

CALL TO ORDER

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

REGRETS

Lorraine noted regrets from Governors Mike Shields, Phillip (Rocky) Simmons, Beth Wilson and Lyn McLeod.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Donna McFarlane introduced guests Joanna Stokes and Spencer McCormack, both of whom are second year Journalism students, representing the Chronicle. She also acknowledged Terry Caputo, Director of Finance, Durham College and Craig Loverock, Director of Finance, UOIT.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Gary noted addition of Item 13.3 - Arrest in Shooting and Item 14.5 (e) Upcoming Building Committee Meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

None was noted.

PRESENTATIONS

Ralph Aprile conducted a tour of the campus, including the Residence, new academic buildings and the library.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

There being no errors or omissions in the minutes of the 21st Regular Board Meeting of the University of Ontario Institute of Technology held on September 8, 2004, the Chair declared the minutes accepted, as presented.

ACTION ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None was noted.

DECISION ITEMS

Protection of Privacy and Access to Information Policy

Richard Levin explained that currently the Protection of Privacy and Access to Information Act applies to Colleges, but not Universities. The Council of Universities is presently attempting to correct this. Discussion took place regarding the attached information pertaining to the Act.

Manon asked who would assume responsibility as the Commissioner. Richard explained that the Commissioner is generally the President.

Inez asked for clarification as on page 15, Section 4, point 15 (2), it refers to “members of the community”, while in Section 18 it refers to “members of the University community”. It was clarified that should read “members of the University community.”

Doug asked if in Section 4, point 18, point 18 (2), an investigation takes place only on request from within the University community. Richard answered “no”.

Don suggested that the F.O.I. commissioner is the court of last resort on a complaint.

Terry asked if there had been input from staff and faculty. Richard responded that this policy was based on discussions with Academic Council, C.O.U. guidelines and other Universities' existing policies.

It was decided to add the word "University" in front of "community" in point 15 (2) for clarification.

Moved by Garry Cubitt

Seconded by Pierre Hinse

MOTION #139 "That the Board of Governors of the University of Ontario Institute of Technology approve the Protection of Privacy and Access to Information Policy, to come into effect November 15, 2004, as amended."

CARRIED

Discussion moved to the appointment of the Freedom of Information Commissioner and Garry asked if this policy defines the F.O.I. Commissioner as Gary Polonsky. Richard explained that the President is the Commissioner, but their authority is not effective outside of the institution.

Garry noted that the motion names individuals and asked if this was the intent. Gary asked if the motion should refer to positions. Sheldon remarked that his interpretation is that the motion requires names and that it really is a choice of the Board. Mark Moorcroft asked what would be the standard and referring to Section 16, asked how we can separate authority. Richard explained that every administration will have this same issue and remarked that it really is not unusual.

Joanna Campbell asked for clarification that the President recommends himself to assume the position of Commissioner and appoint the officials. Richard responded that her interpretation is correct.

Gary advised that a second motion for the appointment of Officer is not necessary.

Moved by Doug Wilson

Seconded by Manon Lemonde

MOTION #140 "That the Board of Governors of the University of Ontario Institute of Technology appoint Dr. Gary Polonsky as Commissioner under Section 16 of the UOIT Protection of Privacy and Access to Information Policy."

CARRIED

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REPORTS

None were noted.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The items on the consent calendar were accepted as presented.

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Craig Loverock reported that there is a shortfall of \$1.5M due to a decrease in enrolment numbers. He noted that there are fewer scholarship disbursements. Finance has identified \$1.2M of the \$1.5M and is working on the remaining \$347,000 to balance.

Gail asked Craig to outline some of the ideas that they are working on to compensate for the shortfall. Craig advised that Finance will be trying to identify unspent funds in all areas; \$800,000 has come out of the Provost's office due to fewer faculty hires than anticipated. Every source of funds is being reviewed, including delayed replacements for vacancies. Terry Wu asked if Finance had included all areas and Craig advised that they had. Terry then inquired how much of the operational funds go to shared services with

Craig responding that it is 30 – 35%. Garry asked Craig to explain what is meant by “reducing the contingency”. Craig advised that they studied reserves to see where they could cut expenses. Garry expressed concerns about taking money from reserves to balance the budget, but Craig explained that they will be reducing expenses, not taking funds from reserves.

Richard clarified that with respect to scholarships, those who qualified were not denied, but the number of scholarships accepted was reduced.

Gary commented that in his opinion we will get by this year but that next year will be difficult for the University. We are losing our transition funding, we will need to grow enrolment by 50%, which costs money, and the tuition freeze is still there. There is more information on this to come to the Audit and Finance Committee.

Craig advised that next month he will report on tracking revenues and debt reduction.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Bond Offering Update

Gary reported that the Bond has been completely sold on the market at an interest rate of 6.315%. We have been advised that the money should be in our account by Friday, October 15.

Gary presented a chart of universities that already have bonds, noting that the order was according to interest rate. Gary advised that after the bond sales closed, one investor requested a minor change in the language, as this person was concerned whether we could engineer our own default. The Government replied that we would not be allowed to default. It was suggested that if this statement had been made earlier, our bond rating would have improved.

Craig stated that we started the negotiations eighteen months ago and at that time chose an interest rate of 6.25%. Eighteen months later the rate is settled at 6.351%, quite good, considering the length of time from beginning to end of negotiations.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Student Life On and Off Campus/Neighbour Relations

Margaret reported that in the past, students chose to stay either in residence or in housing within the community with very few problems. A recent off campus party was not appreciated by some of the neighbours. A community meeting has since been arranged for October 21, to discuss the issues. It seems that peak periods for complaints are in September/October, which is start-up, and April/May, year-end. She advised that the situation is a balancing act. Margaret noted that we do have a code of conduct for on-campus behaviour and advised that a town/gown committee is being established. We will be investigating the different avenues available to educate our students, including ads and articles in the Chronicle. There has also been research conducted at larger universities.

COU Submission re Ending Mandatory Retirement

Don noted that there was a consultation with Minister, which determined that the issues are separate and distinct between Colleges and Universities. He noted that at a College the average retirement age is 59.7. In a University, the average age for faculty is past 65. Salary is one factor. COU has made a request for either an exemption or seven-year extension for those who wish to work past the age of 65. One of the issues to be dealt with is that of benefits and the fact that Long Term Disability ends at the age of 65, while Short Term Disability remains in place.

Sheldon commented that the law makes you take a pension at age 71 and wondered if this meant that a person could not be employed at this age. Don advised that it is at age 69 that the law states that a person

must take a pension. They now feel that the longer a person works, the better it is and this will be something that mature institutions will need to hone.

Arrest Made

Gary reported that we were notified today that an arrest has been made in the shooting incident on campus in April of this year.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Lorraine reported that she attended the fundraising event at RBC on September 28th remarking that it was a wonderful evening that she spent with students Sarah Rowe, Thomas Coughlan and Naheed Dasani. She was impressed with how wonderfully each of them spoke, along with the President.

Meeting with Minister Chambers

The meeting with Minister Chambers generated conversation at a different level than Lorraine expected, but she noted that we seem to be turning a page. Lyn and Gary were outstanding in their advocacy for both institutions. A couple of points were tabled, but the Minister pressed on four particular points. She spoke on our model of governance and expressed that she had heard some concerns. We may need to look at other models for ways to improve on what we have. She noted that she has had feedback and concerns regarding the possibility of Durham College being financially harmed by UOIT. Gary spoke eloquently to this concern. Our success is causing her difficulty with some other universities. She wondered if we would only market our unique programs outside Durham/Northumberland.

The Minister stated that she has received negative feedback from Trent regarding our relationship. Lorraine explained to Minister Chambers that this was not the perception we have received from Trent. Gary noted that a draft of the Terms of Reference re the Trent relationship was received late yesterday. Everyone was to be given a copy at this meeting.

Manon asked if the Minister expressed any positive comments. Gary noted that she will visit on November 22, is aware of and spoke about our success.

Office for Partnerships for Advanced Skills

The Chair congratulated Paul McErlean on behalf of the Board on his involvement with the Board of the Office for Partnerships for Advances Skills. She noted that many Board members contributed in many ways in the community.

Upcoming Events

The Chair noted the following upcoming events: DC Fall Convocation - Thursday, October 21; Boards' Retreat, October 23-24, 2004; Library and Academic Buildings Grand Opening Ceremony - Friday, October 29, 2:00 p.m., Campus Library; DC Scholarship Ceremony – Thursday, November 4, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., Campus Gymnasium; Building Committee Meeting - Monday, November 8, 5:00 p.m., Community Room. The Chair also noted a retirement party for Alice Lytwynchuk to be held on Tuesday, November 9, and a farewell party for Don Sinclair to be held on Tuesday, October 26.

TERMINATION OF MEETING

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting terminated at 9:16 p.m.

Lorraine Sunstrum-Mann, Chair

Gary Polonsky, President

Cathy Pitcher, Secretary