

March 27, 2025

1:00 p.m.

MRU, EC 2010

PRESENT:

Chris Lee - Public Member- Chair
Tala Abu Hayyaneh – Student Member
Laura Daniels – Public Member
Denise Hughes- Public Member
Brenden Hunter – Public Member
Cheryl Melatdoost - Staff Member
Jacqueline Musabende - Faculty Member
Dexter Nelson – Public Member

Shannon Pestun - Alumni Member- Vice-Chair
Tim Rahilly - President and Vice-Chancellor
Kari Roberts - Faculty Member
David Routledge – Alumni Member
Rob Schaefer – Public Member
Sheba Singh – Public Member
Arlene Strom - Chancellor
Reynold Tetzlaff – Public Member
Anisa Tilston – Student Member

RESOURCES:

Kathy Homer, Assistant University Secretary-Board, Recording Secretary
Chad London, Provost and Vice-President, Academic
Amy Nixon, General Counsel and University Secretary
Melanie Rogers, Vice-President, University Advancement
Jason Unsworth, acting Vice-President, Finance and Administration
Phil Warsaba, Vice-President, Students

REGRETS:

Thomas O’Leary – Public Member
Sherri Evers – Public Member

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

C. Lee, Chair of the Board of Governors, called the Open Session to order at 1:00 p.m., confirmed quorum, and R. Schaefer commenced with a land acknowledgement.

1.1. Conflict of Interest Declaration

No conflicts were declared.

ACTION ITEMS

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved and seconded:

THAT the agenda be approved, as distributed.

CARRIED.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**3.1. Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held on December 6, 2024.**

Moved and seconded:

THAT the minutes of the Open Session of the Board of Governors' meeting held December 6, 2024, be approved as distributed.

CARRIED.

3.2. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the past set of minutes.

4. BUDGET PLAN: 2025-2026 TO 2027-2028

The Board of Governors considered the 2025-2026 through 2027-2028 budget plans that were presented for approval. The budget assumptions, capital allocation, and unconsolidated and consolidated statements were provided.

R. Schaefer, Finance Committee Chair, reported that the plan reflects a three-year balanced budget. The following years are a bit more challenging as MRU assumes no funding increases from the government, and there will be no tuition increases. Management has contingencies in place for all budget elements. Capital development project budgets also include contingencies to address emerging needs.

T. Rahilly thanked the Finance and Administration Division for the work on the budget plan. He added that the budget is a plan based on the best available information but acknowledged many unknowns. He provided an update on the Investment Management Agreement (IMA) and highlighted the funding and transparency metrics. Advanced Education analyzed the results of MRU's IMA and confirmed that MRU achieved its funding metric targets and minimum threshold for 2023-2024. As a result of this, there will be no adjustments to the 2025-2026 Base Operating Grant. For perspective, he shared that 40% of the grant was at risk if IMA metrics were not met.

Moved and seconded:

THAT the Board of Governors approve the three-year budget plan inclusive of the 2025/26 budget and the 2026/27 and 2027/28 forecast budgets.

CARRIED.

REPORTS**5. REPORTS****5.1. Board Chair**

C. Lee, Board Chair, provided a written report and highlighted at the meeting the activities he has undertaken since December 2024. He noted his visit to a policy studies class, where he spoke with students and appreciated the opportunity.

He also met with Deputy Minister Shannon Marchand, who emphasized the importance of focusing on the Minister's mandate. Key areas of focus for MRU should include aviation, nursing, and student mental health, as these are reflected in the Minister's mandate.

The Board Vice-Chair thanked A. Nixon for organizing the successful International Women's Day event.

5.2. President and Vice-Chancellor

T. Rahilly provided a written report that included updates regarding: a welcome to the new chancellor; activities on campus; the *Provincial Priorities Act* (PPA); Indigenization and Decolonization; Academic Division; Students' Division; and University Advancement.

He congratulated C. Lee and D. Nelson on receiving the King Charles Coronation Awards and reminded members of the upcoming Spring Convocation, where the Chancellor's installation will take place.

5.3. General Faculties Council

The General Faculties Council report for the past two meetings (January and February) was received for information.

COMMITTEE MATTERS**6. AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE****6.1. Committee Report**

A report outlining the items considered by the Committee at the March 27, 2025 meeting was included for information. L. Daniels, Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee, highlighted that it was a robust meeting where discussion centered on the ERM report, the opportunities and risks concerning Artificial Intelligence, managements' view of the risk of fraud and the controls in place.

7. CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**7.1. Committee Report**

The Campus Development Committee Chair, D. Routledge, reported the February meeting was cancelled. Regarding the two key projects, the Springbank Hangar renovation is progressing on budget and is on schedule for opening in September. The G-Wing project is awaiting further information to review subcontractor submissions.

8. FINANCE COMMITTEE**8.1. Committee Report**

A report outlining the items considered by the Committee at the March 27, 2025 meeting was included for information. R. Schaefer, Chair of the Finance Committee, reported the meeting focused primarily on the budget and discussed the Q3 results, where a surplus is projected. It was noted there are a number of unfunded projects that will hopefully be funded. Additionally, parking fees, fines and compliance were discussed, with emphasis on how enforcement has helped make parking easier for everyone.

9. GOVERNANCE AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE**9.1. Committee Report**

C. Lee, Chair of the Governance and Nominating Committee, provided a written report summarizing the discussions from the February 24, 2025 meeting. He highlighted that the committee is reviewing the current board committee structure and that further discussion would come in May.

CONSENT AGENDA**10. ITEMS REMOVED FOR DISCUSSION**

There were no items removed from the consent agenda for discussion.

Moved and seconded:

THAT the Board of Governors approve the consent agenda items for the March 27, 2025, Open Session.

CARRIED.

11. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

11.1. Policy and Procedures

11.1.1. Off Campus Activity Safety Policy and Procedures

***THAT** the Board of Governors approve the revisions to the Off Campus Activity Safety Policy and Procedure*

11.1.2. Emeritus/Emerita Designation Policy and Procedures

***THAT** the Board of Governors approve the revisions to the Emeritus/Emerita Designation Policy, Procedures for Professor, Dean, and Provost Emeritus/Emerita, and the new Procedures for President, Board Chair and Chancellor Emeritus/Emerita.*

11.2. Student Investment Fund

***THAT** the Board of Governors approve of the change in authorized signing and trading officers for the MRU Student Investment Fund effective March 27, 2025.*

11.3. Banking Resolution

***THAT** the Board of Governors approve of the change in authorized banking authorities for MRU effective March 27, 2025.*

12. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

The following items were received for information:

12.1. 2025 Committee Membership Appointments

12.2. Board and Committee Meeting Schedule 2025-2027

12.3. Financial Report: Third Quarter to December 31, 2024

12.4. Parking Fee and Enforcement Rates

OTHER BUSINESS

13. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business identified for the consideration of the Board.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The Board of Governors meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.