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## **SYNOPSIS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING**

### **PUBLIC SESSION**

**NOVEMBER 26, 2015**

#### **Chair's Remarks**

The Chair thanked the Board members for completing the annual Board assessment prior to the start of the meeting. She emphasized that conducting Board assessments is a valuable governance tool, and in particular, the discussions that will follow the synthesis of the results will be helpful in setting the Board's own governance priorities in coming years.

She also acknowledged and thanked those members who attended the CCOU Conference in early November. The Conference highlighted significant issues facing universities and provided members with opportunities to learn how other university Boards are handling issues and to enhance their governance knowledge and practices. One of the significant issues discussed at the Conference was student mental health. The Chair noted the noticeable strain and stress on students and affirmed the Board's commitment to taking student life issues into consideration during Board discussions.

She ended her remarks by underscoring the importance of the Board engaging in strategic discussions and noted there would be an opportunity for the Board to have such a discussion following the presentation on alternate revenue sources.

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

The President congratulated our Governor, Bonnie Schmidt, on receiving the Community Service Award from Life Sciences Ontario.

The President reported on his continued involvement in the Truth and Reconciliation process as part of Universities Canada, including his recent participation as part of a panel at the 2015 Annual Conference of the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences. He remarked that we still have a long journey ahead as we continue the reconciliation process and that as a public institution, it is important for UOIT to engage in the journey.

He also discussed his participation at the Global Irish Economic Forum. He shared the story of meeting a thoroughbred horse farmer on the first day of the Forum and the farmer was excited to discuss Windfields Farm and Northern Dancer. The President confirmed that the international market remains highly competitive, as Ireland is also actively recruiting international students. He commented that innovation was seen almost entirely in terms of applications and the digital quotient concept permeated the Forum.

## **Co-Populous Report**

D. Allingham delivered the Co-Populous Report. The Board of Governors of Durham College (DC) held their most recent meeting on October 14, during which they discussed the Board's work plan and priorities for the year. They also discussed DC's annual report on accessibility and how the College is meeting its obligations. They also reviewed the initial enrolment reports and associated challenges facing DC. As of October, DC's enrolment was up 1% but revenue declined due to fewer international students. He also noted the Board has seen a significant increase in the amount of attention devoted to student mental health issues. The DC Board also regularly discusses the importance of the relationship between DC and UOIT and the importance of the institutions working together to deal with space and other issues.

## **Highlights from Committee Reports**

### **Audit & Finance Committee (including Investment Committee):**

- The Audit & Finance Committee provided the Board with a budget update using the 5 year forecast model, including the need for 2.5% budget cuts for the next couple of years.

### **Governance, Nominations and Human Resources (GNHR) Committee:**

- The Board approved the recommended amendments to the Board Meeting Procedures, the primary amendments being:
  - **No Requirement for Advance Notice to Attend Public Board or Committee Meetings:** the notice requirement for attendance at Board and Committee meetings was removed and a "first-come, first-served approach" was implemented.
  - **Public Meetings of Board Committees:** each Board Committee will add to its 2015/2016 work plan, the amendment of its terms of reference to provide that each Committee will meet publicly on each of its scheduled meeting dates. Agendas and materials for public Committee meetings will be posted in the same manner as the Board. Committees will continue to meet in non-public session as required and in compliance with the UOIT Act and By-Laws.

- **Inclusion of Faculty, Staff, or Student Board Member on Audit & Finance and Investment Committees:** Audit & Finance Committee of the Board and Investment Committee will also, as part of their 2015/16 work plans, review their respective terms of reference to make provision for the inclusion of one faculty, staff or student governor on each Committee. New board members were encouraged to advise the Secretariat of their Committee preferences.

**Strategy & Planning Committee:**

- B. MacIsaac delivered a presentation on alternate sources of revenue and S. McGovern provided the Board with an update on advancement activities, including campaign planning.

**Alumni Association:**

- M. Soleman from the Alumni Association provided an update to the Board, discussing the Association's strategic priorities and the work done this far to develop their brand