



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Governors  
Open Session  
May 18, 2010**

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The meeting was held at 4:00 p.m. in the Alan A. Borger Sr. Executive Conference Room, E1-270 EITC.

Present: T. Sargeant, Chair  
J. Leclerc, University Secretary

M. Ates	D. Barnard	P. Bovey	E. Bowness	A. Curran	R. Dhalla
J. Embree	M. Forsen	G. Hatch	M. Labine	H. Laube	J. Lederman
R. Mahé	H. Milan	D. Ruth	M. Robertson	H. Sector	R. Sigurdson
T. Strutt	R. Zegalski				

Assessors Present:

B. Austin-Smith J. Sealey

Officials Present:

J. Alho K. Inskip D. Jayas J. Keselman D. McCallum

Regrets:

A. Berg J. Heppner

1. **Announcements**

Mr. Sargeant noted that for the duration of the Open Session of the meeting, there would be a live audio feed to the Senate Chambers for observers. Mr. Sargeant welcomed the new members of the Board of Governors, Ms. Laube, Mr. Ates and Ms. Labine, and remarked that it was the last meeting for Dr. Ruth and Dr. Sigurdson and thanked them for their exemplary service to the Board of Governors.

2. **Approval of the Agenda**

It was moved by Ms. Lederman and seconded by Ms. Bovey:

**THAT the agenda for the May 18, 2010 Open Session be approved as circulated.**

**CARRIED**

### 3. Minutes

#### 3.1 Open Minutes

It was moved by Ms. Milan and seconded by Mr. Zegalski:

**THAT the minutes of the April 20, 2010 Open Session be approved as circulated.**

**CARRIED**

### 4. Report from the President

Dr. Barnard discussed the announcement made on May 17<sup>th</sup> that the University of Manitoba received a \$10-million Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Arctic Geomicrobiology and Climate Change, and the appointment of Dr. Søren Rysgaard as the Chair holder. He added that Dr. Clayton Riddell had provided \$2.5 million in support of the Chair, allowing for new facilities to be constructed and named the *Nellie Cournoyea Arctic Research Facility*, after Nellie Cournoyea, an Officer of the Order of Canada and former Premier of the Northwest Territories. Dr. Barnard acknowledged the work done by the Vice-President (Research), Dr. Digvir Jayas, and his office in securing the CERC.

### 5. From Finance, Administration and Human Resources Committee

#### 5.1 2010-2011 Operating Budget and Financial Plans for Research and Special, Trust and Endowment and Capital Funds

As Chair of the Finance, Administration and Human Resources Committee, Ms. Bovey expressed appreciation to those involved with the development of the budget under the current economic circumstances. She also discussed the difficulties faced by the University in dealing with chronic and systemic underfunding for the University, especially in comparison with other similar institutions across Canada.

Mrs. McCallum overviewed the annual process followed to establish the recommended 2010-2011 Operating Budget and financial plans for funds. Grounded in the context of the 2010-2011 Strategic Resource Planning and Budget Framework document presented to the Board in April 2010, Mrs. McCallum outlined the principles that guided the allocation decisions. These principles included providing support in alignment with the priorities identified in the Strategic Planning Framework, support for units with significant increases in enrolment, incentives to develop revenue generating opportunities with focus on the recruitment of international students, and support for units with less flexibility in their budget to absorb reductions. In addition, the budget must be balanced and includes a 5% increase for undergraduate and graduate tuition fees. Following these principles and assumptions, units received an average of 2% reduction to their operating fund allocation, with some units taking up to a 3.25% reduction. Mrs. McCallum added that while proposals for special fee increases for some



professional programs have gone forward to the province for consideration, none of them have come back yet for approval and are not assumed in the recommended budget.

Ms. Laube brought forward an amendment to the resolution on the premise that while the recommended changes being developed through the ROSE project may take several years to fully realize, the potential job loss prior to the changes being fully implemented would cause irreversible damage.

It was moved by Ms. Laube and seconded by Ms. Labine:

**WHEREAS the University is facing across-the-board budget cuts which will have an immediate and permanent effect on the academic programs of this institution,**

**WHEREAS the provincial and federal governments have chosen to run moderate deficits in an attempt to wait out the effects of the global recession,**

**WHEREAS the University Operating Budget is approximately half a billion dollars, and the amount required to stave off budget cuts, job losses, and damage to the core academic mission of the institution is approximately 1.5% of this figure,**

**WHEREAS by borrowing from the carryover accounts in the Specific Provisions Fund, the University could temporarily avoid making permanent and damaging budget cuts, and possibly wait out the recession-induced funding restraints,**

**WHEREAS the carryover fund has continued to accumulate funds for a number of years, and the likelihood of a 'run' on the account is very small,**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the University increase the 2010-2011 Budget-Only Allocations for each unit to an amount sufficient to eliminate any budget cuts designated in the proposed 2010-2011 Budget,**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the University transfer sufficient funds from the carryover accounts portion of the Specific Provisions Fund to pay for these increases to the 2010-2011 Budget-Only Allocations,**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT that University commit to paying back funds taken from the carryover accounts within five years of withdrawing them.**

Dr. Barnard responded to the amendment by noting his appreciation for the alternative recommendation, however the final stipulation of the recommendation regarding repayment of the Specific Provisions Fund would not be feasible, especially considering that it was anticipated that the upcoming five fiscal years would be lean.

The motion was **DEFEATED**.



Ms. Forsen asked what the risks of moving forward without the proposed amendment would be. Dr. Barnard replied that a vulnerability with the process is the required assumption regarding revenue of tuition based on projected enrolment. Mrs. McCallum added the level to which carryover is funded has been an ongoing discussion, as it is not prudent to authorize units to spend carryover funds if the funding to cover the expenditures is not in place.

Ms. Lederman commented on the increase in quality of the presentation and framework of the budget submission, allowing for a more transparent process that allows the Board to make informed decisions. She also discussed the indications that the upcoming three to five years will also be tough, and that it would not be sustainable to continue to make across the board cuts to units. While it will be a difficult process, the sooner the conversations begin about how to establish the core programs to achieve the mandate of good to great, the more clear the decisions will become to support that core. Dr. Barnard agreed with Ms. Lederman and emphasized that the ROSE and OARs projects will help to identify where the University can innovate, and the establishment of benchmarks and indicators will further assist in making informed decisions in the upcoming years.

The Board discussed the debt load being carried by the University and Mr. Sargeant recommended that a document analyzing the current debt be provided to the Board. Mrs. McCallum agreed to the request and added that any loans provided by the Province were contingent on a plan to repay the loan being in place prior to receiving the loan.

It was moved by Ms. Bovey and seconded by Ms. Lederman:

**THAT the Board of Governors approve:**

- **a tuition fee increase on all programs of 5%;**
- **the operating budget based on total revenue and expenditures of \$514,325,370;**  
**and**
- **financial plans for Research and Special, Trust and Endowment and the Capital Budget for the year ending March 31, 2011 as presented.**

**CARRIED**

Mr. Ates, Ms. Laube and Ms. Labine voted against the motion and asked that their opposition be recorded.

## 5.2 Student Levies: World University Services Canada and Engineers Without Borders

It was moved by Ms. Bovey and seconded by Dr. Embree:

**THAT the Board of Governors approve the increase of the student levy of \$1 per undergraduate student per term for World University Services of Canada – Refugee Program and the implementation of a new student levy of \$0.25 per undergraduate student per year for Engineers Without Borders – University of Manitoba Chapter.**

**CARRIED**



The Board of Governors received the following items for information:

6. **Reports**

6.1 Update from the UMSU and UMGSA Presidents

Ms. Laube remarked on the willingness and excitement of UMSU to work with the administration and government throughout the upcoming year. Ms. Labine echoed Ms. Laube's remarks on behalf of the GSA and discussed the executive transition in progress and the focus on the new executive to be progressive and proactive with their involvement with students, administration and government groups.

Motion to Move to Closed and Confidential Session

It was moved by Ms. Lederman and seconded by Mr. Zegalski:

**THAT the Board of Governors move into Closed and Confidential Session.**

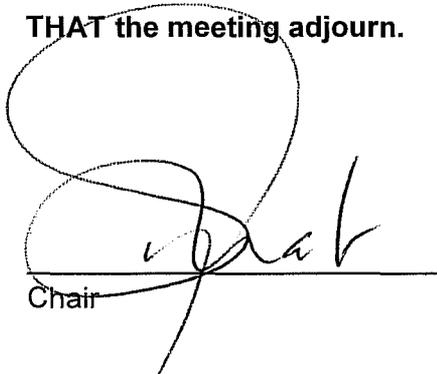
**CARRIED**

Motion to Adjourn

It was moved by Dr. Sigurdson:

**THAT the meeting adjourn.**

**CARRIED**



Chair



University Secretary

