



## BOARD NOTES

St. Francis Xavier University Board of Governors  
October 26 & 27, 2017

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The Board of Governors met on Thursday and Friday, October 26 & 27, 2017. The following is a summary of proceedings at the meetings.

At the October 26<sup>th</sup> meeting the Board received presentations dealing with the following items:

- Student Life/Residences
- Academic Programming

On October 27<sup>th</sup> the Board proceedings included the following items.

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

President MacDonald updated the Board on a number of topics:

- Temporary Classrooms – great cooperation received from Faculty and Students related to the temporary classrooms established to accommodate the closure of Nicholson Hall. The feedback has been that many of the temporary spaces are an improvement over some of the classrooms that were previously being used.
- The lower than budgeted enrolment is causing on-going financial challenges which will be discussed later in the meeting.
- National Dinner with former US President Bill Clinton held on October 3, 2017 in Toronto was a success. The event was not designed as a fundraiser, the focus was on raising the University's profile and brand in a key market.
- The University's first Day of Giving is scheduled for November 28, 2017. The focus for the day is "Every Alum/Any Amount/Every Year"
- Government Funding – Dr. MacDonald provided an overview of concerns related to the July disclosure that the Province had been providing special funding to Acadia University and had forgiven their SOFI Loan. He described efforts being taken to gain Government support for additional funding for StFX.

### **Enrolment Update**

Dr. Kevin Wamsley, Academic Vice President & Provost provided an overview of enrolment results for the 17/18 academic year. It was noted that enrolment results are lower than budget by approximately 150 full-time students. As part of this there was a decline in direct from high school students of approximately 100 students. This decline has a direct impact on residence occupancy as a high percentage of DHS students typically stay in residence.

Dr. Wamsley reviewed a series of graphs that showed data on enrolment trends including details on Full-time/Part-Time enrolment as well as enrolment by program, region and geographic region over the past 5 years.

Dr. Wamsley then discussed actions being taken to improve enrolment results for the 18-19 academic year. An Open House was held on October 14 which was well attended by prospective students and resulted in a significant number of new applications. A detailed process review is underway in the Recruitment area aimed at reducing the process time for applications and the conversion of offers to acceptances.

### **Financial Update**

Andrew Beckett, Vice President Finance & Administration presented projections for the 2017-18 fiscal year based on actual results to the end of September. The current projections show a deficit of approximately \$3 million (budget - \$749,000 deficit). The major contributing factor to the significant projected deficit is missed enrolment targets. In general operations the decline in full-time tuition revenues has been largely off-set by increased revenue from part-time and summer school tuition revenues. In Ancillary Services however the decline in full-time students has had a direct impact on residence occupancy and meal plan sales.

### **Capital Projects Update:**

Mr. Beckett provided an update on various capital projects being undertaken.

- Construction of Mulroney Hall has commenced. The foundation work is underway and the erection of steel is expected to begin by early December. It is anticipated that the building will be fully enclosed by the end of March. The construction is on-schedule and on-budget.
- The request for proposals for renovation of Nicholson Tower closes at the end of November. Four companies have been short-listed for the final phase of the RFP process and following submission of their bids interviews will be held in early December. It is hoped that an award of the RFP can be finalized by the end of December with contract approval in January.
- An RFP is being prepared for landscape design associated with the Xaverian Commons project.
- Renovation work in the Library to accommodate the Centre for Accessible Learning has been completed and the Centre's staff are being moved to the new space.
- Phase I of the upgrades to the Oland Centre has been completed. This included replacement of the flooring and bleachers in the main gym. Plans for Phase II of the upgrades are now being completed. This Phase will include replacement of the stadium bleachers, new physical therapy space and upgraded locker rooms for a number of varsity teams including expanded space for the football team. Fundraising efforts to support this work are on-going.
- The energy management upgrades being done in collaboration with Siemens Canada are nearing completion. Total cost of the upgrades is approximately \$12.5 million and is being funded through utility savings that will be achieved as a result of the upgrades.

### **Institute of Government programming:**

Dr. Wamsley presented an overview of the academic program elements associated with the new Institute of Government.

- The first cohort of students in public policy programs has started in entry level courses. Commencing in 2018 there will be a direct entry Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy & Governance.
- One of two academic chairs funded through the Irving Shipbuilding funding is in place. Recruitment will soon commence for an academic chair in Canada-US relations who may also be asked to assume the Institute Director role. Future academic chairs will include the Mila Mulroneu Chair in Women's Leadership and a Chair in Governance & Democracy.
- Student Scholarships and Bursaries funded through donations are currently being structured and finalized to support recruitment efforts for the new program. There will also be internship opportunities that are being funded through a number of donations.

**Coady Institute and Extension Department update:**

Dr. June Webber, Vice President - Coady International Institute and Extension Department presented an overview of the work being undertaken within the Coady Institute and the Extension Department. The presentation highlighted Coady's Institutional Strategy for 2017-22, the composition of revenues and expenses of the Institute, an education program review that is underway and local to global community leadership/development opportunities.

**Students' Union Report:**

Ms. Annie Sirois, Student Union President provided a written report on activities being undertaken by the Students' Union.

**Alumni Report:**

Mr. Glenn Horne, President of the Alumni Association provided a written report on activities of the Alumni Association.

**Committee Reports:**

The Board received reports from the Board Committees.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for December, 2017.