



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

St. Francis Xavier University Board of Governors

Monday, December 12, 2022 – 2:00pm

Video Conference

Present: Dennis Flood (Chair), Andy Hakin, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Monica Foster, Simone Abbass, Paul Ash, Denton Anthony, Ron Chisholm, Amanda Cockshutt, Karen Gardiner, James (Jamie) O'Reilly, Joshua Kroker, Peter Ludlow, Paul McFarland, Violet Silva, Lisa Raitt, Marc Rodrigue, Kathleen Sheridan, Chris Gilham, Peter Marzlin, Lynda Harling Stalker, Cynthia Dorrington, Eileen Alma, Marie Walsh, William Sweet, John Peacock, Marc Furlotte, Deborah Gillis

Regrets: Bill Burke, Duaine Devereaux, Sylvia Parris-Drummond, Chief Andrea Paul, Brendan Roberts

Guests: Elizabeth Yeo

1. WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

D. Flood called the December 12, 2022 meeting of the Board of Governors to order at 9:00 a.m. Roll Call was taken followed by a Land Acknowledgement from A. Hakin and then W. Kirkpatrick offered a prayer to open the meeting

2. AGENDA

MOTION: That the agenda be approved as circulated (W. SWEET/J. O'REILLY) Motion carried.

D. Flood asked if any Governors had a conflict of interest with any of the agenda items and none were declared.

3. MINUTES

MOTION: That the minutes of the Board of Governors meeting held on October 21, 2022 be approved as circulated (W. KIRKPATRICK/W. SWEET) Motion carried.

4. PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Dr. Hakin provided highlights from a written report that was submitted to the Board. These included:

- A draft plan has been prepared by the President's Action Committee on Anti-Racism (PACAR) and will be reviewed internally by the Executive Team. Demonstrating the application of our Integrated Planning Framework, each initiative identified in the plan will be integrated into the operational plans of the departments responsible for implementation.
- David Graham '92 has been selected as the next Vice President, Advancement at StFX. David will begin his tenure with the University on January 1, 2023.
- StFX hosted an Open House for prospective students and their families on October 22, 2022. 467 people were in attendance, including 236 students.
- Great progress has been made in the development of the StFX Accessibility Plan, endorsed by the Board of Governors in October 2022. The plan establishes collaborative commitments

- for advancing accessibility, equity, and inclusion on our campus and will be launched in December 2022.
- The X-Ring Ceremony of graduates of 2023 and the Fall Convocation ceremony were held on December 3-4, 2022. An honorary degree was awarded to Faisal Joseph '82 in recognition of his advocacy work for the Islamic community in Canada. Other award winners included: Dr. Maureen Coady, Outreach Award and Yogesh Ghore, Outstanding Staff Teaching Award.
 - StFX National Dinner East will take place in Halifax on Saturday, April 1 at the Halifax Convention Centre.

5. UNIVERSITY STRATEGIC PLAN

A. Hakin presented the draft University Strategic Plan, *Building Our University the Way it is Meant to Be*. The strategic plan lays out StFX's vision for its future and charts its course forward, including through a clearly articulated mission, vision and action-oriented values. The Plan has been informed by a campus-wide consultation process, which took place in 2022. These sessions included students, faculty, staff, and alumni. On October 20, 2022, the Board held a stand-alone information session and strategic discussion on the draft plan. A. Hakin thanked the Board of Governors for their feedback and support in developing the plan.

The Board members discussed the draft strategic plan. During the discussion the following points were noted:

- There is a clearer sense of the uniqueness of StFX University articulated in the final plan. Academically Driven is positioned first on the list of values because it is why students come to university.
- Liberal education remains a cornerstone of the academic experience at StFX. The University Strategic Plan also acknowledges that the work professional studies needs to be recognized.
- The metrics will be presented with the University Strategic Plan and will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis. We will continue to verify existing data through the relevant departments, including the Registrar and Alumni Office.

MOTION: That the Board of Governors approve the University Strategic Plan, *Building Our University the Way it is Meant to Be*, as presented (A. COCKSHUTT/W. KIRKPATRICK). Motion carried.

6. ENROLMENT/RECRUITMENT UPDATE

Dr. Amanda Cockshutt, Academic Vice President and Provost, provided an update on two areas of focus: (1) student enrollment and recruitment; and, (2) academic and program renewal. Going hand in hand with increased enrolment, particularly of students from currently and historically excluded groups and international students, will be the increased demands for culturally-relevant supports so that these students can be successful.

7. AUDIT AND INVESTMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

M. Furlotte, Chair of the Audit and Investment Committee, and M. Foster reviewed the content of a draft Quarterly Investment Report for the Board from the Audit & Investment Committee.

MOTION: That the Board approve the Investment Committee Report for the Quarter Ended September 30, 2022 as presented (M. FURLOTTE/J. O'REILLY). Motion carried.

M. Furlotte provided context and rationale for the need to issue a 2021-2022 Financial Restatement for the year ending March 31, 2022. The final impacts on the financial statements are still being determined; however, based on Deloitte's estimates the changes are material. M. Furlotte provided the board with an overview of what the restated financial statements could look like for 2021-22. It was noted that none of the proposed adjustments change the cash position of the university.

The Board engaged in conversation concerning process and cumulative impacts. StFX Finance and Administration is aiming to complete the restatement early in the new year. Deloitte will then review the work and reissue statements for review by the Audit and Investment Committee and a recommendation will be made to the full Board in February.

8. HOUSEKEEPING AND FUTURE BUSINESS

D. Flood noted that the next regular meeting of the Board would be on February 23-24, 2023. The meeting will take place in-person. StFX Finance and Administration is working on the updated financial projections that will be presented to the Board as an update in February 2023.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the session of the December 12, 2022 meeting of the Board of Governors adjourned at 3:30pm.