



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Governors
Open Session
April 24, 2007

The meeting was held at 4:00 p.m. in Room 160, Extended Education Complex.

Present: T. Sargeant, Chair
J. Leclerc, Secretary

J. Anderson	W. Anderson	J. Charles	E. Gordon
R. Gotthilf	S. Hennessey	J. Hoskins	H. Milan
S. Narine	W. Norrie	S. Reddy	D. Ruth
J. Simons	G. Sran	T. Strutt	E. Szathmáry
S. Van Schie	D. Ward		

Assessors Present:

M. Gallant	M. Steeds	J. Whiteley
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Officials Present:

E. Goldie	C. Keachie	R. Kerr	J. Keselman
D. McCallum			

Regrets:

A. Black	J. Lederman
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Absent:

D. Ames	R. Dhalla
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1. Announcements

Dr. Norrie expressed his appreciation to the students involved in organizing the memorial service in memory of the victims of the shootings at Virginia Technical University. He commented that the ceremony was very well done and that the students did an excellent job arranging the ceremony.

2. Minutes

2.1 Open Minutes

It was noted that page 2, 1st paragraph, last line should be revised to read, "....necessarily about

University debt and the **data** are not readily available." It was also noted that item #4.2, page 2, 2nd paragraph, 2nd line, the last word in the sentence, "from" should be deleted. Page 3, 1st paragraph, 3rd line should be revised to read, "He commented **that the proposed increase** is below the average for the last 5 years." Page 3, 2nd paragraph, 4th line should be revised to read, ".....which is newer but has a mortgage, are very old and have a tremendous amount of deferred maintenance problems." Page 5, Item #8.1, 1st paragraph, 4th line down should be revised to read, "Mrs. McCallum responded that she noted **for** the instances of smoking marijuana there seem to be a range of penalties." Page 5, Item #8.1, 3rd paragraph, 1st line should be revised to read, ".....was a letter to Dr. Szathmáry from **Dr.** Ruth Berry, Chair of the University Discipline Committee." Page 6, 2nd paragraph, 4th line from the bottom should be revised to read, "....appeal **ended up** getting suspended from the faculty for one year.....". Page 6, 2nd paragraph, 2nd last line should be revised to read, "Mr. Ward wondered **if** there were any inquiries made about this particular incident." Page 6, 5th paragraph, 3rd line should be revised to read, "....in 2003-2004 where in that year 3.4% of the entire student population was guilty of some type of inappropriate behaviour or dishonesty." Page 7, 1st paragraph, last line should be revised to read, "....that both individuals had their signatures on **Canada's** dollar bill for a time during the 1950's." Page 7, 2nd paragraph, 3rd line from the bottom should be revised to read, "....have resulted in the production of companies that were created."

It was moved by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Reddy:

THAT the minutes of the March 20, 2007 Open Session meeting be approved as corrected.

CARRIED

2.2 Business Arising

Dr. Szathmáry noted that a question was raised at a previous Board meeting with respect to the debt load of students in the Faculty of Law given that the surcharge that law students pay has been in place for the past several years. With reference to the students in the Faculty of Law, Dr. Szathmáry noted that the student loans prior to any adjustment for bursaries or scholarships or other awards for the years 2003/04 to 2005/06 decreased from \$22,294, to \$16,616. After students received scholarships and bursaries, the debt load decreased from \$15,516 to \$11,391 and the number of Faculty of Law students receiving Manitoba Student Aid also decreased from 23 to 15.

Ms. Gallant asked if the amount of debt referred to by Dr. Szathmáry refers only to public loans and not private debt such as credit card debt. Dr. Szathmáry responded that the only information that University has access to is related to public student aid, and that private loans are not included.

3. From Executive Committee - none
4. From Academic Affairs Committee - none
5. From Finance and Administration Committee
- 5.1 Engineering Tuition Fee Surcharge

Ms. Gotthilf spoke to a document that was produced by a group called, "Engineers Against Tuition Hikes" (EAT Hikes). She noted that during the referendum, this group had several

concerns over their ability to effectively discuss their concerns about the referendum. She noted that EAT Hikes had concerns over what they perceived as a rushed process. Ms. Gotthilf noted that EAT Hikes had concerns over faculty involvement in the referendum; for example, one faculty member played a video in his classroom supporting the "yes" campaign. Ms. Gotthilf commented that EAT Hikes was concerned about incidents of harassment and intimidation during the referendum process. She also noted that the group filed an appeal as they felt the referendum results were not valid. Ms. Gotthilf commented that the person EAT Hikes filed the appeal with was an Associate Dean in accordance with the bylaws governing student referenda in Engineering. However, Ms. Gotthilf stated that as the proposal originated from Dean Ruth's office, EAT Hikes felt that it was a conflict of interest for the Associate Dean to present a ruling on this appeal.

Dr. Hoskins commented that the document referred to by Ms. Gotthilf was distributed to members of the Finance and Administration Committee at its meeting of April 10, 2007. She also noted that it was discussed at considerable length. Dr. Szathmáry noted that there was a thorough discussion on the legality of the referendum and the terms of reference under which it was held. She commented that the referendum followed in every instance the rules and procedures set by the University of Manitoba Engineering Students' Society. She noted that since the referendum, the allegations of harassment during the campaign have been investigated and concluded.

Dr. Ruth noted that there were seven complaints filed after the referendum was completed. He mentioned that the majority of complaints were regarding statements made during the referendum from one student to another student. Dr. Ruth indicated that with the exception of one case, the persons who made the statements were not identified. However, the person who was identified was told during the referendum to refrain from those types of actions. Dr. Ruth commented that the one activity that was identified and investigated further was regarding four students tearing down campaign posters, which was captured on video. Subsequently, Dr. Ruth interviewed the student and imposed a penalty of community service; all four students involved in the incident complied with the penalty. He indicated that all the instances brought to his attention were investigated to the fullest extent possible and action was taken when appropriate.

Dr. Ruth also noted there was a complaint that he personally was involved in the referendum favouring the "yes" side. He indicated that this allegation was addressed during the campaign. Dr. Ruth commented that he felt it was very difficult being the author of the request for an increase in tuition and not appear to be on the "yes" side. Dr. Ruth noted that on several occasions he attempted to make this clear, in addition to expressing the fact that he was available to provide information to both sides of the campaign. Regarding the allegation that a faculty member was involved in the campaign, Dr. Ruth indicated that this was true. However, he indicated that there was the implication made that this faculty member used the involvement to unduly pressure students. Dr. Ruth felt there was no point at which the campaign became out of hand nor were students intimidated. He did not feel that faculty members pressured students during the campaign.

Regarding the Manitoba Government's criteria for increasing tuition, Mr. Hennessey referenced page 9 of the agenda which states, "that the higher tuition or other proposed fees would not have adverse effects on accessibility to the program in question." Mr. Hennessey asked if there is any way to evaluate this indication. Dr. Szathmáry responded that the University of Manitoba will honour the specific items guaranteed to the students involved in the vote. She noted there

is a specific sum that is going to be used for bursaries for students in the Faculty of Engineering. Mr. Hennessey asked if there is a possibility for increased enrollment due to the assistance of the bursary funding. Dr. Ruth responded that there is a possibility for selected increase in enrollment if students decide to enroll into certain departments. Mr. Hennessey asked if there was a possibility of a decrease in enrollment. Dr. Ruth responded that he is expecting to see a significant increase in enrollment next year because the demand in the job market is increasing. He noted that currently the Faculty of Engineering provides \$60,000 in bursaries per year. Dr. Ruth indicated that if the tuition fee surcharge is approved, any student who is currently receiving bursaries will have their tuition fee increase covered. He noted that the expectation is that more bursary support will go towards students who are financially challenged.

Mr. Hennessey referenced page 10, 2nd paragraph of the agenda material, "that the field of study for which the exception was being requested was one in which it was clear that graduation rates were high and that the average earned income of graduate, shortly after graduation, was also high in order to have sufficient funds to pay their student loans that could be required to pay the increased tuition." He asked if the rate of pay for engineers in Manitoba is lower than other provinces, and if undergraduate tuition fees are increased, will this not prompt graduates to go to provinces. Dr. Szathmáry felt that this would not occur, as even after a tuition fee increase, the University of Manitoba's tuition fees are still significantly lower than they are at other Canadian Universities.

Mr. Hennessey asked if the University of Manitoba has considered working with the Manitoba Government to have businesses in Manitoba assist in keeping current students or recent graduates in the province. Dr. Szathmáry responded that the Government of Manitoba has initiated a tax credit program for those graduates who choose to remain in Manitoba whereby graduates can claim up to 60% of their tuition.

Ms. Gallant referenced the Faculty of Law's increase in tuition fees several years ago. She noted that there was a commitment to report to the Board on a number of follow-up items. Ms. Gallant asked what kind of data will be tracked from the Engineering Tuition Fee Surcharge and will similar reports from the Faculty of Engineering come forward to the Board regarding the impact of the fee change. Dr. Ruth responded that the intention is to track where the money will be spent; any impact on enrollment will be provided for the information of the Board. Dr. Ruth also noted that the Faculty of Engineering will submit a report annually to the Board in a similar fashion to that of the Faculty of Law.

Ms. Gotthilf noted that not all students are eligible for Manitoba Student Aid due to a number of factors. She felt it would be unwise to assume that every student who requires a bursary will be eligible to receive a bursary. Ms. Gotthilf commented that she is aware of students who have accrued large personal debt due to their inability to access the bursary funding.

Mr. Ward felt that it is a dangerous practice for faculty to be seen to be participating in debates of this nature because even though there is no intention of intimidation, there is the perception that they are in a position of authority over a student. Mr. Ward felt this could result in a faculty member being accused of using their position of influence to intimidate a student. Dr. Szathmáry responded that under the rules and procedures for the conduct of referendums, faculty are entitled to participate.

Ms. Charles commented that as a student in the Faculty of Law who began paying the tuition

fee surcharge in its first year of implementation, she is impressed with the fact that the Faculty of Engineering students voted to increase their own tuition rather than grand-fathering themselves. She also noted that no matter what the profession, people will leave Manitoba for various reasons other than for monetary reasons.

It was moved by Dr. Hoskins, seconded by Mr. Anderson:

THAT the Board of Governors approve the implementation of the Engineering tuition fee surcharge (\$40 per credit hour for courses taught by the Faculty of Engineering and \$17 per credit hour for courses taught by the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences Department of Biosystems Engineering) as supported by Engineering students through the 2007 Engineering Tuition Surcharge Referendum.

CARRIED

5.2 Interim Operating Budget

It was moved by Dr. Hoskins, seconded by Dr. Norrie:

THAT the Board of Governors authorize interim spending guidelines based on 98% of the current 2006-2007 baseline operating budget from April 1, 2007 until the Board of Governors approves the 2007-2008 budget.

CARRIED

5.3 Student Referendum: Faculty of Pharmacy

Mr. Sran asked if students receive a donation receipt for their contributions. Mrs. Goldie responded students receive a tax credit because these fees are considered part of tuition fees.

It was moved by Dr. Hoskins, seconded by Mr. Ward:

THAT the Board of Governors approve a \$2.94 per credit hour contribution (approximate donation of \$100 per student) be assessed against the students from the Faculty of Pharmacy for one year commencing September, 2007.

CARRIED

5.4 Student Referendum: Landscape Architecture Students' Association

It was moved by Dr. Hoskins, seconded by Mr. Ward:

THAT the Board of Governors approve a \$60 per year student contribution be assessed against students in the Landscape Architecture Students' Association in the Faculty of Architecture for the next three years effective September, 2007.

CARRIED

5.5 Student Referendum: Faculty of Medicine

It was moved by Dr. Hoskins, seconded by Mr. Ward:

THAT the Board of Governors approve a \$100 per year contribution be assessed against the Manitoba Medical Students' Association students for four years commencing September, 2007.

CARRIED

5.6 Student Fee - University of Manitoba Recycling and Environmental Group (UMREG)

It was moved by Dr. Hoskins, seconded by Ms. Van Schie:

THAT the Board of Governors increase the University of Manitoba Recycling and Environmental Group (UMREG) levy by \$0.50 (for a total of \$2.50 for the regular session) as requested by students through the means of a referendum.

CARRIED

6. FROM AD HOC GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

6.1 Proposal to revise the structure of Board of Governors Committees

Ms. Steeds asked if there would be an opportunity for a support staff representative to sit on the Finance, Administration, and Human Resources Committee. Mr. Leclerc responded that past practice has been that assessors (including the support staff assessor) have served on the Executive Committee but not on the other standing committees. Mr. Sargeant indicated that it is open for recommendation to the Executive and Governance Committee for future consideration.

It was noted that page 49 of the agenda material, last line should be revised to read, ".....or if the timing requires action by the Executive and Governance Committee....."

It was moved by Ms. Van Schie, seconded by Mr. Ward:

THAT the Board of Governors approve a new Committee structure and terms of reference, as presented, effective for the 2007-2008 Board year.

CARRIED

6.2 Board of Governors meeting rule updates with regard to Board Assessors

Mr. Sran spoke against this motion. He felt that the UMSU Assessors have brought a different perspective to the table. Mr. Sran felt the assessor position has been helpful in providing input to the Board of Governors. Mr. Hennessey noted that he could not support a motion that removes a student member from the Board. He felt that removing this position potentially limits accessibility for Aboriginal students to participate in the governance of the University.

It was moved by Mr. Ward, seconded by Ms. Van Schie:

THAT the Board of Governors approve revisions to the provisions for Board Assessors to read as follows:

Assessors

1. The University of Manitoba Faculty Association may appoint from time to time in relation to the Board and Executive and Governance Committee a person called an assessor, and a person called an alternate assessor.
2. The Support Staff of the University shall elect from time to time in relation to the Board

and Executive and Governance Committee a person called an assessor and a person called an alternate assessor.

3. Assessors and alternate assessors are designated by the Board of Governors in an effort to provide perspectives and insights not otherwise available to the Board of Governors.
4. In relation to meetings of the Board and Executive and Governance Committee, an assessor shall have the same rights and obligations as a member of the Board and Executive and Governance Committee, except that an assessor may not make or amend motions, or vote.
5. In the absence of an assessor from any meeting, the alternate assessor shall have, in relation to that meeting, the same rights and obligations as the absent assessor would have had if present.
6. The assessors and alternate assessors shall not be members of their respective bargaining unit's bargaining teams and shall be excluded from attendance during deliberations of the Board relating to labour relations between the University and any other union or employee group, and shall not receive any information relating to such deliberations.

CARRIED

The Board of Governors received the following items for information:

11.1 President's Report

Dr. Szathmáry augmented her report highlighting several issues. She noted that the Government of Manitoba has allocated the largest amount of support it has ever allocated to universities and colleges when the Provincial Budget was tabled on April 4, 2007. Dr. Szathmáry informed the Board there will be a 7% increase overall in operating funds to the Council on Post-Secondary Education (COPSE). Dr. Szathmáry commented that in the 2006 Budget, the Province of Manitoba allocated a 5.8% increase and made a commitment for a 5% increase in each of the next two years. Dr. Szathmáry reminded the Board that the Government grant only provides 56% of the operating budget of the University of Manitoba. She also noted that the total operating grant to the University for the 2007-2008 year is \$237,576,100.

Dr. Szathmáry noted that following individuals will be receiving honorary degrees during Spring, 2007 Convocation: Mr. Bruce Campbell, The Honourable Sharon Carstairs, Mr. Victor Davies, Mr. Joe Fafard, Mr. Hubert Gauthier, Her Excellency Michaëlle Jean, Mr. Stephen Lewis, and Dr. Mel Wiebe. Dr. Szathmáry also noted that Development and Advancement Services has reported that total funds raised for 2006-2007 is \$24,760,787.

Mr. Sargeant asked Dr. Szathmáry to provide the Board with information regarding the University of Manitoba security measures in light of the recent incident at Virginia Technical University. Dr. Szathmáry responded that there is a plan in place. She noted that the Winnipeg Police Service had previously approached the University of Manitoba for use of the campus to administer a "test-run" of security measures for such incidents. Mrs. McCallum noted that an Emergency Response Coordinator has been hired at the University of Manitoba who is

overseeing the development of the emergency response plans and policies and procedures. She further commented that there is already an over-riding plan in place, but it needs further development to become more of an operational plan. Mrs. McCallum noted that part of this plan will involve expanding the current fire warden program. Mrs. McCallum also informed the Board that the biggest challenge with the emergency plan is communication; blanket emails can be sent to staff and students, blanket telephone messages, but the challenge is that not everyone looks at their email throughout the day, as was demonstrated at Virginia Tech. Mrs. McCallum noted that one of the responsibilities of the Emergency Response Coordinator is to develop a more effective way of communicating messages across campus.

11.2 Report of the UMSU President

Mr. Sran noted that May 1st will bring the UMSU Executive change over. He wanted to thank Ms. Gotthilf for her work on the Board and at UMSU. Mr. Sran commented that UMSU has recently completed, "U-File" which is a free tax service offered to students. He mentioned that the program employed students to assist other students to complete the filing of their tax returns. Mr. Sran also indicated that IQ's would be open 24 hours a day during the exam period for the convenience of students studying. He also thanked the University of Manitoba for the support received regarding the Virginia Technical University Memorial. Mr. Sran invited members of the Board to sign a book of condolences which was located in the UMSU Office, 101 University Centre.

Mr. Sargeant thanked Ms. Gotthilf for her contributions as a member of the Board and a number of Committees during the past year.

Motion to Move to Closed and Confidential Session

It was moved by Ms. Van Schie, seconded by Dr. Ruth:

THAT the Board of Governors move into Closed and Confidential session.

CARRIED

Motion to Adjourn

It was moved by Dr. Norrie, seconded by Dr. Hoskins:

THAT the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED

Chair

University Secretary