



# THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS PUBLIC MEETING

Friday, October 9, 2020  
**1:00 PM**  
Held virtually by MS Teams

### MINUTES

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#### **Board Present:**

Barbara Berger (Chair), Brett Fairbairn (President and Vice-Chancellor), Tracy Christianson, Sukh Gill, Katy Gottfriedson, Azul Hernandez-Billy, Lillian Kwan, Jimmy Lulua, Marilyn McLean, Hafiz Rahman, Dev Shah, Michelle Stanford, Eric Youd

#### **Regrets:**

Helen Kormendy

#### **Executive and Others Present:**

Christine Bovis-Crossen (Provost and Vice-President Academic), Matt Milovick (Vice-President Administration and Finance), Brian Daly (Vice-President University Relations), Paul Manhas (Associate Vice-President, Finance), Charlene Myers (Manager, University Governance), Lisa Grant (University Governance Assistant)

#### **Recognition of Excellence:**

James Gordon (Environmental Programs and Research Coordinator)

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## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

B. Berger, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:08pm.

### **a. Introduction of new Governors**

The board welcomed the following new governors:

- i. Jimmy Lulua, Chief, Xeni Gwet'in First Nations Government
- ii. Azul Hernandez-Billy, Student
- iii. Dev Shah, Student

## **2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

B. Berger acknowledged that the university's campuses are on the traditional territory of Tk'emlups te Secwepemc and T'exelc.

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### 3. RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

#### a. Sustainability Awards

B. Berger introduced James Gordon, Environmental Programs and Research Coordinator for the excellent work done by the university with regard to sustainability. James spoke briefly about the strides and accomplishments that TRU has made as a global leader around sustainability. Information about these accomplishments was included in the agenda package.

### 4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

M. Milovick asked that agenda item 5.g. (Financial Sustainability Working Group) be moved to 5.a. and included with the 2020-2021 Quarter 2 Government Forecast. There were no objections to his request.

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

### 4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES

No Board members disclosed conflicts of interest.

### 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### a. Minutes of June 19, 2020

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Board meeting of June 19, 2020 be approved as circulated.*

### 6. BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT

#### a. Announcement of Election of Board Chair and Vice-Chair

B. Berger spoke briefly about the process of the election of the board chair and vice-chair. She added that, at the in-camera meeting held earlier, it was her pleasure to announce that Marilyn McLean was elected and will continue as Vice-Chair and that she was elected and will continue as Board Chair.

#### b. Planning and Development Session

B. Berger spoke about the Planning and Development Session that was scheduled to take place on October 22, 2020. She commented that, in accordance with the board manual, governors are expected to participate in TRU's Orientation Program as well as ongoing professional development. She noted that this meeting would be held virtually.

## **7. REPORT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

### **a. Financial Sustainability Working Group**

S. Gill, chair of the Finance Committee, invited M. Milovick to present this agenda item. He presented information from the Financial Sustainability Working Group. A copy of the report was included with the agenda package. Discussion ensued.

### **b. 2020-2021 Quarter 2 Government Forecast**

M. Milovick commented that he had nothing further to add to the Quarter 2 Government Forecast as the report was included in the previous agenda item discussion. He noted that the 2020-2021 Quarter 2 Government Forecast was reported to government.

### **c. Q1 Results**

M. Milovick stated that he had nothing further to add to the report, which was circulated with the agenda package, except that he will do another video presentation regarding the Q2 results after the board meeting in December, to keep the TRU community informed about TRU's financial status.

### **c. Budget Process**

M. Milovick noted that normally at this time of year the board would be receiving the Budget Context Presentation, but given the uncertainties for current fiscal year, the presentation has been pushed to December. He spoke of the delay in getting this year's budget approved, which he hopes will happen in December, and the delay in getting out the Budget Context Presentation for next year's planning, which he expected would also happen in December.

### **c. Letter of Agreement between Industry Training Authority and Thompson River University for the 2020/21 fiscal year**

At the request of the Finance Committee Chair, C. Bovis-Crossen presented the letter of agreement, a copy of which had been uploaded after the agenda package was circulated. She noted that, for this year, the Industry Training Authority had waived its utilization rate requirement, meaning that no funding would be clawed back. She then welcomed questions and comments. Discussion ensued. S. Gill

indicated that the Finance Committee was recommending approval of the Letter of Agreement.

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the Letter of Agreement between the Industry Training Authority and Thompson Rivers University for the 2020/21 fiscal year be approved, as circulated.*

e. Financial Information Act Report

M. Milovick commented that the Financial Information Act report is standard reporting and is done annually as required by legislation.

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the Financial Information Act reporting for submission to government be approved, as circulated.*

f. Report from the Investment Advisory Committee

M. Milovick spoke to the documents from the Investment Advisory Committee that were circulated with the agenda package, including returns and the TRU Student Investment Fund.

## 8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

a. President's Report to the Board

President Fairbairn's Report to the Board, which was circulated with the agenda package, included a summary of the progress to date on priorities of the executive team for 2020/2021 and university highlights since the last reporting period. The president also spoke about interactions with the provincial government regarding recovery planning. He commented that there were a number of other items in his report that he would be happy to answer questions about.

At the request of President Fairbairn, C. Bovis-Crossen provided details about anti-racism initiatives that TRU had recently undertaken. She commented she would update the board as the task force progresses. Discussion ensued.

b. President's Report to Senate

President Fairbairn drew governors' attention to his report to senate for October and mentioned some highlights from the report. The report had been circulated with the agenda package.

## 10. SENATE REPORT

The Chair of Senate, B. Fairbairn, presented the Senate Report.

### a. 2020 NWCCU Institutional Mission Fulfilment Report

B. Fairbairn presented the 2020 NWCCU Institutional Mission Fulfilment Report and invited C. Bovis-Crossen to speak about the Report. She invited questions and comments.

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the 2020 NWCCU Institutional Mission Fulfilment Report be approved, as circulated.*

### b. Change to Department Structure (ARET and Engineering)

B. Fairbairn spoke to the separation of ARET and Engineering programs into two separate units.

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the Change to Department Structure (ARET and Engineering) be approved, as circulated.*

## 11. REPORTS AND UPDATES

### a. Capital Update

M. Milovick updated the board on several matters.

#### i. TRU Community Corporation (TRUCC) Update

M. Milovick gave a brief update to the board on recent TRU Community Corporation (TRUCC) activities, including TRUCC being very close to signing off with the developer on the Offer to Lease for 800 University Drive. He commented that, once there is confirmation that they can proceed, there will be a public announcement of what the plans are for that site and who the developer is. He added the Trust is currently looking at other properties that are in the trust envelope, to determine suitable future development projects. He concluded by saying that he expects to provide a fuller update in December.

#### ii. Nursing and Population Health Building Close Out Report

M. Milovick reported on the status of the Nursing and Population Health Building, noting the building is complete, it is spectacular, on budget and was completed slightly ahead of schedule.

iii. Summer 2020 Capital Update

M. Milovick drew governors' attention to a list, which was circulated with the agenda package, of projects that were undertaken throughout the summer.

b. Safety and Emergency Management Report

M. Milovick updated governors on the work of the office of Safety and Emergency Management. He presented the report a copy of which was was circulated in the agenda package.

c. COVID-19

M. Milovick provided an update on COVID-19, reporting that the office of Safety and Emergency Management has been working with units to develop safety plans. A copy of the report was circulated with the agenda package. C. Bovis-Crossen spoke to the status of academic matters in relation to COVID-19. She invited questions and comments. Discussion ensued.

**12. NEXT BOARD MEETING**

a. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 4, 2020.

**13. TERMINATION OF MEETING**

As there were no further agenda items, the meeting terminated at 2:40pm.