



AFFILIATED WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

TEAMS/DFL | 6:00 p.m.

### MINUTES - OPEN SESSION- FINAL

The minutes were approved at the May 25, 2022 meeting of the Board of Governors.

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**PRESENT:** Jason Blokhuis, Shelby Bolitsky, Ryan Connell, Asnake Dabala, Wendy Fletcher (President), Brian Hendley, Keith Hipel, Yaacov Iland, Jane Karanassiou, Thomas Littlewood, Edwin Ng, Joseph Olubobokun (Secretary), Ashton Romany (Treasurer), Karen Spencer (Chair), Liz Vitek (Vice-Chair), Shumiao Wang, Marita Williams

**REGRETS:** Manfred Conrad (Chancellor), Liam Michel, Frances Tse

**GUESTS:** Cort Egan, Melanie McKellar, Scott McLeod, Tanya Missere-Mihas, Kristiina Montero, Jill Pauls, Jeff Wilson

**RECORDER:** Lisa Kessig

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**TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:** With gratitude, we acknowledge that Renison University College is located on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (also known as Neutral), Anishinaabeg, and Haudenosaunee 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. Our active work toward reconciliation takes place across our campuses through research, learning, teaching, community building and outreach, and is centralized within the work of our Truth and Reconciliation Working Group and the University of Waterloo's [Indigenous Initiatives Office](#).

#### 1. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Chair Karen Spencer provided the land acknowledgement.

#### 2. OPENING PRAYER & INTRODUCTION

Renison Chaplain Scott McLeod provided the opening prayer and gave a brief introduction and an update about his first months in the role of Chaplain.

#### 3. SPEAKER SERIES PRESENTATION- Dr. Jeff Wilson, CLS

Board member Edwin Ng introduced guest Dr. Jeff Wilson, Professor, CLS.

Dr. Jeff Wilson is Professor of Religious Studies and East Asian Studies. He started at Renison as an assistant professor in 2007. He is the founding chair of the Culture and Language Studies department and author of several books, including "Mindful America: The Mutual Transformation of Buddhist Meditation and American Culture." Dr. Wilson's current research projects include Buddhism and economics, and Buddhist social and political engagement.

Dr. Wilson presented highlights from his research "Pennies from the Pure Land:" Practicing Buddhism, Hanging Out, and Raising Funds for the Oldest Temple Outside Asia.

#### 4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**MOVED** by Liz Vitek to approve the agenda; **SECONDED** by Ryan Connell.

**CARRIED.**

#### 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES- February 16, 2022

**MOVED** by Thomas Littlewood to approve the minutes of February 16; **SECONDED** by Jason Blokhuis.

**CARRIED.**

6. **BUSINESS ARISING**

None.

7. **DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

None.

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

New Board Chair Karen Spencer welcomed members to the meeting and remarked how nice it was to be able to attend the meeting in-person with other members of the Board.

Founders' Day will be held online Thursday, April 28 at 7:00 pm and Board members were invited and encouraged to attend. A Board meeting in April (27) is not needed and will be cancelled. It is hoped that by not having a Board meeting April 27 that members will be available to attend Founders' Day online on April 28.

Members were encouraged to ask questions at any time and especially when Jill Pauls provides details of the draft budget.

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

Sabbatical Leave

The VPAD-TPC submitted recommendations to the President to approve the Sabbatical Leave applications for Dr. Vinh Nguyen and Dr. Kristina Llewellyn.

**MOVED by Wendy Fletcher** to approve the recommendation for 6-month Sabbatical Leave at 85% salary for Dr. Vinh Nguyen, and to approve the recommendation for a 12-month Sabbatical Leave for Dr. Kristina Llewellyn at 85% salary; **SECONDED by Jason Blokhuis.** **CARRIED.**

Tenure and Promotion

Five recommendations were received by the President from the VPAD-TPC for presentation to the Board for Tenure and Promotion.

**MOVED by Wendy Fletcher** to approve the recommendation for Promotion to the rank of Associate Professor with Tenure of Dr. Amir Al-Azraki effective July 1, 2022; **SECONDED by Keith Hipel.** **CARRIED.**

**MOVED by Wendy Fletcher** to approve the recommendation for Promotion to the rank of Associate Professor with Tenure of Dr. Meg Gibson effective July 1, 2022; **SECONDED by Liz Vitek.** **CARRIED.**

**MOVED by Wendy Fletcher** to approve the recommendation for Promotion to the rank of Associate Professor with Tenure of Dr. Edwin Ng effective July 1, 2022; **SECONDED by Asnake Dabala.** **CARRIED.**

**MOVED by Wendy Fletcher** to approve the recommendation for Promotion to the rank of Full Professor of Dr. Jason Blokhuis effective July 1, 2022; **SECONDED by Yaacov Iland.** **CARRIED.**

**MOVED by Wendy Fletcher** to approve the recommendation for Promotion to the rank of Full Professor of Dr. Kevin Cai effective July 1, 2022; **SECONDED by Thomas Littlewood.** **CARRIED.**

Congratulations to all.

### Budget 2022-2023

This year, the new Accountability Based budget model was utilized as a clear way to track funds in and funds out. This model will be presented to the Renison community at the upcoming Employee Town Hall in April. The revenue and expense generating units are separated as Degree, the Centre (Finance, IST, President's Office, ERC, Marketing, Facilities), and SACE (Student Affairs and Community Education). Centre expenses are shared by Degree and SACE. New Renison funds have been created to funnel any cash surplus amounts and include a Capital/Infrastructure fund; Missional Development (program innovation); Stabilization fund (revenue to assist with any deficit); Unplanned Urgent Need. Policy development is needed for these funds.

The draft budget for 2022-2023 includes modest increases in tuition, grant and residence revenues and modest increases in repairs and maintenance costs. With a deficit of \$714,000, the resulting debt ratio is 65%. The minimum ratio required by the bank is 105%. It is hoped that this can be achieved.

The Degree side is projected to end in a deficit of \$213,844. The Degree area contributes 13% of their revenue to Centre costs. The Non-degree area is projected to show a surplus of \$213,844. This area contributes 25% of their revenue to Centre costs.

Treasurer Ashton Romany thanked Jill Pauls and the Budget Sub-Committee team for the countless hours spent on developing the budget.

The VPs for SACE and Degree were asked to reflect on their opportunities and risks, and to plan for next steps.

### Degree plan for revenue generation and expense reduction

The Degree area will explore course related efficiencies including class sizes, use of Sessionals; efficiencies within the Registrar's office; exploration outside of the equity agreement for revenue generating activities. Ensure there is meaningful support and buy-in from all areas for these activities.

### Non-Degree plan for revenue generation and expense reduction

Rebuild infrastructure, allocate staff to meet the needs of a recovering Student Life and Housing. Bring Student Life together more broadly. Employ more casual staff; capitalize on what we already have; apply for more grant funding.

**MOVED by Ashton Romany** to request a report to the Board in November from the VP SACE and the VPAD to quantify how to move forward beyond the next year and plan for the future; **SECONDED by Liz Vitek.**

**CARRIED.**

**MOVED by Ashton Romany** to approve the Budget for 2022-2023; **SECONDED by Ryan Connell.**

**CARRIED.**

### Capital Budget- FY 23

Renovations for the Great Hall washrooms have been delayed and are slated for FY 2023 in the amount of \$35,000. The boiler could fail at any time and will be replaced this year at a cost of \$375,000. Phase 2 of the keyless entry project (cost of \$50,000) is on hold. Network upgrades to access points are ongoing (\$25,000) but are stalled due to supply shortage issues. Other projects listed include the Great Hall speaker system replacement, Student Information Software (\$105,000), residence beds (\$10,000) and classroom upgrades (\$33,000) for a total budget of \$269,000.

**MOVED by Ashton Romany** to approve the Capital Budget for 2022-2023; **SECONDED by Keith Hipel.**

**CARRIED.**

### Investment Policy

As Renison moves its Endowment Funds out of UW's plan, a policy is needed to guide where the funds should be invested. A draft policy was created using some language from the Investment policies of St. Jerome's University and UW. The draft policy was reviewed by the Finance & Audit Committee and Renison's business lawyer. An RFP is being drafted for a company to manage Renison's investments.

**MOVED by Jason Blokhuis** to approve the Renison University College Investment Policy as amended; **SECONDED by Asnake Dabala.** **CARRIED.**

**MOVED by Jason Blokhuis** to update Signing Officers for Renison as of May 1, 2022 by removing Ashton Romany and adding Shumiao Wang, Karen Spencer and Kristiina Montero; **SECONDED by Thomas Littlewood.**

**CARRIED.**

### Renison Steering Committee

The Steering Committee will begin its work in May by developing a mandate and Terms of Reference. There will be four Working Groups assigned to examine each of the four areas of focus. In this process there will be space for everyone to engage.

**MOVED by Jason Blokhuis** to accept the President's Report; **SECONDED by Shumiao Wang.**

**CARRIED.**

## **10. COMMITTEE UPDATES**

### a) Governance Committee

Karen Spencer is now the Chair of the Governance Committee. The most recent meeting was held February 23. The nominations for Founders' Day awards will be discussed during the in-camera session.

### b) Finance & Audit Committee- Ashton Romany

No report.

## **11. GOVERNANCE POLICY OBSERVATION- Liz Vitek**

No concerns were noted.

## **12. OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

## **13. IN-CAMERA SESSION**

**MOVED by Jason Blokhuis** to enter the in-camera session; **SECONDED by Ryan Connell.**

**CARRIED.**

## **14. ADJOURNMENT**



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Joseph Olubobokun  
Secretary, Board of Governors