



BOARD NOTES

St. Francis Xavier University Board of Governors
Tuesday, August 25, 2020

The Board of Governors held a special meeting Tuesday August 25, 2020. The following is a summary of proceedings at the meetings.

CAMPUS REOPENING PLANS

Dr. Hakin provided an overview of the work that has been on-going since the last meeting of the Board in June related to reopening of the campus. He spoke about the legal waiver that had been introduced as a condition for registration and the reasoning behind why this was being utilized.

Dr. Wamsley, Academic Vice President & Provost provided an overview of the enrolment numbers for the Fall. At present the student headcount is up 234. The full-time student numbers are down by approximately 175 from the prior year (budget provided for an increase of 150), while part-time student numbers are up. Overall the Full Time Equivalent student numbers are down by 106.

Ms. Yeo, VP Students provided an overview of steps that have been taken to support students who are returning to Antigonish and require self-isolation. Approximately 375 students will be self-isolating in residence and a further 400 will be self-isolating off-campus. The Alumni Office has organized 200+ volunteers to support off-campus students through delivery of food and other essential items and checking-in with students during the 14 days. Recently, the Province has also introduced asymptomatic testing for all self-isolating students. Under this program students will be tested three times.

Ms. Yeo also discussed a Good Neighbour Strategy. Members of the administration and staff of StFX, the StFX Student Union, the Town of Antigonish, the Municipality of Antigonish County, the RCMP, and representative landlords have been working collaboratively to create the Good Neighbors Strategy.

Mr. Kyte, VP Advancement provided an overview of the approach being taken with communications leading up to students arriving back in Antigonish and in support of the Good Neighbour Strategy. He also described the approach being taken with sharing information with the campus community.

Mr. Beckett, VP Finance & Administration commented on the steps that have been taken to prepare various facilities on campus for the return of staff, faculty and students. Mr. Beckett also provided a brief update on the financial impact of the pandemic response. Detailed projections will be prepared at the end of September and presented to the Finance Committee and the Board in October.

SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

Dr. Wamsley and Dr. Tim Hynes, Dean of Business provided an overview of a number of changes being implemented aimed at improving the management and predictability of the University's scholarship program. The changes were a follow-up to a report presented to the Board in June.