

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

REGRETS

Lorraine noted regrets from Governors Lyn McLeod and Mike Shields, and participant Paul McErlean.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Chair welcomed new Governor Terry Wu and congratulated Pierre Hinse on his re-election. She acknowledged Craig Loverock, Director of Finance, UOIT and Terry Caputo, Director of Finance, DC.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Item 5.1, the Rae Review of Postsecondary Education in Ontario, was added to the agenda.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

None was noted.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

There being no errors or omissions in the minutes of the 20th Regular Board Meeting held on June 9, 2004, and the Special Regular Meeting held on July 6, 2004, the Chair declared the minutes accepted, as presented.

The subject of the new format for meetings was discussed and Lorraine commented that Governors will appreciate the change.

PRESENTATIONS

The Rae Review of Postsecondary Education in Ontario

Gary introduced Sheldon and his presentation on the Rae Review of Postsecondary Education in Ontario. He recommended adopting a positive attitude and desire to host the commission on behalf of the people of Ontario.

Sheldon began by commenting on some of his sources for information, including a letter from the ACAATO General Assembly, written by Garry Cubitt. Sheldon noted that he also met with staff of the review and information is available on ACAATO's Web Site. The Rae Review is to be a student focused commission whose purpose is to investigate how institutions can better serve students and scholarships. There has been some discussion of putting a payment system in place which would allow students to repay student loans through the income tax system, but there is some opposition to this suggestion. Minister Chambers has stated that the emphasis will be on "a co-coordinated, collaborative and differentiated system". Sheldon suggested that key is the mention of "differentiation", which would allow each institution to concentrate on its particular strength. He also suggested that this may cause some apprehension of being "pigeon holed" within some institutions or fear that research may be limited to a few. Sheldon suggested that members think about two outcomes they feel Durham College and UOIT would like to see as a result of the review, and commented that it should be something that will make an important difference

The review communicates two messages: that there will not be any more money, and if there is money, it will be in small amounts. Sheldon noted that actually there is more money, but that these funds will be targeted and not just indiscriminately distributed. He advised that there are five potential outcomes indicative of success from the review:

1. A sustainable funding system for Colleges and Universities.
2. Assistance programs which ensure that no student is denied the opportunity for an education for financial reasons.
3. College students with good performance in accredited courses are assured access to Ontario's Universities.
4. Research support is stronger and coordinated among all relevant Ministries.
5. An intermediary body is objectively considered.

Sheldon then outlined some of the issues likely to be covered by the review, which include: tuition fees and student assistance; undergraduate enrolment planning and funding; graduate enrolment planning; research; college-university collaboration; apprenticeship and accountability.

Gail asked, if when Sheldon spoke with the review staff, Durham College/VOIT was mentioned. Sheldon advised that the staff did not know about us and that it will be up to us to create this awareness.

Garry stated that in his opinion the Government should be able to deliver and execute on accessibility.

Sheldon remarked that the Government has the influence with the money. We will need to be a little more sophisticated because the Government feels that "one size fits all".

Gary commented that we already have a College/University Articulation and suggested that we could be the pilot and explore partnering with local high schools. Gary went on to explain that Bob Rae had originally approved the Skills Training Centre.

Lorraine commented that the process will belong to the Boards, but asked if it would be wise for the Board to formally address the Commission. Gary advised that a response will be brought to the Board for its endorsement.

Patrick noted the difficulty in potentially changing a mission. Sheldon explained that it depends on the vision of the institution and the Rae Commission will hold people accountable to their mission.

ACTION ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Gary has extended an invitation to Bob Rae to visit DC/VOIT.

DECISION ITEMS

Accessibility Policy

Beth inquired if an opportunity to review the policy was given to any students who may be affected by this policy and Margaret advised that it had been extensively reviewed by students.

Moved by Manon Lemonde

Seconded by Beth Wilson

MOTION #134 "That the Board of Governors of the University of Ontario Institute of Technology approve the Accessibility Policy, as presented."

CARRIED

Election of VOIT Teaching Staff Governor

Cathy Pitcher reported that Terry Wu was the successful candidate for the position of Teaching Staff representative.

Moved by Peter Bagnall

Seconded by Garry Cubitt

MOTION #135 “That the Board of Governors of the University of Ontario Institute of Technology endorse the appointment of Dr. Terry Wu as the full-time Teaching Staff representative for a two-year term effective September 2, 2004 in accordance with the election results of September 2, 2004, and that the ballots for the election be destroyed.”

CARRIED

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Craig reported that the University has received all of the transitional funding in equal amounts each month. Enrolment figures will necessitate modifications in payments, but the report is close to projections. Craig responded to Patrick that the variance will disappear with the operating grant. As we approach March of 2005 we expect finances will improve and Gary noted that our commitment is to balance the budget.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

UOIT Enrolment Update

At present we have 1,850 UOIT students, with registrations continuing to be received. Richard noted that we are close to meeting our target and that most of the University enrolments are coming from postsecondary students. UOIT is gaining on market share significantly.

Terry Wu inquired about external transfers and their source in year one. He then asked if we might be cutting into Trent’s market share. Richard explained that there is some overlap, but that we do have an effective partnership with them and are not competing in most program areas. Gary added that in his opinion the answer is “no”.

Nuclear Engineering numbers are down due to negative news reports concerning the Nuclear industry and the fact that the Mechanical Engineering program took some potential students. Peter then asked if 50 is a comfortable number for registration. Richard noted that 50 was the target number.

Garry commented that with the marketability of UOIT and a changing environment, has this caused us to review our projection of 6,500 students? Richard explained that we will have to work hard, but this is an attainable figure. Garry then commented that program specific data may show that the numbers have not dropped and Richard agreed that the challenge is very real.

Beth noted that we have a mix of international and domestic students.

Sheldon noted that we have a ready market of college students who would meet our mission of college students transferring to University. Gary continued, explaining that in order to deliver this coup, we will need to make some changes in both schools. Streaming from College to University and allowances made by both institutions in some areas will be necessary. He noted that some degrees we offer fit the mission. Michael stated that most of the new programs are much more accessible to College students and the original programs are “elitist”. Gary suggested that 150,000 College students allows for a large market. Margaret noted that employment at the moment is strong.

Richard advised that he was about to conduct a study of college students to determine interest in completing a university degree and he will report on this in November.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

UOIT Research Funding

Sheldon explained that the University community is concerned; there is a short term redress of \$25M. The Government has cut back on funds for research and we will soon see if the Government stays true or backs off.

UOIT Program Approvals

Gary noted that we continue to make some headway on some programs and thanked Michael and his team for leading this challenge.

Joanna asked what is meant by “subject to five year review” and Michael noted that it means that every program needs to be reviewed in five years.

Ontario Student Opportunity Trust Funds Program

Terry reported on the Trust Funds Program noting that in 2003, DC/UOIT was allotted \$2.6M and \$2.9M which was to be matched by the Government. He stated that on July 6, MTCU stated that there are no assurances that after 2004-2005 they will continue to match funds. This is a blow to our fundraising efforts, eliminating the incentive for prospective donors.

Garry asked how much MTCU will still match and Terry explained that we have exceeded our projection for funds raised; of the total funds raised there is approximately \$1M that may not be matched by the Government.

Campus Security

Gary reported that new security measures are in force and were taken not only as a result of the shooting incident, but some had already planned. Manon asked about the recent incidents. Gary explained we have had two thefts recently committed by sophisticated thieves. The thieves' faces were caught on video and quick are hoped for. Gary stated that we are not a police state, but we do have 500 cameras on campus. Ralph reported that there will be a review of policies and procedures and the police investigation is going well. Beth asked if there is a communication strategy in place and Gary responded “yes”.

UOIT Web Site

UOIT has had its web site re-designed by our Communications Department. Response has been positive. Joanne commented that it is interesting that prospective students quite often judge universities by its web site.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Upcoming Events

The Chair noted the following upcoming events: the DC/UOIT 2004 Gala on Saturday, September 11; Staff Appreciation on Thursday, October 7; the Boards' Retreat on October 23-24; the Library and Academic Buildings Grand Opening Ceremony scheduled for Friday, October 29, 2004.

The Chair also reviewed the Annual Boards' Calendar and noted this was a reference document for Governors.

TERMINATION OF MEETING

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting terminated at 8:19 p.m.

Lorraine Sunstrum-Mann, Chair

Gary Polonsky, President

Cathy Pitcher, Secretary