



**Minutes of the OPEN Session of the  
Board of Governors  
January 31, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.**

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**Present:** L. Magnus, Vice-Chair  
J. Leclerc, Secretary

J. Anderson	M. Benarroch	A. Bindra	D. Brothers	K. Lee
A. Mahon	N. Murdock	K. Osiowy	J. Oyeyode	S. Prentice
V. Romero	J. Rykiss			

**Joining by Teleconference**

L. Hyde D. Roussin

**Regrets:**

C. Cook	J. DeSouza-Huletey	I. Fakankun	D. Finkbeiner	W. Lazarenko
A. Raizman	S. Sekander	J. Taylor	S. Woloschuk	

**Absent:**

S. Li

**Assessors:** M. Shaw

**Officials:** N. Andrew D. Hiebert-Murphy V. Koldingnes M. Pinto  
M. Watson

**Presenters:** R. Dupuis L. McKinley

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Vice-Chair acknowledged that the University of Manitoba is located on the original lands of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples and on the homeland of the Métis Nation, recognizing the treaties made on these lands and committing to resolving harms and mistakes of the past.

The Vice-Chair expressed her hope that the Board will continue to work together in a spirit of trust and collaboration to fulfill its fiduciary duties in the best interest of the University as a whole, always demonstrating the highest respect for each other, for students, faculty, and staff and the community the University serves.

The Vice-Chair welcomed everyone to the first Board meeting of the year. She shared that she and Ms. Hyde had the privilege of visiting the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation prior to the holiday break. She also reminded Board members that two significant areas will be considered during today's meeting, including the Southwood Development Plans as well as the recommendations for incorporating responsible investment principles at the University of Manitoba, aligning with the University's values, specifically relating to sustainability, integrity, and innovation.

## **FOR ACTION**

### **1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

It was moved by Mr. Rykiss and seconded by Ms. Lee:

**THAT the agenda for the January 31, 2023 meeting be approved as circulated.**

**CARRIED**

### **2. MINUTES (Open) Session**

- 2.1 Approval of the Minutes of the November 29, 2022 Open Session as circulated or amended.

It was moved by Dr. Prentice and seconded by Ms. Romero:

**THAT the minutes of the November 29, 2022 Open session be approved as circulated.**

**CARRIED**

- 2.2 Business Arising

There was no business arising from the minutes.

### **3. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- 3.1 Report of the Finance, Administration and Human Resources Committee

Ms. Lee noted that the Committee met on January 17<sup>th</sup> to consider three items for approval by the Board. She began by thanking Ms. Andrew and her team for the extensive work that went into preparing these materials.

In highlighting the specific areas within the committee report, Ms. Lee shared that the Board will continue to receive regular reporting on the Southwood Development project as it progresses.

With respect to the Responsible Investment Principles, Ms. Lee noted that most of the recommendations are consistent with what the University of Manitoba has already committed to and are in line with what other U15 universities are doing. In referring to the fourth

recommendation, *Divest from investments that violate the rights of Indigenous Peoples*, Ms. Lee shared the uniqueness of this recommendation noting that it supports the University of Manitoba's commitment to reconciliation. Ms. Lee also noted that the fifth recommendation, *Divest from investments in fossil fuel supply*, is currently only being implemented by 6 of the other U15 institutions, noting that alternatives to divestment were considered by the Responsible Investment Committee, the Investment Trust Committee, and the Finance, Administration and Human Resources Committee. She noted that impact on current research at the University of Manitoba was considered, sharing that recommendations that impact changes to the asset mix of the University Investment Trust are not expected to materially impact the risk adjusted return of the fund. Ms. Lee shared that the Committee received a detailed overview of resource requirements, adding that funding will be supplied by the University Investment Trust, and will not require further investment from the university's operating budget. She added that following the approval of these recommendations, a new policy will be developed and brought forward to the Board for consideration.

Ms. Lee shared that the Committee also considered the impact of the change in the spending rate of the University Investment Trust for both donors and students, adding that the current rate of 4.5% is higher than most peer universities that fall in the range of 4 – 4.25%. Ms. Lee shared that the concern for current students facing high inflation and safeguarding the financial sustainability of the fund capital for future students was considered. She noted that the past ten years of the University Investment Fund have been very strong, adding that the Committee discussed future planning should the market conditions change.

a) UM Properties – Southwood Development Plan

Ms. Lee shared that the Southwood lands were purchased by the University of Manitoba in 2008, with the University leasing this land to UM Properties GP Inc. (UM Properties), a separate legal entity responsible for the creation of the development plan. She noted that UM Properties is overseeing the development of the land, adding that the University of Manitoba is not involved in the land development, however the University will receive land lease revenue from UM Properties, and UM Properties will receive land lease revenue from land developers. She reminded Board members that the UM Properties Board of Directors includes representation from the University Board of Governors, currently Ms. Magnus. She shared that the Southwood Development Plan outlines essential features for developing the Southwood lands, and to ensure that the University's vision for these lands aligns with the University's planning and policies. She noted that the Committee received a detailed presentation on the Southwood Development Plan.

Ms. Andrew added that the Development Plan was a requirement within the property lease, which began in 2022 and spans over a five-year period. She noted that UM Properties is required to review these plans on an annual basis, and after five years a more thorough review will take place. Ms. Andrew shared that the University is represented on the Development Committee, who are responsible for ensuring that developers implement the development plan.

She invited Ms. Dupuis, Director of the Campus Planning Office, to present on the Southwood Development Plan.

Ms. Dupuis began by explaining that the Southwood Development Plan (the Plan) incorporates two UM Properties policies, the *Community Wellbeing and Sustainability Policy* and the *Design Policy*, both of which are directed by the vision and guiding principles of the U of M Visionary (re)Generation Master Plan (VRG Plan), to ensure alignment with the University's planning direction and policies. She shared that together, these policies will ensure a high-quality built environment, both indoors and outdoors, to create a complete community. Ms. Dupuis added that the policies outline a development concept that puts people first by prioritizing people over vehicles, adding that it protects the natural environment and wildlife and creates an innovative living lab environment, while establishing a strong sense of community belonging.

Ms. Dupuis indicated that the first component of the Development Plan is the vision framework, which builds on the campus vision contained in the VRG Plan, adding that the Development Plan incorporates the same six core planning principles including five Indigenous design principles. She highlighted the principle on *Sustainability* with the development to function as a living lab. She shared that this is critical in the development, with this space being adjacent to the University of Manitoba along with the ability to test technologies and learn from the development with built in renewable targets within the development plan.

Ms. Dupuis explained that the second component of the Development Plan is the Community Wellness and Sustainability Policy, noting that this policy is organized within five domains that expand upon the VRG Planning principles. She noted that in the sustainable development framework, community wellbeing is the combination of social, environmental, economic, cultural, and political conditions that are essential for communities to flourish and fulfill their potential. She added that these domains include indicators to provide both quantitative and qualitative measures for community development and that each indicator is associated with detailed metrics and actions to measure progress over time.

Ms. Dupuis noted that the actions define specific design features that contractors will apply to the land development, building development, or the end user lifestyle, noting that these actions are rated as either mandatory or aspirational. She explained that mandatory actions are essential for a healthy community and must be implemented by all developers in Southwood Circle, whereas aspiration actions contribute to a healthy community and provide benefits to the end users and are voluntary for developers in the current iteration of the policy to work within current market limits, while also encouraging innovation.

In referring to the third component of the Development Plan, the Design Policy, Ms. Dupuis explained that this policy defines architectural, landscape and building system criteria that will be applied to all designs and developments by UM Properties and third-party developers to ensure the highest quality urban design and placemaking outcomes. She noted that the Design

Policy establishes a consistent level of design excellence for development and provides guidance on how to achieve the desired outcomes of the plan vision for a complete community.

Ms. Dupuis concluded her presentation with a series of images that illustrate the community vision, including a walkable community, transparent building facades and activated streetscapes. In speaking on how the space will be built for Winnipeg winters, Ms. Dupuis explained that it will have wind and shadowing considerations and outdoor community play spaces, explaining that this vision includes urban activated Village Streets with engaging public streetscapes and mid-block connectors. She shared that the development celebrates the natural environment and provides public access to the riverfront, adding that the landscape plan will demonstrate leadership in Indigenous Planning and Design with Indigenous design elements incorporated throughout the development, especially the natural environment and public waterfront.

Mr. Rykiss asked about the narrow pathways in between the buildings, and whether considerations have been made regarding potential issues that could arise such as the inability to clear snow in those spaces. Ms. Dupuis noted that this would be an operational issue, adding that those streets would be privately owned and therefore services such as snow clearing can be hired privately and not relying on city services. She added that the rapid transit route would be owned by the city and would be a priority transportation route.

Dr. Prentice thanked Ms. Dupuis for the presentation and asked what protections may have been put into place regarding the risks associated with these spaces and buildings being so close to the river. Ms. Dupuis explained that as the land currently exists, the primary line of defense is University Crescent, explaining the development of lands will require that line of defense to move over to the river, noting the wide area of protection through those pathways. She explained that although it will not appear like a dike, there will be 2-foot dike built to meet the required line of defense to ensure land stabilization.

In response to a question, Ms. Dupuis explained that the entire development is a 40-year vision, with the completion of Phase 1 being a 15-to-20-year vision. Mr. Osiowy asked when offers to potential developers could begin. Ms. Dupuis noted that the beginning of that process is contingent on the approval of the Southwood Development Plan, following with the sub-leases with developers to gradually look at developing the land. She added that UM Properties will manage the roadway and infrastructure development while the individual developers will work on parcels and building construction.

Ms. Andrew explained that the next step is the development agreement, adding that UM Properties has now paid back the third-party loan with the University, which will facilitate the construction of infrastructure. She noted that meetings with developers will begin shortly with the likeliness of infrastructure development taking place this upcoming summer. Dr. Benarroch explained that the continuation of this work relies on this approval of the Development Plan, sharing that due process has taken place and that financing is in place for infrastructure

investment. He also noted that the UM Properties website will soon be introduced and shared with the university community.

Dr. Murdock asked whether there might be a market for Phase 1 developers. Ms. Dupuis noted that Mr. Greg Rogers, CEO of UM Properties, remains optimistic. Ms. Andrew agreed and reminded Board members that land development will be undertaken by UM Properties, not the University of Manitoba, adding that Mr. Rogers is confident that he can pull in qualified developers stressing not only the Development Plan but also the proximity of the land to the University.

Mr. Rykiss shared his concerns about the cost for students living so close to campus and questioned whether priorities might be given to those students who do have the means to live there. Dr. Benarroch reminded Board members that there is still a need for additional residence on campus and that plans are being developed to increase and upgrade residences, adding that this will supply more affordable housing for students. He shared that bridging the gap between the University of Manitoba and Pembina Highway will create an environment where people can move between residence, retail, and campus spaces without a vehicle. Mr. Rykiss encouraged considering the importance of cost-effective housing for students.

Dr. Shaw asked if there might be a required set number of affordability living units within this space. Ms. Andrew explained that this type of requirement would likely fall under zoning. Dr. Benarroch reminded Board members that the intention is to have mixed and variety of spaces, sharing that there are some unknowns as UM Properties has not yet gone to market. He added that the University has shared their goals, noting that there are priorities beyond profit.

Ms. Magnus thanked Ms. Dupuis for the presentation. She reminded Board members that the UM Properties Board of Directors will guide the development of this land, with Board members consisting of individuals with property development, legal and architectural backgrounds, and expertise. She noted that as representation from the University of Manitoba, Dr. Benarroch, Ms. Andrew, and Mr. Emslie are all members of the UM Properties Board of Directors, adding that the Board will be updated periodically, with certain matters that will require approval by the Board.

Dr. Benarroch thanked Ms. Dupuis and the work of her team, sharing the vision and significant and deep knowledge of the University of Manitoba.

It was moved by Dr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Rykiss:

**THAT the Board of Governors approves the Southwood Development Plan**

**CARRIED**

- b) Recommendations for Incorporating Responsible Investment Principles at the University

Ms. Lee shared that the Committee considered several recommendations for responsible investment principles at the University of Manitoba, including the adoption of a Responsible Investment Policy. She noted that many of these recommendations follow the development of the University's Sustainability Strategy, its signature on *Investing to Address Climate Change: A Charter for Canadian Universities and the Global Universities and Colleges Climate Letter*, as well as the establishment of the Responsible Investment Committee.

Ms. Andrew explained that the Trust Investment Committee is bringing forward ten recommendations regarding incorporating Responsible Investment Principles at the University of Manitoba, adding that these recommendations were developed in coordination with the Responsible Investment Committee. She shared that extensive consultation between both committees have taken place over the past two years, resulting in a comprehensive and effective set of recommendations that will advance responsible investment at the University, now and into the future.

In framing the discussion, Ms. Andrew spoke on the fiduciary duty of the Trust Investment Committee and the need to consider the financial risks and opportunities associated with climate change. She also noted the commitments that the University has already made with respect to responsible investment and reviewing best practices in Canadian universities, including other U15 institutions. Ms. Andrew shared the importance of the professional advice that the University receives from Mr. Lance McKinley, Director of Treasury Services, as this is an important aspect to ensuring that the University can implement the recommendations within the recommended timelines to prevent reputational risk.

Ms. Andrew provided an overview of ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) Investing, sharing that ESG factors are often interlinked with no one exhaustive list of examples. She noted that ESG factors can often be measured (e.g., employee turnover), and are difficult to assign a monetary value (e.g., cost of employee turnover). Ms. Andrew explained that there is currently no standardized approach to calculate or present ESG metrics, and that ESG and sustainability are often used interchangeably by companies to discuss similar concepts and topics, adding that ESG is the language of preference for investors. She explained that the UNPRI (United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment) defines responsible investment as a strategy and practice to incorporate ESG factors into investment decisions.

Ms. Andrew shared that the Responsible Investment Committee stressed the importance that responsible investment goes beyond ESG, adding that the University's responsibility as an investor is not only to assess and respond to material risk arising from ESG considerations, but to be aware of and act to mitigate or prevent human rights, social and environmental harms through the investment strategy.

Ms. Andrew shared that throughout the recommendations, the word "policy" is used to describe an investment philosophy or guiding principle, rather than a governing document. She added that that not all recommendations of the Responsible Investment Committee will fall within a

Board approved policy, as some will also fall within the Investment Policy Statement (IPS), future commitment and accountability and reporting frameworks.

In speaking on two of the University's commitments, Ms. Andrew spoke on the first being A *Climate Charter for Canadian Universities*, which most Canadian universities have signed. She shared that the University of Manitoba committed to adopt a responsible investing framework to guide investment decision-making, in line with recognized standards such as the UNPRI. She shared that the University has incorporated ESG factors into investment management practice and encourage active engagement with companies to foster disclosure of ESG (including climate) related risks. She noted that the Charter requires that the University regularly measure the carbon intensity of its investment portfolios and set meaningful targets for reduction over time, in addition to evaluating progress towards these objectives on a regular basis and publicly sharing the results of such assessments. Ms. Andrew added that it's also required that the University ensure that the performance evaluation of our investment managers considers their success in achieving such objectives, alongside the other criteria for assessing their performance.

Ms. Andrew provided an overview of the second commitment, the *Race to Zero for Universities and Colleges*:

- *Pledge*: pledge at the head-of-organization level to reach (net) zero GHGs as soon as possible, and by mid-century at the latest.
- *Plan*: Within 12 months of joining, explain what actions will be taken toward achieving both interim and longer-term pledges, especially in the short- to medium-term.
- *Proceed*: Take immediate action toward achieving (net) zero, consistent with delivering interim targets specified.
- *Publish*: Commit to report publicly both progress against interim and long-term targets, as well as the actions being taken, at least annually.

Ms. Andrew explained that many other U15 institutions have specific policies with respect to ESG and responsible investing or incorporating those into their general investment practices. She noted that 6 of the U15 institutions have signed on to Divest Canada, which is the commitment to divest from companies involved in the extraction, processing, and transportation of fossil fuels and ensure all funds are re-allocated by 2025, adding that some institutions have committed to 2030. She shared that this is also to initiate divestment campaigns from other harmful industries.

Ms. Andrew noted that the recommendations set out in detail within the Board submission and report are the result of much time, effort, and energy from the Responsible Investment Committee. She reminded Board members that most of the recommendations are consistent with what the University has already agreed to do by signing on to the climate change charter, adding that the recommendations are mainly in line with what other U15 universities are already



doing, or have committed to do in the future. Ms. Andrew shared that the fourth recommendation, to divest from investments that violate the rights of Indigenous Peoples, is unique to the University of Manitoba, and supports the University's commitment to reconciliation. She also referred to the fifth recommendation, with divestment from all direct investments in fossil fuel supply by 2024 and indirect investment by 2030 at the latest, noting that the University of Manitoba will be seen as a leader on these recommendations.

Ms. Andrew concluded by acknowledging the work of the University and the various offices and committees, adding that although this work may not be visible, it has laid a solid foundation to continue moving forward. She also noted that the University's endowment fund has a relatively low allocation to fossil fuels supply, only currently making up 2.7% of the entire fund. She explained that the University has measured the carbon emissions of equity investment, which are lower than most peer institutions. She shared her confidence in maintaining a relatively clean portfolio while meeting investments.

Ms. Andrew shared that next steps are to report on the work of the Responsible Investment Committee, to adopt a Board-approved Responsible Investment Policy, revising the Investment Policy Statement of the Trust and Investment Committee, and to create a reporting framework and website with information and resources for the community. She shared that she looks forward to working with the Responsible Investment Committee on these initiatives moving forward. She thanked Dr. Prentice for her work on the Responsible Investment Committee as a representative of the Board of Governors, and invited Mr. Lance McKinley, Director of Treasury Services to speak.

Mr. McKinley shared that he is a member on both the Responsible Investment Committee and the Trust and Investment Committees, sharing that the recommendations brought forward are a comprehensive list of best practices, bring the University to sit on par or even ahead of other peer institutions. He noted that much work already taken place, and in looking to be more active with shareholders, signing up with a shareholder advocacy group called SHARE.

Mr. McKinley explained that the next step following the already completed measurement of the carbon intensity of the University's portfolio is to set targets of where the University wants to be. In referring to part one of the recommendations, he noted that this is to make impact investments, sharing that the University has made a \$45-million investment into the Brookfield Global Transition fund, which is a \$15-billion fund that has gained a lot of traction in that each investment they make is either business or infrastructure that will reduce carbon. He added that the University has made a large commitment to carbon reduction, adding that the University has made about 15 investments from North America to Europe to date.

Mr. McKinley shared while there will be some challenges, each of these recommendations are achievable and align with the University's commitment to sustainability and climate change. In noting the 2.7% of the University's endowment fund that is currently allocated to fossil fuels, he shared that there will be very little risk on return profile. Mr. McKinley shared that this will be

embraced by the stakeholders of this fund, or university donors, as well as the university community. Mr. McKinley shared that his office recently added a full-time investment manager, with the primary role to review responsible investing. He shared that this is a large learning experience for the University, adding that the University is committed to implementing these changes to responsible investment for the betterment of the University of Manitoba.

Dr. Prentice shared that it has been a great opportunity to be a member of the Responsible Investment Committee, underscoring the importance of the way the Committee considers ESG in a holistic approach and providing cutting edge contributions from the learning that takes place.

In response to a question, Mr. McKinley explained that the cost for salary and benefits within the budget resource requirements includes the hiring of an investment manager as well as a position reclassification. He also shared that the Bloomberg subscription is a fantastic tool that provides a wealth of knowledge on ESG and noted that MSCI ESG Consulting measures the University's carbon emissions for its equity portfolios.

Ms. Andrew confirmed that the Board's approval of the first recommendation would be approving the development of the policy based on each recommendation. She noted that some recommendations will form Board approved policies, while others will be incorporated within the Investment Policy Statement, which governs the decision making of the Trust and Investment Committee and embedded within the structure.

It was moved by Ms. Lee and seconded by Mr. Osiowy:

**THAT the Board of Governors approves the following recommendations of the Trust Investment Committee (TIC) as further described in Part 1 of the Report on Recommendations for Incorporating Responsible Investment Principles at the University (Attachment 1):**

- 1. Adopt a Responsible Investment Policy:**
  - a. This overarching policy should apply to investments overseen by the TIC, notably the University Investment Trust (Endowment Fund).
  - b. It should also apply to investments overseen by the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Treasury Office, notably the Specific and Capital Trust Investments; Operating Investments; Mineral Rights Royalties; and Staff Benefit Investments, in consultation with Staff Benefits Committee.
  - c. The policy should integrate environmental, social and governance factors into the investment programs of the University.
- 2. Exercise active ownership through actions such as improving proxy voting delegated to external investment managers; undertaking direct engagement with external investment managers and companies where practical and effective; and joining coalition(s) with investors with similar fiduciary responsibilities.**

3. **Commit to a minimum allocation to investments that will advance positive social and environmental changes while still seeking financial returns.**
4. **Divest from investments that violate the rights of Indigenous Peoples:**
  - a. The University should divest from assets whose business practices demonstrably violate the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
  - b. The University should develop criteria that would indicate a violation of these rights, to determine if divestment is warranted.
  - c. For direct investments, the University should establish procedures to address violations of these rights prior to making the decision to divest.
  - d. Where the University has investments in funds that it does not have direct control over, it should actively engage with the investment manager to eliminate the equity holding within the pooled fund. The University should also request that its shareholder engagement service address the issue with the company. Should these efforts fail to affect change, we recommend that the University look to investing these assets in a more suitable investment fund.
5. **Divest from investments in fossil fuel supply:**
  - a. The University should make no new direct investments in fossil fuel supply from 2023 forward.
  - b. The University should divest from all direct investment in fossil fuel supply companies by 2024.
  - c. The University should divest from indirect investment in fossil fuel supply by 2030 at the latest.
  - d. The University should define fossil fuel supply as a company involved in the exploration, extraction, and/or refining of fossil fuels (oil, natural gas, and coal).
6. **Become a signatory to the United Nations Principles of Responsible Investing (UNPRI) by September 2023.**
7. **Track and report on carbon emissions from investments.**
8. **Disclose investment risks and exposures through the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) by 2025.**
9. **Carry out due diligence in line with the recommendations of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)'s Responsible Business Conduct for Institutional Investors by 2025.**
10. **The University should dedicate resources that support these important recommendations and initiatives.**

**CARRIED**

Dr. Benarroch thanked Mr. McKinley and all members of the Responsible Investment Committee for their tremendous work throughout this entire process.

- c) University Investment Trust Spending Rate for 2023-2024

Ms. Lee shared that the Committee considered the recommendation from the Trust Investment Committee to return the spending rate of the University Investment Trust (endowment fund) to 4.25% for 2023-2024, adding that each year, this rate reviewed in accordance with the Investment Policy Statement.

Ms. Andrew added that this recommendation is based on lower investment returns over the last five years in addition to the expected challenges in upcoming years. She shared that the recommended spending rate of 4.25% remains at par or ahead of many peer institutions.

Dr. Benarroch shared that the decision to moderately decrease the spending rate now was to secure the higher likelihood of continuing the same spending rate in the future and not requiring further reduction.

In response to the question, Mr. McKinley shared that although this would be a reduction of about 5 million dollars, he noted that the University has been very successful in fundraising with a 45% increase for student awards support over the last five years.

It was moved by Ms. Lee and seconded by Dr. Brothers:

**THAT the Board of Governors approves decreasing the spending rate of the University Investment Trust (endowment fund) from 4.50% to 4.25% for fiscal 2023/2024.**

**CARRIED**

The Vice-Chair thanked Mr. McKinley for attending and speaking to items, and Mr. McKinley left the meeting.

#### **4. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **4.1 Request for temporary suspension of admissions to the Master of Dentistry in Pediatric Dentistry, Dr. Gerald Niznick College of Dentistry, for 2023-2024**

Dr. Benarroch reminded Board members that this request was also shared with members of Senate, noting that the Master of Dentistry in Pediatric Dentistry is a very small graduate program. He shared that there have been difficulties in filling academic positions and at this time, the unit cannot support current students in addition to taking in new incoming graduate students. Dr. Benarroch explained that this request is for a one-year suspension to allow the unit to fill these support positions and provide support to the students currently enrolled in the program. He recognizes this situation is not ideal, but the intent is to ensure that current students can be supported effectively as they continue through their program.

Mr. Rykiss asked about the long-term effects of suspending admissions, and if there might be any plans in place to increase admission numbers within this program once this suspension can be released. Dr. Benarroch noted that he is not aware of any changes to admission numbers, noting that a small number of students (2 – 3) are admitted each year. He shared that while a

temporary suspension such as this could potentially cause students to study elsewhere, the same could occur from poor student experience in an understaffed program. He shared that there should not be any long-term impacts on this temporary suspension, adding that the intention is to focus on students experience for students currently enrolled in this program, as this is a very specialized program.

In speaking on the health sector crisis across the country, Ms. Hyde asked if the University has a broader strategy in ensuring that the University can continue to offer training within the health sector. She also asked how this temporary suspension might be perceived, particularly with the large and well-known need for health professionals. Dr. Benarroch shared that the University does have plans in place, and while there are a variety of reasons why requests for temporary suspensions are received, he explained that in smaller specialized programs, often when just one clinician leaves it can take quite some time to find a replacement, which is the current situation for the Master of Dentistry in Pediatric Dentistry program. He reminded Board members that this situation does not mean that the services and education cannot be provided to the current students, adding that the province will begin to expend areas within the health sector. Dr. Hiebert-Murphy added that recruitment within dentistry is difficult overall, particularly with competition of salaries in specialized areas, adding that there is a high demand within the community.

#### 4.2 Update to Annual Board and Committee meeting schedule

Mr. Leclerc shared that as the revised Board Committee structure continues to be implemented, based on feedback received from Board members, the proposal is to hold five business meetings of the Board of Governors annually, in addition to two workshops and any other sessions offered throughout the year. He noted that Committees would meet within the five meeting cycles, and the timing of some of the committee meetings has been adjusted and will continue to be adjusted as the new model is implemented.

Mr. Leclerc explained that the Board workshops will allow Board members to engage in more timely strategic discussions. He noted that the workshop in mid-September will provide an opportunity for the President to speak to the year ahead, and for Board members to set annual priorities of the Board of Governors, adding that this new structure seeks to ensure that Board members' time during these meetings and workshops are used most effectively and efficiently. The Vice-Chair explained that the Board workshops will be held in mid-September as this is the beginning of the academic year, and in January/February as a mid-year workshop. Mr. Leclerc reminded Board members of the upcoming Board UM Strategic Planning Consultation Session on Thursday, March 2, 2023.

Ms. Hyde thanked Mr. Leclerc and his team, noting that she is excited that this will provide added focus to the Board and the opportunity for more strategic discussions.

## 5. UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Dr. Prentice and seconded by Chancellor Mahon:

**THAT the Board of Governors approve and/or receive for information the following:**

**THAT the Board of Governors approve the Report of the Senate Committee on Awards (dated October 25, 2022).**

**THAT the Board of Governors approve:**

- A. Report of the Senate Committee on Awards (dated November 15, 2022)
- B. Proposal for a Master of Art in Art and Architectural History, School of Art

**The Board received for information/consultation the following:**

- Request for temporary suspension of admissions to the M.Dent. in Pediatric Dentistry, for 2023-2024
- Update to Annual Board of Governors Meeting Schedule
- Increase to Admission Target, Bachelor of Respiratory Therapy, College of Rehabilitation Sciences
- Increase to Admission Target, Bachelor of Midwifery, College of Nursing

## MOTION TO MOVE TO CLOSED AND CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

It was moved by Dr. Murdock and seconded by Mr. Rykiss:

**THAT the meeting move into Closed and Confidential Session.**

**CARRIED**

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Chair

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University Secretary