

October 24, 2024

1:00 p.m.

MRU, EC 2010

PRESENT:

Chris Lee - Public Member- Chair
Tala Abu Hayyaneh – Student Member
Laura Daniels – Public Member
Sherri Evers – Public Member
Brenden Hunter – Public Member
Cheryl Melatdoost – Staff Member
Thomas O’Leary – Public Member

Shannon Pestun - Alumni Member- Vice-Chair
Tim Rahilly - President and Vice-Chancellor
Kari Roberts - Faculty Member
David Routledge – Alumni Member
Rob Schaefer – Public Member
Sheba Singh – Public Member
Reynold Tetzlaff – Public Member
Anisa Tilston – Student Member

RESOURCES:

Kathy Homer, Assistant University Secretary-Board, Recording Secretary
Chad London, Provost and Vice-President, Academic
Mustansar Nadeem, Vice-President, Finance and Administration
Amy Nixon, General Counsel and University Secretary
Melanie Rogers, Vice-President, University Advancement
Phil Warsaba, Vice-President, Students

REGRETS:

Dawn Farrell- Chancellor
Jacqueline Musabende - Faculty Member

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

C. Lee called the Open Session to order at 1:00 p.m., confirmed quorum and invited T. O’Leary to commence with a land acknowledgment.

1.1. Conflict of Interest Declaration

There were no conflicts declared.

ACTION ITEMS

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved and seconded:

THAT the agenda be approved, as distributed.

CARRIED.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1. Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held on May 28, 2024.

Moved and seconded:

THAT the minutes of the Open Session of the Board of Governors' meeting held May 28, 2024, be approved, as distributed.

CARRIED.

3.2. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the past set of minutes.

4. MRU ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

The Annual Report was provided for information to the Board of Governors. T. Rahilly reported that the Annual Report is the primary accountability document required by Advanced Education and its format and content are prescribed by the Province. The Report was recommended by the Audit and Risk Committee and was also provided to the Finance Committee for information.

T. Rahilly highlighted:

- The 2021/22 Annual Report guidelines were used to develop the 2023/24 Annual Report, and we have added the new requirements from the Ministry to report on free speech and Board of Governors training on for-profit ventures.
- The development of the University Strategic Plan, Academic Plan, and the progress made towards developing Research and Scholarship Plan and Student's Division Strategic Plan.
- New degree programs in Bachelor of Aviation Management and Bachelor of Data Science and the expansion of seats in the Aviation Diploma program to support students and the next generation of pilots.
- Fulfilling the commitments and reporting on the funding metrics established in the Investment Management Agreement between MRU and the Ministry.
- Full Load Equivalent (FLE) increase of 3.7% in 2023/24 compared to 2022/23, primarily due to the expansion of Tuition Enrolment Expansion (TEE) grants and a focus on sustained enrolment growth. MRU also had a 5.4% increase in registrations in Continuing Education course offerings.
- For the 2024-2025 Annual Report, post-secondary institutions are providing feedback to the Ministry on the format and content requirements of the new Annual Report guidelines. The new format is Excel-based with no narrative which does not fully capture an institution's strategic progress on goals, impact and contributions to students, staff, and the community.
- Minor typos were identified this morning that will be updated before being posted on the website.

In response to questions about debt and surpluses, surpluses are used for funding areas not covered by government support, such as deferred maintenance, IT systems, and furniture. Surplus funds are allocated through a deliberate process that prioritizes essential projects. Most of MRU's debt is tied to intangible assets like parking facilities and residence buildings.

Regarding fundraising and community engagement, there are reporting complexities related to fundraising such as the timing of pledges versus cash received. It was reported that fundraising goals align with our strategic plan and that donor interests often parallel institutional needs.

The Chair encouraged the community to review the Annual Report to ensure we are working towards achieving the goals.

Moved and seconded:

THAT the Board of Governors approve the Mount Royal University Annual Report: 2023/24.

CARRIED.

REPORTS

5. REPORTS

5.1. Board Chair

C. Lee, Board Chair, provided a written report and highlighted the MRU event with Minister Sawhney and some senior female leaders within Calgary in June 2024, the exit interviews conducted with outgoing board members, and highlights from the board retreat.

5.2. President and Vice-Chancellor

President and Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Tim Rahilly, provided a written report and highlighted the recent fundraising successes. CIBC donated \$500 000 towards the Trans Vocational Program and AgeCare donated \$600 000 to create the new Research Chair in Aging at MRU. He also noted a few events attended including the University Leadership Dialogue and the biannual breakfast with the President.

5.3. General Faculties Council

The General Faculties Council report summarizing the meetings held on September 20 and October 18, 2024 was provided for information. T. Rahilly highlighted the major revision to the process for onboarding new GFC members and the success of the revamped orientation program.

COMMITTEE MATTERS

6. AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

6.1. Committee Report

L. Daniels, Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee, reported that the Committee met this morning to receive the entrance plan for the fiscal audit from the Office of the Auditor General and KPMG, with the final report expected in May. Additionally, she noted that the new accounting standards and financial statement presentations will be required in 2027 and that there is work to be done in this area. The Committee also received updates on Enterprise Risk Management and initiatives from the ITS department, including a discussion on cybersecurity.

7. CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

7.1. Committee Report

A written report from the September 16, 2024 meeting was included in the package for information. D. Routledge, Chair of the Campus Development Committee, expressed gratitude for the Campus Master Planning process undertaken. He reminded board members of the Springbank Hangar tour scheduled following the November 18th meeting, noting that a supplementary tour may be arranged.

8. FINANCE COMMITTEE

8.1. Committee Report

R. Schaefer, Chair of the Finance Committee, provided a written report and highlighted the topics discussed at the meeting held this morning including the University's investments. The Investment Policy will be revisited at the next scheduled review in December 2025.

9. GOVERNANCE AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE

9.1. Committee Report

C. Lee, Chair of the Governance and Nominating Committee, provided a written report summarizing the discussions from the September 16, 2024 meeting. He highlighted that the GNC reviewed the orientation survey and the exit interview responses, noting the feedback will be used to enhance the orientation process. The annual work plans for the Board and committees were also reviewed. He noted that GNC aims to implement a biannual review (December and May) of the Board's performance to promote continuous improvement.

CONSENT AGENDA

10. ITEMS REMOVED FOR DISCUSSION

There were no items removed from the consent agenda for discussion.

11. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

The following items were received for information:

11.1. Financial Reports: First Quarter to June 30, 2024

11.2. Board Annual Plan 2024-2025

11.3. Board Committee Appointments 2024-2025

OTHER BUSINESS

12. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business identified for the consideration of the Board.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Moved and seconded:

THAT the Board of Governors meeting be adjourned at 1: 35 p.m.

CARRIED.