

Report to Senate

From Senator members of the Board of Governors, Montelpare and Waterman

May 2, 2025

A verbal report to Senate from Senators on the Board being circumstantially prevented at the last meetings of Senate, we have chosen to provide a written report on activities of the Board since last we reported.

Board meeting

The Board last met on March 25 to consider the following:

- Approve the new process for the review of the President's performance in office. This new process provides a rational and transparent way to assess the performance of the President against competencies and behavior expected of the holders of the office, but also the incumbent's goals and commitments to the University Community.
- Receive a presentation from the Assistant Vice President Research and Dean of Graduate studies, Dr. Marva Sweeney-Nixon on the organization of research at UPEI.
- Received the President's report, including written comments on the President's 14 goals and priorities. Although all priorities can have an impact on the areas of responsibility of Senate, we point out some elements of particular interest such as the work to establish and accredit the Faculty of Medicine, the development of Indigenous Studies programs, the refinement of our enrollment management and retention strategy and work to increase the University's research capacity.
- The appointment of External Auditor for 2025 – 2026. Doane Grant Thornton, LLP were appointed following a thorough procurement process.
- The appointment of Deloitte LLP as auditor for the Action Plan.
- Amendment to the Health, Safety and Environment Policy to reflect new requirements under the PEI Occupational Health and Safety Act.
- Approval of a new *Policy on Non-Disclosure Agreements in Harassment & Discrimination* in line with the new *Non-Disclosure Agreements Act*.
- Approved several policies regarding the appointment of acting or interim officers of the University. These policies apply to the President, all Vice Presidents, the Secretary, the Registrar, Deans, the University Librarian and Associate Deans. They were enacted following the review to clarify the process and criteria for acting and interim appointments and to prevent long-term interim appointments.

During the March Board cycle, committees reported the following:

- The Property and Environment Sustainability Committee received an update on capital projects
- The Development, Fundraising and External Relations Committee welcomed an education session on *Institutional Reputation and the Role of Communications Strategies and External Relations Plans*.
- The Governance, Nominating and Appeals Committee received an update on the implementation of the Action Plan and the Governance Review noting that significant progress has been made and that actions are consistent with the reviews and generally on schedule.
- The Campus Culture Oversight Committee received and discussed the results of the Employee Engagement Survey and provided feedback to inform the development of the Year 2 implementation of the Action Plan. The Committee also met with representatives of the UPEI Faculty Association to broadly discuss organizational culture.
- The Human Resources Committee has approved the latest faculty appointments. It should be noted that the HRC will now hold short monthly meetings, possibly as electronic consultations, to quickly approve urgent appointments, with the approval of appointments now being delegated from the Board to the Committee. The Committee also received an update on grievances and separations at the University and approved the updated Employee Benefit Renewal rates.
- The first Trii-Committee meeting was held on April 3. As part of the new Terms of Reference of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, the Property and Environmental Sustainability Committee and the Development, Fundraising and External Relations Committee are to meet in a joint session once a year to review capital infrastructure priorities and capacity.
- There was much more committee activity, but most of it is captured in the aforementioned Board items.

The next meeting of the Board will be held on May 27, from 4:00pm to 7:00 in this room.