



Okanagan College Board of Governors Regular Open Session

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Vernon Campus

Approved December 12, 2023

IN ATTENDANCE

Board Members

- Juliette Cunningham, Board Chair
- Neil Fassina, President and Ex-officio
- Andrea Alexander
- Dustyn Baulkham
- Amolkdeep Kaur
- Tina Lee
- Destiny McNish
- Devin Rubadeau
- Karley Scott

Administration

- Curtis Morcom, CFO and Vice President, Corporate Services
- Yvonne Moritz, Interim Provost & Vice President Academic
- Jenn Goodwin, Vice President, Enrolment and College Relations
- Helen Jackman, Executive Director, Okanagan College Foundation
- Joanna Campbell, Manager, Executive Office
- Kristen Wiebe, Governance and Privacy Coordinator

REGRETS

- Dale Safinuk, Vice Chair
- Marcel Beerkens
- JoAnn Fowler
- Gill Henderson, Associate Vice President, People Services

ACTION

1. CALL TO ORDER AND CHAIR'S REMARKS

Quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 10:52a.m.

It was respectfully acknowledged that the meeting was held on the unceded traditional lands of the Indigenous people who have inhabited and used the lands since time immemorial.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion:

"BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Okanagan College Board of Governors approves the September 26, 2023 Open Session meeting agenda and thereby approves the consent agenda."

D. McNish
CARRIED

2.1. Consent Agenda

- 2.1.1. Open Session Minutes – June 20, 2023
- 2.1.2. Mandate Letter 2023/24
- 2.1.3. Policy Workplan
- 2.1.4. Employee Discrimination, Bullying, and Harassment Policy Review
- 2.1.5. Annual Workplan

Recommended Motion:

“BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Okanagan College Board of Governors approve the 2023-2024 annual workplan as recommended by the Executive Committee and as presented.”

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT

Student members declared a potential conflict on agenda items 4.3.1 – Domestic Tuition, and 4.3.2 International tuition.

4. REPORTS

4.1. Chair Report

The Chair provided their report and noted that they had one-to-one meetings in the summer with members and an orientation session with new members on September 8.

The Chair also participated on behalf of the Finance, Audit, Risk Committee in a meeting with the Office of the Auditor General’s office on planning for the 2023/24 audit on September 18.

The Executive Committee met on September 19 and reviewed the annual workplan provided in today’s consent agenda. The Committee also received the results of the member survey on meeting timing that was conducted during the summer. The survey indicated that the current timing and days of week worked best for most members and no changes are being proposed to the Board.

The Executive Committee also received an update on remuneration of Board members. However, a 1995 Order in Council (0180) remains in effect that limits remuneration paid to appointed members and students to the current amounts

4.2. President’s Report and Analysis

The President provided his report noting that this is first report for the 2023/24 academic year, noting that Roadmap project delays are primarily data-related. He reminded the Board that the roadmap is the operational plan that makes the strategic Inspire plan come to life. The President noted that the Mandate Letter is integrated into the Roadmap.

The President attended the Union of BC Municipalities meeting last week and offered that the BC Housing Minister is engaged in the conversation on student housing.

A member asked a question about the Indigenous OC Plan and whether it aligns with the calls for Truth and Reconciliation as well as the report on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Girls and Women. The President suggested that the report could be reviewed in relation to the Plan.

4.3. Finance, Audit and Risk Review Committee Report

The Chair provided the report of behalf of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, noting that the Committee met on September 19 and reviewed the new Borrowing Policy.

The Committee is also recommending that the Board approve increases in Domestic and International Tuition rates for September 2024.

4.3.1. Domestic Tuition

The CFO and Vice President Corporate Services (CFO & VP, CS) noted that domestic tuition can only be raised annually to a maximum of 2%. The institution looks to cover inflationary costs which were 2.5 per cent for higher education while the consumer price index is 7%. Services and supplies are funded by the increase.

A member raised a question about how tuition is determined, and it was noted that the gap in domestic and international is a difference in cost recovery.

A member asked about the students' response to the increase, and it was noted that the Student Union and CFO & VP, CS have discussions around tuition increases. Students are engaged in the budget development process and student groups support the maintenance and development of services. The College also partners with foodbanks, offers emergency bursaries, and connects students to services throughout the region.

The renewed revenue and expense model outlined in the roadmap for 2026/27 is intended to create more financial sustainability.

Motion:

"BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Okanagan College Board of Governors approve an increase in domestic tuition and mandatory fees of two per cent, effective September 2024 as recommended by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, pending no change in limit in accordance with the BC Tuition Limit Policy."

D. Baulkham
CARRIED

4.3.2. International Tuition

The CFO & Vice President Corporate Services (CFO & VP, CS) presented the proposal, noting that a key driver of international tuition is cost recovery. In response to a member's question, it was noted that the proposed increase would take place in September 2024. The CFO & VP, CS advised that 2022/23 was a catch-up year with the Board approving reduced increases for the couple years prior. The College conducted its comparison earlier than other institutions; however, the College's proposed rate is similar to other institutions that have reported.

A member asked why the College is not cost recovery plus and it was noted that the timing was a factor. The President noted that cost recovery is based on an average over time. A member suggested the College could work to ensure financial predictability for students.

Motion:

"BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Okanagan College Board of Governors approve an international tuition increase from \$1,600 per three-credit course to \$1,696 per three-credit course (6%), effective September 2024, as recommended by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee."

D. Rubadeau
CARRIED

4.3.3. Borrowing Policy

The Chair noted that this policy has been drafted to allow the Board to approve the Line of Credit in the consent agenda and to align it with the College and Institute Act.

Motion:

"BE IT RESOLVED THAT Okanagan College Board of Governors approve the Borrowing Policy as recommended by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee."

D. Rubadeau
CARRIED

4.4. Governance Committee Report

The Committee Chair noted they met on September 19 and reviewed the Board Policy Workplan found in the Consent Agenda. Upon approval of the Board's annual workplan, the policy workplan will be moved to align with the annual report on policies received by the Board proposed from December to May 2024.

4.5. Education Council Report

4.5.1. Program Revisions

The Education Council Chair outlined that the entrance requirements for the Pastry Arts Certificate are revised to bring them in line with other programs across the province and now include a non-expired Foodsafe Certificate. A member asked if the costs of obtaining certification would be a barrier to

students and it was noted that the cost of the course is nominal and it can be completed online.

Motion:

“BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Okanagan College Board of Governors approves the program revision to the Pastry Arts Certificate as recommended by Education Council.”

T. Lee
CARRIED

The Education Council Chair outlined the proposed revisions to the Associate of Science Degree program noting the changes were approved by Education Council and the Post-secondary Institution Proposal System review was completed in July. A math and physics emphasis has been added to program. Admissions for the program remain the same and three course requirements were added to complete the emphasis.

Motion:

“BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Okanagan College Board of Governors approves the program revision to the Associate of Science: Physics and Mathematics Emphasis as recommended by Education Council.”

D. Rubadeau
CARRIED

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1. Okanagan College Foundation Annual Report

The Executive Director, Okanagan College Foundation provided an overview of the report. The Gratitude report will be provided when available.

The Board Chair expressed appreciation for the work of the Foundation and developing relationships in the community.

6. OTHER BUSINESS AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM CONSENT AGENDA

No other business was raised.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:57a.m.

CARRIED