be arriving from outside the country will complete their self-isolation. Those international students who live in residence and are able to return by January 6, 2021 will complete their self-isolation in residence

Ms. Elizabeth Yeo, VP Students provided an overview of supports that will be provided to students who are staying in the Antigonish area over the Christmas break (55 in residence and approximately 400 off-campus) including in-residence supervision and mental health supports. There will also be some scheduled recreation activities over the break.

Ms. Yeo also provided an update on discussions with the health system regarding testing protocols for returning students. A decision on asymptomatic testing for students who are self-isolating is contingent on resources and the demands for symptomatic testing. Public Health continue to promote the 14 days of self-isolation is the most effective approach for containing the virus. We also have testing protocols and communications to deal with any students who exhibit symptoms or who are exposed to positive cases.

Mr. Murray Kyte, VP Advancement highlighted the various communication efforts that will continue in January including on-line information sessions, targeted mail drops, website updates and the Neighbours Helping Neighbours program.

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Marc Furlotte, Chair of the Investment Committee, provided an update on the University's endowment investments. The Fund's recovery from the significant decline experienced in late February/early March as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic continues. Total investments at the end of September were \$150,292,624. Investment returns for the quarter were 5.2% which is above the benchmark index at 3.9%. On a year-to-date basis at the end of September the Fund has a return of (1.4%). Over a one-year period the fund has a return of 2.4%. Since September the investments have continued to perform well. At the end of November it is estimated that the year-to-date rate of return (January 1, 2020 to November 30, 2020) is approximately +4.3%.