

## York University Board of Governors Minutes

**Meeting:** Open Session, 1 October 2024, via videoconference

Present:	Regrets:	Others:
<p>Paul Tsaparis, Chair  Francesca Accinelli  Doug Bergeron  Stefanie Lamonaca Caputo  Antonio Di Domenico  David Garg  Michael Giudice  Ruth Green  Naomi Ierullo  Harshit Jaiswal  Loretta Lam  Rhonda Lenton  Sham Madhok  Ingrid Minott  Dee Patterson  Helen Polatajko  Eugene Roman  Ken Silver  Nar Singh  Bobbi White</p> <p><i>Pascal Robichaud, Secretary</i>  <i>Leikha M. Bisera, Assistant Secretary</i></p>	<p>Sheraz Arshad  Uma Gopinath  Carole Malo  Nadine Spencer  Mary Traversy  Kathleen Taylor</p>	<p>Marcia Annisette  Chris Ardern  Amir Asif  Anthony Barbisan  Christine Brooks-Cappadocia  Priyanka Debnath  Krista Davidson  Trevor Farrow  Marco Fiola  Susana Gajic-Bruyea  Vinitha Gengatharan  Keshia Gray  Alice Hovorka  Barbara Joy  Jacquelline Janelle  Margaret Kierylo  Julie Lafford  Weiling Li  Alice MacLachlan  Ijade Maxwell Rodriques  Carol McAulay  Kim McLean  Brad Parkes  Pam Persaud  David Peters  Sonya Pettinella  Lisa Philipps  Salima Rawji  Michelle Roseman  Leigh Scott  Suraj Shah  Christine Silversides  Louise Spencer  Susan Webb  Anna Zalek</p> <p>Elaine MacRae, Governance Coordinator  Alexander Munin, IT</p>

# York University Board of Governors - Minutes

## II. Open Session

### 1. Chair's Items

The Chair welcomed Governors and community members to the 486<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Governors of York University and read the Land Acknowledgement.

In recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on October 30, the Chair requested members to take a moment to reflect on the importance of the truth and reconciliation journey.

The Chair welcomed new Board members to their first Board meeting: Doug Bergeron, Ingrid Minott, Harshit Jaiswal, Michael Giudice and Naomi Ierullo. Thanks and appreciation was extend to board members who serve as mentors for their support to new members.

The Chair welcome David Peters as he takes on the role of Interim Provost & Vice-President Academic and thanked Lisa Philipps for her leadership as Provost and Vice-President Academic over the years and wished her well in her new role. Members were reminded that the next Board Education Session will be held on November 1 and will focus on IP and Commercialization.

#### a. Report on Items decided during the closed session

The Chair reported that at the Closed Session, the Board approved the appointment of Narin Kishinchandani as Vice-President Finance and Administration for a 5-year term starting November 1, 2024, to October 31, 2029.

The Board approved the minutes of the June 25, 2024, meeting under the consent agenda and noted information items under the consent agenda.

### 2. Executive Committee

The Chair reported that at its meeting earlier, the Committee received an update from the President, considered the appointment of the new Vice President Finance and Administration, and reviewed key issues from this Board cycle's meeting.

#### a. Action Taken on Behalf of the Board

The Chair reported that since the last meeting of the Board of Governors, the Executive Committee dealt with six items of business on behalf of the Board, pursuant to its authority under Article 3 Section 3.02 (d) (v) of the York University Board of Governors – Transitional Terms of Reference:

## **York University Board of Governors - Minutes**

- the appointments for the Vice-President of Equity, People and Culture, the Interim Provost and Vice-President Academic, and the Interim Dean of Health.
- the approval of collective bargaining mandates.
- the approval of negotiated settlement for the renewal of the collective agreement with International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Local 772.
- the approval of negotiated settlement for the renewal of the collective agreement with York University Faculty Association (YUFA).

### **3. President's Items**

President Rhonda Lenton welcomed members and reminded attendees of the role of universities and its impact on communities as higher education is changing at a faster pace. President Lenton provided highlights from 2023-2024, mapped out York's strategic planning framework and encouraged members to read the 2024 President's Annual Report which focuses on creating a sustainable future.

President Lenton touched on external and internal developments impacting the board approved budget, noting that enrolment shortfalls are expected to impact the 2024-25 and while the contingency included in the 2024-25 budget is likely sufficient to cover potential shortfalls are expected to negatively impact revenues in the outer years. To address this, key projects and initiatives aimed to enhance the university's reputation and ranking were outlined. These include Faculties of the Future, the Markham campus and the School of Medicine, enrolment, internationalization, program enhancements, pedagogical innovation, research intensification, asset monetization and the Forward Action Plan and financial sustainability. The President noted that as the population of Ontario is increasing, the demand for higher education will increase and the university has the opportunity to take advantage of the growing market.

### **4. Academic Resources Committee**

Antonio Di Domenico spoke to the Committee's written report which touched early enrolment projections, the academic division priorities and an update on the Forward Action Plan. The committee also received a comprehensive update on research and innovation items where the vision is to double research productivity within the next five years and explore untapped research revenue sources, developments in Disaster and Emergency Management (DEM), and several research accolades received by York.

#### **a. Intellectual Property (IP) Commercialization Policy**

The proposed policy responds to Ontario's Commercialization Mandate Policy Framework (2022) that mandates post-secondary institutions to implement a commercialization policy.

## York University Board of Governors - Minutes

This new Policy has undergone consultation with key units and reflects a comprehensive strategy to protect IP rights, foster innovation, and ensure ethical considerations.

It was duly *agreed* **that the Board of Governors approve the Intellectual Property Commercialization Policy attached as Appendix A.**

### 5. External Relations Committee

Francesca Accinelli spoke to the Committee report which highlighted divisional priorities for the Division of Advancement, Communications and Public Affairs and Government and Community Relations & Protocol for the upcoming year. Ms. Accinelli noted the activities focus on the Forward Action Plan and the importance of encouraging communications and engagement.

### 6. Finance and Audit Committee

Bobbi-Jean White highlighted key items in the Committee's report and reiterated how the budget and enrolment figures continue to be impacted by external forces as the university moves forward with an Action Plan to increase revenue, decrease expenditures considering the absence of further enrolment growth. The 17 Point Action Plan covers program enhancement and sustainability, enrolment recovery and administrative projects.

#### a. **Building Information Integration System and Analytics Award**

Ms. White noted the documentation on the proposal also known as an Energy Management Information System (EMIS), which will monitor all buildings for energy use and provide real time data.

It was duly *agreed* **that the Board of Governors approve the awarding of the Request for Proposal # P24-057 Building Information Integration System and Analytics to Blackstone Energy Services Ltd. with a total contract value of \$5.64M. This is also referred to as the Energy Management Information System (EMIS) project.**

### 7. Governance and Human Resources Committee

Sham Madhok spoke on behalf of the committee and reported on the key items of business discussed which covered the upcoming Board education sessions, the structure for the Board and committee Terms of Reference, and board recruitment. Ms. Madhok also noted that the process to select a new Board Chair is underway and encouraged members to provide feedback and nominate existing external Board members for this important role. The Division of Equity, People and Culture continues to do tremendous work on Decolonizing, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion as well as ongoing work in support of the Forward Action Plan. Ms.

## **York University Board of Governors - Minutes**

Madhok also noted the activities held in celebration of National Indigenous People's Day and month.

### **a. 2024-2025 Board and Committee Workplans**

Following committee review of their respective workplans, the Governance and Human Resources committee considered all Board Committee workplans to ensure items of business are consistent and align. The Committee also considered the proposed Board workplan composed of committee items of business that are to be elevated to the Board.

It was duly *agreed* **that the Board of Governors approve the 2024-2025 Workplan for the following committees in Appendix A attached:**

**Academic Resources Committee  
Executive Committee  
External Relations Committee  
Governance and Human Resources Committee  
Finance and Audit Committee  
Investment Committee  
Land and Property Committee  
Subcommittee on Digital Transformation**

**And the Board of Governors Workplan for 2024-2025 Workplan in Appendix B attached.**

### **8. Investment Committee**

On behalf of the Chair of the Investment Committee, David Gard delivered the committee report and spoke to the results of the 2023 Investment Survey from the Canadian Association of University Business Officers (CAUBO) where York's endowment fund ranked 3rd out of 18 funds over 10 years while its pension fund performance ranked 1st of the 12 funds in its CAUBO peer group over 10 years. The committee also discussed the Private Assets report and received an update on Sustainable Investing.

### **9. Land and Property Committee**

Ken Silver spoke to the Committee's report which included an update on developments in the Keele and Markham campuses noting that the Markham campus welcomed its first cohort of students in September. The committee also received and discussed a report on the Deferred Maintenance Annual Five-Year Plan.

## York University Board of Governors - Minutes

### a. Purchase of Land in Costa Rica

The proposed recommendation is for the purchase of land to host the future Casita Azul library which will support York's EcoCampus in Costa Rica which will also be available to the surrounding community.

It was duly *agreed* **that the Board of Governors approve the acquisition by York University's Costa Rica affiliate corporation, 3-102-600245 S.R.L., of two adjacent parcels of land comprised of 1271 square metres located in Las Nubes, Costa Rica for the purchase price of USD\$60,000, for the purpose of constructing a new Casita Azul library to support the Las Nubes EcoCampus.**

## 10. Other Business

### a. Governance Workshop for University Board Members

Several Board members participated at the second annual session on University Governance which was delivered by Cheryl Foy. Members were invited to share their key learnings from the session, which included among others, the linkages between the Board and the academic governing body and the distinction between academic freedom and freedom of speech. Materials from the session will be circulated and members were encouraged to review.

## 11. *In Camera* Session

An *In Camera* Session was held. No decisions were taken.

Paul Tsaparis, Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Pascal Robichaud, Secretary \_\_\_\_\_