



**UPEI BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING  
Tuesday, September 28, 2021  
Alumni Hall and 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; Mr. Andrew Bartlett; Mr. Akshay Bhaskar; Dr. Rabin Bissessur ; Mr. James Bradley; Professor Tim Carroll; Ms. Bertha Campbell; Mr. Charles Curley; Dr. Adam Fenech; Dr. Albert Fogarty; Dr. Geraldine Johnston; Ms. Donna Hassard; Ms. Kathy Hambly; Mr. Peter Hayes; Mr. Alex MacBeath; Ms. Shannon MacDonald; Dr. Sandy MacDonald; Ms. Samantha MacLean Dr. Stan MacPherson; Dr. James Moran; Ms. Perlene Morrison; Mr. Brian Thompson

**Staff Present:** Ms. Jackie Podger, Vice President Administration and Finance  
Ms. Michelle Arbing, Executive Assistant to the Board

**Guests Present:** Dr. Herb Dickieson, MD, Family Medicine  
Dr. Trevor Jain MD, Emergency Physician, 33 Halifax Field Ambulance and 3 Canadian Brigade Group Surgeon, Director of the UPEI Bachelor of Science in Paramedicine Degree Program  
Mr. John Horrelt, Mental Health Advocate, Past President of the Canadian Mental Health Association—PEI  
Dr. Colin MacMillan, MD Cardiologist  
Dr. Tom Marrie, Special Advisor to the President on Health Education  
Dr. Margaret Steele, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Memorial University (MUN)  
Ms. Myrtle Jenkins-Smith, Executive Director Development and Alumni Engagement  
Ms. Nicole Phillips, Director, Communications and University Relations

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Pat Sinnott, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m. and thanked everyone for attending the meeting, in-person and via Zoom. He acknowledged and welcomed guests joining the meeting.

President Abd-El-Aziz addressed Board members and introduced the guests attending for the important discussion on Health Education at UPEI. The President indicated that at the Senate meeting on September 17, 2021, Senate endorsed, with one abstention, the expansion of the

Faculty of Nursing; the expansion of the UPEI Health and Wellness Centre; the establishment of the Faculty of Medicine in collaboration with Memorial University of Newfoundland; and the collaboration of the Atlantic Veterinary Clinic, the Doctor of Psychology Program, the Paramedicine Program, the Faculty of Science and the Health Centered Research Clinic.

Dr. Tom Marrie addressed the Governors and provided some history on this initiative and detailed the research and work which supports proceeding with this initiative now. He indicated that MUN is an ideal partner and the focus on rural medicine is important to Islanders.

Dr. Trevor Jain endorsed this Health Education initiative at UPEI and the following guests stressed their strong support of this initiative: Dr. Colin McMillan, Dr. Herb Dickieson and Mr. John Horrelt.

Dr. Geraldine Johnston expressed her support and excitement for this project.

Dr. Margaret Steele expressed her excitement and that of her team to work together with UPEI and indicated that the MUN President's Advisory Council has endorsed this partnership initiative.

Mr. Pat Sinnott thanked our guests for attending this meeting and for the many contributions they have made towards this initiative.

**1) MOVED by Ms. Bertha Campbell, SECONDED Prof. Tim Carroll that the UPEI Board of Governors endorse the following:**

- **The expansion of the Faculty of Nursing;**
- **The expansion of the UPEI Health and Wellness Centre;**
- **The establishment of the Faculty of Medicine in collaboration with Memorial University of Newfoundland; and**
- **The collaboration of the Atlantic Veterinary College, the Doctor of Psychology Program, the Paramedicine Program, the Faculty of Science and the Health Centered Research Clinic.**

**CARRIED.**

Chancellor Catherine Callbeck conveyed her enthusiasm for serving as Chancellor during this historic moment in the history of UPEI and reiterated her wholehearted support for the President's vision for Health Education at UPEI. She shared her belief that, when there is a situation such as healthcare, it is the University's responsibility to step up. She also spoke on the positive economic impact a Faculty of Medicine will have on the Island. She expressed her appreciation to the President for his vision for healthcare and for his ability to bring this initiative to the reality that it is today. She thanked Dr. Margaret Steele and Dr. Tom Marrie for their collaborative efforts and Board members, Dr. Geraldine Johnston and Ms. Samantha MacLean, for their dedication to this initiative. The Chancellor indicated that, as Chancellor, she has never been prouder of our University.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a) The draft minutes of the UPEI Board of Governors' meeting of May 18, 2021 were circulated to Board members prior to the meeting. There being no revisions, the following motion was

proposed:

**2) MOVED by Mr. Charles Curley, SECONDED by Dr. Geraldine Johnson, that the minutes of the May 18, 2021 meeting of the UPEI Board of Governors be approved as presented. CARRIED.**

b) The draft minutes of the UPEI Board of Governors' meeting of July 6, 2021 were circulated to Board members prior to the meeting. There being no revisions, the following motion was proposed:

**3) MOVED by Dr. Albert Fogarty, SECONDED by Dr. Stan MacPherson, that the minutes of the July 6, 2021 meeting of the UPEI Board of Governors be approved as presented. CARRIED.**

c) The draft minutes of the UPEI Board of Governors' meeting of August 25, 2021 were circulated to Board members prior to the meeting. Following a correction to the attendees, the following motion was proposed:

**4) MOVED by Dr. Geraldine Johnston, SECONDED by Dr. Rabin Bissessur, that the minutes of the August 25, 2021 meeting of the UPEI Board of Governors be approved as amended. CARRIED.**

**3. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Mr. Pat Sinnott indicated he had nothing to report.

**4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Abd-El-Aziz noted his written report was circulated in advance of today's meeting. He reviewed enrollment numbers and expressed appreciation to the faculty and staff for their continued commitment during the pandemic to provide the best for our students who choose UPEI for their home.

**5. STUDENT UNION REPORT**

Ms. Samantha MacLean provided an overview on some of the accomplishments of the Student Union since May. The main student issue that was dealt with was housing. The Fox and Crow opened earlier than expected and has been quite busy. The bike rental program is operating and has been very well used thus far. The food bank on campus continues to be very busy and the Student Union is exploring ways to ensure assistance is provided to those in need. The Panther Patrol, which provides transportation for students needing to commute to appointments, the grocery store, etc continues to be well used. Fall elections for student council are underway.

**6. SENATE REPORT TO THE BOARD**

Ms. Bertha Campbell reported that Senate met on September 17, 2021. At the meeting, Senate approved 187 students who applied to graduate following the Summer Semester. Senators received updates on planning for the Fall 2021 and Winter 2022 Semesters from the Vice-President Academic and Research, in keeping with practice at previous Senate meetings. All aspects of course delivery continue to be in accordance with guidance from the Chief Public Health Office. Senate also endorsed the expansion of Health Education at UPEI.

**7. BOARD COMMITTEES' UPDATES**

**a) Property and Asset Committee:** Mr. Peter Hayes informed Governors that the Committee met on September 9, 2021 and received a comprehensive update from the Vice-President Administration and Finance with respect to both the new residence and the Canadian Centre for Climate Change and Adaptation. Mr. Hayes expressed appreciation to the Vice-President Administration and Finance for providing these informative updates at each Committee meeting.

Dr. Adam Fenech expressed appreciation to Ms. Jackie Podger and all involved with the incorporation of solar panels at the Canadian Centre for Climate Change and Adaptation, noting this will result in close to zero carbon emissions at the Centre.

**b) Finance and Audit Committee:** Mr. Alex MacBeath informed Governors that the Committee met on September 14, 2021. At the Committee meeting, the Vice-President Administration and Finance, the Comptroller and representatives from Grant Thornton were present and reviewed the Financial Statements April 30, 2021 and discussed the Audit findings. These Financial Statements were circulated to Governors in advance of the Board of Governors' meeting.

**5) MOVED by Mr. Alex MacBeath, SECONDED by Dr. Stan MacPherson that the UPEI Board of Governors approves the UPEI Consolidated Financial Statements April 30, 2021 as presented and as recommended by the Finance and Audit Committee. CARRIED.**

The Committee also discussed the external auditor appointment for the period ending April 30, 2022 and the following motion resulted:

**6) MOVED by Mr. Alex MacBeath, SECONDED by Mr. James Bradly, that the UPEI Board of Governors approves the appointment of Grant Thornton as the External Auditors for the period ending April 30, 2022 as recommended by the Finance and Audit Committee. CARRIED.**

(It is noted that Ms. Perlene Morrison abstained from the vote.)

The Committee also received the same infrastructure update from the Vice-President Administration and Finance that she provided to the Property and Asset Committee.

**c) Development, Fundraising and External Relations Committee:** Ms. Kathy Hambly indicated that the Committee met on September 8, 2021 and received updates from staff in the Development and Alumni Engagement, Communications and University Relations and the Marketing and Production areas. Ms. Hambly referenced the summary of approved awards circulated in advance of the meeting.

**d) Governance and Appeals Committee:** Ms. Shannon MacDonald reported that although the Committee did not meet in September as there were no urgent items to be dealt with, the Committee did meet in August to address the COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination Policy. Ms. MacDonald expressed appreciation to Board members for their work with the implementation COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination Policy.

e) **Executive Committee:** Mr. Sinnott noted there was nothing further to report.

**MEETING MOVED TO IN CAMERA**

f) **Human Resources Committee:**

**MEETING RETURNED TO OPEN SESSION**

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

Health Education at UPEI was addressed at the beginning of the meeting.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.