

THE GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE
OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY

BOARD OF GOVERNORS
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

DECEMBER 10, 2008
290 ADELAIDE ST EAST, TORONTO
5:30 P.M.

Present: Rahul Bhardwaj Noella Milne Jan Rush
Chris Boyle (*via phone*) Lynn Nagle Anne Sado
Chris Griffin (*via phone*) Christine Raissis Tom Tomassi
Marilou Martin Matthew Ricci David Wilkes
Marjorie McColm

Guests Michael Cooke Ric Ho
Eugene Harrigan Jennifer Norman Karen Thomson
Nancy Hood Darlene Norris

Regrets: Maureen O'Halloran Bob Wong

Minutes: Diane Fantinato

Note: Items do not necessarily appear in the order they were discussed.

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
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1.0 Chair's Report

In bringing the meeting to order, N. Milne introduced the newly elected Student Representative, Matthew Ricci, currently studying Business Administration.

Congratulations were given to Lynn Nagle who received a Canadian Nurses Association Centennial Award last month in Ottawa. This is a one-time award created to celebrate 100 exceptional registered nurses whose personal and professional contributions have made an outstanding and significant impact on the nursing profession.

Letters were distributed to the Board members regarding support and matching under the Ontario Trust for Student Support (OTSS) program. Michael Cooke and Darlene Norris offered background information on the program.

This year's Colleges Ontario conference will be held in Toronto on February 22 and 23, 2009. The theme is "Knowledge is Power – Advancing Competitiveness in Changing Times". It acknowledges the growing importance of higher education and skills training and recognizes the opportunities and challenges facing colleges in the new economy. Information pamphlets have been left with you. The Board Secretary will be contacting you regarding your interested in attending.

The Board of Governors evaluation form for the November Consultation Dinner and Retreat has been e-mailed to Board members as well as Senior Management. We encourage you to complete it and send it back to the Board Secretary.

2.0 Approval of the minutes of the Board of Governors meeting of November 19, 2008.

There were no questions arising.

MOTION

THAT the Board of Governors approve the minutes of the November 19, 2008 Board of Governors meeting as presented.

Moved: J. Rush

Seconded: M. Eubanks

CARRIED

MOTION

08-04-01

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
3.0	<p>Approval of the minutes of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting of November 26, 2008. There were no questions arising.</p>	
	<p>MOTION THAT the Board of Governors approve the minutes of the November 26, 2008 Academic and Student Affairs Committee as presented. Moved: C. Raissis Seconded: T. Tomassi CARRIED</p>	<p>MOTION 08-04-02</p>
4.0	<p>Approval of the minutes of the Audit Committee meeting of December 3, 2008. There were no questions arising.</p>	
	<p>MOTION THAT the Board of Governors approve the minutes of the December 3, 2008 Audit Committee as presented. Moved: T. Tomassi Seconded: M. McColm CARRIED</p>	<p>MOTION 08-04-03</p>
	<p>Overall, the auditors report presented good results with a few issues identified. The College reviewed the comments by the auditors and was in agreement with the noted recommendations.</p>	
5.0	<p>Approval of the minutes of the Finance and Property Committee meeting of December 3, 2008. There were no questions arising.</p>	
	<p>MOTION THAT the Board of Governors approve the minutes of the December 3, 2008 Finance and Property Committee as presented. Moved: T. Tomassi Seconded: J. Rush CARRIED</p>	<p>MOTION 08-04-04</p>
	<p>E. Harrigan reported that a study was undertaken on the College's current ratio and debt-to-equity based on the financial statements of the four largest colleges in Ontario. In comparison with the noted colleges, George Brown is in an excellent position. The Board has asked Ric Ho to report back on the difference in the number reflected under investment in capital assets versus the number reflected in the Academic Excellence Institutional Research binder presented at the Academic and Student Affairs meeting earlier today.</p>	
	<p>After the Auditor General's review of procurement policies, the College made a commitment to the Board to review our policies after 18 months. This process has already begun and an update will be presented to the Committee in February.</p>	
6.0	<p>Business Planning Overview A. Sado advised that factors impacting our strategic planning for 2020 were highlighted at the last Board Retreat. The environmental factors impacting our current business planning cycle were discussed in detail: current fiscal situation, the uncertainty in the funding formula and our own space constraints. Keeping these factors in mind, the President's priorities and principles have been provided to Senior Management as a framework in 2009-2010 planning going forward. The Board offered the following items to consider: review Ontario quarterly financial reports, look at companies/business in the neighbourhood to repurpose space and for real estate opportunities, test ideas externally, provide career assistance to graduating students, develop an internal communication strategy and share business plans divisionally.</p>	

7.0 College Ontario Report

A. Sado made the following Colleges Ontario report:

- **CO-COU Joint Task Force** – Progress is being made between colleges and universities in providing a framework for credit transfers. We are gaining support from the university sector. MTCU has indicated that this issue is an important priority for the government.

8.0 President's Report

The President's Report is structured to align with the Balanced Scorecard and the college objectives for 2008-09. As such, A. Sado brought forward the following items for information and discussion:

Financial Viability

- **Canadian Council (NSERC)** – Our CCI-NSERC grant application has been approved. The funding from NSERC should be around \$2.2M. GBC will be providing an equivalent in-kind contribution and our industry partners will be making a similar contribution. We are meeting with all industry partners and are preparing IP agreements for each, which will be finalized once we receive the final wording in the NSERC package.
- **Enrolment** – As of December 4, our winter enrolment is looking solid, with confirmed students at 86% of the new intake target. International confirmations have already exceeded our target. And as of the previous week, we had already received over 4,000 applications for September 2009.
- **Standing Committee of Finance and Economic Development** - As mentioned at the last Board meeting, I presented to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Development. We are hopeful that a strong case was made for ongoing and sustained funding for the college sector. Linda Franklin of Colleges Ontario and I will be having a conference call with Minister Milloy for further discussion.

Student Success

- **Bursary** - Three out of six RPNAO Education Trust Fund Bursaries were awarded to GBC RPN students. The comments from the RPNAO were that they were impressed with the changes and the structure of our new program and it has been noticed within the nursing community. They are very impressed with our caliber of students. Students from first and second year are invited to apply. In this same educational area, we were awarded full accreditation for five years for the RPN program.

Staff Success

- **John Higgins** - Chef John Higgins, Director of our Chef School, was recently featured on the TV program "At the Table With" on the Food Network. This program goes behind the scenes with influential, high-profile chefs who have made a difference in industry and their own communities. It is a well-done profile and George Brown also received a great deal of profile.
- **Employer Research** – Last week we issued a press release on the Employer Research we shared with our Program Advisory Committee members at the November Board dinner. This morning I did an interview with Wallace Immen, Career Section Editor of the Globe and Mail on key skills employers are looking for in future candidates. This interview will provide input into a larger story on the affect of the economic downturn on Canada's current and future job market.

Positioning

- **DiverseCity** – I participated in the launch of Toronto City Summit Alliance’s new initiative, DiverseCity, which is aimed at supporting and developing new opportunities for people in our city who may be under-represented on boards, commissions and in elected positions. This project will increase leadership diversity. There are eight streams of initiatives including DiverseCity on Board, DiverseCity in Civic Leadership and a DiverseCity Fellows program. Rahul Bhardwaj and I sit on the steering committee for this initiative.

Other

- **Bill 90** – The OPSEU Faculty Union filed their application to unionize part-time and sessional faculty at Ontario’s colleges with the Ontario Labour Relations Board on December 2, 2008. It is expected that a vote will take place in January. If successful, we would begin the process of negotiating the first contract. If not, there would be a one-year freeze on re-application.
- **New Deputy Minister** - Deborah Newman has been appointed the new Deputy Minister for MTCU effective December 8. She was formerly the Deputy Minister, Community Safety with the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services. She has held various senior level positions within the OPS, primarily in community safety and correctional services and has held a number of senior management positions in correctional services in Alberta.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned to a Private session.