



AFFILIATED WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Wednesday, June 24, 2020 | Microsoft TEAMS Meeting | 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES - OPEN SESSION- FINAL

The minutes were approved at the August 26, 2020 meeting of the Board.

PRESENT: Robert Case, Ryan Connell, Manfred Conrad, Wendy Fletcher (President), Matthew Griffin, Brian Hendley (Chair), Keith Hipel (Secretary), Vicky Ikeno, Yaacov Iland, Jane Karanassiou, Matthew Kieswetter, Jazlin Nicholas, Peter Ringrose, Peter Roe, Ashton Romany (Treasurer), Karen Spencer (Vice-Chair), Frances Tse, Liz Vitek, Hanqing Wu

REGRETS: Samantha Chan

GUESTS: Kofi Campbell, Megan Collings-Moore, Adrian Conrad, Brenda Doyle, Cort Egan, Melanie McKellar, Tanya Missere Mihas, Greg Parks, Mike Porritt, Mike Reed, Jim Robson, Elena Wiersma, Fei Wei

RECORDER: Lisa Kessig

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Renison University College acknowledges that we live and work on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (Neutral), Anishinaabeg, and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes ten kilometers on each side of the Grand River.

1. **OPENING PRAYER**- Matthew Kieswetter

2. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

The request was made to move the Building Presentation up to agenda item #3.

MOVED by Peter Ringrose to approve the agenda as amended moving the Presentation to #3; **SECONDED by Frances Tse.** **CARRIED.**

3. **BUILDING PROPOSAL PRESENTATION**

Guests Mike Porritt, Elena Wiersma, Fei Wei and Adrian Conrad were welcomed to the meeting.

Prior to receiving the building proposal, Renison commissioned the Scion Group to conduct a marketing study to affirm the need for residence space in the area and research key factors preferred by students. Mike Porritt confirmed that students indicated their interest in value, comfortable surroundings over luxury, community and a sense of connectedness to main campus.

The Walter Fedy group created the building plans based on the identified needs of Renison and student preferences led by team members Fei Wei and Elena Wiersma. Key features of the building include a large amphitheatre event space, residence space addressing student preferences and concerns and achieving a net zero carbon rating at a low ongoing cost. The project cost estimated for the project is \$42.7M. Elena provided a detailed description of the building features including a large lecture hall, kitchen servery and dining space, parking, student life coordinator apartment, 5 hotel rooms and 2 guest suites. It was confirmed that double residence rooms can easily be split into single rooms with the addition of a wall. The resulting number of residence rooms will remain unchanged.

The Cora Group project focus is on sustainability and development. They were the first in Canada to develop a net zero carbon building and have utilized this success and expertise to guide this project. How the build can be financed has been discussed. The conversation will continue in the future. The build meets several of Renison's needs and team members are enthusiastic to proceed.

Projected timing of the project is 24 months including 6 months to complete the design and 18-20 months for construction with a 2022 completion date.

The Board Chair thanked the team for their efforts and thorough presentation. The guests left the meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES- May 27, 2020

Prior to the approval of the minutes Faculty Appointee Rob Case noted that he did not hear the mission discussion as it was represented in the minutes. In addition he requested that the statement that Renison does not receive any funding in support of research be struck from the minutes.

The members confirmed that the minutes were an accurate reflection of the discussion that took place and a change was not required.

In response to the line about funding, an accurate statement about any research funding received by Renison would need to be prepared by a high level finance individual. In the absence of a CFO, the issue is on hold and will be revisited when the appropriate financial expertise is available.

ACTION: At the September Board meeting a report will be presented regarding the small proportion of research overhead funding of Renison by UW.

The following amendment to the statement was agreed to unanimously by the members:

“Wendy pointed out that the economic issue is that Renison does not receive any funding in support of research, unlike its university counterparts.”

MOVED by Rob Case to approve the minutes of May 27, 2020 as amended; **SECONDED by Karen Spencer.**

CARRIED.

5. BUSINESS ARISING

Board Chair Brian Hendley shared his email response to FAUW President Bryan Tolson regarding his Senate presentation about the Renison Board. Bryan Tolson’s reply and the reply received from UW President Feridun Hamdullahpur were read aloud. As it appears there will be no apology from UW forthcoming, the Chair urged us to move forward and work on improving our own collegiality.

It was agreed that ongoing communication between faculty and the Board will promote conversation and collaboration.

Wendy appreciated the discussion as a positive way to move forward with a focus on common ground between faculty and the Board. It was confirmed that all at Renison are holding the work of teaching and research.

The President reserves the right to take discussions to the Board as needed and encouraged commitment to the Renison signposts and to assume the best of one another. Trust and effective communication can be built together. When we see each other we can know each other.

Kofi Campbell thanked Wendy for the reminder to focus on what is important and expressed appreciation for demonstrating good leadership.

6. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST- None

7. CHAIR’S REMARKS- Dr. Brian Hendley

None.

8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT- Dr. Wendy Fletcher

The next steps for the building proposal were be discussed at the in-camera session.

The President expressed deep appreciation to Brenda Doyle and Mike Reed for preparing the financial figures for the meeting and for the guidance of Treasurer Ashton Romany.

At the end of May there was a 30% drop in revenues and a 28% drop in expenses. It is expected this balance will inverse at the end of Q1. Every dollar is being watched carefully. The tuition grant payments from UW are being received.

Other AFIW members are considering applying, or have applied for the Wage Subsidy. The Board will be kept up to date regarding their acceptance for the program. Applications are being received until the end of September. CAUT is lobbying the government to include universities and colleges in the wage subsidy program.

The President's Cabinet met for the first time. It was a positive first meeting for the members compiled from MDG, DAC, and ELI.

CAPE & Student Affairs

Kudos to faculty and teachers. There is high enrollment in the CAPE area. We are grateful for their efforts.

ERC

Work is being done to bring the online donation process in-house. This could be a good opportunity to steward donors.

Chaplain

The JHSC is working on a draft proposal for staff to return to work. There is no regular return to work expected prior to September and the return will be staggered.

Confucius Institute

A discussion about changes to the Confucius Institute will be held in-camera. CI Director Yan Li was invited to comment and provide information.

Rob Case noted for the minutes FAUW was not commissioned to present the Renison Board issue to Senate. FAUW received word that there was concern about research at Renison. What occurred at Senate was a decision made by FAUW alone.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- i. Finance & Audit Committee- With the resignation of the CFO, an update to the list of signing officers for Renison was required. It was proposed that signing authority of the Vice-Chair be transferred now that the Treasurer's position has been filled by Ashton Romany.

MOVED by Ashton Romany to approved the following as signing officers of Renison University College effective June 24, 2020: Wendy Fletcher, Brian Hendley, Ashton Romany, Kofi Campbell and Tanya Missere Mihas;
SECONDED by Peter Ringrose. **CARRIED.**

ii. Governance Committee

The call for nominations to the Board has been distributed through daily faculty and staff communications and is posted on the Renison website. The deadline for submissions is the end of August. A decision of who to put forward for the position will be made by the Governance Committee at the end of the summer.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Board Chair Brian Hendley recognized that this was Renisix student rep Jazlin Nicholas' last Board meeting. He expressed appreciation for her involvement on the Board.

11. GOVERNANCE POLICY OBSERVATION

The Vice-Chair Karen Spencer acknowledged that Board members did a great job.

MOVED by Peter Roe to adjourn the open session; **SECONDED by Peter Ringrose.**

CARRIED.

All were thanked for participating in the meeting.

12. IN-CAMERA SESSION

MOVED by Frances Tse to move in-camera; **SECONDED by Matthew Kieswetter.**

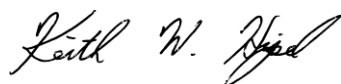
CARRIED.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Rob Case to adjourn the meeting; **SECONDED by Frances Tse.**

CARRIED.

14. NEXT MEETING: September 2020- Date to be confirmed.



Keith W. Hipel
Secretary, Board of Governors