

UNIVERSITY OF KING'S COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Executive Committee of the University of King's College Board of Governors met by Zoom teleconference on Thursday, September 16, 2021, at 12:04 p.m.

ATTENDING: Ms. Katrina BEACH (Treasurer); Dr. Sarah CLIFT (Vice-President); Dr. Gwendolyn DAVIES (Vice-Chair); Dr. Susan DODD (Faculty Representative); Mx. Jennifer GRAY (Secretary); Mr. Nick HARRIS (King's Students' Union President); Professor William LAHEY (President and Vice-Chancellor); Mr. Douglas RUCK, Q.C. (Chair); Mr. Ian WHYTOCK (Alumni Representative); Mr. Hugh WRIGHT (Diocesan Representative)

BY INVITATION: Ms. Adriane ABBOTT (Advancement Director); Ms. Julie GREEN (Registrar); Ms. Bonnie SANDS (Bursar)

REGRETS: Ms. Katie MERWIN (Dean of Students)

STAFF: Mx. Janet HATHAWAY (minutes)

At 12:03 p.m., the Chair called the meeting to order.

(2021:24) PRAYER

The Chair read the College Prayer.

(2021:25) NECROLOGY

The Secretary read the Necrology. A moment of silence was observed.

(2021:26) OPENING REMARKS – CHAIR

The Chair made brief remarks regarding changes to the meeting structure to ensure the efficiency of the Executive Committee meetings.

(2021:27) CONSENT AGENDA

A Consent Agenda addressing the following matters was circulated:

- a) Approval of Minutes of the meeting of June 17, 2021
- b) Approval of Minutes of the meeting of August 26, 2021
- c) Alumni Association Report
- d) Advancement Director's Report
- e) Bursar's Update
- f) Human Resources Update
- g) Tri-Bay Financing Update
- h) Registrar's Report

The Chair declared the consent agenda approved as presented for this meeting.

(2020:28) BUSINESS/DECISION ITEMS**a) ENROLMENT UPDATE**

The Registrar noted continued good news on the enrolment front. She reported there are 226 Foundation Year Program students, the best in six years, and King's is on track for an overall enrolment of 955 students as of Oct. 15. Everyone on campus is happy to be together again. The international student numbers are a little higher than anticipated and stability continues to be good. The Registrar advised that she would provide more information at the full Board meeting as the numbers will have stabilized by then. The Registrar also provided an update on the post-care tuition waiver for applicants.

b) REPORT ON RETURN OF STUDENTS

The Dean of Students was not present, so the Registrar reported that occupancy was 238 and there is a waiting list for Residence at present. There is reason to believe that number will hold.

c) 2021-2022 FINANCIAL UPDATE

The Bursar advised that the outlook for 2021-22 has improved for the two main reasons just discussed. There are 55 international students, while the budget assumed 42. There are an extra 21 students in Residence. This forecast assumed the University would lose eight students in fall from Residence, but there is a waitlist so this projection should turn out to be better.

The Bursar referred Board members to the meeting package for more detail and noted that overall, King's is looking at an operating surplus of \$518,000, an improvement of \$255,000.

d) DECISION ON EQUITY HIRES

The President reminded the Executive Committee members that the Board some years ago approved four equity hires. King's made two of those hires last year and the Board has approved two for next year. Through Faculty's Planning and Priorities Committee, there was a request to make three hires in the coming year, and the Board approved this proposal, subject to the President making a determination on financial prudence. The President advised that his decision is that hiring three additional faculty members this year is financially viable, on the understanding that they will contribute to the diversity of faculty.

e) PROPOSAL ON ACCESSIBILITY OFFICER

The President noted that he put this item in the business items as he wished to advise Board members that he has asked the Bursar to include the hiring of a full-time Accessibility Officer in the 2022-23 budget.

f) INDIGENOUS CEREMONIES POLICY

The Vice-President referred to the meeting package, where there was an outline of the policy. She noted that this has been in the works for a couple of years. It has been approved by the Equity Committee and reviewed by Catherine Martin, a member of the Board. This policy was introduced in a time-sensitive and ad hoc way in 2016, when the Humanities for Young People theme was Community and 25 percent of the students were Indigenous, and for a conference in 2019. This is follow-up and completion of a policy that has been in the works for some time.

(2021:29) PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President advised that he would provide a written report for the Board meeting, which will include the following items.

- King's is making good progress in conversations with the Mi'kmaw Education Authority (Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey) on creating a cohort of Mi'kmaw students in Journalism, including tuition waivers.
- With a full-time Equity Officer, the University is developing an EDAI Plan: Equity, Diversity, Accessibility, and Inclusion. Rhema Ferguson's work with KSU and others is designed to proceed in parallel with Faculty's work and others on EDAI. The University is set to go with developing an Accessibility Plan.
- The University is on the verge of developing a new Presidential Advisory Committee on Fundraising.
- Pending the Board's approval of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee's financing recommendation, King's will proceed with making Alexandra Hall accessible. Work will start next summer.
- The University is in the early stages of launching a feasibility process for determining how the building that is now the gymnasium can become a new gym, a new Journalism School, and can provide offices for those King's has hired to support members of the University community, and provide space for student groups and health and wellness that complements what is provided at Dalhousie.

(2021:30) KING'S STUDENTS' UNION REPORT

The KSU President gave the KSU report, noting how impressive it was that topics in the meeting today included items such as the University's Equity Officer, an Indigenous Ceremony Policy, and equity hires. It shows the incredible progress made over the past few years. This has been a post-COVID recommitment to values.

The KSU President advised that the Orientation Week theme this year was "Onward". It was about moving forward, coming together, and overcoming the barriers that were there in the past. It was a success.

Other things on the KSU radar:

- There is increased health coverage to make sure students have access to a mental health worker.
- The KSU is working in tandem with Advancement to plan a potential Alumni night in the Wardroom in October.
- In tandem with *The Watch* and the Racialized Students' Collective, King's is finally able to provide a dedicated space for racialized students on campus. That will be in the former Watch office, which will be moving to the former Peer Support Office in the main entrance of the A&A building.
- The KSU has focused on ensuring financial sustainability of the student-run businesses (the Wardroom and the Galley). The KSU put together a \$10,000 operational grant to make sure the businesses were operational. Both businesses have been very busy the past two weeks and there has been an increase in wages for employees in those businesses to \$15 per hour.

(2021:31) VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Vice-President reported that there have been Mi'kmaw language sessions provided for Faculty.

She advised that she has been working on the composition of the Accessibility Advisory Committee. The terms of reference are broad and say it must be 50% comprised of people who identify as having a

disability or representatives of organizations representing people with disabilities. Dean of Students Katie Merwin and the Vice-President are co-chairing that Committee. The Vice-President is meeting with people from Planning and Priorities to determine who the faculty representatives will be. This plan will need to be in place by April 2022.

The new Master of Fine Arts program in Fiction through what is now called the Journalism School (which will be undergoing a name change and a restructuring this academic year) has undergone a number of assessments, and that is continuing apace. The University hopes to start inviting applicants to that program as early as June 2022.

The University has completed the complex Carnegie hire, and Dr. Aaron Wright has started teaching.

The hiring process for the University Librarian is nearing completion, and there is hope that an announcement will be made in the next couple of weeks.

(2021:32) GOVERNANCE, HUMAN RESOURCES AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Secretary, as Chair of the Governance, Human Resources and Nominating Committee, noted she would have a written report for the Board meeting.

She reported that Adrienne Malloy was approved by the Committee to be a Co-opted Member of the Board. The Secretary is trying to confirm if Ms. Malloy will be a member of the Executive Committee, as Rosalie Courage had been.

The Secretary said she was working to increase Board membership on the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee.

She also spoke of educational resources around Truth and Reconciliation Day. Some work is being done to have material to circulate to the Board for purposes of self-education.

(2021:33) CAMPUS PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Wright, Chair of the Campus Planning Committee, reported that the Committee met last week and will have more of a presentation for the Board at its next meeting.

He noted Alexandra Hall accessibility renovations will be underway next summer pending Board approval. The reimagining and reconfiguration of the area that now contains the gymnasium into a Journalism School, administrative offices and gymnasium will be discussed by the Committee in mid-November.

(2021:34) OTHER BUSINESS

The President and Chair noted that this was Dr. Dodd's last Board meeting and both recognized her for her contributions to the Board over the years.

(2021:35) *IN CAMERA*

**MOTION: (Gray/Dodd) that the Board of Governors enter an *in camera* discussion.
CARRIED.**

The meeting moved to an *in camera* discussion at 12:38 p.m.

MOTION: (Gray/Beach) that the Board of Governors move out of the *in camera* discussion. CARRIED.

The meeting of the Board of Governors' Executive Committee was adjourned at 12:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Ruck

Jennifer Gray