

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**Minutes of the Meeting of June 16, 2023**

**9:00 a.m., Via Zoom**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<p><b><u>Voting Members Present</u></b>  Bangs, Jeff, <b>Chair</b>  Barry, Aaron  Cameron, Vernon  Embleton, Sheila, Interim President &amp; Vice-Chancellor  Gallagher, Jim  Guay, André  Harquail, David  Kurkimaki, Laura  Manitowabi, Tammy  McCue, Meghan (GSA)  Recollet, Angela  Sbaa, Nawfal</p> <p><b><u>Non-Voting Members Present</u></b>  Bassett, Shannon, Senate  Colin, Fabrice, LUFA  Fenske, Tom, LUSU  Johnson, Mark, Interim University Secretary  Morin, Avery (SGA)  Scott, Daniel, Senate  Teller, Meredith, LUAPSA  Vincent, Danielle, University Secretary</p> <p><b><u>Also in attendance (Resources):</u></b>  Ayub, Komal, StrategyCorp  Boyer, Celeste, General Counsel  Brouwer, Brenda, Interim Vice-President, Academic and Provost  Caron, Joseph, Interpreter  Dowdall, Jennifer, Interim Co-Director, EDHRO  Eger, Tammy, Vice-President Research  Goffin, Shannon, Interim Co-Director, EDHRO  Gorham, Robyn, Associate Professor, School of Nursing  Hodgson, Ann, Interim Associate University Secretary  Hoy, Sandra, Interim Director, School of Social Work and Associate Professor  Jubb, Dawne, Interim General Counsel  Lavallee, Normand, Associate Vice-President, Financial Services  Lehtimaki, Shauna, Director, Institutional Planning  Loreto, Chris, StrategyCorp  Piché, Michel, Interim Vice-President, Finance and Administration  Rocca, Gina, Interim Executive Assistant  Tremblay-Croxall, Louise, Director, Planning &amp; Budgeting  Williams, Liliane, Interpreter</p>	<p><b><u>Voting Members Absent</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Non-Voting Members Absent</u></b>  Durand, Louis, LUFA  Motamedi, Monica</p>

**CLOSED SESSION**

The Chair of the Board of Governors (the “**Board**”), Mr. Jeff Bangs, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and confirmed quorum. Mr. Bangs opened the meeting by acknowledging the Robinson-Huron

Treaty of 1850 and further recognized that Laurentian University is on the traditional lands of the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek.

## **CLOSED INFORMATION AND ACTION ITEMS**

### **1. Adoption of the Closed Agenda**

The Chair asked for a motion to approve the agenda of the closed session.

MOTION: Moved by Vern Cameron and seconded by Laura Kurkimaki.

That the Agenda be approved as presented.

Carried unanimously.

### **2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

The Chair invited members to declare any conflicts of interest relevant to the agenda and reminded Governors that at any time during the meeting proceedings they are respectfully encouraged to consider and raise any potential conflict, which may arise during discussions.

It was noted for the record by the Interim University Secretary that Mr. Harquail has previously disclosed a potential conflict he may have from time to time regarding discussions concerning the treatment of the University's endowment fund and/or deferred donor contributions.

### **3. CCAA Update**

The Chair invited Dr. Sheila Embleton, Interim President and Vice-Chancellor, to provide an update on this item. Dr. Embleton provided an update on assorted CCAA-related items including meetings with MCU, the operational transformation, the strategic planning process, and the various executive searches.

### **4. Legal Matters Update**

The Chair invited Dawne Jubb, Interim General Counsel, to give an update on this item. Ms. Jubb provided a verbal summary of key issues. She also provided an update of the leased premises at 933 Ramsey Lake Road (Willett Green Miller Centre).

RESOLUTION: Moved by Vernon Cameron and seconded by Jim Gallagher.

BE IT RESOLVED,

THAT the Board of Governors, upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee, accept the recommendation of the University's Interim General Counsel regarding the leased premises at 933 Ramsey Lake Road, and as presented at its meeting of June 16, 2023.

Carried unanimously with one (1) abstention by David Harquail.

### **5. Human Resources Update**

The Chair invited Michel Piché, Interim Vice-President Finance and Administration, to provide further context on this item. Mr. Piché was joined by Interim Vice-President, Academic and Provost,

Dr. Brenda Brouwer. Mr. Piché highlighted various staffing matters and the recruitment progress of vacant positions at Laurentian. Dr. Brouwer provided an update on the status of recruitment of various faculty positions currently underway.

## **6. Other Business**

The Chair in consultation with Interim University Secretary Mark Johnson confirmed there was no other business.

## **7. Adjournment of the Closed Session**

Having exhausted the agenda, the closed session of the meeting of the Board of Governors was adjourned at 9:42 a.m.

### **PUBLIC SESSION**

The Chair called the open session of the regular meeting of the Board of Governors to order at 10:04 a.m. and confirmed quorum. Mr. Bangs then opened the meeting by acknowledging the Robinson-Huron Treaty of 1850 and further recognized that Laurentian University is on the traditional lands of the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek.

### **INFORMATION SESSION**

#### **A. Learning and Engagement Session: “Introduction to the Laurentian Strategic Planning Process”**

The Chair introduced Komal Ayub, Chris Loreto, Jaiman Chin, and Sara Da Silva from StrategyCorp. The Chair invited Mr. Loreto to speak about the strategic planning process occurring at Laurentian. Mr. Loreto provided an overview of the strategic planning process, its engagement with Laurentian, and best practices in developing and implementing a plan. He highlighted some of the processes StrategyCorp will be carrying out to develop the strategic plan at Laurentian.

A discussion ensued regarding StrategyCorp’s experience with post-secondary institutions. This included how the strategic planning process interacts with the research plan and the academic plan of the institution. There was also discussion about ensuring stakeholder engagement and participation in the strategic planning process at Laurentian.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **1. Adoption of Agenda**

The Chair asked for a motion to approve the agenda of the open session.

MOTION: Moved by David Harquail and seconded by Aaron Barry.

That the agenda be approved as presented.

Carried unanimously.

#### **2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

The Chair invited members to declare any conflicts of interest relevant to the agenda and reminded Governors that at any time during the meeting proceedings they are respectfully encouraged to consider and raise any potential conflict, which may arise during discussions.

It was noted for the record by the Interim University Secretary that Mr. Harquail has previously disclosed a potential conflict he may have from time to time regarding discussions concerning the treatment of the University's endowment fund and/or deferred donor contributions.

### **3. Unanimous Consent Agenda**

The Chair asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented in the Board materials, more particularly:

#### **3.1. Minutes of the regular meeting of April 28, 2023, the e-vote held May 15, and the e-vote held May 18, 2023.**

#### **3.2 Appointment of Chair, Vice-Chair and Members to the Research Ethics Board (REB)**

(A) BE IT RESOLVED,

THAT the Board of Governors approve SANDRA HOY as Chair and SUSAN JAMES as Vice-Chair of the Laurentian University Research Ethics Board, as recommended by the Research Ethics Board Liaison Committee for a period of three (3) years, as of July 1, 2023, and as presented at its meeting of June 16, 2023.

(B) THAT the Board of Governors approve the appointments and renewals of JEANETTE LINDENBACH, YOVITA GWEKWERERE, KRISTA CURRIE, ALAIN SIMARD, SUSAN BOYKO, LISA ALLEN, and LORI RIETZE, to the Laurentian University Research Ethics Board for a period of three years, as of the date of the LUREB meeting at which the vote occurred, as recommended by the Research Ethics Board Liaison Committee, and as presented at its meeting of June 16, 2023.

#### **3.3 Appointments to Laurentian University Search Committees**

BE IT RESOLVED,

(a) THAT the Board of Governors approve the appointments of David Harquail and Vernon Cameron, as recommended by the Nominating Committee, to the 2023 Selection Committee for the Dean of the Faculty of Management.

(b) THAT the Board of Governors approve the appointment of Laura Kurkimaki, as recommended by the Nominating Committee to the 2023 Selection Committee for the University Librarian.

MOTION: Moved by André Guay and seconded by David Harquail

That the items listed in the Unanimous Consent Agenda be approved.

Carried unanimously with three (3) abstentions by Vernon Cameron, David Harquail, and Laura Kurkimaki relating to Item 3.3.

### **4. President's Report**

The Chair invited Dr. Sheila Embleton, Interim President and Vice-Chancellor to present her report. Dr. Embleton highlighted the status and timeline of the operational transformation process with Deloitte as well as for the strategic planning process. Dr. Embleton announced the Dean of Arts, Dr. Jennifer Johnson has been appointed and provided an update on some of the senior administrative searches.

Dr. Embleton added the enrollment for undergraduate registration is underway. She highlighted some extraordinary points from Convocation. She also thanked Interim General Counsel, Dawne Jubb for her hard work at Laurentian and announced Celeste Boyer, Ms. Jubb's successor. As well, she noted the upcoming departure of Interim University Secretary, Mark Johnson, and the announcement of his successor Danielle Vincent.

Dr. Embleton thanked Jeff Bangs for all of his work with Laurentian and his support through its challenges and achievements during the CCAA process while serving as Board Chair. She was joined by Dr. Tammy Eger who gave a special presentation of thanks to Jeff Bangs for his dedication and contributions as Chair of the Board.

## **5. Financial Update (Cash Flow, Financial Forecast, Enrolment Update, Planning Framework, Investment Returns, Pension and Endowment Fund)**

The Chair invited Michel Piché, Interim Vice-President, Finance and Administration, to present this item. Mr. Piché provided an overview of the cash position of the University as well as enrollment. He noted the totals of the operating cash balances as of the end of April and segregated funds. He described the higher than expected operating revenues and lower expenses. The higher revenues came from various sources such as higher tuition and residence fees. Laurentian also received grants from the government that it was not expecting, such as COVID funding, which totalled \$6 million. There was \$5 million from Francophone grants that also was not expected. This strengthened Laurentian's financial position. Overall, it puts Laurentian in a good cash position.

Going forward, they hope to report monthly to the Board on actual budget against the forecasted budget.

As for enrollment, Laurentian is expecting over 5600 FTEs in fall 2023 compared to 5729 in previous years. This is still a decrease in domestic undergraduate, but it has been offset with very strong demand from international graduate students. Laurentian will need to work on growing domestic undergraduate enrollment in order to maintain a sustainable growth of enrollment revenue. Mr. Piché provided an update on the University endowment fund, and the employee retiree funds, with decrease in net investment returns of 2.75%. This is lower than benchmark both from the endowment and the employee retirement funds.

A discussion ensued around the best methods to determine the actual amount of international students who have applied and converted into an accepted offer as well as having the right amount of accommodations for these students.

## **6. Executive Committee Items**

### **6.1 For Approval: Rescinding of Covid-19 Vaccination Policy**

The Chair invited the Vice-President, Research Dr. Tammy Eger to provide an update on this matter. Dr. Eger explained that on March 1, 2022, MCU issued a memo to Ontario universities, with direction from the Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, which lifted the Chief Medical Officer of Health's previous instructions that required Ontario universities to have vaccination policies. At its meeting of April 22, 2022, the Board of Governors placed Laurentian's Policy on COVID-19 Vaccination in abeyance effective May 1, 2022.

No further guidance from the Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health has been provided to Ontario universities with respect to a requirement for a Policy on COVID-19. Laurentian University's Health and Safety Manager continues to consult with Public Health Sudbury and Districts on best practices to decrease the risk of COVID-19 and the Health and Wellness Clinic on campus continues to provide COVID-19 vaccinations, rapid tests, and COVID-19 assessment.

RESOLUTION: Moved by Jim Gallagher and seconded by Aaron Barry.

BE IT RESOLVED,

THAT the Board of Governors approve the removal of the Policy on COVID-19 Vaccination as recommended by the Executive Committee and as presented at its meeting of June 16, 2023.

Carried unanimously.

### **6.2 For Approval: Policy on Commercialization**

The Chair invited Dr. Tammy Eger, Vice-President, Research to provide further information on this matter. In January 2022 MCU mandated that each publicly assisted university and college post a commercialization framework on their websites that demonstrates their commitment to the management and protection of intellectual property in a manner that maximizes commercialization opportunities, protects Ontario's interests, and strengthens the Ontario economy. Laurentian University's Commercialization Policy has been endorsed by the University's Research Development and Creativity Council, the Senate, and the Executive Team.

RESOLUTION: Moved by Vernon Cameron and seconded by Tammy Manitowabi.

BE IT RESOLVED,

THAT the Board of Governors approve the Policy on Commercialization as recommended by the Executive Committee and as presented at its meeting of June 16, 2023.

Carried unanimously.

### **6.3 For Approval: Policy and Program on a Respectful Workplace and Learning Environment**

The Chair invited Michel Piché, Interim Vice-President, Finance and Administration, to provide more details regarding this item. He was joined by Jennifer Dowdall, Interim Co-Director, Equity, Diversity and Human Rights Office (EDHRO) and Shannon Goffin, Interim Co-Director, EDHRO. Ms. Goffin added there are no changes to the policy this year, but have they continuous conversations with students, student leaders and labour partners to always incorporate best practices. The policy also covers harassment and discrimination.

RESOLUTION: Moved by Aaron Barry and seconded by Angela Recollet.

BE IT RESOLVED,

THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, approve the Policy on a Respectful Workplace and Learning Environment, as presented at its meeting of June 16, 2023.

Carried unanimously.

### **6.4 For Approval: Policy on Response and Prevention of Sexual Violence**

The Chair invited the Jennifer Dowdall, Interim Co-Director, EDHRO and Shannon Goffin, Interim Co-Director, EDHRO to present this item. Ms. Dowdall and Ms. Goffin referred to the agenda materials distributed in advance of the meeting. They noted the various revisions being proposed to the policy as provided in the materials and the change that was required by new legislation in December of 2022 related to sexual violence and that has been incorporated.

RESOLUTION: Moved by André Guay and seconded by Tammy Manitowabi.

BE IT RESOLVED,

THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, approves the *Policy on Response and Prevention of Sexual Violence*, as presented at its meeting of June 16, 2023.

Carried unanimously.

## **7. Finance Committee Items**

### **7.1 For Approval: Revised SGA Compulsory (Student) Fees for 2023-24**

The Chair invited the Chair of the Finance Committee, David Harquail to provide more information on this item. He was joined by Michel Piché, Interim Vice-President Finance and Administration, and Avery Morin, the Students' General Association (SGA) representative (non-voting) on the Board. Ms. Morin highlighted the revised optional and compulsory fees of SGA Compulsory Fees for fiscal year 2023-24.

RESOLUTION: Moved by Meghan McCue and seconded by Aaron Barry.

BE IT RESOLVED,

THAT the Board of Governors approve the revised Students' General Association Compulsory Fees as recommended by the Finance Committee and as presented at its meeting of June 16, 2023.

Carried unanimously.

## **8. Research Ethics Board Liaison Committee Item**

### **8.1 For information: 2021-2022 Research Ethics Board Annual Report to the Board**

The Chair invited Dr. Tammy Eger, Vice-President Research, to provide more information on this matter. Dr. Eger was joined by the Chair of the Research Ethics Board (REB), Dr. Sandra Hoy. Dr. Hoy gave some highlights of the key work and projects to be completed in the upcoming year. Dr. Hoy provided further context on the activities of the REB including submissions from affiliated research institutions, the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, and Undergraduate Research Ethics Committees at Laurentian. The report also provided information on the type of review, the average approval time for proposals and professional development activity supported by the LUREB.

## **9, Restructuring of Standing Committees**

The Chair invited Interim University Secretary, Mark Johnson, to speak about this matter. Mr. Johnson provided a brief overview regarding the rationale behind the restructuring of the Standing Committees and the process that will be taken to do so. He also highlighted what the new restructured Standing Committees would be as per the materials that were provided in the agenda package. He added the amendments proposed for sections 6, 7, and 8 of the Bylaws to implement these new Committees are provided for review and approval, as well as the redline copy of the proposed amended Bylaws is Appendix 1 and a clean copy of the proposed Bylaws is Appendix 2, included in the distributed materials.

RESOLUTION: Moved by André Guay and seconded by Vernon Cameron.

BE IT RESOLVED,

THAT the Board of Governors, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, approve the amendments to the General Bylaws of the Board of Governors of Laurentian University, as recommended herein and as set out in Appendix One attached hereto.

Carried unanimously.

#### **10. Nominating Committee Item**

The Chair invited the Vice-Chair of the Nominating Committee, Laura Kurkimaki, to provide more information on this item. Ms. Kurkimaki stated that the Board Vice-Chair is currently vacant and will need to be filled. In consultation with Nominating Committee members, the consensus was that Governor James (Jim) Gallagher, having confirmed his interest and willingness to stand for nomination, would advance in the election and appointment process

RESOLUTION: Moved by Aaron Barry and seconded by David Harquail.

BE IT RESOLVED,

THAT the Board of Governors, upon the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, elect *James Gallagher* as Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors for a period of one year, commencing July 1, 2023 and ending at the close of June 30, 2024, as presented at its meeting of June 16, 2023.

Carried unanimously with one (1) abstention (Jim Gallagher).

#### **11.1 Laurentian University Native Education Council (LUNEC) Report to the Board**

The Chair invited Associate Vice-President, Academic & Indigenous Programs, Dominic Beaudry, to provide an update on this matter. Mr. Beaudry highlighted various points from his report including Heritage Canada funding of the planned events for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, the multi-year accreditation of the Bachelors of indigenous Social Work, and the Indigenous programs strategic planning session. Through this session, a draft report was created that highlighted four part summary including staffing, programs research and facilities and space for Indigenous programs and staff and students. He added there is the potential to launch a Bachelor of Indigenous Interdisciplinary studies which is slated to commence next fall in addition to three minors that were created the previous fall, as well as being able to have a minor in Indigenous Interdisciplinary studies.

#### **Summary of Information Reports by Board Standing Committees:**

##### **11.2 Audit Committee Report**

##### **11.3 Executive Committee Report**

##### **11.4 Finance Committee Report**

##### **11.5 Nominating Committee Report**

##### **11.6 Property Development and Planning Committee Report**

The Chair invited Interim University Secretary, Mark Johnson to present these reports. He explained they briefly summarize information items presented at each Committee meeting, but do not move up to the Board for approval. He added providing these reports are important for transparency reasons, and they demonstrate what the Committee discusses. The purpose for all of the Governors to have insight into what all the Committees are discussing and where Governors can ask further questions about them.

#### **12. Chair's Items**

This was Jeff Bangs' last meeting as Chair and as a Governor. The Chair acknowledged all of the great work of members of the Board, labour partners, management, administrative team, staff and



faculty and the progress made in leading Laurentian through the CCAA process during his time serving as Chair. He also thanked community stakeholder groups and various ministry and government officials. He wished Laurentian the best as it continued on its path of restructuring.

### **13. Other Business**

The Chair, in consultation with Interim University Secretary, Mark Johnson, advised there was no other business.

### **IN CAMERA**

#### **14 In Camera Discussion**

The Board of Governors then proceeded with their In Camera Discussion without the Executive team at approximately 12:45pm

### **ADJOURNMENT**

#### **15. Adjournment**

Having exhausted the items on the agenda Mr. Jeff Bangs, Chair adjourned the meeting.

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Mark Johnson, Interim University Secretary