



At the November 2015 Board meeting

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Via the Consent Agenda:

- ✦ The minutes from the September Board meeting and the October Board Retreat were approved.
- ✦ An overview of decisions made at the last Senate meeting was received for information.
- ✦ The quarterly compliance certificate for the quarter ended September 30, 2015, was received and approved.

The overall compliance certificate consists of certificates from four Board committees (Campus Planning, Finance, HRGC, and Advancement and External Relations) and is a good governance initiative aimed at presenting proof to the Board of Governors that the University is in compliance with tax standards, reporting and standard obligations as required by the Government.

- ✦ The annual report on Reappointment, Tenure and Promotion was received for information.
- ✦ The annual incidence/ prevalence report regarding our University community's compliance with our ethical standards; research ethics, student judicial, code of conduct, fair treatment, etc was received for information.
- ✦ Committee reports from the Advancement and External Relations, Finance, Investment and Executive committees were received for information and/or approval.
- ✦ The Advancement and External Relations and the Finance Committee's 2015-2016 Macro Agendas were approved. Macro Agendas divide the workload of a Board committee evenly over the number of meetings they are required to hold over the course of the year.
- ✦ The Advancement and External Relations and the Executive Committee's Terms of Reference were approved. Terms of Reference outline the committee's structure, mandate, quorum, responsibilities, etc.
- ✦ The Cash report for Annual Giving, Planned Giving, and Special Events (for the period ended October 31, 2015) was received from University Advancement.
- ✦ 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 Regular Meeting Agenda:

- ✦ Paula Barry, (Acting) Vice-President Student Experience and Kelly Gallant, Associate Vice-President, Public Affairs, presented on and discussed the Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU) fall enrolment statistics, selected comparator trends, 2015 full year enrolment to date (summer, fall, winter), and changes in demography and study patterns.
- ✦ The annual report from the Pension Governance Board (PGB) was received for information. Highlights were provided and education initiatives surrounding the Pension Governance Annual Report were outlined. Currently, approximately 87% of Mount employees are maximizing their contribution to the Mount's Defined Contribution Pension Plan.
- ✦ The Board Chair provided highlights from the recent Board of Governors' retreat and the Fall Convocation where three Honorary Degrees were presented.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ With the President's term completing in June 2017, an overview of the Presidential Search process was provided.
- ✦ Board members received the financial statements for the period ended September 31, 2015. A slight positive variance is expected after the strategic initiatives are funded.
- ✦ While the Advancement and External Relations Committee's Report to the Board was received and/or approved via the Consent Agenda, an overview of University Advancement's Advancement Plan (2014-2017), fundraising priorities (2015-2017), fundraising goals (2015-2016) was provided and Board of Governors were advised on how they can help.
- ✦ An update was provided on the recently completed McCain Centre and the Campus refresh program with regard to deficiencies recently completed and any outstanding liabilities. Brief discussions were held on the traffic changes within the McCain Centre due to its increased use, elevator usage, and the feasibility of a McCain Café to address the needs of students attending evening classes and utilizing the new building.
- ✦ Board members were reminded of discussions on a tuition reset initiated at the October Board Retreat. The Mount's funding structure (2011-2015) was outlined and the background on the tuition market adjustment explained. The Mount's 2015/2016 undergraduate fees were compared with other universities, and changing demographics, enrolment trends, and the increasing demand for student services were outlined and discussed. Costs versus revenue projections in the next four years were highlighted and various scenarios were outlined and discussed in-depth.

The process and next steps including meetings and town hall sessions with students, faculty and staff were outlined; a decision is requested by the Province no later than December 18. A special Board of Governors meeting will be scheduled mid-December to further discuss the tuition reset.

- ✚ Students' Union President, Justin Corcoran, and Laura Amson, outlined meetings with government and administration regarding the possibility of a tuition reset and addressed Board members on their deep concern about the impact raising tuition would have on students who are already struggling to access post-secondary education. A letter to the Board of Governors, prepared by students, detailing concern with the outcomes of a market adjustment reset, was circulated (copy attached to official minutes) and read at the meeting. Excerpts from several communication pieces from students were also shared with Board members.

- ✚ The President provided an environmental scan on the external environment and an update on government relations initiatives including recommendations from the One Nova Scotia Action Plan, "We Choose Now."

- ✚ Constituency reports were received from the Faculty, Students and Alumnae groups.

- ✚ Confidential Business was used to receive and ratify the collective agreement between Mount Saint Vincent University and the Faculty Association.