



AFFILIATED WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Wednesday, November 30, 2022

DFL & TEAMS | 6:00 p.m.

### MINUTES - OPEN SESSION- FINAL

**The minutes were approved at the January 25, 2023 meeting of the Board of Governors.**

**PRESENT:** Ethan Batiuk, Jason Blokhuis, Ryan Connell, Manfred Conrad (Chancellor), Wendy Fletcher (President), Brian Hendley, Keith Hipel, Yaacov Iland, Jane Karanassiou, Thomas Littlewood, Edwin Ng, Ashton Romany, Karen Spencer (Chair), Shumiao Wang (Treasurer), Marita Williams

**REGRETS:** Asnake Dabala, Sarah Malik, Clarissa Michaels, Joseph Olubobokun (Secretary), Frances Tse

**GUESTS:** Jean Becker, Cort Egan, Kelly Laurila, Melanie McKellar, Tanya Missere Mihas, Kristiina Montero, Jill Pauls, Tracy Peressini

**RECORDER:** Lisa Kessig

**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

Marita Williams gave the opening prayer.

Roundtable introduction- members and guests were invited to give a brief introduction.

Outgoing members of the Board- Jason Blokhuis, Keith Hipel, and Frances Tse (absent) were recognized and thanked for their contributions to the Board.

#### 3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**MOVED** by Jason Blokhuis to approve the agenda; **SECONDED** by Yaacov Iland.

**CARRIED.**

#### 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES- September 21, 2022

**MOVED** by Thomas Littlewood to approve the September 21, 2022 minutes; **SECONDED** by Ryan Connell.

**CARRIED.**

An amendment to the minutes was requested to reflect that an opening prayer was given at the meeting by Board Chair Karen Spencer. After a review of the meeting recording, it was confirmed that an amendment to the minutes was not needed as an opening prayer had not been provided at the meeting.

Karen Spencer shared that Vice-Chair Liz Vitek had resigned from her position. Appreciation for Liz's contribution to the Board.

#### 5. BUSINESS ARISING

None.

6. **PRESENTATION**- Kelly Laurila

“Conversations of Truth Work and Unsettling of Settler Narratives”

The Board requested that a Steering Committee be struck to examine the history of Renison’s namesake. Kelly Laurila is a member of this committee and was asked to present on the process of truth work, and how we know ourselves and our history.

7. **DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

None.

8. **CHAIR’S REMARKS**- Karen Spencer

The Chair was pleased to see everyone at the first fully in-person meeting in 2 years. The next in-person Board meeting is scheduled for March 2023. Members were asked to let Lisa know if they will not be available to attend the March meeting in-person.

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

The Board package contains high level information about issues of interest for the members of the Board. The type of information provided can be tailored to the preference of the Board. At the meeting, the President selects a few points to present to the Board. At most regular Board meetings, the President asks senior leaders to provide updates for their areas. The President shared key highlights from the Board report.

Finance

The end of Q2 is doing well and is slightly ahead of budget. The deficit is currently smaller than anticipated thanks to good expense control and an increase in residence and food service revenues. It is hoped there will be a cash surplus, which does not mean there won’t be a deficit.

Endowment funds

Renison endowment funds are doing well. A representative from RBC will be invited to provide an update at the Board meeting in January.

Budget

Work on the budget has begun with the goal of achieving the debt service ratio without assistance from UW.

Strategic planning

A new strategic plan will be developed in the new year with a facilitator to guide the conversation through an anti-racism and decolonization lens. Christopher Taylor at the UW Equity office will be asked if one of their team could fill this role for Renison as part of their workload. The President asked for the support of the Board to proceed in this direction. The Board was supportive of this proposal.

Dishwasher sale

As the Board must approve of the sale of Renison assets, Board support was requested to sell the old dishwasher for parts.

**MOVED by Jason Blokhuis to approve the sale of the dishwasher; SECONDED by Yaacov Iland. CARRIED.**

Artwork

Paintings created by Wendy during the pandemic with input from staff on colour choices were hung on the wall outside the library. A Faculty group questioned why a painting that had previously hung there was moved and

asked who authorized this change. The decision was made by Management to remove the painting by Annie Wong. It was discovered that the intention of the donor of the painting was that it would be sold to fund the budget. It is important to honour the requests of donors, but this had not been done when the donation was made. The painting was removed so it could be appraised. Updates will be provided to the Board as they are available.

**MOVED by Keith Hipel** to accept the report of the President; **SECONDED by Shumiao Wang.** **CARRIED.**

## 10. **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

### a) Governance Committee

As Vice-Chair Liz Vitek submitted her resignation from the Board, the Vice-Chair role and a Board seat will now need to be filled.

Joseph Olubobokun, current Secretary of the Board, consented to let his name stand to fill the remaining 1-year of Liz Vitek's Vice-Chair term.

**MOVED by Thomas Littlewood** to elect Joseph Olubobokun to fill a one-year term as the Vice-Chair effective January 1, 2023; **SECONDED by Yaacov Iland.** **CARRIED.**

A new member of the Board is needed to fill the one year left for the seat vacated by Liz Vitek seat. A candidate interested in filling this term as of January 1, 2023 has come forward. Karen Spencer provided some background information for candidate Asma Al-Wahsh who has significant experience in the community and has ties to Renison through the academic English language programs.

**MOVED by Thomas Littlewood** to elect Asma Al-Wahsh to fill a one-year Board term effective January 1, 2023; **SECONDED by Keith Hipel.** **CARRIED.**

Now that Joseph Olubobokun will fill the Vice-Chair role, someone needs to be elected for the role of Secretary. The Secretary ensures the accurate recording of Board meetings and will fill the role of Chair if the Chair and Vice-Chair are not available. The Secretary also serves as a member of the Governance Committee. Yaacov Iland responded to the call for a volunteer to fill this role.

**MOVED by Brian Hendley** to appoint Yaacov Iland as the Secretary to the Board effective January 1, 2023; **SECONDED by Jason Blokhuis.** **CARRIED.**

Chancellor Search Committee (CSC)- The CSC will meet next week to begin the search for the next Chancellor.

The President's Search Committee will meet again in the new year to begin work to identify the next President. The PSC from last year will process although there will be some vacancies due to changing availability of some members.

### b) Finance & Audit Committee- Shumiao Wang

The Finance updates were provided within the President's Report.

### c) RRRSC

The group met prior to Christmas and will meet again in the new year. Wendy is working on developing contacts within the James Bay Cree nation toward consultation with them. Two new members from the Indigenous community were welcomed.

**11. RENISON INFORMATION & ORIENTATION SESSION**

Deferred.

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

No concerns were noted.

**13. OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**14. IN-CAMERA SESSION**

**MOVED by Jason Blokhuis to enter the in-camera session; SECONDED by Yaacov Iland.**

**CARRIED.**

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned.



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Joseph Olubobokun  
Secretary, Board of Governors