



## **BOARD NOTES**

St. Francis Xavier University Board of Governors  
June 20 & 21, 2019

---

The Board of Governors met on Thursday and Friday, June 20 & 21, 2019. The following is a summary of proceedings at the meetings.

At the June 20, 2019 meeting Board members were given a tour of Mulroney Hall and were also provided an update on the University's Branding Project.

The following is a summary of proceedings at the June 21 meeting:

### **President's Report:**

President MacDonald updated the Board on a number of topics:

- Recruitment efforts are continuing related to the VP Students position. A search firm has been engaged to lead the process and we hope to have a candidate in place before the end of the current calendar year.
- Negotiations with the Province related to a new Memorandum of Understanding are on-going. The Presidents were disappointed with the 1% increase in operational grant funding that was approved as part of the 2019 Provincial Budget. The Budget also included additional funding for province wide initiatives such as sexual violence and mental health. It was noted that in March the Province had also approved one-time funding equal to 1% of the operating grant for deferred maintenance. The current proposed MOU provides for a 1% annual increase for the five year period.
- Enrolment numbers look positive for the Fall of 2019. More information will be provided by Dr. Wamsley in his report to the Board
- We are still waiting for approval of new funding from the Federal Government for the Coady Institute. A revised funding application has been submitted and early indications are that it is being received positively.

### **2018-19 FINANCIAL RESULTS**

Mr. Andrew Beckett, Vice President Finance & Administration presented the financial results for the 2018-19 fiscal year. The year ended with an operating surplus of \$439,000 (Budget - \$3.2 million deficit) thanks largely to an increase in annual operating budget funding from the Province of \$3,950,000. A report on the significant variances from budget in the projected results was reviewed. Mr. Beckett also presented the 2019 Annual Financial Report.

## **2019-20 OPERATING BUDGET**

Mr. Beckett updated the Board on several variances related to the 2019-20 Operating Budget. The following items were noted:

- Province approved 1% increase in Operating Grant (Budget was 2% increase). This shortfall is off-set by one-time funding provided for deferred maintenance equal to 1% of the Operating Grant.
- Enrolment numbers appear to be in line with budget estimates at this time
- Residence occupancy numbers look good at present but may be slightly lower than budget
- Additional costs are being incurred for recruitment efforts associated with the President and VP Students positions. These will be partially off-set by salary savings associated with the position vacancies.
- VP Students position was not provided for in the budget. Position will likely not be filled until January of 2020 so shortfall will only be \$40-50,000.
- Repairs and Maintenance costs are projected to be \$4-500,000 over budget. Some examples were provided of repairs that had to be addressed in the current year.

## **STUDENT ACCOUNTS**

Ms. Lisa Craig, Director of Finance presented information related to outstanding student accounts and efforts that have been made to reduce the amounts outstanding.

## **ENROLMENT UPDATE**

Dr. Kevin Wamsley, Academic Vice President & Provost, presented an update on enrolment for the Fall. As part of this update the following items were highlighted:

- Overall enrolment target is to increase student numbers by 60 which can be achieved through either recruitment or retention efforts, through an increase of 30 international students or 60 domestic students or any combination thereof.
- A number of positive and negative factors that could impact enrolment efforts were discussed.
- Currently anticipate that we will meet our enrolment target. International numbers are looking good and our numbers are strong in both Nova Scotia and Ontario. Enrolment numbers remain consistent in Western Canada.
- Large incoming class expected from China this year and we have doubled our numbers from India and Sri Lanka.
- Targeted recruitment efforts for the Schwartz Business School, supported by funding from Mr. Schwartz, appear to be getting results with confirmation numbers being up by 8-10%.
- Confirmation numbers also look good in core BA and BSc Programs, with enrolment in the Health Program continuing to stay strong.
- New programming is also helping with enrolment numbers (Public Policy & Governance, Climate & Environment, Computer Science) and a new Post Bachalaureate program in Artificial Intelligence is to be launched in January of 2020.

### **COADY INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE**

Mr. Beckett presented a report on the current financial results for the Coady Institute. He noted that the Coady Institute/Extension will end the 2018-19 fiscal year with a loss of approximately \$5.55 million. Based on extensive work carried out over the past several months staff are satisfied that the year-end financial results are a complete representation of the financial position of the Institute as at March 31, 2019. Dr. Wamsley and Mr. Gord Cunningham, Executive Director of Coady, discussed the on-going efforts being made to secure new funding from the Federal Government

### **STUDENT SERVICES UPDATE/SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY REVIEW**

Mr. Beckett provided an update on various activities that have been undertaken within the Student Services area over that past year-18 months and noted several key accomplishments that had been made during this period. An update on the independent review being done of the University's Sexual Violence Policy was also provided.

### **STUDENTS UNION REPORT**

Mr. Cecil vanBuskirk, Student Union President provided an update on the activities of the Student Union Executive Team.

### **ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

Mr. Marc Rodrigue, Alumni Association President provided an update on the activities of the Alumni Association.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Updates were provided on the activities of Board Committees.

On recommendation of the Board's HR Committee the Board approved the appointment of Dr. Kevin Wamsley as Interim President of the University for a one-year term commencing August 1, 2019.

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:**

Following the regular Board Meeting the Board met for the Annual General Meeting. This meeting was open to the Campus Community.

Dr. MacDonald presented a report highlighting significant accomplishments during the 2018-19 year.

The Board received and approved the 2018-19 Audited Financial Statements which can be found on the University's website as part of the 2018-19 Annual Report at: [http://sites.stfx.ca/financial\\_services/finance/Financial\\_Reports](http://sites.stfx.ca/financial_services/finance/Financial_Reports).

The Board also received a report from the Faculty representatives on the Board which focused on undergraduate research.