



## BOARD NOTES

St. Francis Xavier University Board of Governors  
October 25 & 26, 2018

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The Board of Governors met on Thursday and Friday, October 25 & 26, 2018. The following is a summary of proceedings at the meetings.

At the October 25<sup>th</sup> meeting the Board received presentations dealing with the Coady International Institute and Extension Department.

On October 26<sup>th</sup> the Board proceedings included the following items.

### **Remarks from Hon. Brian Mulroney**

Mr. Mulroney provided background for the Board on the significant fundraising efforts associated with Mulroney Hall and the Institute of Government. He provided details of the \$96 million raised to date and noted that fundraising efforts were continuing to bring the total to approximately \$106-110 million. The monies raised include capital funds for both Mulroney Hall and the Nicholson Tower renovation, scholarships and bursaries and academic chairs.

He also spoke of the on-going need to steward donors and raised concerns with the level of giving from alumni of the University.

### **President's Report:**

President MacDonald updated the Board on a number of topics:

- The passing of Dr. Jack O'Donnell was acknowledged
- There has still been no formal response from the Government with regards to our request for additional operating funding. He expressed optimism that the government will approve some level of additional funding.
- Enrolment numbers for 2018-19 are on track with budget targets which called for a flat enrolment this year. The challenges moving forward will be maintaining our domestic enrolment numbers while attempting to increase our International enrolment.
- Mr. Gerald Schwartz has donated \$5.3 million over 5 years for the Schwartz School of Business. The funding is to provide targeted scholarships and promotion to attract more students to the School.
- The Annual Day of Giving is coming up on November 27, 2018.
- The Fall President's Colloquium will be held on October 29, 2018 with the theme being Social Responsibility.

Dr. MacDonald also spoke to recent media reports related to an alleged sexual assault on campus from the 2017-18 academic year. He spoke to the efforts that are being made to address cultural issues on campus that are felt to be contributing to sexual assault/sexual violence. Andrew Beckett, Head of Student Services, provided the Board with an overview of the process and timeline as to what took place with the particular case that had been reported on.

In discussion on this matter the Board highlighted the urgency of dealing with any policy or procedural issues that may impact dealing with reported cases of sexual violence. Ms. Rebecca Mesay, Student Union President reviewed the recommendations made by the Student Union in dealing with sexual violence on campus. The Faculty representatives on the Board highlighted the recommendations made by a group of female faculty members.

Dr. MacDonald noted that the Sexual Violence Prevention Committee was consolidating and synthesizing the input received and making recommendations on actions that will be taken moving forward. Further updates on actions being taken will be presented to the Board at the meeting in December.

**Enrollment Update:**

Mr. Frank vanSchaayk, chair of the ad-hoc Enrolment Committee introduced the discussion on enrolment efforts highlighting some of the information discussed at a recent meeting of the Committee.

Dr. Kevin Wamsley, Academic Vice President & Provost presented the Board with an update on recruitment and enrolment efforts. He was joined by Ms. Tara Buksaitis, Registrar and Mr. Mark Kolanko, Associate Registrar- Enrolment.

In his presentation Dr. Wamsley reviewed the enrolment numbers from 2018-19 which showed positive growth in direct from high school numbers but no growth in international students. Residence Occupancy is sitting at approximately 96% which is in line with budget target. Comparator information from other universities in the region was shared. It was noted that Cape Breton University is an outlier in terms of international recruiting, background was provided on what was behind the Cape Breton numbers.

Dr. Wamsley then reviewed actions being taken in both recruitment and retention to improve enrolment numbers moving forward.

**2018-19 Financial Update:**

Andrew Beckett, Vice President Finance & Administration reviewed the financial projections for the 2018-19 fiscal year. He noted that based actual results to the end of September current projections for the year indicate that we are on-track to meet the budget which is a deficit of \$3.2 million.

On the revenue side enrolment numbers are in line with budget while student fees from part-time, summer school and intersession students are trending above budget. On the expenditure side Repairs & Maintenance costs are running \$4--500,000 over budget and \$100,000 has been added to boost international recruiting efforts in Mexico and India.

Mr. Beckett also noted that efforts to improve collections on outstanding student accounts were having positive results. More information will be provided at the December meeting of the Board. Ms. Mesay, Student Union President commented on the impact that these collection efforts were having on some students.

**Alumni Report:**

Mr. Glenn Horne, President of the Alumni Association presented an update on the activities of the Association. He noted that the Association had approved a contribution of \$250,000 towards the costs of the Alumni Plaza as a way of celebrating the Associations' 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. He also spoke to on-going discussions that are taking place with Recruitment & Admission related to the role that alumni can take in assisting with enrolment efforts. He noted that the Association was in the process of reviewing its Constitution and By-laws and then introduced Mr. Marc Rodrigue as the incoming president of the Association. Mr. Rodrigue's term as President commences on January 1, 2019. The Board gratefully acknowledged the financial contribution made by the Association to the Flag Plaza and thanked Mr. Horne for his efforts during his term as President of the Association.

**Students' Union Report:**

Ms. Rebecca Mesay, President of the StFX Student Union presented an update on the Student Union's activities. She highlighted a number of focus areas related to advocacy both externally through Student Nova Scotia and CASA and internally, particularly as relates to sexual violence and other significant student issues.

**Committee Reports:**

The Board's Committees presented reports on their activities.

The next meeting of the Board will be in December, 2018.