University of Waterloo
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Minutes of the Wednesday 28 August 2013 Teleconference Meeting


Resource: Stacey Ash, George Dixon, Dennis Huber, Tim Jackson, Geoff McBoyle, Ken McGillivray, Ellen Réthropé

Secretariat: Logan Atkinson, Tracy Dietrich

Regrets: Jordan Banks, Andrea Charette, Michelle DiEmanuele, Cindy Forbes, Brenda Halloran, Thorsten Heins, Karen Maidment, David McKay, Bill Power, Gerry Remers, Prem Watsa, Karen Wilkinson, Marta Witer, Nicollette Zaptzes, Carl Zehr

Organization of Meeting: Kevin Lynch, chair of the board, took the chair, and Logan Atkinson, secretary of the board, acted as secretary. Atkinson advised that due notice of the meeting had been given, a quorum was present, and the meeting was properly constituted.

1. UNIVERSITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2013

The chair summarized the discussions to date on the proposed strategic plan, focusing on the input of board members and the Board Executive Committee over the course of the past three months. At the August meeting of the Executive Committee, it was emphasized that implementation strategies ought to be developed as early as possible, with the role of the board, the administration and the accountability framework taking centre stage in the early part of the implementation process. The chair advised the meeting that the Executive Committee of the board had unanimously recommended adoption of the plan by the board. He introduced Hamdullahpur, indicating that he would summarize some of the main points from the plan.

Hamdullahpur thanked board members for their input and their support over the course of development of the draft plan circulated to the board in advance of the meeting. He summarized the university’s objectives by reference to a series of slides, available at: https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/sites/ca.secretariat/files/uploads/files/strat-plan-pres-aug26.pdf

Hamdullahpur emphasized the unique position of the university relative to its ambition to be one of the top innovative universities in the world, focusing on entrepreneurialism, experiential education, and transformational research. In the case of research, the university will focus on its existing strengths in quantum science, water and aging, all in the context of a broad commitment to research of profound impact.

Implementation, measurement of progress, and accountability are keys to the success of this plan. McBoyle referred to the one page “next steps” document circulated to the board in advance of the meeting, and pointed out that implementation will be accelerated as requested by the Executive Committee. A first report will be provided to the board at the October general meeting.

Hamdullahpur finished his presentation by expressing his confidence that the plan will serve the university thoroughly as we move through the next five years.
The board heard a motion to approve the university strategic plan 2013, titled “A Distinguished Past – A Distinctive Future,” as presented.

Hamdullahpur and Schlegel.

Discussion ensued on the descriptions of major research areas, the focus on values and diversity, resource allocation based on settling priorities, the process by which theme leaders will be identified internally, the possible need for outside expertise, the relationship between top priorities and the eight themes expressed in the draft plan, the question of the connection between learning for the sake of learning and education for employment, and the involvement of students in operational committees in the implementation phase.

The motion carried.

The chair expressed great enthusiasm for the university’s future, saying that the plan as approved provides an opportunity to move the university forward to leading status in the world.

Hamdullahpur thanked governors for their input and support, thanked members of his administration for their commitment, and mentioned specifically the efforts of Geoff McBoyle and Stacey Ash in bringing the plan to this stage.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

/fla
28 August 2013

Logan Atkinson
Secretary of the University