



MARCH 17, 2020
COVID-19 UPDATE
TELECONFERENCE MEETING

Present: Jane Brydges, Kent Carson, Michael Goldbloom, Robert Hall, Marilyn Hardy, Charlene Marion, Michel Marleau, Heather McKeen-Edwards, Cathy McLean, Daniel Miller, Scott Stoddard, Tova White

Regrets: Abel Bosum, Pierre Cossette, Calin Valsan

Senior Administration: Reena Atanasiadis, Marie-Josée Dufour, Isabelle Goyette, Claire Grogan, Corinne Haigh, Denise Lauzière, Stine Linden-Andersen, Jacqueline Scott, Miles Turnbull

Secretary: Trygve Ugland

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

The Chair invited Principal Goldbloom to speak.

The Principal thanked the Governors for participating in an exceptional teleconference meeting called to inform the Board about the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on the University, as well as on the actions and decisions that have been taken to respond to this unprecedented crisis.

He stated that the University's response to the pandemic has been guided by the following principles:

- 1) The University will do all it can to protect the health of the members of the community;

- 2) While pursuing that primary objective, the University will do all it reasonably can to make it possible for students to complete the winter academic semester;
- 3) The University be guided by the best scientific advice of public health authorities.

On Monday, March 9th, a Taskforce on COVID-19, chaired by the Dean of Student Affairs, Dr. Stine Linden-Andersen, was struck.

On Wednesday, March 11th, the Bishop's community received a communication from the COVID-19 Taskforce that provided information on health monitoring upon return from Reading Week as well as the link to a new section of the University's website on COVID-19: <https://www.ubishops.ca/future-current-students/student-campus-life/student-services/preventing-coronavirus-covid-19-risks/>

On Thursday, March 12th, the Quebec government recommended avoiding all non-essential public gatherings and made the following edicts effective immediately:

- All indoor events of 250 persons or more were banned;
- All travel outside Canada in the course of university business or programs by students, faculty, staff and administrators was prohibited;
- As of March 12, all faculty, staff and administrators returning from abroad were required to self-isolate for 14 days.

These measures were communicated to the Bishop's community and the Board on March 12th.

At midday on Friday, March 13th, Quebec Premier Francois Legault announced that all educational institutions, including universities, would be closed for two weeks starting Saturday, March 14th. The University informed the Bishop's community of this decision.

Later that day the Principal participated in a teleconference call with the BCI and the MEES. In responding to questions, Minister Roberge said that he had not intended for universities to cease operations but rather that in-person classes were to be suspended.

In essence, the University would remain operational, however, where possible, employees would be expected to work remotely. No one is to come to campus without being expressly authorized to do so.

As well, on March 13th at a regularly scheduled Senate meeting, Senators approved the use of electronic voting for issues relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the following days Senate passed motions confirming that regardless of the status of the University's operations after March 30, 2020, students would not be required to return to the campus to attend classes or

to take in-person exams. Members of the community were informed of these decisions.

At this time it is not possible to move all of the University's courses online, however the Vice-Principal Academic and Research and the Academic Deans are looking into all possible solutions for maintaining academic programming, assignments and assessments.

The following essential services will remain open: Security; the Health Clinic; and the residences.

One of the main reasons that the residences need to stay open is that some students have nowhere else to go.

The University has been in communication with the approximately thirty Bishop's students overseas on exchange.

Ms. Cathy McLean asked if the construction sites on campus would be affected by the government's edicts or recommendations. At this time, contractors are still working on construction sites on campus and across the province at other institutions.

The President of the Students' Representative Council, Ms. Marilyn Hardy, thanked the University administration on behalf of the SRC and the students.

The Chair expressed his support for the University's Management Team for their handling of this difficult situation. He proposed a motion of support on the part of the Board and an endorsement of the actions taken by the Executive Group during the COVID-19 pandemic.

RESOLUTION 2019-7-01

FOR THE ENDORSEMENT OF DECISIONS MADE BY THE UNIVERSITY MANAGEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS the World Health Organization has declared that we are experiencing a global pandemic;

WHEREAS in responding to this crisis, the University is guided by two fundamental priorities:

1. We will do all we can to protect the health of the members of our community; and
2. While pursuing this primary objective, we will do all we reasonably can to make it possible for our students to complete the Winter academic semester;

AND WHEREAS the Board has been apprised of the significant operational decisions made by the University in response to the COVID-19 pandemic;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Governors endorses the actions taken by the University in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

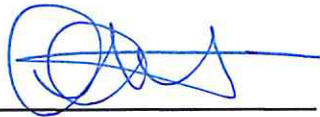
Moved by: Kent Carson

Seconded by: Michel Marleau

The motion carried.

The Principal thanked the Board members for their support and said that the Board would be updated as the pandemic and its impact on the University evolves.

The meeting ended at 10:03 a.m.



Robert Hall, Chair



Trygve Ugland, Secretary