



BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Tuesday, March 31, 2020
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Video and Teleconference

MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Board of Governors of Ryerson University (the "University") held on Tuesday, March 31, 2020, at 12:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Present: K. Bahnan, S. Bukhari, N. Campbell, I. Chandran, J. Cockwell, J. Dallaire, C. Ellis, M. Frazer (Chair), J. Fukakusa, J. Gonzales, R. Graham, H. Harb, M. Kolios, R. Khonsari, M. Lachemi, C. MacDonald, A. McKee, N. Mohamed, C. Paisley, D. Porter, M. Rodrigues, S. Sinha, T. Staffieri (Vice-Chair)

Regrets: M. Ien

Board Secretariat:

J. Shin Doi, General Counsel and Secretary of the Board of Governors
H. Driscoll, Director, Governance
J. MacInnis, Senior Legal Counsel and Assistant Secretary
V. Luckiram, Governance Coordinator

Others in Attendance:

M. Benarroch, Provost and Vice President, Academic
D. Brown, Vice President, Administration and Operations
G. Craney, Deputy Provost and Vice Provost, University Planning
F. Forbes, Chief of Staff & Executive Director, Communications
G. Mallon, Interim Assistant Vice President, Facilities Management and Development
M. McEachrane Mikhail, Executive Director, Office of Provost and Vice President Academic
J. McKee, Chief Financial Officer
J. McMillen, Vice Provost, Students
I. Mishkel, Vice President, University Advancement and Alumni Relations
D. O'Neil Green, Vice President, Equity and Community Inclusion
A. Saloojee, Assistant Vice President, International

1. IN-CAMERA DISCUSSION (Board Members Only)

2. IN-CAMERA DISCUSSION (Executive Group Invited)

END OF IN-CAMERA DISCUSSION

3. INTRODUCTION

3.1. Chair's Remarks

M. Frazer opened his remarks with an acknowledgement of the land and welcomed everyone to the Board of Governors' first virtual meeting in response to the government's request to practice social distancing. M. Frazer thanked the Board Secretariat for enabling the Board to meet virtually using Zoom.

3.2. Approval of the March 31, 2020 Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

4. REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

M. Lachemi outlined the University's response to the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that students, staff, and faculty are protected, coursework is delivered, and students can successfully complete their academic year.

M. Lachemi thanked the Provost and his team for supporting students and faculty during the transition to online courses; the Administration and Operations team for maintaining essential operations on campus; the Chief Librarian for making resources available to students, faculty, and staff; T. Staffieri and Rogers Communications for providing students with unlimited data until the end of term and Wi-Fi hotspots for students who require internet access; and all employees across the University for outstanding teamwork across all units and portfolios.

M. Lachemi reported that the University has been in discussions with the government regarding infrastructure renewal for university campuses, and arrangements to ensure continuation of capital projects during the pandemic. M. Lachemi informed the Board that the University is working with its partners and the government to develop innovative solutions to address challenges resulting from the pandemic, noting that the University would like to leverage its programs and zones to help Canadians and businesses recover. The University is establishing an implementation team to identify opportunities.

M. Lachemi provided an overview of the activities and initiatives the University has undertaken to deal with the impact of the pandemic. M. Lachemi reported that the University is in discussions with two hospitals about providing space in residence buildings for healthcare workers and advised that a number of the University's researchers are actively engaged in COVID-19 related research. M. Lachemi reported that the Ryerson Leadership Lab, the Brookfield Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and Matthew Mendelsohn, former first Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet, launched a group called First Policy Response with the aim of generating ideas of how to best respond to the impact of COVID-19.

Board members asked about the potential of future layoffs. M. Lachemi advised that the University is working closely with the government to minimize the impact of the pandemic on the budget and that Board members will continue to be updated.

5. REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY

J. Shin Doi reported that N. Mohamed will be recommended to the Ministry of Colleges and Universities for consideration as a Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council appointee to the Board of Governors for a second three-year term commencing on August 17, 2020.

J. Shin Doi reported that N. Campbell was appointed to the Audit committee and R. Graham was appointed to the Negotiations Committee.

5.1. 2020 Board Election Report

J. Shin Doi congratulated students David Jardine, Tay Rubman, and Matthew ("MJ") Wright, for being elected as student representatives to the Board for a one-year term, and administrative staff member Silvana Babikian, who was elected to the Board as a staff representative for a two-year term. All will commence their terms as of September 1, 2020.

J. Shin Doi reported that no nominations were received for the Board faculty position and as a result the Election Procedures Committee approved a by-election for the faculty position. Nominations closed on March 18, 2020, and three faculty members were confirmed to run. Voting will occur electronically from April 14, 2020 to April 24, 2020.

J. Shin Doi thanked the Election Procedures Committee members for overseeing the process.

6. REPORT FROM THE PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT ACADEMIC

M. Benarroch provided an update on the University's academic-continuity plan, reporting that all in-person classes and exams are being delivered in virtual formats until further notice and that students have alternate grade allocation options. The University's Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching is providing resources to support these changes.

M. Benarroch advised that the Senate Priorities Committee approved increased flexibility for program delivery and that the Library is working to accommodate students who do not have access to a computer via Ryerson's laptop loan program. M. Benarroch reiterated thanks to Rogers for providing unlimited data until the end of term to students who are Rogers or Fido subscribers and for putting students first.

M. Benarroch provided an overview of the support being provided to international students to facilitate course completion and to mitigate risks associated with housing and travel. M. Benarroch reported that international student advisors have been made available to provide advice to students. Students who are abroad are being urged to return home. Students living in residence have been asked to by March 23, 2020, except those with exceptional circumstances who will be allowed to stay. The students remaining will be supported by the Housing & Residence Life Team.

M. Benarroch reported that the University has developed an Emergency Bursary Fund to ensure students are supported. J. McMillen advised that the University is providing students with guidance on how other funding they are eligible to receive may be impacted.

Board members asked about the success of online courses and about future course delivery. M. Benarroch advised that the transition to virtual courses has gone well and provided an update on the technological solutions being used.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

T. Staffieri reported that on February 25, 2020 the Executive Committee was advised that the government had appointed N. Campbell and R. Graham as LGIC appointees to the Board. T. Staffieri also reported that D. Porter was appointed to the Employee Relations and Pensions Committee.

7.2. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

7.2.1. Fiera Capital Report December 31, 2019

M. Frazer reported that on March 25, 2020, J. McKee and D. Pennycook of Fiera Capital provided an update on the University's Endowment Fund, which is managed by Fiera Capital. The presentation was included in the Board package.

7.2.2. 2020-21 Budget: Government Funding Update and Budget Strategy

M. Frazer informed Board members that the Finance Committee heard a presentation on government funding and the budget strategy from M. Lachemi, M. Benarroch, and G. Craney which was included in the Board materials.

7.3. REPORT FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

7.3.1. Scholarly, Creative and Research (SRC) Activities at Ryerson: Latest Developments and Plans for 2020-21

S. Liss provided Board members with an update and overview of Ryerson's scholarly, research and creative activity successes from the previous year, and priorities for the upcoming year.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

8.1. Approval of the January 31, 2020 Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented.

8.2. Execution of Contracts Policy

BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:

THAT the amendments to the Execution of Contracts Policy be approved as presented.

9. FOR INFORMATION

9.1. University Relations Monthly Metrics and Reach

9.2. Ryerson Performance Indicators

10. TERMINATION

NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD – April 30, 2020