



**SYNOPSIS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
PUBLIC SESSION
OCTOBER 26, 2017**

Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed the new governors to the Board: Fardan Ali (undergraduate student), Stephanie Chow (an alumna of UOIT), Yowsif Yakub (graduate student). He thanked them for volunteering their time and is excited to have them participating in the governance of the university.

The Chair noted that it was his first Board meeting as Chair and highlighted several of the Board's priorities for the year. He also noted that the updated By-laws were being considered at the meeting and they represent a significant amount of work conducted over the past two years.

President's Report

The President noted the university's improvement in the recent Maclean's university rankings. He also reported that the university's women's soccer team is having another tremendously successful season and the men's soccer team advanced to the quarter-finals.

The President discussed his attendance at the recent COU and UC meetings, which had topics covering themes of equity, diversity, inclusivity, and free speech on campus. Rick Hanson delivered the keynote speech that captured several of the issues that must be addressed with respect to diverse abilities. The President also introduced a video shown on CTV in September that demonstrated ACE's hurricane-force wind testing abilities.

Highlights from Committee Reports

Audit & Finance Committee (A&F):

The Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee reported on the committee's last meeting. He commented that the year has gotten off to a great start and referenced the completion of the SIRC construction project. The project came in on time and on budget. N. Allen congratulated Craig Elliott and his team, including Larry Brual, for their successful management of the project. He reported that the committee also received a presentation on UOIT Financial Controls, Cyber Fraud, and Insurance Coverage, which is particularly timely given the recent phishing fraud experienced at MacEwan University.

First Quarter Report

The Chair of A&F reviewed the first quarter financial report, which forecast an upside of \$6.9m in revenues against the original budget, comprised of:

- Core Operating Grant - \$0.7m
- Tuition Fees - \$3.0m
- “One-time-only” - net retail sales tax rebate \$3.2m

The Budget Working Group has consulted with stakeholders regarding the prioritization of strategic requests across all units of the University. As a result of this prioritization, additional in-year projects and resources, totaling \$3.0m, have been approved by the Senior Leadership Team. Management will be returning to the committee with recommendations for allocating the surplus.

Governance, Nominations and Human Resources Committee (GNHR):

The Chair of GNHR reported that the general theme coming out of the Board Assessment conducted last year was a desire to improve Board meeting efficiency by reducing the volume of material distributed to the Board while continuing to provide governors with the information necessary for effective decision-making. She discussed several changes to Board and Committee meetings being implemented this year in an effort to improve meeting efficiency and encourage engaged discussion by the Board. The Board was given a written update on the implementation of the Policy on Sexual Violence for Students & Procedures for Responding to Incidents of Sexual Violence.

By-law Nos. 1 and 2

The GNHR Chair presented the updated By-laws for approval. She reviewed the background of the by-law review and acknowledged the amount of work done by the By-law Review Working Group. She advised that much work will flow from the implementation of the by-laws and the governance bodies of both the Board and Academic Council will be responsible for that work. She reiterated the Board’s desire to improve bicameral governance and that the GNHR committee views the updated by-laws as a significant step forward in that regard. She commented that governance is not a static, one-time project – it requires continuous work and she encouraged individuals at all levels of the university to work together to strengthen the university’s governance processes.

The Board of Governors approved the updated By-law Nos. 1 and 2, as presented, to be implemented in September 2018.