
**Public Session Minutes for the Meeting of March 28, 2019
2:00 p.m. to 3:20 p.m., ERC 3023**

Members: Francis Garwe (Chair), Doug Allingham, Laura Elliott (*videoconference*), Steven Murphy, Trevin Stratton (*videoconference*)

Staff: Robert Bailey, Jamie Bruno, Becky Dinwoodie, Cheryl Foy

Regrets : Lisa Edgar, Kori Kingsbury

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

2. Agenda

Upon a motion duly made by T. Stratton and seconded by L. Elliott, the Agenda was approved as presented.

3. Conflict of Interest Declaration

There were no conflict of interest declarations.

4. Approval of Minutes of Public Session of Meeting of January 17, 2019

Upon a motion duly made by L. Elliott and seconded by T. Stratton, the Minutes were approved as presented.

5. Chair's Remarks

The Chair congratulated the university on its brand launch on March 27. He has heard positive feedback from several of his colleagues who attended the event. The Chair expressed his excitement about the rebrand, particularly because the acronym was challenging to say.

The Chair discussed the OnBoard training session that was held immediately before the meeting. The Chair tested out the application prior to the training session and was impressed with its capabilities. L. Elliott added that she was also impressed with how easy and intuitive it is. T. Stratton commented that it will be helpful to have everything available online.

6. President's Remarks

The President was pleased to report on the official brand launch. Serendipitously, he participated in a panel on TVO's "The Agenda" immediately after the brand launch. The President advised that the rebranding is receiving a lot of media coverage, which

sends a good message to the university community. He has received many positive comments from colleagues around the globe on the new brand and he appreciates what has been accomplished as a team.

The President also discussed this year's Pi Day, which was an enormous success. Every municipality within the Durham Region raised the university's flag in honour of Pi Day. The university recently celebrated our student athletes who have achieved academic success in addition to athletic success. The university is excited about the introduction of varsity basketball in the fall.

The university is also having ongoing discussions with the Region, as it considers its future in the context of GM's announcement regarding the plant closure. Energy is a theme that will be an increasing focus of the university (e.g. telecommuting, wearable technology, smart cities/smart grids, autonomous & electric vehicles).

The President provided an update on the search for the next VP Research. The search committee is at the short list stage and will be interviewing the final two candidates during the next week.

The President responded to questions from the committee. The rebrand transition will be completed in stages and will take time given the amount of work involved. The university will be dealing with dual brands for some time, but the campus will look very different in the fall.

7. Governance

7.1 Annual Board Practices Assessment

B. Dinwoodie reviewed the report, which set out the recommendation to use the new Board portal to conduct the 2018-2019 annual Board Practices Assessment. The committee supported the recommendation.

7.2 Board Engagement

(a) Board Portal

B. Dinwoodie provided a brief update on the implementation of OnBoard, the new Board portal.

(b) Strategic Discussion: Community & the Board

S. Murphy introduced the strategic discussion topic. He described the desire for increased interaction between the university's governing bodies. There was a suggestion to have at least one joint meeting a year.

He also asked the committee to consider how to build on the university's successes to achieve other wins. The Board is composed of diverse members, including geographic diversity. It is important for governors to think about how they can link the university to their local areas and beyond. It would be helpful to ask Board members to consider what we could be doing to connect with other partner organizations. The President

asked GNHR for direction as to where the Board should go in terms of its involvement in developing partnerships and to outline concrete steps. He asked the committee to think about ways in which management and the Board can work together to synergize opportunities that are available.

The committee suggested developing a list of specific questions/template that can be distributed to governors to guide their suggestions. Governors' ideas must be balanced with the university's strategic priorities.

NEXT STEP: Develop a questionnaire/template that can be distributed to governors, which sets out the university's strategic priorities and asks for specific suggestions as to how governors can assist.

Policy:

7.3 2018-2019 Policy Activity Update

C. Foy provided background to the policy activity update. She advised that the university has experienced a turning point in 2018, as the university community now understands the Policy Framework and people are more engaged. We are observing positive momentum in terms of policy development and identifying gaps in policies. The purpose of the policy activity update is to give GNHR a sense of the types of policies that are being approved. The categorization of policies is important as it dictates the approval pathway. D. Allingham commented on the thoroughness of the report and thanked C. Foy for all of the work done.

C. Foy advised that an extensive review has been undertaken of the Student Sexual Violence Policy and Procedures. They are also working on creating a policy dashboard that will show the risk level and changes required for policies. Policy and risk are integrated. C. Foy reviewed the list of policy projects in progress and confirmed that the senior leadership team is asked to review the list to help identify policy priorities. She responded to questions from the committee. She advised that there is no timeline established for completion of policy projects. There are very few people working exclusively on policy work and people work on policies as they have capacity. In response to a question about which policies are a priority, C. Foy identified development of a Volunteer Policy as a priority.

C. Foy informed the committee that when the university is faced with a scenario that is not covered by a policy, the scenario is handled using a principled approach in reference to existing policies, legal principles, etc. The university must continue to monitor the status of policy projects and if gaps begin to cause problems, additional resources may be required.

8. Nominations

8.1 2019-2020 Election Results

B. Dinwoodie presented the 2019-2020 student governor election result for the committee's consideration.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Elliott and seconded by T. Stratton, pursuant to the recommendation of the Chief Electoral Officer, the Governance, Nominations and Human Resources Committee recommended the appointment of Owen Davis to the Board of Governors as the elected Student Governor for the term of September 1, 2019 until August 31, 2020.

9. Human Resources

9.1 Annual Pension Plan Governance Report

C. Foy summarized the background to the development of the annual pension plan governance report and presented the report for the committee's review.

10. Other Business

11. Adjournment

There being no other business, upon a motion duly made by L. Elliott and seconded by S. Murphy, the public session of the meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

Becky Dinwoodie, Secretary