

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

REGRETS

The Chair noted regrets from Governors Peter Bagnall, Joanne Burghardt, Lyn McLeod, Mike Shields and Doug Wilson.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Donna McFarlane introduced guests Dr. Tom Brzustowski, President of NSERC and his wife Louise Brzustowski; Judy Spring, Dean of the School of Integrated Studies, Durham College; Chris Hinton, Director of Learning Technologies; Bill Hunter, Dean, Faculty of Education, UOIT; Marc Rosen, Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, UOIT; Bernadette Schell, Dean, Faculty of Business and Information Technology, UOIT; William Smith, Dean, Faculty of Science, UOIT; Deborah VanOsten, Grants Officer, Research, UOIT; and Spencer McCormack, who is a second year Journalism student, Durham College, representing the Chronicle. She also acknowledged Terry Caputo, Director of Finance, Durham College and Craig Loverock, Director of Finance, UOIT.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

The Chair noted that she would like to add item 15 (1), Parent Voice in Education Project announcement.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

None was noted.

PRESENTATIONS

Research – Dr. Tom Brzustowski

Gary Polonsky introduced Dr. Tom Brzustowski and noted that he is President of NSERC and former Deputy Minister. Tom thanked Gary and suggested that the Boards were builders and should look back on the last few years with enormous pride. He wished UOIT well in the future.

Dr. Brzustowski stated that it is important to provide a sustainable economy for the 21st century. He noted that if we continue on as we have been going, that our supply of raw materials will not continue to provide the standard of living to which we have become accustomed. He suggested that we must adapt to remain a wealthy country, and noted that we comprise 6% of the world's land mass, one-half of 1% of the population and make up 2% of the world's economy. Dr. Brzustowski stated that if no one buys what we are selling, then we are not adding any value. In his opinion, research is the source of new knowledge and he noted that "Canada's innovation system is strong in university research but weak in the commercialization of new knowledge downstream". Universities do not have the development portion of Research and Development, only research, while colleges have mostly the development portion. He stated that since most Canadian industry spends too little on Research and Development, it is up to universities to make up the gap.

Dr. Brzustowski explained that the purpose of NSERC is to "promote and assist research in the natural sciences and engineering, other than the health sciences; and advise the Minister in respect of such matters relating to such research as the Minister may refer to Council for its consideration". Using an MRI machine as an example of the different areas that can benefit from one research project, Dr. Brzustowski explained that this one machine involved physics, photonics and computer science during research and development. NSERC provides taxpayers with prosperity and a high quality of life, while assisting universities to produce highly skilled people. There are two areas of research: Basic Research - research with the object of discovery; and Project Research - research with the object of solving a problem which cannot be solved with current knowledge. Dr. Brzustowski stated that some universities have chosen to recognize an NSERC research grant as a credential, but cautioned that universities must not attach

importance to the size of the grant. He noted that many firms in Canada partner with a university to provide product research and feels that in two to three years, research and development will be the source of many products and process innovations. He stated that UOIT was built at the right time and the right place for research for a number of reasons. There is a brain drain from Canadian universities to Canadian Financial Institutions and retirees are being replaced by eager staff ready to get into research. This increase could cause problems in the future by taxing the funding. Research funds in the past were not as much in demand.

Dr. Brzustowski suggested that we need to make the case to continue the momentum for research. He commented on the Perimeter Institute, which was established with donations from the CEO of RIM and two of his friends. It was noted that in the future intellectual wealth may determine worth. Rocky Simmons stated that he was pleased to see research become a priority. William Smith commended Dr. Brzustowski on his presentation and recommended that everyone read it. He stated that there is a need for graduate programs now. Affirming William's statement, Dr. Brzustowski agreed that he had a good point and commented that \$250-300M are spent per year in student support.

The Chair thanked Dr. Brzustowski for his presentation.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Richard Levin advised that page four, paragraph two, line two of the minutes of the 22nd Regular Board Meeting of October 13, 2004, "scholarships offered" should read: "scholarships accepted". The revision will be made and the minutes of the 22nd Regular Board Meeting of October 13, 2004 were accepted, as amended.

ACTION ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None was noted.

DECISION ITEMS

Academic Staff Employment Policy Changes

Michael Finlayson outlined the changes to the subject policy, noting several editorial changes. He also noted the sections regarding harassment and discrimination, privacy of records and release of information, and academic misconduct and dishonesty, as these were now incorporated into other policies or separate policies had been established.

Moved by Phillip (Rocky) Simmons

Seconded by Denise Jones

MOTION #142 "That the Board of Governors of the University of Ontario Institute of Technology approve the revisions to the Academic Staff Employment Policy, as presented."

CARRIED

Academic Staff Compensation, Pensions and Benefits Policy-Change to Tuition Scholarship for Dependants of Academics

Patrick McNeil asked if there were any implementation issues with this change to the policy and Michael stated that children entering under the old policy would still be covered by the original policy. Karen Hodgins then asked if the applications exceed the funds available, how this will be handled. Don Sinclair stated this would be based on students' marks. Mark Moorcroft asked for the logic of paying for dependants to attend other universities. Michael noted that this is common practice in universities. Mark then stated that it reflects well on the institution that offspring of the staff attend their parent's institution. Michael agreed but noted that we are a niche university and we don't offer all program options, such as programs in the Arts.

Moved by Terry Wu

Seconded by Pierre Hinse

MOTION #143 “That the Board of Governors of the University of Ontario Institute of Technology approve the revision to the Tuition Scholarships for Dependants of Academics in the Academic Staff Compensation, Pensions and Benefits Policy, as presented.”

CARRIED

Harassment and Discrimination Policy

Michael Finlayson noted that the original policy for harassment and discrimination was fairly rudimentary, adding that the new policy is detailed and separate from the employment policy. Beth Wilson asked if we have anything in place to educate staff regarding harassment and discrimination. Don Sinclair reported that the subject is covered in-depth in orientation for new staff. Michael stated that staff are given a copy of the policy and Margaret Greenley noted that there is also a code of conduct in effect for students. Patrick McNeil asked if students are required to sign the code of conduct and was advised “no”. Patrick suggested that we may want to consider having students sign in the future.

Moved by Mark Moorcroft

Seconded by Manon Lemonde

MOTION #144 “That the Board of Governors of the University of Ontario Institute of Technology approve the Harassment and Discrimination Policy, as presented.”

CARRIED

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REPORTS

Report of the Building Committee Meeting held November 8, 2004

Rocky Simmons reported that it was an excellent meeting, including valuable discussion on the Athletic expansion, the Arena construction, the Beacon project, an update on the Rohn property and the Whitby Skills Training Centre space shortage.

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Craig Loverock reported that the shortfall has been reduced by \$100,000.00 and Finance has identified \$1.5M in savings. Patrick McNeil asked if the financial situation is the same as last month and Craig replied “yes”.

Craig then presented a new report, outlining Debt Repayment, explaining that payments will take place every six months, with a blended mortgage. Finance will focus on the payments when they are due. He noted that \$7.5M was given to the Trustee to be used to repay the principal and that this amount was not considered in the projection. Craig stated that it will only be used if absolutely necessary. Sheldon Levy stated that the debt repayment report was based on feedback received from the Board.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

UOIT Goals and Objectives Progress Report

Michael Finlayson reported that the goals and objectives were approved about one year ago for UOIT and this is his second update.

Patrick McNeil congratulated Michael on the substantial achievements that have been made pertaining to research grants. Michael noted that there have been many more applications submitted this year for Research and Development.

Gary Polonsky asked for an update regarding university-college linkages and Michael stated that PEQAB had just approved the bridging program for Commerce. This means that the Minister has approved five, half-credit courses that college students take, allowing them to enter the third year of a Bachelor of Commerce Honors degree program. Michael noted that they are also working on a two plus two linkage which may possibly be available in 2005. Gail MacKenzie asked for clarification that the bridging means that a second year Business program graduate could take advantage of this and asked if this also meant that a three-year program graduate would receive advanced standing in the bridging courses. Michael explained that graduates from a three-year program would be treated the same as those from a two-year program; both would be required to complete all five of the bridging courses. Richard Levin advised that the university is preparing to offer one of the five courses in the winter term and the balance in the summer term, if there is sufficient interest.

Beth Wilson asked if Michael has a personal sense of not attaining a particular goal. Michael noted that the goal to finalize UOIT's Strategic Research Plan, has had the "goal posts" moved, but has not really been disappointing. He suggested that if there was opportunity, some of the goals might be re-written but that in most cases, even though the standards have been set high, they are still achievable. Referring to item 1.2, UOIT's research agenda relating to regional and broader economic engines, he noted that the Beacon project will be a huge achievement.

Lorraine Sunstrum-Mann inquired if, due to financial constraints, we would not hire as planned? Michael stated that we need to prepare for a third year, which will require the recruitment of more faculty. He suggested that the University will hire more part-time, and commented that there is a specific student/teacher ratio to be met in engineering to obtain accreditation.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Analysis of Degree Completion Survey

Richard Levin reported that a letter has been sent to all Durham College graduates from the last ten years. He advised the response rate was 9%. Richard reviewed some of the responses and suggested that we may need to consider offering part-time courses for degree completion.

Gary Polonsky reported that two college presidents have invited him to meet to discuss degree completion at UOIT.

Karen Hodgins asked if anything in the results was surprising. Richard commented that they were just surprised that some areas came back as low as they did.

Meeting with Neighbours held October 21, 2004

Donna McFarlane reported that the meeting on October 21 was the fourth community meeting held. Discussion in prior meetings had mostly been regarding construction issues, but this particular meeting was to discuss issues that occurred over one weekend. It was well-attended by more than 250 people, comprised of representatives from each area concerned. Donna stated that the meeting ended with one outstanding issue regarding the installation of traffic lights on Simcoe Street at Niagara. It was decided that we would compile a bank of names and an e-mail mailing list, as well as forming a "Town and Gown" committee.

Pierre Hinse commented that he had attended the meeting and it was well-led by Donna McFarlane. Manon Lemonde stated that the community recognizes the effort being made by Durham College and UOIT.

Results - Varsity Sports

Gary Polonsky stated that our five varsity teams have now won 3 golds and 1 silver provincial medal, and 2 in the nationals. He also noted that Sports Illustrated has just highlighted one of our athletes.

Action: Cathy Pitcher to prepare congratulatory letters on behalf of the Boards to the Varsity teams.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Upcoming Events

The Chair noted the following upcoming events: Rae Postsecondary Review Town Hall Meeting, November 25, 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. in the Gymnasium; Audit & Finance Committee Meeting, November 30, 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room; Executive Committee Meeting on November 30, 5:00 p.m. in the Community Room; and the Boards' Annual Holiday Dinner, December 8, 6:30 p.m. in the Marketplace Cafeteria.

Student Ramadan Celebration

Lorraine Sunstrum-Mann stated that she, Gail MacKenzie and Gary Polonsky had attended a Ramadan celebration at the invitation of the Muslim students. She noted that it was apparent that these students feel accepted and comfortable on campus and also suggested that diversity is a reality at Durham College and UOIT.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Lorraine Sunstrum-Mann commented on the McGuinty Government's announcement of the Parent Voice in Education Project which gives parents a stronger voice on education issues at the provincial level. She congratulated Manon Lemonde for being appointed as a member on this committee.

Manon Lemonde reported that two of our Collaborative Nursing students were given awards by Durham Access to Care for the quality of their work.

Action: Cathy Pitcher to prepare congratulatory letters to Somer Verhoeven and Lisamarie Forcier on behalf of the Boards.

TERMINATION OF MEETING

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting terminated at 8:20 p.m.

Lorraine Sunstrum-Mann, Chair

Gary Polonsky, President

Cathy Pitcher, Secretary