



## BOARD NOTES

St. Francis Xavier University Board of Governors  
October 22nd and 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020

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The Board of Governors met on Thursday and Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. The following is a summary of proceedings at the meetings.

### President's Report:

President Hakin updated the Board on a number of topics:

- The safe return of Students to Campus in September
  - o Asymptomatic testing of isolating students
  - o Good adherence to self-isolation requirements, only 5 students fined for non-compliance
  - o Cooperation and support from community partners including Town, County, RCMP, Landlords and Health Providers. Of particular note was the support given by Mayor Laurie Boucher.
- Student numbers and finances
  - o overall headcount of registered students for the 2020-21 academic year has increased relative to last year. More specifically, the University has experienced an increase in the number of part-time students and a concomitant decrease in the number of fulltime students
  - o Student recruitment efforts for the 2021-22 Academic year are underway
  - o Projected deficit of \$7 million for the 2020-21 fiscal year
  - o Meeting held with Province on September 25 to discuss our financial challenges
- Activity in the President's Office
  - o Senior Manager hired – Mary Jessie MacLellan
  - o Connections with Key Donors
  - o Development of Integrated Planning Framework
  - o Weekly radio interviews on 98.9FM
  - o Participation in virtual events during Welcome Home Week
  - o Presentation at Chamber of Commerce breakfast
  - o Treaty Day on October 1
  - o AUS Board meeting

### CAMPUS REOPENING PLANS

Dr. Wamsley, Academic Vice President & Provost provided an update on campus reopening activities in the academic area which included discussion of the following:

- Classes commenced on September 14 with 64% of classes being delivered face-to-face. This is the highest percentage in the Country. Most students are studying with a combination of on-line and face-to-face courses.
- Enrolment
  - o The University's enrolment has not declined as significantly as was anticipated due to the pandemic

- Full-time enrolment has declined by 93 students from previous year, Part-Time enrolment has increased by 345 students. On an FTE basis enrolment is up approximately 40 students
- Direct from High School numbers are down 34 students
- International student enrolment is down by 19 students (direct from High School down 33)
- Our enrolment numbers are consistent with other institutions in the Region
- Recruitment efforts are underway (mostly virtual). Campus tours are being offered to perspective students who reside within the Atlantic Bubble.
- A virtual Open House was held on October 17. There was good participation and so far application numbers are on par with last year.

Ms. Yeo, VP Students provided an overview of activities within the Student Services area associated with welcoming students back to campus. Items discussed included:

- Good Neighbours Strategy
- Supports for students
  - Services being delivered in compliance with COVID-19 protocols
  - Respectful Communities module launched
  - EDGE Program launched - career and employment transition service for students with disabilities
- Welcome & Orientation
  - Quarantine/Self isolation- shared support 370 students in residence/750 off campus – 14 days on- line programming, Testing Protocol
  - Activities delivered to smaller groups with physical distancing, number of virtual offerings
- Code of Conduct
  - As of October 15: 239 individuals were facing discipline through the conduct process
  - 106 cases investigated and adjudicated for breach of COVID protocols (Self isolation; On campus gatherings room maximum/physical distancing; Off campus gatherings)
  - 133 cases addressed through informal resolution
- Issues and Risks
  - Outbreak Readiness; Fatigue with the protocols; Equity services and supports
  - Student Experience –expectations and student life in pandemic, isolation, connecting students
  - AUS Winter Sports – decisions pending
  - Community - health care, January return of students from outside the “bubble”

## **GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

Ms. Mary-Lou O'Reilly, Chair of the Governance & Nominating Committee, discussed a report on the status of the external governance review carried out by Maureen Reid from Boardworks Consulting.

## **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Mr. Andrew Beckett, Vice President Finance & Administration provided an overview of the financial projections for the 2020-21 fiscal year based on actual results to the end of September, 2020. Operations is currently projecting a deficit of \$866k along with a projected deficit in Ancillary of \$6.914m for an overall deficit of \$6.581m. A report with detailed projections for all operational areas was provided to the Board.

## **ALUMNI ASSOCIATION REPORT**

Mr. Marc Rodrigue presented an update on the activities of the Alumni Association. The Association approved its full slate of officers and council members at the recent annual meeting of the Association. He noted that Mr. Glenn Horne's term as an Alumni Association rep on the Board of Governors would end on December 31, 2020. He will be replaced by the new Vice Chair of the Association, Kathleen Sheridan.

## **INTEGRATED PLANNING FRAMEWORK**

Dr. Hakin provided the Board with an overview of an Integrated Planning Framework that would be used to guide the development of a new Strategic Plan for the University. The Plan will have three core operational plans: Academic, Research and Student Services. The development of these plans will be informed by a review of lessons learned from the pandemic response and the results achieved through the University's current Strategic Plan. Other plans will be required to support the three key elements including: a Facilities Plan, an IT Plan, an Ancillary Services Plan and a People Plan. The Comprehensive Fundraising Campaign also needs to align with the objectives of the new Strategic Plan. The Board expressed support for the planning framework as presented.

## **COMPREHENSIVE FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN**

Mr. Murray Kyte, VP Advancement presented an update on activities associated with the Comprehensive Fundraising Campaign. Mr. Kyte provided background on how the initial targets had been established for the Campaign and the work that had been done to arrive at a reasonably achievable over-all fundraising goal. He noted that in more recent discussions with Dr. Hakin the Campaign was being further refined to focus on core academic themes. Mr. Kyte's presentation included information on fundraising progress to date and status of achieving key donors in each category on the Chart of Giving.

## **STUDENTS' UNION REPORT**

Ms. Sarah Elliott, President of the Students' Union, presented a report on the Union's activities.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Gord Cunningham, Executive Director of the Coady Institute advised that the Circle of Abundance Campaign, initiated with a donation from Ryan Reynolds and Blake Lively, had reached its goal of \$1 million.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Board's Committees presented reports on their activities.

**BOARD CHAIR**

The Ad-Hoc Committee that had been established to review the process for selection of a new Board Chair presented a report on their activities. On recommendation of the Committee the Board approved the appointment that Mr. Dennis Flood as Chair of the Board of Governors for a three-year term commencing July 1, 2021.