



## BOARD NOTES

St. Francis Xavier University Board of Governors  
February 21 & 22, 2019

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The Board of Governors met on Thursday and Friday, February 21 & 22, 2019. The following is a summary of proceedings at the meetings.

At the February 21<sup>th</sup> meeting the Board received presentations dealing with collaborative opportunities associated with the Mulroney Institute of Government, the McKenna Centre for Leadership and the Coady International Institute and Extension Department. Multi-year financial forecasts for the University were also presented and discussed and Dr. Wamsley provided an update on the current status of enrolment for the Fall of 2019.

On February 22<sup>nd</sup> the Board proceedings included the following items.

### **President's Report:**

President MacDonald updated the Board on a number of topics:

- Senate has approved a Fall Study Break. The motion was championed by Ms. Tiffany MacLennan, Vice President Academic for the Student Union. It was noted that in excess of 2500 students responded to a survey conducted by the Student Union related to this matter.
- Hockey brawl – background was provided on the on-ice brawl that had taken place during a hockey game with Acadia University.
- National Dinner East – to be held in Halifax, March 29, 2019.
- Recent appointments of Dr. Katie Aubrecht, Canada Research Chair (Tier 2) in Health Equity and Social Justice and Dr. Laura Estill, Canada Research Chair (Tier 2) in Digital Humanities and New Media were noted.
- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of female sports joining the StFX Varsity Athletic Program to be celebrated during 2019 Homecoming. The schedule for the weekend is being changed to see football being played on the Friday night and Women's Rugby being played on Saturday afternoon.
- An external review of the University's Sexual Violence Policy 7 Procedures is underway. A report will be presented to the President in June.
- Women's basketball – discussed actions that had been taken in response to recent media reports.

### **2018-19 Financial Update:**

Andrew Beckett, Vice President Finance & Administration reviewed the financial projections for the 2018-19 fiscal year that had been prepared based on actual results to the end of December. We are projecting a breakeven result for the year as a result of the additional operating funding approved by the Province.

A report on the significant variances from budget in the projected results was reviewed.

## **2019-20 OPERATING BUDGET**

Mr. Beckett presented the draft 2019-20 Operating Budget and reviewed key assumptions that had been used in developing the budget. He noted that the budget is balanced and there is a contingency of \$550,000 to buffer potential revenue shortfalls or expenditure issues. A report highlighting various aspects of the budget was presented to the Board.

Details related to the 2019-20 Operating Budget are available at:

<https://www2.mystfx.ca/sites/mystfx.ca/financial-services/files/2019-2020-Budget.pdf>

## **ACTIVE LIVING CENTRE PHASE 2(B)**

The Board approved proceeding with Phase 2(b) of the renovations to the Active Living Centre. This Phase is primarily focused on the varsity locker rooms and improved circulation in this area of the building. Specific branded locker rooms will be provided for football, male and female basketball, male and female soccer, women's' rugby and male track (female completed as part of Phase 2(a)). There will also be new general change rooms for visiting teams and new indoor accessible public washrooms. The total estimated cost for this Phase is \$5.9 million which is being paid for through private donations.

## **COADY INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE**

Dr. MacDonald provided an overview of actions that have been taken regarding the restructuring of Coady to ensure it is financially sustainable moving forward. He advised that a voluntary separation program had resulted in five staff people leaving and that the Vice President position was being eliminated. Dr. Webber will be leaving the Vice President role on March 8 and Mr. Gord Cunningham, a long-time Coady employee, has been appointed as Executive Director.

## **BRANDING UPDATE**

Mr. Murray Kyte, VP Advancement provided the Board with an update on the Branding Project along with key activities that will be undertaken in the coming months.

## **STUDENTS UNION REPORT**

Ms. Rebecca Mesay, Student Union President provided an update on the activities of the Student Union Executive Team. She noted that the Team had been very busy in a number of areas and is now preparing for transitioning to the new incoming Executive.

## **ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

Mr. Marc Rodrigue, Alumni Association President provided an update on the activities of the Alumni Association.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Updates were provided on the activities of Board Committees and motions were passed dealing with the following;

- Approval of a lease between the University and the Town of Antigonish regarding use of University land for a Skateboard/Wheel Park.
- Approval of a new Food Services contract with Sodexo Canada.

The next meeting of the Board will be in June, 2019.