

December 6, 2024

1:00 p.m.

MRU, EC 2010

PRESENT:

Chris Lee - Public Member- Chair
Tala Abu Hayyaneh – Student Member
Laura Daniels – Public Member
Sherri Evers – Public Member
Denise Hughes- Public Member
Cheryl Melatdoost - Staff Member
Jacqueline Musabende - Faculty Member
Thomas O’Leary – Public Member

Shannon Pestun - Alumni Member- Vice-Chair
Tim Rahilly - President and Vice-Chancellor
Kari Roberts - Faculty Member
David Routledge – Alumni Member
Rob Schaefer – Public Member
Sheba Singh – Public Member
Reynold Tetzlaff – Public Member
Anisa Tilston – Student Member

RESOURCES:

Ben Hall, Associate General Counsel and Acting University Secretary
Kathy Homer, Assistant University Secretary-Board, Recording Secretary
Chad London, Provost and Vice-President, Academic
Mustansar Nadeem, Vice-President, Finance and Administration
Phil Warsaba, Vice-President, Students

REGRETS:

Brenden Hunter – Public Member
Dexter Nelson - Public Member

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

C. Lee, Chair of the Board of Governors, called the Open Session to order at 1:00 p.m., confirmed quorum, and S. Singh commenced with a land acknowledgement.

1.1. Conflict of Interest Declaration

There were no conflicts declared.

ACTION ITEMS

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved and seconded:

THAT the agenda be approved, as distributed.

CARRIED.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1. Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held on October 24, 2024.

Moved and seconded:

THAT the minutes of the Open Session of the Board of Governors’ meeting held October 24, 2024 be approved as distributed.

CARRIED.

3.2. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the past set of minutes.

4. TUITION AND FEES: 2025-2026

The Board considered the regulated tuition and mandatory non-instructional fees for the 2025-2026 academic year as presented in the meeting package.

R. Schaefer, the Chair of the Finance Committee, reported productive discussions among committee members regarding the proposed increases to tuition and fees. He outlined the steps involved in evaluating the suggested increases, noting that the 2% tuition cap aligns with government regulations. The committee considered the importance of affordability for students and the need to maintain MRU's operational viability.

He highlighted that this was his third year as facilitator for the Tuition and Fees Consultation Committee, emphasizing the high-quality discussions held with students. He noted that both students and management approached the process with openness and collaboration, resulting in a successful outcome.

The Chair concluded by reaffirming the committee's focus on sustaining excellence in education. He confirmed that students were consulted on the recommendations and that the Finance Committee approved all proposals.

In response, the board thanked R. Schaefer for facilitating the process noting that not every university has a board member involved at this level and that the relationship is important.

Moved and seconded:

THAT the Board of Governors approve of the tuition and fees for 2025/26 as set out in the attached documents and as recommended by the Finance Committee.

CARRIED.

R. Tetzlaff entered the meeting.

5. G-WING PHILANTHROPIC NAMING

The Board considered the approval of the philanthropic naming of the G-Wing space in the Lincoln Park Building along with the adjacent courtyard. As the Board reviewed the new name, appreciation was expressed for the feedback received on the previous name, which prompted the change.

Moved and seconded:

THAT the Board of Governors approve the philanthropic naming of the renovated G-Wing within the Lincoln Park Building to become the "Sam Taylor Student Commons," including the "Sam Plaza" and the "Taylor Courtyard" in recognition of a \$15 million gift from the Taylor Family Foundation, and that the naming remains in effect for the life of these facilities.

AND

THAT the Board of Governors rescind the following motion made February 25, 2019:

THAT the Board of Governors approve the philanthropic naming of the proposed "Sam Taylor Student Centre" on the main level of the Lincoln Park Building in consideration of a \$15 million gift from the Taylor Family Foundation, and that the naming be in effect for the life of the building.

CARRIED.

6. UNIVERSITY STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

T. Rahilly shared information regarding the integration of the long-term and annual planning processes, how the University plans to measure and monitor the progress on the University Strategic Plan goals and communication strategies with both internal and external audiences.

The discussion focused on how best to report to the Board, including the format and also clarifying timelines, as some goals are short-term while others are longer-term. Additional discussion addressed the new format of the President's report to the Board, with the Board expressing appreciation for its alignment with strategic goals.

REPORTS**7. REPORTS****7.1. Board Chair**

C. Lee, Board Chair, provided a written report and highlighted the events he attended from September to November. The Board was provided with copies of the book, *21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act* for future discussion. S. Pestun commented on the book and highlighted some key concepts.

7.2. President and Vice-Chancellor

President and Vice-Chancellor, T. Rahilly, provided a written report and highlighted: a communication from the government regarding a panel that is to be formed to examine post-secondary funding; Metis week at MRU; the EDI opportunity fund and strategic planning; academic updates; student division updates; and development and marketing updates.

T. Rahilly shared heartfelt words about the 35th anniversary of the École Polytechnique massacre and recognized two MRU colleagues who recently passed away.

7.3. General Faculties Council

The General Faculties Council report for the meeting held on November 22, 2024 was provided for information. T. Rahilly reported on the successful orientation and panel discussion at the meeting which focused on the responsibilities of governance and collegiality. The session was chaired by a student member.

COMMITTEE MATTERS**8. AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE****8.1. Committee Report**

L. Daniels, Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee, provided a written report and highlighted that it was a productive meeting with discussion that was risk-focused.

9. CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**9.1. Committee Report**

A written report from the November 18, 2024 meeting was included in the package for information. D. Routledge, Chair of the Campus Development Committee, provided remarks regarding the progress of the renovations in the G-Wing.

10. FINANCE COMMITTEE**10.1. Committee Report**

R. Schaefer, Chair of the Finance Committee, provided a written report and reported that the meeting included robust discussions on budget development, reserve funds, and the committee's appetite for more scenario planning and greater insight into capital matters.

In response to a question, it was highlighted that enrolment, labour costs and revenue generation are the key levers for financial management, though each comes with limitations. A conservative and balanced budget is being prepared for presentation in March 2025.

11. GOVERNANCE AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE

11.1. Committee Report

C. Lee, Chair of the Governance and Nominating Committee, provided a written report and summarized the topics discussed at the November 18, 2024 meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

12. ITEMS REMOVED FOR DISCUSSION

There were no items removed from the consent agenda for discussion.

Moved and seconded:

THAT the Board of Governors approve the consent agenda items for the December 6, 2024 Open Session.

CARRIED.

13. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

13.1. Institute Annual Reports 2023-2024

THAT the Board of Governors accept and approve the 2023-2024 Annual Reports from the Mount Royal University Institutes.

14. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

The following items were received for information:

14.1. Financial Reports: Second Quarter to September 30, 2023

14.2. New Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) Framework and PS 1202 Financial Statement Presentation

14.3. University Insurance

14.4. HREB Annual Report

14.5. Board and Committees Meeting Schedule 2025-2026

OTHER BUSINESS

15. NEW BUSINESS

T. Rahilly reported to the Board that the annual giving day campaign raised \$375,000, surpassing the \$300,000 target.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Moved and seconded:

THAT the Board of Governors adjourn the Open Session and move into the Closed Session at 1:50 p.m.

CARRIED.