

Board Briefs

From the Board of Governors Meeting of November 26, 2015

Enterprise Risk Management Project

The Board received a final report from Grant Thornton on the Enterprise Risk Management project (ERM).

The Audit and Risk Oversight Committee will receive its first risk reports from risk owners at its December 2, 2015 meeting.

Collective Agreements with Faculty and Technicians Ratified

NSCAD University's Board of Governors has ratified collective agreements for its faculty and technician bargaining units at its meeting on Thursday, November 26.

The two agreements, for FUNSCAD Unit I, representing faculty and librarians, and FUNSCAD Unit II, representing technical, library and gallery staff, were ratified by the union memberships on October 28.

The new agreements cover the period from January 1, 2016 to June 30, 2018, and include salary increases of one per cent in the first year, one per cent in the second year, and a half per cent in the first half of the third year. The new collective agreements essentially roll over all other provisions of the current collective agreements, set to expire Dec. 31, 2015.

NSCAD Proposes Move Away From Flat-Fee Tuition

With a desire to bring fairness to NSCAD's tuition system, NSCAD University's Board of Governors considered a one-time market adjustment for tuition at its meeting on Thursday, November 26. However, the meeting was adjourned before a decision was made.

Approximately 50 NSCAD students and representatives of the Canadian Federation of Students greeted NSCAD Board Governors as they arrived for the meeting at 4 pm, engaging them in conversation and waving creative, handmade placards. Then, after waiting outside the meeting room, they entered and lined the perimeter as they listened to presentations. However, when asked to leave the meeting as per governance meeting protocol so the board could discuss further, they refused, and the meeting was subsequently adjourned, at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Lydon Lynch Functional Space Program

The Board of Governors approved the recommendation of the Financial and Physical Resources Committee to approve Lydon Lynch's proposal to work with ECS to prepare a

functional space program for the NSCAD Port and Academy campuses and a design plan for moving three programs from Fountain to the Port in 2016. Lydon Lynch's plan also encompasses a study of the Fountain Campus which will assist with monetizing the campus when it goes to market.

Enrolment Update

The Board of Governors received an enrolment report from Associate Vice President University Relations and the Acting Associate Vice President Student Experience and Registrar.

The report detailed some of the admission challenges and the actions undertaken by both the Admissions Committee and the University. The report also addressed the issue of the relevance of its Academic programs and stated in every division there is currently a review of all program offerings which is accompanied by a 5-year enrolment plan.

It was further noted there is a decline in the number of high school graduates each year in most regions of Canada. To augment enrolment actions have been taken to recruit further afield while still focusing on recapturing the Nova Scotia market share and expand enrolment from Ontario, Western Canada and the Prairies. The presenters spoke to the investment the University is making in recruitment and its work with other stakeholders and partnerships.

Vice-Chair Julia Rivard-Dexter Resigns

Citing the demands of her growing business along with a young family, Julia Rivard-Dexter submitted her resignation from the Board of Governors at its November 26th meeting.

Serving as one of two alumni representatives since 2010, Julia has been a roll-up-your-sleeves governor. One of her major accomplishments during her five-year tenure was shepherding the Strategic Framework 2015-2020 through countless consultation sessions with NSCAD stakeholders through to its approval by the Board of Governors last February.

"I am very sad to step down but with business ramping up and running full speed I just can't come up with the extra hours," said Julia, who paid tribute to fellow board governors, NSCAD staff, faculty and students. "I continue to be committed to the success of NSCAD locally and on the international stage and feel confident that we're in a good place with great leadership."

The next meeting of the NSCAD Board of Governors is scheduled for February 18, 2016.

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