



**Minutes of the OPEN Session of the
Board of Governors
Held by Web Conference on March 22, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.**

Present: L. Hyde, Chair
J. Leclerc, Secretary

M. Benarroch	J. DeSouza-Huletey	E. Kalo	K. Lee	J. Lieberman
L. Magnus	A. Mahon	T. Matthews	K. Osioy	L. Reimer
B. Scott				

Attending via Zoom

J. Anderson	N. Brigg	D. Brothers	A. Drummond	N. Mogan
N. Murdock	S. Prentice	A. Raizman	S. Sekander	J. Taylor

Assessors: M. Shaw S. Woloschuk

Officials: N. Andrew C. Cook M. Emslie S. Foster
D. Hiebert-Murphy D. Jayas V. Koldingnes M. Sabourin

Presenters: Don Stewart David Ness Arlana Vadnais

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for a motion to move to *in camera* session with the President.

It was moved by Dr. Reimer and seconded by Mr. Lieberman:
THAT the meeting move to in camera session with the President.

CARRIED

It was moved by Dr. Reimer and seconded by Ms. DeSouza-Huletey:
THAT the meeting move to OPEN Session.

CARRIED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair began the meeting by acknowledging that the University of Manitoba is located on the original lands of the Anishinabeeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples and on the homeland of the Métis Nation.

The 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 Chair noted that this would be the first hybrid board meeting, with both in-person and remote attendance; a significant milestone after facing together the past two extraordinary and challenging years of the pandemic. She thanked everyone for their perseverance and steadfast commitment to the University over the last two years.

The Chair noted that this would be the last regular meeting for Mr. Scott, outgoing UMSU President, and for Ms. Kalo, outgoing UMSU Vice-President (Advocacy) and thanked them for their leadership and their commitment to the Board of Governors and the University. She noted that this would be the first in-person Board meeting since Dr. Benarroch assumed his role in July 2020 as the 12th President of the University of Manitoba. She commented that he had hit the ground running, leading the University throughout the pandemic; a remarkable accomplishment that many of us could never imagine. She added that Dr. Benarroch's leadership empowered and motivated his team and the entire organization to pivot numerous times, always forging ahead with insight, foresight, and energetic collaboration in a positive way during this historic time. She thanked President Benarroch and formally welcomed him to the University.

FOR ACTION

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Ms. DeSouza-Huletey and seconded by Dr. Reimer:

THAT the agenda for the March 22, 2022 meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

2. PRESENTATION: Mental Health and Wellness

The Chair said she was very pleased about the presentation on mental health and wellness at the University. She said this is a priority area for the Board, as it is for the University. She welcomed Don Stewart, Executive Director, Student Support; David Ness, Director, Student Counseling Centre, and Arlana Vadnais, Employee Wellness Specialist and Campus Mental Health Facilitator.

Dr. Stewart, Dr. Ness and Ms. Vadnais provided a presentation, outlining the existing campus mental health strategy *Success Through Wellness*, achievements and innovations to date, and challenges and opportunities in the future. They outlined the six core goals of the strategy:

- Committed
- Caring
- Healthy
- Responsive

- Supportive
- Resourceful

They shared elements of the integrated approach to mental health and wellness at the University, including:

- “No wrong door” - every student should feel like they’ve gone to the right place, regardless of which student affairs office they have gone to, helping students navigate the system and ensure they are using the best services for them.
- Providing an integrated approach to mental health and wellness, and ensuring that resources are available for faculty and staff as well as students.
- Having active partnerships with University stakeholders, including Champions for Mental Health, faculties and administrative units, student unions and groups and the STATIS triage and assessment team.
- Partnerships with community stakeholders like the Canadian Mental Health Association, the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction, and the Best Practices Network in Postsecondary Student Mental Health.

Dr. Ness noted that the inclusive approach to mental health and wellness at the University prioritizes accessibility, psychological and cultural safety, inclusive services, programming and outreach, and the Employee and Family Assistance Program. He also provided examples of programs offered through the Student Counselling Centre.

Dr. Stewart reported on benchmarking and other data, noting that the University is doing quite well despite being under resourced compared to similar institutions. He added that the Maclean’s 2022 Survey of Student Satisfaction ranked UM second in mental health services and third in sexual violence services, adding there is a 90% student satisfaction rate for reception intake group and individual counselling services at Student Counselling Centre. He also noted the grant funding UM has received from Bell Let’s Talk and the RBC Foundation in support of mental health initiatives.

A number of challenges and priorities for mental health and wellness were outlined for the Board, including:

- Supporting transition back to in-person work and learning
- Maintaining core services while meeting increased service needs and expectations
- Addressing racism and enhancing commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion.
- Promoting awareness of services and resources for students, staff, and faculty
- Encouraging use of all available mental health supports
- Continuing consultation process to inform an updated mental health strategy.

Members of the Board expressed appreciation for the excellent presentation and all of the work that is being done on campus to support mental health and wellness. In response to questions, Dr. Stewart noted:

- The Student Counselling Centre has a high number of international student clients, which it views as a success as it means that the team is able to reach out to international students and provide support. For many international students, there is cultural stigma about seeking mental health support, so this is very important.
- In the area of mental health, we make the most of the resources we have, making sure we're doing the right things with the resources we are allocated. We have shifted emphasis to prioritize the counselling centre to accessibility. Have hired dedicated intake and triage staff to get students support as quickly as possible.

In response to a question about international student access to Manitoba Health, Dr. Benarroch noted that the University had requested to government in our budget submission to provide international students with Manitoba Health coverage, noting that all other provinces do it. He added that recent reports about international students and high medical bills we not UM students and the reports contained misinformation. All UM students are required to be insured.

The Chair thanked the presenters for the information they shared and for all their hard work in support of the UM community.

3. MINUTES (Open) Session

- 3.1 Approval of the Minutes of the January 25, 2022 Open Session as circulated or amended

It was moved by Ms. Matthews and seconded by Mr. Scott:

THAT the minutes of the January 25, 2022 Open session be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

- 3.2 Business Arising

There was no business arising from the minutes.

FOR INFORMATION

4. UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA

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

THAT the Board of Governors approves and/or receives for information the following:

THAT the Board of Governors approve, as recommended by Senate:

- A. Report of the Senate Committee on Awards (dated January 20, 2022)**

B. Proposal for a Bachelor of Science (Major) and Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Environmental Geosciences, Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources

The following items were received for information:

- *Annual Report of the University Discipline Committee*
- *Undergraduate Admission Targets, 2022-2023*
- *Provincial Approval – Closure of Diploma in Population Health, Department of Community Health Sciences*

CARRIED

FOR APPROVAL

5. FROM FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION, & HUMAN RESOURCES

5.1 *Presidents Policy* Change: Delegation of Approval Authority

Ms. Lee said the Committee has reviewed this policy change at its January 2022 meeting. She noted that the details are outlined on page 94 of the meeting materials.

Ms. Andrew stated that approval is being sought for an amendment to the *Presidents Policy* and for amendments to the academic policies necessitated by the change. She noted that as of July 1, 2022, certain staffing decisions will be made by the President or the Provost, as laid out on Schedule 'A' of the submission. She added that Board approval will still be required for senior staff appointments in the Executive Group, UMFA disciplinary matters, and for the denial of promotions or tenure.

It was moved by Ms. Magnus and seconded by Ms. Lee:

THAT the Board of Governors:

- 1. Approve the Approval Authority Matrix for Academic and Administrative Staff Appointments as outlined in Appendix 1;**
- 2. Approve the revision of the President Policy to delegate authority to the President to act on behalf of the Board to approve the appointment and the award of promotion and tenure of certain academic and administrative staff, effective July 1, 2022; and**
- 3. Authorize the University Secretary to make consequential amendments to other University Governing Documents to consistently reflect this delegation.**

CARRIED

FOR CONSULTATION

6. Increase to Enrolment Target: Bachelor of Social Work

Dr. Benarroch said he had consulted with Senate about the proposed increase to the Bachelor of Social Work Program, and he is consulting with the Board of Governors. Members of the Board expressed no concerns with the proposed increase.

FOR INFORMATION

7. President's Report

Dr. Benarroch reported that spring Convocation will be held in-person this year, from June 7 to June 11. He noted that all honorary degree recipients have agreed to attend in person, and the presidential installation will take place in the morning on June 7. He said Board members would receive invitations and he hopes they will be able to attend. The University is very excited to be able to celebrate our graduates in person again.

Dr. Benarroch said he had participated in government consultations on the implementation of Bill 33, which allows the Minister to set a tuition fee policy, along with Mark Torchia, and Mike Emslie. At the consultation he said tuition policy is not a replacement for operating grants, as universities need long-term sustainable funding. He added that the government must find balance between affordability and accessibility when considering tuition policy. He noted that the government said they have no preconceived notions about the eventual policy. With respect to differential fees, Dr. Benarroch stated he would like there to be no government intervention, because universities and colleges should have the autonomy to set their tuition rates.

President Benarroch said the Minister and his staff were on campus the previous day, giving the University an opportunity to make a strong case for why health care for international students is so important. He also spoke with the Minister about research, mental health, and the increasing need for resources as student needs continues to increase. He added that he made a case for critical renovations in the science complex which the University cannot fund alone. He commented that the discussion had been very positive.

MOTION TO MOVE TO CLOSED AND CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

It was moved by Ms. Kalo and seconded by Chancellor Mahon:

THAT the meeting move into Closed and Confidential Session.

CARRIED

Chair

University Secretary