



BOARD OF GOVERNORS IN CAMERA MEETING

Wednesday, February 13, 2019
9:45 AM – 11:45 AM
CN Boardroom, Clock Tower Building

MINUTES

Board Present:

Nathan Matthew (Chancellor), Jim Thomson (Chair), Barbara Berger (Vice-Chair), Brett Fairbairn (President and Vice-Chancellor), Tracy Christianson, Katy Gottfriedson, Lillian Kwan, Hafiz Rahman, Charles Wyse, Eric Youd

Board Regrets:

Sukh Gill, Devin Griffin, Michelle Stanford, Swagatam Majumder, Marilyn McLean

Executive and Others Present:

Christine Bovis-Crossen (Provost and Vice-President Academic), Matt Milovick (Vice-President Administration and Finance), John Sparks (General Counsel and Corporate Secretary), Paul Manhas (Associate Vice-President, Finance), Charlene Myers (Manager, University Governance), Desiree Judd (University Governance Assistant)

Guests:

Brian Ross (Chair, TRUCC Board of Directors), Jennifer Stites (President of TRUCC), Megan Shaw (Project Manager)

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Board Chair called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m., after which he welcomed and introduced new Governors Katy Gottfriedson, Lillian Kwan, and Charles (Charlie) Wyse, all Community Members.

2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES

No Board members declared conflicts of interest (later in the meeting after H. Rahman arrived, however, both H. Rahman and T. Christianson declared conflicts with regard to agenda item 7.d., "Bargaining Update").

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Board Chair asked to add an item to the in camera agenda, namely “Letter to Minister David Eby”, which was added under the heading of “Correspondence” as agenda item 9.b.

*On motion duly made and adopted it was **RESOLVED** that the agenda be adopted as amended.*

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Minutes of December 7, 2018

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the In Camera Board meeting of December 7, 2018 be approved as circulated.*

5. REPORT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Board Chair, J. Thomson, noted that he had chaired the Finance Committee meeting because Rick Heney, the former Committee Chair, was no longer on the Board as a result of his term expiring. J. Thomson also provided Board members with an update on recent Board member appointments.

President Fairbairn reported that the Finance Committee had been apprised of the creation of a Financial Sustainability Working Group. M. Milovick spoke further to the issue, noting the Working Group had been established for the purpose of proactively addressing cost and enrolment issues to ensure sustainability in future financial planning.

6. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Brett Fairbairn circulated a document entitled “2019 executive team priorities” (attached to these minutes as “Appendix I”) and discussed its content with the Board. He added that he planned to bring a document like this to the Board every year at this time for feedback. The Board expressed appreciation to the President for sharing this information.

a. Limitless Campaign Update

President Fairbairn indicated that he had invited Interim Vice-President Advancement, Jeff Sodowsky, to give this update, but his flight had been delayed. The President thus reported to the Board on the purpose, status, and

structure of the campaign, noting that it is currently in the quiet phase. Discussion ensued about fundraising at TRU.

b. Board Development and Planning Session

President Fairbairn asked Board members to expect an email inviting them to indicate their availability for some Board Development and Planning Sessions. He also shared his ideas for potential topics for the sessions and added that a full Planning Session would be held in the fall as planned. The Board Chair emphasized to Board members the importance of attending these sessions.

c. Cynthia Ross-Friedman Update

The President reminded Board members that Dr. Ross-Friedman was a faculty member who was dismissed by the Board of Governors last year and who filed a grievance. He added that Dr. Ross-Friedman passed away before the grievance could be heard, so the University is awaiting an update from the TRU Faculty Association regarding the grievance.

7. REPORTS AND UPDATES

a. TRU Community Corporation (TRUCC) Update

i. Potential properties for future TRU Property Trust developments

M. Milovick reported that one of the reasons the Board was having this discussion now is because the University has an effective relationship with the new President of TRUCC. He reviewed with Governors the map that had been circulated as part of the agenda package. Discussion ensued. M. Milovick noted this matter was for the Board's information only at this point, but that it would probably come back for approval if there were no objections. A Board member suggested that a meeting for the purpose of discussing the Trust, and the benefits TRU has realized from it, would be beneficial. B. Fairbairn and M. Milovick agreed with the suggestion.

Brian Ross, Jennifer Stites, and Megan Shaw joined the meeting.

ii. 800 University Drive (Summit and McGill)

B. Ross, Chair of the TRUCC Board, provided background information about the TRU Community Trust. He and J. Stites delivered a presentation, a link to which had been included on the agenda, to update the Board on progress regarding this property since the last Board meeting. J. Stites noted a potential net revenue of \$2.5M for this site. At the conclusion of the presentation, J. Stites invited feedback from Board members and discussion

ensued. Board members emphasized the importance of establishing and maintaining the identity of TRU at the entry points to campus, and on this site in particular.

B. Ross, J. Stites, and M. Shaw left the meeting.

b. Letter to the Editor: Journal of Scholarly Publishing

The Provost, C. Bovis-Crossen, indicated she would speak about this matter and agenda item 7.c. (Derek Pyne Update) together. She provided the Board with background information regarding the nature of the suspension of faculty member Derek Pyne and his return to work. She indicated that the letter to the editor of the Journal of Scholarly Publishing, a copy of which she had promised to Board members, was an academic response by another academic from TRU to Derek Pyne's research. The Provost also spoke about the investigation by the Canadian Association of University Teachers into the suspension of Derek Pyne, in which TRU administration would not be participating, which she indicated was the norm for university administrations.

c. Derek Pyne Update

This agenda item was incorporated within the discussion of the agenda item 7.b. (Letter to the Editor: Journal of Scholarly Publishing).

d. Bargaining Update

H. Rahman and T. Christianson left the meeting.

Christine Bovis-Crossen updated the Board on the status of bargaining with TRU's faculty and staff bargaining units.

H. Rahman and T. Christianson rejoined the meeting.

e. Flood in BC Centre for Open Learning Building

M. Milovick reported on the causes of this flood, which were not the fault of TRU. He also reported on remediation efforts and the impact on information technology infrastructure in the building. Discussion ensued regarding risk management.

8. BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT

a. Board appointments

The Board Chair, J. Thomson, stated that he had touched on the topic of Board appointments earlier in the meeting, and added that we have 6 Board members who were recently appointed. He added he will look at Committee vacancies and bring recommendations for Committee Chairs and appointments to the next Board meeting.

b. Board meeting dates

J. Thomson reported that the Board would be having dinner with School District 73 Board members on March 27, 2019, at a location to be determined. He also reminded Board members that, as part of the Open Governance Initiative, the Annual Joint Meeting of the Board of Governors, Senate, and Planning Council for Open Learning would be held on April 15, 2019.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

a. Thank you card from student who received Archie McLaughlin Memorial Award

The Board Chair noted this card was for the Board's information.

b. Letter to David Eby

J. Thomson circulated to Board members a draft letter addressed to provincial Attorney General, Minister David Eby (attached to these minutes as "Appendix II"). He indicated he intended to sign the letter but wanted the Board to be aware of it. Discussion ensued. Some Board members suggested sending another letter stating specifically the impact of the relationship between TRU and the BC Lottery Corporation.

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the Board supports the Board Chair signing the letter to Minister Eby.*

The Board Chair added that, if a second letter was prepared to provide the Minister with more specific details regarding the partnership between TRU and the BC Lottery Corporation, he would forward that letter to governors for feedback prior to sending it.

10. BUSINESS FORWARDED TO PUBLIC

There were no items to be forwarded to the Public agenda.

11. BOARD DISCUSSION PART I *(Administration excluded)*

B. Fairbairn, C. Bovis-Cnossen, M. Milovick, J. Sparks, and P. Manhas left the meeting.

The Board discussed some matters in the absence of Administration.

12. BOARD DISCUSSION PART II *(Administration excepting President excluded)*

B. Fairbairn rejoined the meeting.

Board discussion was undertaken in the absence of Administration except the President and Vice-Chancellor.

13. HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

The Board Chair reminded Board members that a tour of the Industrial Training and Technology Centre would take place after this meeting, with lunch being served in that location. The Chair indicated that the Public meeting would need to start late owing to the fact the In Camera session ran longer than anticipated.

14. TERMINATION OF MEETING

There being no further business, the Chair terminated the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Board in-camera

2019 executive team priorities

Note: In the future, executive priorities will be mapped against TRU's strategic priorities. 2019 is a transition year; 2014-19 strategic priorities were student success; intercultural understanding; research capacity; entrepreneurial capacity; and sustainability.

Organizational development, leadership, people. 7 senior leadership searches including VP advancement/external. Academic leadership initiative. NWCCU accreditation. Quality Assurance Process audit. Prepare for SOBE accreditation. Academic freedom task force. Employee engagement initiatives. Bargaining with the 3 unionized labour groups. Continued development of Advancement team processes. Online governance training modules and support for governance entities. Board and admin policy reviews and updates.

Planning. Presidential visioning process including executive participation, communications support. Strategic Enrolment Management plan and communications roll-out. Open Learning strategic plan. Digital strategic plan for TRU. Development of a 5-year capital spending plan aligned with strategic priorities and financial forecasts.

Sustainability. Financial Sustainability working group and strategy development. Fundraising – Limitless Campaign. Annual recruitment campaign. Environmental sustainability – next 5-year Campus Sustainability Plan.

Land and facilities. Renovations for Upper College Heights. Rebranding and repositioning of residence offerings. Business case for STEM building. Support for TRU Property Trust initiatives. New daycare/resource centre/early childhood education.

Relationships. Update TRU's action plan and response to TRC Calls to Action. Greater engagement with alumni and external communities. Maintain relationships with key partners (school districts, municipal etc.) and national media. Annual reputation campaign. "Living the Brand" sessions for staff with adaptation for fundraising and talent recruitment. Stewardship policies and procedures. Communications plan for administration and finance portfolio. Standardised media response processes and training. Digital strategy for student and employee engagement. Website refresh.

Presidential transition. Profile building of president. Transition activities (introductory meetings etc.) guided by the transition committee. President's studies of executive office configuration and collaboration, comparative tenure and promotion standards. President's visits to B.C. institutions and agencies. President's professional-development activities.

February 12, 2019

Honourable David Eby
Attorney General
PO Box 9044 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Re: BCLC Decisions and Concerns from the Kamloops Business Community

BCLC, our members, and the citizens of Kamloops have grown and prospered together over the last 34 years, with BCLC providing direct and indirect economic impacts to our community of approximately 1.1 billion dollars. Collectively, we take great pride in the partnerships between BCLC, our community groups and associations, and the deep cultural roots of our community. In many ways, we feel a strong kinship with the BCLC team and its standing as a valued part of our community. It is for this reason, and those that follow, that we wish to formally request a meeting with you to explore and discuss; the recent decision to halt the redevelopment/upgrading of the BCLC head office; to understand the long-term vision for the BCLC Kamloops presence, and to express our support for the BCLC presence in Kamloops.

The recent announcement regarding the cancellation of the BCLC Head Office redevelopment plan was a significant disappointment to the Kamloops business community. We, the signatories of this letter, are Business Associations and Organizations representing a common voice for 5,750 Kamloops and area businesses, representing approximately 57,000 employees.

Our collective concern over recent decisions include;

- the potential impact these decisions may have on the future of the BCLC head office remaining in Kamloops,
- impacts of perceived changes in BCLC structure (Board and Executive),
- operating practices or locational hiring preferences, as it was anticipated that the staffing at the BCLC Kamloops headquarters was projected to increase from approximately 450 to 700 within ten years, but only if more space was made available,
- and finally, a building assessment conducted in 2010 identified the need for BCLC to invest more than \$20 million to remedy significant workplace, structural, mechanical and electrical deficiencies.

We believe these concerns require discussion and clarification, and can be addressed in a way that maintains our continued vibrancy as a community and our positive relationship with BCLC.

We also believe that Kamloops provides the ideal conditions for a crown corporation, including fiscally responsible aspects of operation such as better land value, higher standards of living for your employees, greater access to geographical centers outside the lower mainland, and partnerships with community that yield exceptional and positive results.

We also believe the time is right for positive messaging regarding impacts of BCLC within our communities. We wish to work together to continue to enjoy a fruitful and mutually beneficial relationship with BCLC in Kamloops. Therefore, we request a formal meeting to discuss the BCLC partnership at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely Yours,

**Kamloops Chamber of Commerce –
Joshua Knaak, President**

**Kamloops Central Business Improvement
Association – Dino Bernardo, President**

**Kamloops Innovation Centre –
Matt DeFouw, Board Chair**

**Kamloops North Shore Business Improvement
Association – Bryce Herman, President**

**Kamloops And District Real Estate
Association, Doreen Quinton,
Board Chair**

**Thompson Rivers University
Jim Thomson, Board Chair**

**Venture Kamloops
Tony Ryan, President**

**Tourism Kamloops
Beverly DeSantis, Executive Director**

**Community Futures Thompson Country
Hal Hicks, Board Chair**

**CC: MLA Todd Stone,
MLA Peter Milobar,
Mr. Jim Lightbody, CEO & President, BCLC,
Mr. Peter Kappel, Chair – Board of Directors, BCLC**