



Board of Governors

Minutes

Monday, July 17, 2023

The Board of Governors of Acadia University acknowledges that we are located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People.

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A special meeting of the Board of Governors was held on Monday, July 17, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. in person in the Committee Room, University Hall. Some participants also joined via Microsoft Teams.

Governors present: Henry Demone (Chair), Bert Frizzell (First Vice-Chair), Karen Hutt (Second Vice-Chair), Bruce Galloway (Chancellor), Dr. Ray Ivany (Interim President and Vice-Chancellor), Christine Pound, Candy O'Connor, Bethany Moffatt, Dr. Anna Robbins, Charles Coll, Andrew Davis, Robert Ffrench, Dr. Jeff Hooper, Susan MacDougall, Nancy McCain, Tracey McGillivray, Pam Mood, Stan Thomas, Martin Suter, Matthew Rios, Rev. Judith Tod, Lana Wood, Shelley Fleckenstein.

Management present: Greeshma Menon (University Secretary).

Regrets: Christine Luckasavitch, Dr. Lynn Aylward, Rev. Dan Green, Shanna Lespere, Melinda Daye, Allan MacDonald, Stuart MacLean, Sundeep Oad, Clive Anderson, Cora Tolliver, Sadie McAlear.

1. Call to Order

H. Demone, Board Chair, called the meeting to order, welcomed meeting participants, and provided a territorial acknowledgment.

2. Consideration of the recommendation of the Presidential Search Committee

The Board Chair thanked Paul Abela, Stuart Blythe, Alice Cohen, Kèsa Munroe-Anderson, Erin Patterson, Nancy Handrigan, Sonya Pineo, Lucas Evans, Matthew Rios, Sadie McAlear, Shanna Lespere, and Stan Thomas for their service on the Presidential Search Committee.



The process started with consultations and online surveys. The Presidential Search Committee held in person consultation sessions with the Acadia community, as well as a virtual session with African Nova Scotian community members, an in person session with First Nations community members, and a hybrid session with the Town of Wolfville's Town Council. The consultation sessions helped to highlight important criteria that the community were looking for in a new President. Some of these criteria included strong listening, leadership, and communication skills to rebuild trust and relationships on campus; someone who is committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion; and someone who is capable of leading a high-performing team that can navigate crises. Additionally, the need for the having someone highly respected within the Higher Education field was highlighted; someone who could build upon the culture of excellence in Acadia. A PhD was preferred, but not compulsory.

Subsequent steps in the search process included advertising the position, undergoing employment equity training as a search committee, creating a longlist of candidates, carrying out interviews, and then creating a shortlist of three (3) candidates. Candidates included two sitting presidents, two Interim presidents, The Head of a Satellite campus, and several Provosts and Deans. Only one candidate was invited to campus for a campus visit. Dr. Jeff Hennessy was invited to campus for two public events and a number of focused sessions with key employee groups on campus, along with important voices from the wider community. The feedback from the campus visit was remarkably positive. Strong reference checks, overwhelmingly positive feedback, and the candidate's demonstrated leadership approach resulted in the search committee recommending Dr. Jeff Hennessy for the position of Acadia University's 17th President and Vice-Chancellor.

The Board Chair called for a motion to appoint Dr. Jeff Hennessy as Acadia's next President and Vice-Chancellor effective September 1, 2023.

IT WAS MOVED by M. Suter / S. Thomas

THAT Dr. Jeff Hennessy be appointed as Acadia's next President and Vice-Chancellor effective September 1, 2023.

CARRIED.

3. Other Business

No other business.

4. Adjournment

IT WAS MOVED by M. Suter

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 09:25 a.m.

CARRIED



Henry Demone, Chair

Greeshma Menon, Recording Secretary

