



## BOARD NOTES

St. Francis Xavier University Board of Governors  
December 5, 2018

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The Board of Governors met on Wednesday, December 5, 2018. The following is a summary of proceedings at the meetings.

### President's Report:

President MacDonald updated the Board on a number of topics:

- Overall a very positive fall. Enrolment targets achieved and significant effort to support our Rhodes Scholarship applicants was successful with Liam Elbourne being selected as one of two Maritime University students who will attend Oxford next fall.
- Residence life has been more positive and homecoming was perceived and measured to be more positive.
- This past weekend Dr. Jack and Judy O'Donnell were honoured. It was a wonderful tribute to two incredible community members.
- Student athletics have been positive including several AUS Championships and one National Championship.
- Over the past weekend, we hosted our most important event - Fall Convocation. This event had over 220 graduates. The Feast of St. Francis Xavier took place on December 03. It was successful and it was wonderful to see Dr. Jeff Orr recognized with an Hon. X-Ring. Kevin Fraser was also recognized posthumously.
- 901 students received their X-Ring. We had approximately 3000 people come to campus to celebrate with students. Mass on Sunday was excellent – Bishop Dunn presided and the turnout of parishioners was very good.
- Government Funding - No new information to report, however this remains an active file.
- MOU – Negotiations continue with the Province regarding a new MOU that will be for a five year period commencing April 1, 2019.
- IT Security: Pleased to say most of the IT systems are back online. This entire issue reinforced the previously identified risk management issue related to IT security. In terms of the systems back online, these include learning platforms and systems related to enrolment and residence services. We are addressing application backlog. This may take a couple of weeks. At that time, we will have accurate data on acceptances and offers. We can confirm that applications, early in the enrolment cycle, are up 3%. Costs to address the issue is approximately \$100,000. This expense will be found in the ITS budget. The impact of the attack, meant to leverage computing power of the university for the purpose of mining cryptocurrency, was mitigated due to efforts last year related to IT security. ITS continues to monitor the situation and the small team is working hard at bringing all systems back online (as an example, database for alumni affairs).

**2018-19 Financial Update:**

Andrew Beckett, Vice President Finance & Administration reviewed the financial projections for the 2018-19 fiscal year that had been prepared based on actual results to the end of September. He noted that the detailed projections align with the summary information presented at the last meeting of the Committee. Overall we are projecting to end the year in line with the budget which calls for a deficit of \$3.2 million.

**International Recruiting**

Dr. Wamsley provided an overview of the increased efforts being taken to recruit international students with a particular focus on China, India and Mexico. Responding to questions from the Board Dr. Wamsley also discuss the recent experience at CBU in recruiting international students and the challenges that have arisen in dealing with the large number of students that have been recruited.

**Sexual Violence Policy & Procedures**

Dr. MacDonald provided an overview of efforts being taken to address concerns regarding sexual violence on campus. Significant effort has taken place since October. This includes Open Forums, responding to requests from students, female faculty, male faculty, addressing this at Faculty meetings, preparing for a task force to continue efforts in this regard. A review of policy and code of conduct continues (this will include Senate). Overall tone on campus is becoming more balanced and more work is being done. It is hoped that in time, StFX will be considered a leader in this area.

Mr. Beckett briefly commented on information that had been circulated to the Board that detailed actions that had been taken over the past 2-3 years related to sexual violence prevention and actions that are on-going.

**Coady Institute Update**

Dr. MacDonald introduced the discussion on various issues related to the Coady Institute including:

- Federal Government Funding
- Fraud Investigation
- General Operations

**Investment Committee**

Mr. John Caplice, Chair of the Investment Committee provided a brief overview of the performance report for the Endowment Fund for the quarter ended September 30, 2018.

The next meeting of the Board will be in February, 2019.