

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

OPEN SESSION

September 30, 2016

The Open Session of the regular Board of Governors meeting was held on Friday, September 30, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. in the Trivett Room of the Canadian Ecology Centre in Mattawa.

Members present: Marianne Berube, Board Chair  
Mike DeGagné  
Gord Durnan  
Trevor Bachelder  
Jordan Dempster  
Janet Zimbalatti  
Sean Feretycki  
Ryan Hehn  
Gary Jodouin  
Blaine Hatt  
Hilary Earl  
Nathan Kozuskanich  
Jamie Lim  
Colleen Miller  
Karen Barnes  
Paul Cook

Regrets: Nancy Maynes  
Tom Curry  
Steve Portelli  
Tom Palangio  
Jordan Andrews  
Scott McLeod  
Rose Jawbone  
Crystal Pigeau  
Derek Shogren

Guests: Laurie Bissonette  
Cheryl Sutton  
Ursula Boyer  
Harley d'Entremont  
Jamie Graham  
Casey Philips  
Tanya Lukin-Linklater  
Maggie Daniel

Recording Secretary: Christine Dowdall (University Secretary)

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**1. Welcome/Special Guests/Introductions – Board Chair**

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m. The Board Chair welcomed everyone, acknowledging the distance some had travelled in order to be here and describing the impending retreat as an important opportunity to build relationships. She highlighted the wealth of experience sitting around the table and

the importance of building congeniality and trust among Board members. A special thank you and warm welcome was extended to Laurie Bissonette from KPMG who will present the financial statements to the Board for final approval.

Round table introductions were made.

## **2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

A call for declarations of conflict of interest concerning any of the agenda items will be a fixed item at the beginning of all Board meetings going forward.

No declarations of conflict of interest were declared.

## **3. Use of Recording and/or Broadcasting Devices**

Similar to #2 above, attendees will be asked if they are using any recording and/or broadcasting devices at the beginning of all Board meetings going forward. Broadcasting devices include such technology as Skype or any other software or device that permits live recording or streaming.

No declarations were made regarding the use of any recording and/or broadcasting device.

## **4. Adoption of the Minutes from the June 2, 2016, Board meeting**

**Resolution 2016-09-01: *That the minutes of the Open Session of the meeting of the Board of Governors held on June 2, 2016, be adopted as circulated.***

*Moved by Gary Jodouin; seconded by Trevor Bachelder.  
Carried.*

## **5. Chair's Remarks**

The Board Chair explained that it has been a busy fall so far with the searches for a new VPAR and VPFA well underway. A committee for the reappointment of the President has also been struck, and the process for the review has begun.

The importance of the Board's committees and the work they perform was highlighted. The Chair explained that much of the work of the Board actually happens at the committee level, and she encouraged all Board members to get involved.

There is currently one opening for an external Board member. This was discussed at the Governance Committee, and all members are encouraged to bring forward ideas for potential community members to fill the position.

**6. Presentation – Laurie Bissonette from KPMG – Audited Financial Statements**

The draft audited financial statements for the year ending April 30, 2016, were presented. The audit was described by Laurie Bissonette as “clean”, meaning the statements are fairly presented. The review included a detailed explanation of the University’s financial position and an overview of the statement of operations. One good news item that was highlighted was the rebounding of the market value on the University’s investment portfolio.

**Resolution 2016-09-02: That the Board of Governors accept the recommendation of the Audit and Finance Committee that the internally restricted net assets be decreased by \$3,225,000 as described in Note 12 to the April 30, 2016, financial statements.**

The Board Chair, who chaired the last Audit & Finance Committee meeting, provided a brief review of this item. Details can be found in the minutes from the September 19, 2016, meeting of the Audit & Finance Committee.

*Moved by Gary Jodouin; seconded by Karen Barnes.  
Carried.*

**Resolution 2016-09-03: That the Board of Governors accept the recommendation of the Audit and Finance Committee that the Consolidated Audited Financial Statements for the year ended April 30, 2016, be approved.**

*Moved by Jordan Dempster; seconded by Jamie Lim.  
Carried.*

**Resolution 2016-09-04: That the Board of Governors accept the recommendation of the Audit and Finance Committee that the Board approve the plan to access additional capital in the amount of \$3M when the University goes to market to refinance the current debt.**

The Assistant Vice-President, Finance & HR, explained the University has been working with KPMG to restructure Nipissing’s debt. This could provide an opportunity to make some additional investments in academic space planning, resurfacing of the turf field and repairs to the dam at the Education Centre pond. Discussion as to the benefits and possible workings of the proposal continued.

*Moved by Hilary Earl; seconded by Trevor Bachelder.  
Carried.*

**Resolution 2016-09-05: That the Board of Governors accept the recommendation of the Audit and Finance Committee that the Board approves, once refinancing of the debt including the additional \$3M is secured, that the additional \$3M be tied to**

***the plan outlined in the Debt Restructuring section (item #8) of the Audit & Finance Committee meeting minutes dated September 19, 2016.***

*Moved by Hilary Earl; seconded by Trevor Bachelder.  
Carried.*

## **7. Chancellor's Remarks**

The Chancellor reported that he began his role of Chancellor this past spring when he took part in Convocation. He is enjoying his position at Nipissing and is working hard towards showing a presence on campus and getting to know the University community. He highlighted some of the events and meetings he has taken part in and said he is looking forward to participating in some of the Homecoming events taking place this weekend.

## **8. President's Remarks**

President DeGagné provided some brief comments on a number of issues, including the success of the Ontario University Fair; work that is being done in the area of Aboriginal student success; the ongoing searches for the new VPAR and VPFA; progress being made by the Special Governance Commission; and the reconciliation movement in North Bay that is tied to the report of the national Truth and Reconciliation Commission. He also spoke about COU's engagement strategy and the efforts being made to engage the public in a conversation about the role of universities. This will require work from the communications department at each institution and will include efforts to determine the best ways to get the message out about the possibilities that are available to students with a university education. Part of the engagement strategy includes a move towards reenergizing the humanities, which could certainly be beneficial to Nipissing. President DeGagné said that each university has a part to play in creating a highly-skilled workforce.

## **9. Vice-President's Remarks**

**VPAR:** Dr. d'Entremont updated Board members on a number of issues, including the following: the lifting of the freeze on engineering programs in the province following a provincial review; the positive reaction to the Nipissing University booth at this year's University Fair; international recruiting and Nipissing's first-time attendance at a recruiting expo that will be taking place in Beijing, China this fall; the success of the Nipissing proposal for SIF (Strategic Investment Fund) funding for a campus energy savings project; and the work being done with regard to a proposal for a possible (significant) donation from TD Bank.

Dr. d'Entremont added that some strategic hires have been made on the faculty side in areas such as indigenous education, social work, business and nursing. He referred to such activity as proof that Nipissing is "still in business".

**AVP, Finance & HR:** Board members were reminded that the University came to an agreement last spring with the contract academic staff bargaining unit (CASBU), and the AVP acknowledged the efforts of CASBU's lead negotiator, Mark Crane, and his team. An agreement was reached without outside

assistance, and the University will not be going back to the bargaining table until next spring when the full-time support staff agreement will expire.

AVP Sutton described the University's relationship with KPMG as very positive. She announced that KPMG will be investing in a \$30,000 scholarship fund for Nipissing's business students.

An update on the employee fraud situation that was in the news this past week was also provided. Insurance covered a significant portion of the losses Nipissing suffered as a result of the fraudulent activity, and safeguards against such activity in the future have been implemented.

**AVP, Students & International:** AVP Casey Philips described the start of the academic year as busy and exciting. In terms of occupancy in the residence building, there are 20 vacancies over 1000 spaces – which is a significant improvement over recent years – and frosh week and student orientation was described as successful. In terms of demands for counselling, there has been an increase in demand for services, perhaps due in part to a change to the model used to respond to students in distress.

It has been a busy start on the athletics side as well, and the news of the rowing team's varsity status was very exciting. In addition, Nipissing has more students on international exchanges than ever before, and while they could always use additional resources, the Student Services team is doing very well.

In an effort to continue raising awareness of sexual and gender based violence, a highly successful "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" event was held on campus yesterday.

#### **10. Deans' Remarks**

No reports provided.

#### **11. Question Period**

A comment was made regarding the success of this year's Board orientation session and appreciation was expressed regarding the information the University shares with Board members (for example, the sharing of the weekly "NU News" report that is published by the Communications Office). It was suggested that members think about ways to encourage more people to send their success stories to the NU News.

#### **12. Committee Reports**

##### Audit and Finance Committee – M. Berube, Board Chair

The Audit and Finance Committee met on September 19, 2016. The draft audited financial statements were presented with the committee agreeing to send them to the Board for final approval, and a number of other resolutions were passed as well (for details, see #6 above).

University Governance Committee – G. Jodouin, Chair

The University Governance Committee met on September 19, 2016. Chair Gary Jodouin provided a few highlights from the meeting, including the status of the review of the Board Bylaws and the vacancy that exists for one external Board member.

Advancement Committee – G. Durnan, Chair

Chair Gord Durnan attended the Ontario University Fair this year and described Nipissing's information booth as "spectacular". Highlights from the Advancement Committee's September 19, 2016, meeting were presented.

Plant and Property Committee – T. Bachelder, Chair

The Plant & Property Committee met on September 19, 2016. Chair Trevor Bachelder referred Board members to the minutes from that meeting that were included with today's agenda.

Regarding the possible upgrade of Nipissing's turf field, it was suggested that seating for spectators be included. A couple of options have already been explored in this regard, and as outdoor seating is very expensive, consideration will be given to the possibility of renting or buying used equipment.

**13. BOARD REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER COMMITTEES**

- i. **Academic Senate:** Board member Blaine Hatt reported that Senate has met once so far this year with the next meeting scheduled in October. The Board Chair reminded members that there remains one vacancy for a Board representative on Senate.
- ii. **Senate Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Committees:** No report.
- iii. **Alumni Advisory Board:** Sean Feretycki reported that the Alumni Advisory Board currently has one vacancy. He encouraged everyone to attend some of the events taking place at this weekend's Homecoming.
- iv. **Aboriginal Council on Education:** Tanya Lukin-Linklater provided a brief update on behalf of Board member Rose Jawbone. At the August meeting of the Nipissing University Aboriginal Council on Education (NUACE), there was a positive response to the introduction of Nipissing's new faculty members Renee Bedard and Cindy Pelletier. The policy on smudging has been reviewed, and the launch of the Treaty Learning Centre will take place later this fall.
- v. **Brantford Regional Campus:** Colleen Miller reported that things have been busy at the Brantford Campus, highlighting fundraising efforts for cancer as well as the planning of international student placements in Ecuador and Italy. In addition, Brantford and North Bay faculty are working together to develop education resources for Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- vi. **Nipissing University Student Union:** Jordan Dempster read a letter from NUSU President Jordan Andrews which highlighted NUSU's attempts to focus on their strengths as a student union. NUSU has a new governing structure and new constitution, and they are very excited about the construction of the new student centre that is expected to begin this year.

**14. OTHER BUSINESS**


No other business was discussed.

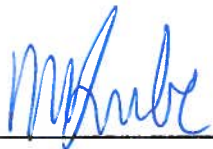
**15. ADJOURNMENT**

Resolution 2016-09-06: ***That the Open Session of the Board of Governors' regular meeting now adjourn.***

*Moved by Gord Durnan; seconded by Gary Jodouin.  
Carried.*

Open Session adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

  
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Recording Secretary

  
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Board Chair