



UNIVERSITY
of Prince Edward
ISLAND

**UPEI BOARD OF GOVERNORS
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
Tuesday, September 26, 2023
Alumni Hall and Via Zoom
6:00 pm**

MINUTES

Members Present: Mr. Shannon MacDonald, Chair, UPEI Board of Governors; Dr. Greg Keefe, President; Mr. Shreesh Agrawal; Mr. Steve Bellamy; Dr. Rabin Bissessur; Professor Tim Carroll; Ms. Karen Creighan; Dr. Geraldine Johnston; Dr. Christian Lacroix; Mr. Alex MacBeath; Dr. Sandy MacDonald; Ms. Camille Mady; Dr. William Montelpare; Ms. Perlene Morrison; Mr. Brian Thompson

Regrets: Ms. Kateri Coade; Mr. Peter Hayes

Staff Present: Ms. Michelle Arbing, Executive Assistant to the Board
Dr. Greg Naterer, Vice-President Academic and Research
Mr. Dana Sanderson, Chief Information Officer
Ms. Breanne MacInnis, Comptroller (Acting)
Ms. Nicole Phillips, Director, Communications and University Relations
Mr. Nathan MacLeod, Manager Capital Projects and Planning
Ms. Pam Trainor, Advisor to the Board

Guest: Mr. Ryan Innes, Grant Thornton

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Shannon MacDonald, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m. and thanked Members for attending the meeting.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) May 23, 2023

The draft minutes of the UPEI Board of Governors' meeting of May 23, 2023 were circulated to Board members prior to the meeting. Following minor edits, the following motion was proposed:

- 1) MOVED by Dr. William Montelpare, SECONDED by Dr. Christian Lacroix, that the minutes of the May 23, 2023 meeting of the UPEI Board of Governors be approved as amended.
CARRIED.**

b) June 23, 2023

The draft minutes of the UPEI Board of Governors' meeting of June 23, 2023 were circulated to Board members prior to the meeting. There being an amendment, the following motion was proposed:

- 2) MOVED by Dr. William Montelpare, SECONDED by Mr. Alex MacBeath, that the minutes of the June 23, 2023 meeting of the UPEI Board of Governors be approved as amended. CARRIED.**

c) August 10, 2023

The draft minutes of the UPEI Board of Governors' meeting of August 10, 2023 were circulated to Board members prior to the meeting. Following several amendments, the following motion was proposed:

- 3) MOVED by Dr. William Montelpare, SECONDED by Mr. Alex MacBeath, that the minutes of the August 10, 2023 meeting of the UPEI Board of Governors be approved as amended. CARRIED.**

2. PROGRAMMING UPDATE

Dr. Greg Naterer provided Board Members with brief highlights of significant achievements, challenges and opportunities in faculties across campus. Some of Dr. Naterer's comments included:

- The Doctor of Psychology (PsyD) program has secured accreditation from the Canadian Psychological Association. Special thanks to Dr. Philip Smith, Director of the (PsyD) Program.
- The Faculty of Business has a goal over the next few years to achieve first time accreditation of both undergraduate and graduate programs by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Congratulations were extended to Business students placing first at the national and regional case competitions.
- The Faculty of Indigenous Knowledge, Education, Research and Applied Studies (IKERAS) successfully launched its first academic year in September 2022. A minor in Indigenous Studies was created. Work is underway in preparation for a new major program in Indigenous Studies.
- In the Faculty of Science, continued improvement is happening in academic programs through the Quality Assurance program reviews.
- The Faculty of Medicine program development team is working closely with Memorial University of Newfoundland for proposal submissions to the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) and the Atlantic Advisory Committee on Health Human Resources (AACHHR).
- The Faculty of Nursing expansion strategic initiative has increased seat capacity by 23% from 80 to 98 seats.
- The Faculty of Sustainable Design engineering is a strong design focused program that secured national accreditation last year.
- The Faculty of Education is continuing its course-based Bed and MEd programs and is focusing further graduate program development on research and thesis based programs.
- The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine is actively preparing for the next accreditation review, as well as its next interprovincial funding agreement will expire next year.
- The Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research has seen significant increases in graduate students, an increase of 12% over the last year. A new multi-disciplinary Master's program in Cleantech leadership in partnership with Holland College as part of the Province's Cleantech Initiative in Georgetown is being worked on. Research is on the rise with growth in NSERC

funding.

- In Experiential Learning and Student Success, the University has expanded its range of student learning opportunities for students outside the classroom, for example, international exchanges and experiential learning abroad.

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Shannon MacDonald provided Members with an update on active areas, some of which include: the Presidential search, the Chancellor Search, EDI, stakeholder engagement. It is anticipated that the eight (8) vacancies that currently exist on the Board will be filled for the next meeting, November 28.

Ms. Shannon MacDonald welcomed Ms. Pam Trainor who is seconded from the Government of Prince Edward Island to support the Board with governance matters in collaboration with Ms. Ouma Cuniah.

Ms. Shannon MacDonald acknowledged Dr. Naterer's presentation and thanked him for providing this programming update. She indicated that we will continue to have guest presentations at Board meetings.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Greg Keefe referenced his detailed report circulated to Members in advance of the meeting and indicated that he would provide some of the highlights from the Report. The President acknowledged that the last year has been difficult for people on campus, however, with the Fall, comes a new energy. A Welcome Back Barbeque kicked off the academic year for faculty and staff.

President Keefe shared the highlight of his summer to be accepting the eagle feather on behalf of the University in a special ceremony and presentation hosted by the Native Council of PEI in recognition of UPEI's commitment and contributions to the ongoing work toward reconciliation. On September 29th, there will be an on-campus event recognizing the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

The Summer brought many noteworthy events, a few of which included: the Alumni Summer Reunion Weekend; an event organized by the New African Canadians and International Cities of Peach – the Global Mental Well-Being and Substance (Mis) Use Conference. Fall has started with such events as: Homecoming 2023, which included the Inspiring Young Alumni Awards.

President Keefe acknowledged the sadness felt over the last few months with the loss of several members of our UPEI community including Mr. Leo Cheverie, a pillar of the University community and a leader in the PEI Labour, Social Justice, and Arts Communities.

President Keefe provided highlights in the area of academics and academic operations. Our Elder-In-Residence, Dr. Judy Clarke was named Knowledge Keeper by the Assembly of First Nations. Significant progress is being made in terms of the development of the Faculty of Medicine. The Faculty of Arts hosted the Inaugural Shannon K. Murray Lecture on Hope and the Academy. Dr. Murray gave an inspiring lecture, drawing on her years of scholarly work related to Shakespeare and her love of teaching.

In the area of development, the official grand opening of the updated Steele Recital Hall and the new Performing Arts Center took place on September 22. The Performing Arts fundraising campaign has met its goals with over two (2) million dollars raised. The President expressed appreciation to Ms. Myrtle Jenkins-Smith and the development team on the accomplishment.

The President acknowledged the amazing work done by Ms. Emi Abou Wafia and the Marketing and Production team whose primary focus is recruitment marketing to drive prospective students to the UPEI website.

President Keefe acknowledged the Communications and University Relations team, under the leadership of Ms. Nicole Phillips, who has been quite busy over the summer managing communication pertaining to the Rubin Thomlinson Report, ensuring messaging is consistent and supportive.

President Keefe provided Board Members an update on the Response from the Rubin Thomlinson Report and noted that he also provided this update to the Senate at their last meeting.

Following allegations made against the former president in December 2021, the Board took immediate actions to conduct an investigation into the complaint. Following the completion of the investigation and the release of the Rubin Thomlinson (RT) Report in June 2023, the Board decided to sever all association with the former president. Additional administrative changes were made including appointing Tara Judson as Acting Vice President Administration and Finance and Susan Connolly as Interim Vice President People and Culture. Recognizing the seriousness of the challenges identified in the report, the Chair of the Board resigned.

The Report had a focus on two main areas: Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and Sexual Violence. President Keefe indicated that the University is committed to providing additional and dedicated resources to the EDI Office and Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Office (SVPRO). One step that has already occurred is to move the two offices to more visible and accessible locations on campus. Increases to staffing in these areas is underway but it is recognized that there is still much more to do.

The process has begun of separating the access to information and privacy functions from the EDI functions. A broad-based committee of faculty, staff in student services, and SVPRO and administration has been working on a new SVPRO policy for approximately a year. This policy will be informed by the recommendation in the report. The team had already encompassed many of the recommendations prior to the release of the report and have been working on others since the report's release.

Another policy being reviewed is the Fair Treatment Policy, which the report recommends be replaced with a Harassment and Discrimination Policy. While the Fair Treatment Policy is a Board policy that impacts all campus members, it resides within the Faculty Association's collective agreement. Both the Faculty Association and University have indicated their support for the report's recommendations and are committed to the process.

The rollout of mandatory 'preventing sexual violence' training for students has now begun. There is an expectation that the comprehensive plan (below) will recommend the requirement of this training for others in the campus community. We will work with both non-unionized employees and our partner unions to enable training for their members.

The report also supports the development of a culture of listening on campus. To date, two listening sessions (a campus town hall and a staff forum) have taken place. Plans are currently underway to hold fourteen (14) smaller group listening sessions across campus.

The report also calls for the development of a comprehensive plan to address the systematic issues at the University. It is recognized that it is important for the University and broader community to weigh in on this plan. Sara Roach Lewis, recognized for her expertise in gender equity and a strong background in strategy and not for profit women's organizations, will facilitate the work of the UPEI Action Plan Advisory Group (APAG). The APAG will provide feedback to help inform the development of the UPEI Action to address the recommendations of the report. Subsequently, a draft action plan will be shared with the Board and the community for additional input prior to being reviewed by the Board and the Senate.

The RT Report also calls for annual progress reporting and this being provided by a party external to the University, potentially government. This is being discussed with the government.

It is anticipated that early in the new year, there will be a draft provided to Board and Senate for feedback.

5. STUDENT UNION REPORT

Ms. Camille Mady reported that the Student Union Executive had a busy summer and start to the school year. Each member of the Executive is new in their role and has participated in training. Council elections are being held this week. Work is underway to enhance communication with students. A marketing campaign is to help students understand the structure of the Board and the Senate will occur.

6. SENATE REPORT TO THE BOARD

Prof. Tim Carroll reported that the Senate held its first meeting of the academic year on September 15, 2023. Highlights from the meeting included: Ms. Kim Mears elected as Vice-Chair of Senate; the President provided an update on the Rubin Thomlinson Report and outlined the University's commitment to the recommendations in the report; the Vice-President Academic and Research provided a presentation on Quality Assurance and updated Senators on the status of the Dean searches currently underway.

7. BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES

a) Property and Asset Committee: Mr. Alex MacBeath, on behalf of Mr. Steve Bellamy reported that the Committee met on September 12, 2023. The Committee received a detailed update on campus infrastructure projects from Mr. Nathan MacLeod, who at the request of the Property and Asset Committee, is in attendance to provide Board Members with this infrastructure update.

Mr. Nathan MacLeod joined the meeting (via zoom).

Mr. Nathan MacLeod presented Members with a detailed update on the following campus infrastructure projects:

- Faculty of Medicine Building
- Steele Recital Hall
- Campus Ventilation Projects
- ITSS space face-lift
- Robertson Library Renovation
- Kelley Memorial Building Roof Replacements
- AVC Projects Updates

Mr. Nathan MacLeod left the meeting.

- b) Finance and Audit Committee:** Mr. Alex MacBeath reported that the Committee met on September 13, 2023. At the meeting, Ms. Breanne MacInnis presented the UPEI Consolidated Financial Statements April 30, 2023 with Committee members. Grant Thornton were also in attendance at the Committee meeting and discussed the Audit findings.

Mr. Alex MacBeath presented the highlights of the financial statements to Board Members. After questions, there being no issues, the following motion is being proposed:

- 4) MOVED by Mr. Alex MacBeath, SECONDED by Mr. Shreesh Agrawal that the UPEI Board of Governors approves the UPEI Consolidated Financial Statements April 30, 2023, as presented and as recommended by the Finance and Audit Committee. CARRIED.**

Mr. Ryan Innis spoke to Members about the annual audit review and indicated there were no issues to report.

At the Committee meeting, a discussion on the auditor appointment for the period ending April 30, 2023 resulted in the following motion being proposed:

- 5) MOVED by Mr. Alex MacBeath, SECONDED by Ms. Karen Creighan that the UPEI Board of Governors approve the appointment of Grant Thornton as the External Auditors for period ending April 30, 2024. CARRIED.**

It is noted that Ms. Perlene Morrison abstained from this motion.

Ms. Breanne MacInnis and Mr. Ryan Innis left the meeting.

- c) Development, Fundraising and External Relations Committee:**

Dr. William Montelpare informed Governors that the Committee met on September 14, 2023 and he referenced the Committee Report included in the Board package, which included a summary of approved awards. Dr. William Montelpare referenced the Report, indicating Committee Members had a fulsome discussion in regard to named awards and spaces bearing the name of the former President. The following motion was put forth:

- 6) MOVED by Dr. William Montelpare, SECONDED by Mr. Alex MacBeath,**

Be it resolved that, pursuant to clause 5.1.3 of the UPEI Named Recognition Policy, the University shall rename the following UPEI initiatives presently jointly bearing the names of the former President and his spouse, Alaa and Valerie Abd-El-Aziz, as follows:

- **One chemistry scholarship shall be changed to the ‘President’s scholarship’**
- **Two Nursing scholarships shall be changed to the ‘President’s scholarship’**
- **One International student scholarship shall be changed to the ‘President’s scholarship’**

And to remove the naming of the following UPEI assets bearing the names of the former

President and his spouse, Alaa and Valerie Abd-El-Aziz, as follows:

- **Space in the Faculty of Sustainable Design Engineering**
- **Pending plaques in the new UPEI performing arts theatre.**

**as recommended by the Development, Fundraising and External Relations Committee.
CARRIED.**

- d) Governance and Appeals Committee:** Mr. Brian Thompson reported that the Committee held a special meeting on August 9, 2023 and its regular meeting on September 13, 2023. The August 9th meeting was solely to review and approve a contract for the provision of external services to conduct the review of our Board's governance.

At its September 13th meeting, the Committee received updates on several topics including a discussion on the Fair Treatment Policy and the Sexual Violence Policy, as well as a status report on all Board of Governors' policies.

Mr. Brian Thompson referenced the three policies provided to Members in advance of the meeting, resulting in the following motions:

Research Ethics Board Policy

- 7) MOVED by Mr. Brian Thompson, SECONDED by Ppr. Tim Carroll, that the UPEI Board of Governors approves the Research Ethics Board Policy, as recommended by the Governance and Appeals Committee. CARRIED.**

Health, Safety and Environment Policy

- 8) MOVED by Mr. Brian Thompson, SECONDED by Ms. Perlene Morrison, that the UPEI Board of Governors approves the Health, Safety and Environment Policy, as recommended by the Governance and Appeals Committee. CARRIED.**

Electronic Information and Systems Policy

- 9) MOVED by Mr. Brian Thompson, SECONDED by Dr. William Montelpare, that the UPEI Board of Governors approves the Electronic Information and Systems Policy, as recommended by the Governance and Appeals Committee. CARRIED.**

- e) Executive Committee:** Ms. Shannon MacDonald reported that the Committee met on September 15, 2023. Ms. Shannon MacDonald updated Members that the Presidential Search Committee is progressing according to timeline and is currently preparing for training in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

Ms. Shannon MacDonald conveyed her appreciation to President Keefe for his excellent work in response to the Rubin Thomlinson Report.

Ms. Shannon MacDonald shared that a skills matrix for Board Members is under development and

will be shared with Members.

Appreciation was extended by Ms. Shannon MacDonald to the Committee Chairs, the Student Union executive and all Board Members for their continued dedication.

Mr. Dana Sanderson left the meeting.

MEETING MOVED TO IN CAMERA

f) Human Resources Committee:

MEETING RETURNED TO OPEN SESSION

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.