



**UPEI BOARD OF GOVERNORS
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING**

Tuesday, February 16, 2021

Via Zoom 6:00–9:00 pm

MINUTES

Members Present: Mr. Pat Sinnott, Chair, UPEI Board of Governors; Dr. Alaa Abd-El-Aziz, President; Hon. Catherine Callbeck, Chancellor; Ms. Mary Best; Mr. Akshay Bhaskar; Dr. Rabin Bissessur ; Mr. Jim Bradley; Ms. Bertha Campbell; Mr. Tim Carroll; Mr. Charles Curley; Dr. Adam Fenech; Dr. Albert Fogarty; Ms. Kathy Hambly; Ms. Donna Hassard; Mr. Peter Hayes; Dr. Geraldine Johnston; Mr. Alex MacBeath; Dr. Sandy MacDonald; Ms. Shannon MacDonald; Dr. Stan MacPherson; Dr. James Moran; Ms. Perlene Morrison; Dr. Liane Nelson; Ms. Tolulope Oginni; Ms. Donna Profit; Mr. Brian Thompson.

Staff Present: Ms. Jackie Podger, Vice-President Administration and Finance
Ms. Nicole Phillips, Director of Communications and University Relations

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Pat Sinnott, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm and thanked everyone for attending via Zoom.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The draft minutes of the UPEI Board of Governors' meeting of December 8, 2020, were circulated to Board members prior to the meeting. There being no revisions, the following motion was proposed:

- 1) MOVED by Dr. Stan MacPherson, SECONDED by Mr. Peter Hayes, that the minutes of the December 8, 2020 meeting of the UPEI Board of Governors be approved as presented. CARRIED.**

The draft minutes of the UPEI Board of Governors' special meeting of February 5, 2021, were circulated to Board members prior to the meeting. After a revision was made indicating that a Ms. Shannon MacDonald had sent regrets versus being in attendance, the following motion was proposed:

- 2) **MOVED by Ms. Bertha Campbell, SECONDED by Ms. Donna Hassard, that the minutes of the February 5, 2021 meeting of the UPEI Board of Governors be approved with the revision as noted. CARRIED.**

3. **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Mr. Sinnott indicated that he had nothing to report since the special meeting on February 5, 2021.

4. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Abd-El-Aziz reported that UPEI is experiencing its highest enrolment in history, and that international numbers, in particular, are extremely strong.

The President provided an update on the new diagnostic imaging centre being established at the Atlantic Veterinary College, made possible by a generous private donor. The President also reported:

- a fundraising campaign to support the performing arts theatre (being built in conjunction with the new residence) and renovations to Steel Recital Hall,
- funding received for equipment at the Canadian Centre for Climate Change and Adaptation in St. Peter's Bay; and
- the approval for the Doctor of Applied Health program.

5. **STUDENT UNION REPORT**

Ms. Tolulope Oginni provided an update on some of the services that the Student Union continues to provide students, including the Student Union Food Bank (80 regular clients), and new initiatives like the video-game co-op.

Ms. Oginni reported that the Student Union has partnered with the Canadian Mental Health Association (PEI) and BIPOC USHR on several workshops and to provide resources for students.

The Student Union initiated a letter writing campaign targeted at the provincial government to extend the moratorium on student loan payments.

Finally, Ms. Oginni also indicated that the UPEISU campaign period was underway with elections for the new executive team taking place March 9–10, 2021.

6. **SENATE REPORT TO THE BOARD:**

Ms. Bertha Campbell reported that Senate met on February 12, 2021. The following topics were covered:

- a) **2021 Summer Academic Semester** – Senate unanimously approved a continuation of a hybrid model of teaching for the Spring and Summer sessions of the 2021 Summer semester (May–August). This means courses will be primarily online along with selected in-person components in nursing, veterinary medicine, sustainable design engineering, education, doctor of psychology, and graduate studies.
- b) **2021 Fall Academic Semester** – Senate unanimously approved a move to primarily in-person teaching with online components for the 2021 Fall semester. This means that UPEI intends to incorporate in-person teaching to the level that is possible within PEI CPHO guidance.

- c) **Climate Change and Adaptation and Environmental Studies** – Ms. Campbell reported that the University Senate discussed an administrative restructuring of the School of Climate Change and Adaptation, currently within in the Faculty of Science, and the interdisciplinary Bachelor of Environmental Studies program, due to the synergy between the two programs. The University Senate unanimously endorsed and recommended to the UPEI Board of Governors that a new faculty be established and that Climate Change and Environmental Studies be included in the new Faculty.

- 3) MOVED by Ms. Bertha Campbell, SECONDED by Dr. Sandy MacDonald, that the Climate Change and Environmental Studies programs be housed under the new Faculty of Climate Change and Environmental Studies. CARRIED.**

President Abd-El-Aziz indicated that a member of the Senate had inquired about establishing a more equitable distribution of Senate seats to reflect increases in the size of certain faculties. The President stated that he will take this request to the Governance and Appeals Committee of the Board of Governors .

- d) **UPEI Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy** – Ms. Campbell reported that the University Senate also discussed the UPEI Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy and unanimously passed the following motion: *That the University Senate endorse the UPEI Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy, with the addition of the “ Joint Equity Committee” to the list of groups that will be consulted (on page 13), and that the document be reviewed in one year by both the Board and Senate.* Ms. Shannon MacDonald indicated that she would bring forth the recommended edits from the University Senate when she presents a motion about the EDI Strategy during the Governance and Appeals Committee report.

7. BOARD COMMITTEES’ UPDATES:

- a) **Finance and Audit Committee** – Mr. Alex MacBeath informed Governors that a Committee meeting was held on February 2, 2021, where the Committee received detailed updates on year-to-date financial results and capital projects. Mr. MacBeath advised that a discussion took place about the Network Modernization Project resulting in the following motion:

- 4) MOVED by Mr. Alex MacBeath, SECONDED by Dr. Sandy MacDonald, that the UPEI Board of Governors approve an increase of \$2.07 M to the \$7.30 M already approved, for a total of \$9.37 M, for the Network Modernization Project, as recommended by the Finance and Audit Committee. CARRIED.**

Mr. MacBeath indicated that the committee received an extensive report from the Internal Auditor, including a work plan for the next three fiscal years. In addition, the Internal Auditor presented a preliminary Enterprise Risk Framework. It was agreed that the chair of the Finance and Audit Committee and chair of the Governance and Appeals Committee will provide joint oversight with regard to Enterprise Risk Management.

- b) **Development, Fundraising and External Relations Committee** – Ms. Kathy Hambly reported that a committee meeting was held on January 27, 2021, and the discussion was covered in the President’s report. She added that the results of the e-votes for six new awards were

circulated in advance of the meeting. Ms. Hambly also mentioned the full-page ad that appeared in *The Guardian* on February 6, highlighting the \$9.3 million in scholarships and awards that are available to UPEI students.

- c) **Property and Assets Committee** – Mr. Peter Hayes informed Governors that Ms. Podger gave a detailed presentation on UPEI’s capital projects to the Committee at their January 28, 2021 meeting and the Committee invited her to give the same update to the full Board. Ms. Podger indicated that both the residence project and Canadian Centre for Climate Change and Adaptation are on schedule.
- d) **Human Resources Committee** – Ms. Perlene Morrison advised that the HR committee meeting was cancelled as there were no urgent items to be addressed.
- e) **Governance and Appeals Committee** – Ms. Shannon MacDonald advised Governors that the committee held a meeting on February 3, 2021 where the main topic was the UPEI Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy, which was recommended for adoption by the Board.

- 5) **MOVED by Ms. Shannon MacDonald, SECONDED by Mr. Brian Thompson, that the UPEI Board of Governors approve the UPEI Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy, with the amendments recommended by the UPEI Senate: the addition of the “Joint Equity Committee” to the list of groups that will be consulted (on page 13), and that the document be reviewed in one year by both the Board and Senate. CARRIED.**

Ms. MacDonald also proposed that the Board show its endorsement by incorporating unconscious bias training into its board orientation and development activities.

- f) **Executive Committee** – Mr. Pat Sinnott reported that the Executive Committee met on February 4, 2021. There were no items to report that had not already been addressed by the Standing Committees

8. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Term of the Chair of the UPEI Board of Governors

Mr. Alex MacBeath, Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors and Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee, requested that the topic of the “term of the Chair of the Board” be added under New Business. Mr. Sinnott recused himself from the meeting at this time (7:20 pm), and Mr. MacBeath presided as chair for the rest of the meeting.

- 6) **MOVED by Mr. Alex MacBeath, SECONDED by Ms. Donna Profit, that the UPEI Board of Governors approves the appointment of Mr. Pat Sinnott to the UPEI Board of Governors for another three-year term from July 2021–June 2024. CARRIED.**

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm.