



At the Board Meeting (February 2015)

Agenda items considered by the Board of Governors are listed on two agendas, Consent Agenda and the Meeting Agenda. A consent agenda groups the routine, procedural, informational and self-explanatory non-controversial items typically found in an agenda. After allowing any Board member ample opportunity to request that a specific item be moved to the Meeting Agenda for individual attention, the Consent Agenda items are presented to the Board in a single motion for acceptance (information items) or approval (items requiring Board approval).

Via the Consent Agenda:

- ✚ The minutes from the November Board meeting were approved.
- ✚ An overview of decisions made at the last Senate meeting was received for information.
- ✚ Received the compliance report on the Mount's compliance with public disclosure requirements
- ✚ Reports from the Advancement and External Relations, Audit, Campus Planning, Finance, Human Resources and Governance and Joint Board/Senate Liaison committees were received.
- ✚ The Audit Committee's 2014-2015 Macro Agenda was approved. Macro Agendas divide the workload of the Board and/or Board Committee evenly over the number of meetings they are required to hold over the course of the year.
- ✚ Cash report for Annual Giving, Planned Giving, Special Events (for the period ended December 31, 2014) was received from University Advancement.
- ✚ The Board approved the endowment spend rate to be maintained at 4% for the 2015-2016 year ending March 31, 2016. This process begins with the Investment Committee who reviews current investment market conditions and trends and recommends the rate to the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee considers the recommendation and brings it forward to the Board of Governors for approval.
- ✚ As part of the HRGC Report to the Board, the 2014-2015 Board of Governors' Annual Evaluation was approved. This evaluation will be administered in June; results will be presented to the Board in the Fall and feedback received will be used to strengthen future orientation sessions.
- ✚ As part of the HRGC Report to the Board, the policy, Guidelines for Non-Sexist Language, was removed from circulation. With the move to more non-gender language, the policy was considered redundant.
- ✚ The President's Report to the Board, an update on activities and initiatives on Campus aligned with the goals and strategies of the Mount's strategic plan, Mount 2017, was received.

Via Meeting Agenda:

- ✦ Patty Williams, Professor, and Tier II Canada Research Chair in Food Security and Policy Change, and Katie Cvitkovitch, BSc. Applied Human Nutrition in Dietetics Candidate, Student Engagement Research Assistant, presented on food security, the ability to acquire or consume an adequate diet quality or sufficient quantity of food in socially acceptable ways, or not worrying about being able to do so.
- ✦ Highlights were given of the Board tour to the Athletics and Recreation areas and to the new link between Rosaria and the McCain Centre. The tour was well attended and received.
- ✦ A brief update was provided on enrolment, student and unit counts by BEd, graduate and undergraduate programs as well as, variances in the Summer, Fall, and Winter sessions. Both student and unit counts are higher than this time last year; the University remains optimistic about achieving enrolment targets.
- ✦ The annual quality report (including high level findings of academic unit reviewed, high level summaries of student evaluation of teaching quality, graduate survey results etc) were reviewed. This item was deferred from September Board meeting.
- ✦ The Board Chair outlined two events initiated by Glenn Squires, CEO, Pacrim, through the Tourism Education Alliance of the Maritimes (TEAM) to provide funding in support of post-secondary tourism education. TEAM recently partnered with the Mount Advancement team to raise funds in support of the Bachelor of Tourism and Hospitality Management program, with a particular focus on supporting the students who are part of that program.
- ✦ Board member Shannon MacDonald was recognised for having been awarded her FCA designation. As well, President Ramona Lumpkin was recognized for her investiture as a Member of the Order of Canada, in recognition of her leadership in post-secondary education and her promotion of community-based learning initiatives.
- ✦ Board members received a detailed update on the evaluation process and meetings held with the President to review her goals and progress to date on reaching these goals.
- ✦ Portions of the Committee reports received from Advancement and External Relations, Campus Planning, Human Resources and Governance, Finance, Investment and Nominating committees were reviewed and discussed.
- ✦ An update on the ongoing construction of the McCain Centre was received; the building is 90% complete with the full contingency remaining. The project is expected to be completed on time and on budget. Board members were pleased to hear that the building is in the process of being commissioned and that the furniture is expected in March. Tours of the building will start tomorrow at "Explore the Mount".
- ✦ Board members received the financial statements for the period ended December 31, 2014. A positive variance is expected after the strategic initiatives are funded.
- ✦ While much of the HRGC Committee Report to the Board was received on the Consent Agenda, the committee initiated a discussion on the level of transparency of Board meetings at the Mount and universities across Canada. Board members were asked to consider whether Board meetings need to be more open/ transparent and, if so, to what level of transparency.

The Board of Governors approved the recommendation from the HRGC and Executive committees that the Board meeting dates and times be posted externally, Board meeting agendas be posted externally, and a synopsis of the meeting outcomes be posted externally.

Communication will be increased to ensure that the internal and external community is aware that as per the current Board Bylaws, the official minutes of Board meetings are available for viewing by appointment with the University Governance Secretary.

- ✦ An update was provided on the Education Review being facilitated by the Provincial Government; the recently released action plan from the Review includes BEd accreditation and the redesign of teacher education programs to ensure a high standard of quality of teachers in Nova Scotia.
- ✦ The President outlined and provided highlights from meetings she and other members of the Mount's administrative team participated in with government sectors including a meeting with the Deputy Minister Labour and Advanced Education on the strengths, priorities and contribution of the Mount to the overall prosperity of the province.
- ✦ Other government relations initiatives highlighted included a meeting with the Deputy Minister Economic and Rural Development and Tourism on social enterprise initiatives, and several meetings with the Minister of Community Services and Status of Women on the possibility of the Mount, through the Alexa McDonough Institute for Women, Gender and Social Justice, becoming a hub for research on women's issues.
- ✦ As well, an update was received on the Mount's participation on each of the five innovation sub-tables, Entrepreneurship, Experiential Learning, Research and Development and Commercialization, Technology-Enabled Learning, and Student Recruitment and Retention. The tables have been organized to respond to One Nova Scotia Coalition priorities and to engage universities to work together to meet some of the goals of the Ivany Report.
- ✦ Constituency reports from the Faculty, Students and Alumnae groups were received.
- ✦ Confidential Business was used to discuss and approve naming areas within the McCain Centre and to delegate to the Executive Committee the responsibility and authority to approve additional names that may come forward for approval before the next Board meeting.