



AFFILIATED WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Dunker Family Lounge (Room 1400) & TEAMS | 6:00 p.m.

### MINUTES - OPEN SESSION – FINAL

**The minutes were approved at the September 27, 2023 meeting of the Board of Governors.**

**PRESENT:** Asma Al-Wahsh, Jean Becker, Neha Chugh, Ryan Connell, Wendy Fletcher (President), Brian Hendley, Yaacov Iland (Secretary), Jane Karanassiou, Thomas Littlewood, Sarah Malik, Edwin Ng, Joseph Olubobokun (Vice-Chair), Tracy Peressini, Ashton Romany, Karen Spencer (Chair), Shumiao Wang (Treasurer), Marita Williams

**REGRETS:** Clarissa Michaels

**GUESTS:** Cort Egan, Meg Gibson, Melanie McKellar, Tanya Missere Mihas, Kristiina Montero, Jill Pauls

**RECORDER:** Lisa Kessig

**TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:** *With gratitude, we acknowledge that Renison University College is located on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, Hodinohsyó:ni, and Attawandaran (Neutral) Peoples, which is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land granted to the Six Nations that includes ten kilometres on each side of the Grand River from mouth to source. Our active work toward reconciliation takes place in all corners of our campus through research, learning, teaching, community building and outreach. We are guided by the work of our Reconciliation and Re-storying Steering Committee and Anti-Racism and Decolonization SpokesCouncil, as well as the [University of Waterloo's Office of Indigenous Relations](#).*

#### 1. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Karen Spencer, Chair wished everyone a Happy National Indigenous People's Day and provided a land acknowledgement by sharing a video.

#### 2. **OPENING PRAYER**

Karen Spencer invited members to reflect on their own.

#### 3. **PRESENTATION**- Meg Gibson

VPAD Kristiina Montero introduced Meg Gibson, Associate Professor, SDS & SSW who shared details of her research activities: "*Neurodiversity, community, and doing research differently.*"

#### 4. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**MOVED by Thomas Littlewood** to approve the agenda; **SECONDED by Ryan Connell.**

**CARRIED.**

#### 5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**- April 26, 2023

**MOVED by Joseph Olubobokun** to approve the April 26, 2023 minutes; **SECONDED by Ashton Romany.**

**CARRIED.**

#### 6. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

None.

7. **DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

There were no members reporting a conflict of interest.

8. **CHAIR'S REMARKS**- Karen Spencer

Karen Spencer shared the news of her upcoming retirement from her position as Executive Director of Family & Children's Service of Waterloo Region after a 29 year career!

A schedule of upcoming Board meetings was shared with the members. It was confirmed that the September Board meeting will be held in-person only, with no option to attend virtually.

9. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**- Wendy Fletcher

On National Indigenous People's Day, President Wendy Fletcher shared an Indigenous teaching that it is important to begin each day with a good mind and a good mind starts with gratitude. Deep gratitude to Board members, members of the community and the Renison team.

FINANCE UPDATE

Banking contact- Jill Pauls

The 5-year banking contract with RBC ends October 31, 2023. A proposal from RBC for an additional 5-year contract with no change in fees and the same interest rate was shared with the Finance & Audit committee. A 3+1+1 contract was the preferred option, to which RBC agreed. The recommendation from the Finance & Audit committee is to remain with RBC for a 3+1+1 year contract.

**MOVED by Tracy Peressini** to remain with RBC for a 3+1+1 year contract with no changes to our fees and interest rate; **SECONDED by Joseph Olubobokun.**

**CARRIED.**

Finance Sub-committee: Investments- Shumiao Wang

The committee met yesterday to hear perspective from Dr. Olaf Weber into insights and things to consider in the investment portfolio. The committee will discuss setting goals at the next meeting.

Reserve fund sub-committee- Ashton Romany

A meeting was held early in June to draft a policy which will be shared with the Finance & Audit committee then shared with the Board in the Fall after the Financial Statements are approved.

Strategic planning

UW is unable to assist us with our process as the search for a Director for this work was unsuccessful.

President's Cabinet met and was supportive of a follow up with another group that had provided a proposal. We await their response and will hopefully follow up with a proposal to present to the Board in the Fall.

**MOVED by Thomas Littlewood** to accept the report of the President; **SECONDED by Joseph Olubobokun.**

**CARRIED.**

Bill 26

Renison has adopted the amendment to the HDAP dealing with misconduct of a staff member against a student, which was mirrored largely on the UW amendment, ahead of the July 1 deadline.

Convocation

Renison students were celebrated at the Spring Convocation event last week.

Degree- Kristiina Montero, VPAD

It was the inaugural year for the new Renison Faculty Awards through Academic Council. Members adjudicated the nominations and awards were given to:

Young Gon Kim, CLS- Teaching

Robert Case, Service

Kristiina Llewellyn- Teaching

Fall admissions are looking strong with 56 direct entry SDS students compared to 38 last year; the largest class in the MSW program is expected (71). Numbers for the BSW are lower however the conversion rate of offers that were accepted was approximately 85% compared to 65% last year.

SACE- Tanya Missere Mihas

The summer will be busy with 275 students coming through our residence from June – September. With 214 beds, there will be lots of turnover for residence rooms and the Facilities and Food Services staff will be busy. In ELL programming, over 400 students will be participating to campus for EFS, BASE, GEAR and also through online programs. For the Fall, 214 students have applied for residence with 6 on the waitlist, which is positive. Fall enrolments for EFAS look good so far where numbers for the BASE programs do not look as favourable.

There was a cybersecurity incident at the University of Waterloo which affected Renison as our IT system is dependent on UW. The University of Waterloo is working with Renison IST to restore any material that was lost, which had been backed up and to ensure that the best security protocols are in place. The process is moving forward, and things are going well.

Renison Reunion- Cort Egan

A 50<sup>th</sup> Renison residence reunion is planned for August and will include Renison residents who were on campus between 1972 – 1976. There are 48 registrants so far. Fundraising efforts will go to the David Harty Award for students. The Stone Garden ritual will be held as a way to honour stories that come to Renison. The Stone Garden ceremony is a significant, affordable way which has meaning across cultures. Stones are sacred objects which are brought by guests as a representation of our stories.

**MOVED by Shumiao Wang** to accept the report of the President; **SECONDED by Ashton Romany.** **CARRIED.**

**10. COMMITTEE UPDATES**

a) Governance Committee- Thomas Littlewood

The committee has not met since the last Board meeting.

i. Chancellor Search Committee (CSC)- Thomas Littlewood

Candidates have been approached but the position was declined. There is another suggested candidate who will be considered. If it does not work out the committee may go in another direction.

ii. The President's Search Committee (PSC)- Karen Spencer

The PSC will meet tomorrow to review the committee Terms of Reference and discuss the RFP for search firms.

b) Finance & Audit Committee- Shumiao Wang

KPMG presented the Audit Plan report including the Engagement Letter. There is a slight increase in fees to conduct the audit and there are some small changes in Audit Standards.

c) RRRSC- Thomas Littlewood

Three sub-groups were formed to consider the Renison name, the connection to the Anglican Church, and the Renison story. Before making a recommendation to the Board, community consultation will be arranged as part of the strategic planning process. It is hoped that the RRRSC will be able to present recommendations at the November Board meeting. Karen Spencer shared that the RRRSC has been engaged in a thoughtful process with much time spent examining the questions through conversation of the engaged committee members.

**11. GOVERNANCE POLICY OBSERVATION- Thomas Littlewood**

No concerns noted.

**12. OTHER BUSINESS**

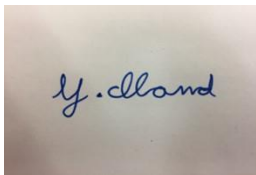
None.

**13. IN-CAMERA SESSION**

**MOVED by Joseph Olubobokun to enter the in-camera session; SECONDED by Shumiao Wang. CARRIED.**

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED by Thomas Littlewood to adjourn the meeting; SECONDED by Joseph Olubobokun. CARRIED.**

A rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in blue ink on a light-colored background. The signature appears to be 'Y. Iland'.

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Yaacov Iland  
Secretary, Board of Governors