

Services and Administrative Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2021

Present: Andy Hakin (Chair) and Lynne Delorey (Recording Secretary)
Andrew Beckett (Teams), Lisa Craig, Jacqueline De Leebeeck, John Delorey, Megan Fogarty, Bob Hale, Shanna Hopkins, Richard Isnor, Murray Kyte, Wendy Langley, MJ MacLellan, Leo MacPherson, Randy Peters, Kathleen Provost and Elizabeth Yeo

Regrets: Kyler Bell, Tim Hynes, Margie McKinnon, Leon MacLellan, Kerry Prosper and Jennifer Swinemar-Murray

1. A. Hakin opened the meeting at 9:00 am and welcomed Committee members. We are moving forward with more positivity and certainty based on last years' experience and our success. Congratulations to all for all accomplishments over the past year.
2. The minutes of the April 27, 2021, meeting was approved on a motion by W. Langley, seconded by M. Kyte. **Motion carried.**
3. The agenda for the July 20, 2021, meeting was approved as circulated on a motion from S. Hopkins; seconded by L. MacPherson.
4. Fall Semester opening/communication plan
 - It is a critical time for communication with our students. As response to COVID changes within the province, it will be necessary to pivot our communication plan.
 - Please direct any questions you receive to Kyler Bell (kbell@stfx.ca) so that updates can be made to our frequently asked questions webpage.
 - Our relationship with both Town and County is strong. The StFX Executive team was invited to a recent joint meeting of Town and County, where both Councils indicated their appreciation to the University for the past year.
 - Lines of communication are open between the university and the community with bi-weekly emails to students and parents.
 - Plans are in place for virtual information sessions. These sessions will include update on status within the province and set expectations for what students and parents can expect upon return to campus followed by a Q&A session with the leadership team. Encouraging all to be vaccinated will be a focus of these town hall sessions.
 - A session for Town and County and one for faculty and staff are also planned.

Discussion ensued with respect to potential plans for isolation, testing, vaccine clinics, etc.

E. Yeo advised that:

- All incoming students will be required to complete three online learning modules -- *Safer Socializing@X*, *Consent Education is Visible@X*, and *You Belong@X*. These modules are useful tools to help students contribute and make both StFX and Antigonish a safe and respectful community.
- Work continues with the Town of Antigonish RCMP to educate the students that the code of conduct applies both on and off campus. We hope to influence students to be more respectful.
- Education work also continues with local landlords.

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5. E. Yeo provided an update on Student Experience and Opportunity Plan
 - Consultations have been done with the Senate, faculty, staff, and students which have provided us much data to work with. We need to engage the broader campus community to solicit their input.
 - Our three strategic areas are student mental health and wellness, a student experiential learning framework and the first-year experience. This will provide a starting place and additional areas may emerge from these discussions
 - Planning sub-committees will be derived to proceed with the research and work through audits. These will be shared with the community through reports and meetings. Also, to be included are reports from the President's Action Committee on Anti-Racism and from the Residence Renewal Advisory Committee.

6. A. Hakin provided an update from the Board of Governors meeting held in June.
 - John Delorey, Director, IT, presented to the Board of Governors regarding a review of the university's IT framework requesting significant investment and elevation.
 - The campus reopening framework presented to the province of NS was discussed. StFX continues to observe changes regarding procedures for vaccinations, mask wearing, etc. for framework update.
 - The lack of social engagement and forced isolation of the incoming class of 2021 is foremost in our minds as we are planning for the fall.
 - The university's financial update on the 2020-21 fiscal year indicated at \$2.2 million dollar surplus. \$3.6 M was received from the province of NS for COVID-related expenses. We presented a budget request for 2021-22 of \$4 M deficits. We have committed to the Board to move forward with a revised budget at the fall 2021 meeting.
 - The Board is reviewing recommendations from an external review regarding board composition, structure, and process.
 - A motion of appreciation to all faculty and staff for their significant work over the past year was made.
 - Dennis Flood is the new Chair of the Board of Governors.
 - Outgoing Board Chair, Mike Boyd and his family donated \$1 M, matched by the Deveau fund for a total of \$1.5 M.

Wrap-up

A. Hakin also reported that a search for a new Academic Vice President and Provost is underway. With a significant change in the academic leadership, i.e., new Dean of Education, an acting Dean of Business, an acting Dean of Science and a search for Director of Continuing Education, the completion of the Academic Plan may be somewhat delayed however, the framework will be completed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.