



## BOARD NOTES

St. Francis Xavier University Board of Governors  
October 24 & 25<sup>th</sup> 2019

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The Board of Governors met on, Thursday and Friday, October 24 & 25, 2019. The following is a summary of proceedings at the meetings.

At the October 24, 2019 the Board participated in discussions related to Student Experience and Future Directions for the Coady Institute.

On October 25<sup>th</sup> the Board proceedings included the following items.

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

President Wamsley updated the Board on a number of topics:

- In August the Federal Government announced funding of \$7.7 million over eight years for the National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health (NCCDH), hosted on the StFX campus.
- Global Affairs Canada is in the final stages of approving funding of \$10 million over 5 years for the Coady Institute.
- Mulrone Hall was officially opened on September 18 with key donors and dignitaries attending the opening celebrations. There was also a community open house held on September 21.
- The annual Homecoming weekend was held on October 4-6, 2019. There were approximately 1000 attendees this year. Dr. Wamsley highlighted a number of activities from the weekend including the celebration of 50 years of female sports being part of the University's athletics program.
- Official openings have been held for the new Athletic Therapy space and Athletic Locker rooms in the Amelia Saputo Centre for Healthy Living.
- The annual Open House for potential student recruits was held on October 18 with approximately 450 students and their family members attending
- A new Indigenous Space has been established in the Markin Complex. Official opening of this space will be held later in the Academic year.
- The recruitment area has been reorganized with heightened focus on international markets in China/India and Mexico.
- Student account collection process continue to be improved with good progress being made on collecting outstanding balances. Students with any outstanding balances have not been allowed to register in the current academic year.
- A number of changes in academic leadership roles were highlighted.
- Food service upgrades have been completed in Bloomfield and a Starbucks location has been opened on campus
- Negotiations have been successfully concluded with all four of the University's unions for new 3 year collective agreements

- A number of actions taken to support Bahamian students as a result of the devastation caused by Hurricane Dorian were noted.
- Efforts continue to secure donors for the Centre for Health Innovation with a key donor in the final stages of being secured.
- A new five year Memorandum of Understanding between the Province and the Universities has been signed. Dr. Wamsley briefly reviewed key components of the MOU which includes a commitment from the Province to increase operational funding by no less than 1% per year during the life of the Agreement.

### **GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

Mr. Danny Graham, Chair of the Governance & Nominating Committee provided an overview of a proposal coming from the Committee to the Board to carry-out a third party governance review of the Board's operations. He noted several areas related to Board Governance that continue to come up in discussions with Board members that warrant broader consideration as part of this review including:

1. Board diversity
2. Board size
3. Committee structure (# of them, mandates, skill requirements etc.)
4. Board policies (Are there Board Policies that need to be developed to support good governance?)

Mr. Graham also noted that this type of review is considered a best practice for governance activities. The review would include interviews with selected Board members, a review of best practices at other Universities and a workshop on governance practices with the entire Board.

On recommendation of the Governance & Nominating Committee the Board accepted a proposal from Boardworks Consulting to complete a governance review.

### **ENROLMENT UPDATE**

Dr. Tim Hynes, Acting Academic Vice President & Provost presented a report on student enrolment for the 2019-20 Academic Year. He noted that the budget target of plus 60 tuitions had been achieved.

Total undergraduate enrolment (FTEs) increased by 119 students or 3.1%; total graduate enrolment (FTEs) increased by 68.4. International enrolment (FTEs) increased by 55.3. A detailed summary of enrolment in various programs was reviewed.

Information on current retention rates was also presented which indicate very slight changes in these numbers for the current year.

For external comparative purposes the AAU Enrolment numbers were also presented to show how our enrolment changes compare with those of other Atlantic Universities.

## **2019-20 FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS**

Mr. Andrew Beckett, Vice President Finance & Administration presented the projected operating results for the 2019-20 fiscal year which have been prepared based on actual results to the end of September, 2019. The overall results are a projected deficit of \$700,000.

## **CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDING**

Mr. Beckett updated the Board on projected costs associated with Mulrone Hall and Nicholson Tower and the funding that has been committed to date for these projects. As has been previously reported there is a \$6 million shortfall in funding. To address this shortfall it was proposed that the University establish an administrative charge on the University's Endowment Funds of .75%. This administrative charge would be used to fund the cost of Advancement Office activities, this would then provide capacity within the Operating Budget for funding of the capital projects.

The Board approved an administrative charge of .75% to be levied annually on the University's Endowment Funds and that this charge be reviewed on an annual basis as part of the review of the Endowment Fund Spending Policy.

## **CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE**

Mr. Leon MacLellan, Director of Facilities Management provided an update on capital projects including: Mulrone Hall, Nicholson Tower, Alumni Plaza, Amelia Saputo Centre Phase 2B, Food Service outlets (Bloomfield & Starbucks) and the skate park being constructed by the Town.

## **SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY**

Mr. Beckett provided an update on the external review of the University's Sexual Violence Policy and procedures. The Independent Review Panel presented their report at the end of June, 2019. The Report was released to Campus in early September. Some of the key recommendations in the Policy include:

- Applies to all members of the Campus Community
- Investigation Model (Third Party Investigator) rather than current Adjudicative Model
- Establishment of Sexual Violence Safe Disclosure Office
- Complainant entitled to copy of investigation report and information on discipline and remedial measures
- Prohibition on Sexual Relations between Teaching Staff and Students in defined circumstances
- Immediate Measures fully described with review/appeal processes
- Transparency in Decision-Making

**UNION CONTRACTS (AUT & UNIFOR)**

The Board approved the Tentative Agreement with UNIFOR Local 2107 as presented and that the President and Vice President Finance & Administration be authorized to sign contract documents.

The Board approve the Tentative Agreement with StFXAUT for a new three-year Collective Agreement as presented, and that the President and Vice President Finance & Administration be authorized to sign contract documents

**STUDENTS UNION REPORT**

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

**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

A written report on Alumni Association activities from Mr. Marc Rodrigue, Alumni Association President was received for information purposes.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Updates were provided on the activities of Board Committees.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Boyd provided an update on the Presidential Selection process.