

28 January 2018

Dear Colleagues,

The Board of Governors met twice in the Fall Semester: 30<sup>th</sup> October and 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017. The Board receives information on many matters that Faculty members will be familiar with through the reports of other bodies (GFC minutes, Faculty Councils' minutes, MRFA general meeting minutes, Town Halls, communications from the Administration, etc.). Accordingly, this report focuses on matters brought to the Board's particular attention or upon which the Board has deliberated and acted in its public sessions. Some elaboration is provided on matters not reported elsewhere. Please note that the Board's agendas and minutes are reproduced on the MRU website at: <http://www.mtroyal.ca/AboutMountRoyal/OfficesGovernance/BoardofGovernors/>

**Board of Governors' Meeting 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017.**

At this meeting the Board received the following reports:

- The Chair of the Board of Governors Report (Sue Mallon)

The Chair made a number of recommendations for the conduct of meetings intended to keep meetings on schedule, the purpose of the consent agenda was discussed, and the purposes of and conduct of *incamera* sessions were also considered.

- the following reports from the University's executive officers:

- the President (David Docherty)

President Docherty noted that steps are being taken to implement the recommendations of the internal audit in respect of the Institutional Strategic Plan (ISP). These include the creation of an ISP Implementation Committee to be co-chaired by the Provost and the VP Administrative Services to ensure coordination of the implementation of both the ISP and the Academic Plan.

- the President's report on the activities of General Faculties Council.
- The Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs (Lesley Brown)

It was observed that MRU is pursuing a multi-year strategy to increase course access and achieve enrolment growth through increased offerings in the Spring and Summer semesters, adding course sections in cases where student demand is high and forces deferred enrolment, enrolment at other institutions, and

obstructs timely degree completion. And enrolment growth goal for 2018/18 has been set at 150 FLEs to be achieved by increased registrations of from the existing MRU student body. The Provost also reported on developments pertinent to Indigenization, Internationalization, the new Strategic Research Plan, and the negotiation of the new collective agreement with the Faculty.

- Vice-President, Administrative Services (Duane Anderson)

It was reported that the budget development process for 2018/19 and the following two years had just begun. The Provincial Tuition Review Committee report is now complete and an announcement on on provincial tuition fee regulations is expected. Alberta Advanced Education's review of the postsecondary funding model is still underway.

- Interim Vice-President, Student Affairs and Campus Life (Steven Fitterer)

The SACL Annual Report for 2016/17 has now been released. Accessibility Services has launched its new database and scheduling software, "Accommodate." SACL has begun to run its "Academic Writing Bootcamps:" 84 people attended.

- Vice-President, University Advancement (Paul Rossman)

Marketing and Communications has identified seven areas of focus to be pursued through the *You Belong Here* campaign:

- Attracting students from across Canada and around the world;
- Offering mainly four-year bachelor degrees;
- Developing intellectual qualities;
- Academic research;
- Credentials that are recognized by graduate and professional schools;
- Innovation in teaching programs;
- Personalized learning.

- Report of the President of the MRFA (Marc Schroeder)

- Report of the President of the MRSA (Baset Zarrug)

- Report of the President of the SAMRU (Shif Gadamsetti)

- The Board received or approved the following reports or statements:

- Fourth-quarter financial reports to June 30, 2017;

- Short-term investment report to June 30, 2017;
- Investment reports to June 30, 2017;
- Audited financial statements to June 30, 2017, Mount Royal University Foundation;
- Audited financial statements to June 30, 2017, Mount Royal University Childcare Centre.
  
- Michael Quinn, Associate Vice-President, Research Scholarship and Community Engagement gave presentation on the Ashoka U Changemaker Campus Designation.

Further information on these reports will be found in the Board minutes on the “Agendas and Minutes” page of the Board’s web pages, see: <http://www.mtroyal.ca/AboutMountRoyal/OfficesGovernance/BoardofGovernors/AgendasMinutes/index.htm>

### **Policy Approvals**

The Board approved the following policies or policy changes:

- Institutional Risk Management Policy;
- Institutional Strategic Plan of Priorities;
- these are identified as:
  - Grow to meet the demands of Alberta learners;
  - Timely degree completion;
  - Indigenization;
  - Internationalization;
  - Fundraisers with intention.

### **Board of Governors’ Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

At this meeting meeting the Board received the following reports:

- The Chair of the Board of Governors Report (Sue Mallon)
- the following reports from the University’s executive officers:

- the President

It was announced the Annalise Van Ham has been appointed Vice-President, Finance and Administration.

- the President's report on the activities of General Faculties Council
- The Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs (Lesley Brown)

It was reported that in the first fifty-one days since the opening of Fall Admissions, the number of applications has increased by 13%. Approximately 3,000 seats have been added to the Winter semester. The Office of Institutional Analysis has produced new visualization tools relating to registration tracking, retention and graduation, grade distribution, and institutional capacity. Additional such tools are under development. The Vice-Provost and Director of International Education are presenting the Internationalization Action Plan to Dean's Advisory Groups and seeking their input. A Manager of Academic Initiatives has been appointed effective 11<sup>th</sup> December.

- Vice-President, Administrative Services (Duane Anderson)

Various budget scenarios for 2018/19 are currently being assessed. On Nov. 30 the Province announced a tuition fees freeze, while committing to "backfill" the funding impact of the freeze upon post-secondary institutions. The details of the "backfill" provision will not be specified until the Spring 2018 Provincial Budget has been announced. The Resource Planning Task Force fulfilled its mandate in October 2017. Three groups are in the process of being established to oversee the development of resource planning process.

- Vice-President, Student Affairs and Campus Life (Steven Fitterer)
- Vice-President, University Advancement (Paul Rossman)

- Report of the President of the MRFA (Marc Schroeder)

*Note: this was the first Board of Governors meeting for which the association presidents were asked to provide brief summary documents to which information items could be appended. The documents were taken as read, and the association leaders were available for questions and comments.*

- Report of the President of the MRSA (Baset Zarrug)
- Report of the President of the SAMRU (Shif Gadamsetti)
- Steve Fitterer, Vice President, Student Affairs and Campus Life and Stephanie Stone, Director, Diversity and Human Rights made a presentation on diversity and

meaningful inclusion. This included a discussion of: the Code of Conduct Policy; The Code of Student Conduct (currently under review); Human Rights Policy (scheduled for review); Personal Harassment Policy (under review); and the Sexual Violence Response Policy (approved Feb. 2017).

- The Board also received the following reports, documents, or statements for information:
  - Director’s Liability Insurance Coverage.
  - Call for Nominations of Honorary Degree Candidates.
  - Institutes’ Annual Report, 2016 – 2017.
  - Human Research Ethics Board (HREB) Annual Report, 2017 - 2017.
  - *The Calgary Journal Annual Report, 2016 - 2017.*
  - Bill 27 — Amendments to the *Conflicts of Interest Act*.
  - First quarter financial reports to September 30, 2017.
  - Investment reports to 30th September, 2017.

Further information on these reports will be found in the Board minutes on the “Agendas and Minutes” page of the Board’s web pages, see: <http://www.mtroyal.ca/AboutMountRoyal/OfficesGovernance/BoardofGovernors/AgendasMinutes/index.htm>

### **Policy Approvals**

The Board approved the following policies or policy changes:

- Mount Royal University Annual Report, 2016-2017;
- Various Board By-Laws were amended;
- Revisions to the Governance and Nominating Committee Charter;

### **Board of Governance Matters**

#### **Changes in the Membership of the Board Governors**

Jim Campbell’s term on the Board of Governor expired at the end of January. No replacement has been appointed by the Ministry. Paul Kundan has been appointed Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors.

**The Next Board General Meeting** is on 26th February 2018 at 3:00 pm in EC 2010.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or comments.

Respectfully submitted,

David Clemis

Faculty Nominee to the Board of Governors

[dclemis@mtroyal.ca](mailto:dclemis@mtroyal.ca)