

Minutes of a meeting of the USask Board of Governors

March 30, 2020

Via teleconference

Present: Shelley Brown (chair), Allan Adam, Joy Crawford, Grant Devine, Jay Kalra, Ritu Malhotra, Grit McCreath, Regan Ratt-Misponas, Peter Stoicheff

Resource Officers: Greg Fowler, Debra Pozega Osburn, Chelsea Willness (secretary)

Also in attendance: Wade Epp, Sheena Tait-Rowan

1. Call to Order and Chair's Remarks

A roll call was taken as the meeting was held via teleconference.

The meeting was called to order at 3:34 pm on Monday, March 30.

2. Conflicts of Interest

A Board member declared a potential conflict of interest but the circumstances were deemed acceptable by the Chair.

3. President's Remarks

The President noted that on-going updates on COVID-19 have been posted to the University's website. He reported that he has been involved in numerous calls with university presidents across the country, and noted that Canada's universities are dealing effectively with the pandemic situation. In addition to the immediate crisis response, the university is now dedicating attention to an approach to planning for "phase II", which includes assessing different assumptions and scenarios for delivery of the fall semester (September through December). It was also noted that the university continues to work closely with the SHA and is assisting with requests for materials such as PPE.

4. Divestment of 22 Structures at the Kenderdine Campus

VP Fowler stated that, since the last Board meeting on March 23rd, where this item had been deferred, the University was contacted by two First Nations regarding their need for the cabins as part of their COVID-19 community response. The First Nation will take on any cost of moving the costs. Several structures will remain on the Kenderdine campus, including: Gus Kenderdine's cabin, dining hall, biology lab, washroom facilities, studio, workshop, and Director's cabin. The decision is regarding the 22 cabins only. A communication plan is being developed for the decision.

The AVP Services responded that their circumstance quickly changed as the communities needed to close their First Nations to the external community because of COVID-19, and some individuals will need shelter. They have communicated great urgency to us, given the situation.

The Chair asked for further clarification on the due diligence process still in place regarding liability, and this was explained. Additional questions included whether the buildings being given as is, without

guarantee or warranty (confirmed), and whether the buildings are being sold or donated (they are being divested, and from the Montreal Lake First Nation's perspective they are being acquired).

A Board member noted that this is a very appropriate request from the First Nation, and he sees no liabilities for the University. Lastly, the comment was made that this is a wonderful way to make use of these facilities, and positive that Montreal Lake and Fishing Lake are ensuring protection for their people and communities. Commendations were offered to the university and VP Finance & Resources team for supporting this process.

The following resolution was moved and seconded.

That the Board of Governors approves the divestment of 22 cabins from Kenderdine Campus.

CARRIED

6. Other business

There was none.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was appropriately adjourned by motion **at 4:05 pm.**