

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
April 30, 2024  
Jorgenson Hall – JOR 1410  
380 Victoria Street and By Video Conference  
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

Minutes of a meeting of the Board of Governors of Toronto Metropolitan University (the “University”) held on Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Present:** S. Babikian, J. Cockwell, M. Crosta, J. Dallaire, T. Darisi, M. Davis, I. Gammel, M. Knight, M. Lachemi, D. Miller, N. Mohamed, C. Paisley (Vice-Chair), D. Porter, R. Rodrigues, E. Shim, S. Sinha, T. Staffieri (Chair), N. Sugunalan, L. Taylor Green, B. Venkatesh, L. Williams

**Regrets:** O. Abdelgawad, N. Chauhan, J. Fukakusa, N. Gupta, G. Leong, E. Shim, S. Sinha, W. Soliman

**Board Secretariat:**

W. Lawrence, General Counsel, Secretary of the Board of Governors, and Chief Privacy Officer

V. Luckiram, Governance Specialist

A. Mall, Senior Legal Counsel and Governance Officer

**Others in Attendance:**

M. Baker, Chief of Staff and Senior Director Government Relations

W. Bamgbose, Chief Information Security Officer

T. Chan, Dean of the School of Medicine, Vice-President, Medical Affairs

T. De Mello, Vice-President, Equity and Community Inclusion

M. Dettweiler, Executive Director, Campus Development

R. Frankle, Assistant Vice-President, University Advancement and Alumni Relations

M. Forbes, Assistant Vice-President, University Relations

R. Iannacito-Provenzano, Provost and Vice-President, Academic

L. Koechli, Interim Dean, The Chang School

B. Lesser, Chief Information Officer

S. Liss, Vice-President, Research and Innovation

G. Mallon, Assistant Vice-President, Facilities Management and Development

K. McCausland, Interim Vice-Provost, University Planning

J. McKee, Chief Financial Officer  
J. McMillen, Vice-Provost, Students  
K. Mehta, Vice-President, University Advancement and Alumni Relations  
L. Nater, Senior Presentation Technology Specialist  
S. Zolfaghari, Vice-President, Administration and Operations

1. **IN-CAMERA DISCUSSION (Board Members Only)**
2. **IN-CAMERA DISCUSSION (Executive Group Invited)**

**END OF IN-CAMERA SESSION**

**3. INTRODUCTION**

- 3.1. Welcome
- 3.1.1. Land Acknowledgement
- 3.1.2. Chair's Remarks

T. Staffieri, Chair of the Board, welcomed Board members to the second last Board meeting of the year and recognized the generosity of Board member W. Soliman and his wife D. Soliman on the recent establishment of The Belzberg and Soliman Families Scholarship, which will support law students at the LASL. T. Staffieri also acknowledged Board member N. Chauhan, who was profiled in the alumni newsletter, Toronto Met Connect, in an article discussing his shift from an executive to innovator with his launch of MNDLB5, an AI-driven electronic music artist/company.

**3.2. CONSENT AGENDA**

- 3.2.1. Approval of the April 30, 2024 Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

- 3.2.2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

- 3.2.3. Approval of the March 26, 2024 Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented.

**4. REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT**

M. Lachemi recognized the generous contributions of the Soliman and Belzberg families to the LASL in establishing scholarships which will recognize and encourage incoming law students who demonstrate bridge building in the community; discussed the free hot meal and healthy snack program offered to students during the April exam period; and congratulated Chancellor Janice Fukakusa by sharing a video recognizing her as the award recipient of the 2024 Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education Friend of Education Award.

## **5. REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY**

W. Lawrence, Secretary of the Board, reported on the Governance Essentials sessions and the participation of Board members in upcoming convocation ceremonies.

## **6. REPORT FROM THE PROVOST AND VICE-PRESIDENT ACADEMIC**

R. Iannacito-Provenzano, Provost and Vice-President, Academic, provided an update on the development of the new academic plan; and reported on the two (2) additional School of Medicine (“SOM”) agreements that will support the school’s work, strengthen the efforts to earn accreditation for the MD program, and secure government funding. R. Iannacito-Provenzano noted that the SOM now has affiliations with urban, suburban, and rural hospitals, which will give the medical learners access to a range of learning environments and advised that the SOM has extended clinical faculty appointments to over seventy (70) physicians to create the foundation of the inaugural clinical faculty team.

R. Iannacito-Provenzano highlighted the recent learning and teaching initiatives and introduced L. Koechli as the new Interim Dean of The Chang School.

## **7. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Students and members of the community voiced their concerns to Board members regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which included demands of the University.

### **7.1. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

D. Porter, Chair of the Finance Committee, reported that the committee met on April 25, 2024, and heard from President Lachemi; K. McCausland, Interim Vice-Provost, University Planning; R. Iannacito-Provenzano; and J. McKee, who presented the 2024-25 University Budget Priorities and Expenditures, which was recommended for approval by the committee.

#### **7.1.1. 2024-25 University Budget Priorities and Expenditures**

M. Lachemi, R. Iannacito-Provenzano, K. McCausland, and J. McKee presented the 2024-25 University Budget Priorities and Expenditures. M. Lachemi explained that the University is presenting a preliminary budget for approval because it is waiting for the provincial government to release further details regarding funding eligibility; as such the budget was developed based on certain assumptions. M. Lachemi noted that if there are changes during the fiscal year, the University will present updated information regarding the budget to the Finance Committee and Board.

R. Iannacito-Provenzano reported that revenues are growing at a slower rate than expenses, outlined the budget process and the five (5) complementary plans that play a role in budget planning, spoke to the Strategic Vision 2020-2030 that unites these plans, and explained how this overarching framework serves as a roadmap moving the University toward the same vision and goals. K. McCausland discussed the current environment of constraint and uncertainty related to tuition fees, international enrollment, and government grants, as well as the need to develop a budget that responsibly addresses these factors.

K. McCausland outlined three (3) components that drive revenue: the number of students that can be admitted, tuition fees, and grants; and advised that the main component that impacts expenditure is compensation. K. McCausland reviewed the enrolment plan and the provincial government funding, which was announced in February 2024, noting that the University is waiting for details and timing regarding this funding. K. McCausland explained that the proposed approach for the upcoming year is to have the Board approve a preliminary budget until confirmation is received from the government about grants. K. McCausland advised that since expenditure increases will outpace revenue, resulting in a budget shortfall, the plan is to cover the shortfall with expected funding from the government since it is not sustainable to continue to implement across-the-board budget reductions.

J. McKee reviewed the information contained in the schedules of the budget, including the pace of growth of revenue and expenses, noting a shortfall of Fifteen Million Dollars (\$15,000,000). J. McKee highlighted the fees, noting the fee change for different components.

It was moved, seconded and carried that:

**BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:**

**THAT the Board of Governors approves the preliminary 2024-25 University Budget, as presented.**

It was moved, seconded and carried that:

**BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:**

**THAT the Board of Governors approves the 2024-25 Domestic Tuition Fees (including Continuing Education); International Fees; Non tuition-Related Fees; Departmental Lab/Ancillary Fees; Service Fees; Residence Fees and Meal Plans, as presented.**

**7.2. SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY REVIEW**

T. De Mello, Vice-President, Equity and Community Inclusion, presented the steps in the *Sexual Violence Policy* (“SVP”) review and outlined the revisions made to the SVP. T. De Mello advised that it is mandated by the MCU that the SVP be reviewed and revised every three (3) years and that all stakeholder groups be consulted on its revision. T. De Mello outlined the scope of the review noting that one (1) key change is that the language is more accessible and less legalistic. T. De Mello discussed when the University will have jurisdiction concerning incidents that occur off-campus or online; how the definition of sexual violence and the University will be more robust, accounting for an imbalance of power; the support that will be provided to faculty and staff; and that key timelines have been updated. T. De Mello noted that the proposed changes focus on trauma-informed processes and procedural fairness, echoing community feedback.

It was moved, seconded and carried that:

**BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:**

**THAT the Board of Governors approves the amendments to the Sexual Violence Policy, as presented.**

**7.3. REPORT FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT, EQUITY AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION**

T. De Mello noted that her annual report was in the materials and noted that she was available to answer questions.

**7.4. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

C. Paisley, Chair of the Governance Committee, reported that to broaden the expertise of the Property Committee, the committee is recommending, by way of electronic ballots, the approval of the appointments of J. Malloy and A. Mathur to the Property Committee.

**7.4.1. Appointment to the Property Committee**

It was moved, seconded and carried that:

**BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:**

**THAT the Board of Governors approves the appointment of John Malloy to the Property Committee.**

7.4.2. Appointment to the Property Committee

It was moved, seconded and carried that:

**BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:**

**THAT the Board of Governors approves the appointment of Ashi Mathur to the Property Committee.**

**7.5. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE EMPLOYEE RELATIONS AND PENSIONS COMMITTEE**

7.5.1. Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures Amendments

D. Porter, Chair of the Employee Relations and Pensions Committee, reported that the committee met on April 22, 2024, and heard from J. Neiman regarding the Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures Amendments, which was recommended for approval by the committee.

It was moved, seconded and carried that:

**BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:**

**THAT the Board of Governors approves the proposed amendments to the Statement of Investment Policy and Procedures, as presented.**

**8. FOR INFORMATION**

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**NEXT MEETING: June 27, 2024**