

Board of Directors
Special Meeting Minutes
April 9, 2020

Primary Meeting

Date: April 9, 2020
Time: 1:30 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Place: Digital

Overflow Meeting:

Board Secretary: Tyler B. Hampton, Corporate Secretary
Minutes Taker: Jerrica Little



ATTENDENCE

Name and Position	Present	Regrets*	Absent
	[“X” if present / “R” if calling or skyping]	[“X” if absent with regrets / time of arrival if late with regrets]	[“X” if absent w/o regrets / time of arrival if late w/o regrets]
Rebecca Stirling, Chair of Board	X		
Phillipe Bériault, Director	X		
Daniel Grimmer, Director	X		
Tyler Hampton, Director, CoSec	X		
Jason Luong, Director	X		
Dmitrii Marin, Director	X		
Kareem Mostafa, Vice Chair	X		
Jen Reid, Director	X		
Nick Revington, Director	X		
Twesh Upadhyaya, Director	X		
Naima Samuel, Director, President	X		
David Billedeau, Vice President, acting chair of Council	X		
Kevin McKay, General Manager	X		

*A time in the Regrets or Absent column indicates a director arriving at that time, after the meeting was called to order

Other	Present with notice	Present

Current Committees	Committee Members
Board Executive (Winter)	Stirling (Chair), Samuel, Mostafa, Hampton, Marin, Revington, Upadhyaya
Joint Policy Review	Reid (Chair), Marin (deputy chair); [Robbins, Parker]
Audit and Financial Risk	Mostafa (Chair), Samuel, Upadhyaya
Governance Oversight	Revington (Chair), Stirling, Samuel
Recruitment Task Force	Grimmer, Revington, McKay, Hampton

AGENDA

1. Welcoming Remarks
2. Consent Agenda
Items:
1. Management Covid Report to Board
2. Legal Fee Referendum Report
3. Priority Discussions
a) COVID-19 Report
b) President OT
c) Legal Fee
d) In-Camera Discussion
BREAK
e) GRT Contract
4. Action Item Review
5. Adjournment

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks 1:30

Marin takes the Chair and calls the meeting to order at 1:30 PM. Hampton acts as secretary and Little records the minutes.

2. Consent Agenda 1:32

- BIRT that the Board accepts the Management COVID Report to Board
- BIRT that the Board accepts the Legal Fee Referendum Report
- Adopted by consent.

3. Priority Discussions 1:32

a) COVID-19 Report

The report outlines operational and financial impact of COVID-19 on the GSA. Content is subject to change as circumstances dictate, e.g. government mandates. Contingency plans are built-in for various scenarios. New website is being launched and should be fully functional by spring. If this is delayed, will default to current university website. The President consulted with the lawyer about applying for non-profit government benefits for COVID; GSA is most likely not eligible. Opt-out system for certain services will be implemented for spring. It is possible that courses will continue to be held online in the fall term. Fall term discussions will cover specific graduate student needs, e.g. laboratories and social distancing protocols.

b) President OT 1:43

The President reported on the overtime hours she was worked; extra compensation is not being sought. Management staff are incredibly busy during this time. Other support staff hours are being maintained and so no extra overtime is being accumulated for them. Hampton volunteered to work on activities such as the handbook and recruitment task force.

c) Legal Fee 1:55

Motion:

- **BIRT a Legal Protection Service, to be offered as a GSA-UW administered service, will be proposed to members in a referendum, to take place between May 11-18, 2020, in which all members shall be eligible to vote;**
- **BIFRT the wording of the question shall be as presented in the Appendix to this report, with the text in red removed and underlined text hyperlinking to the documents described in red.**
- **(Revington/Stirling)**
 - **Amendment: Motion to edit the first sentence in the question to the following: implementation of a fee for a GSA-UW administered legal protection service at an initial cost of less than \$30 per academic year (Reid/Upadhyaya). Vote (y/n/a). Approved unanimously.**
- **Final Vote: 10y/0n/1a.**

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The report delivered in March is now out-of-date due to COVID-19; new possible timelines have been proposed. Notice of referendum is needed by April 20th to allow 2 weeks before voting begins. However, 2 weeks is not required – 48 hours is (for the voting period) - and so it can be shortened if desired. The report does not outline how legal aid is affected by council’s request for unionization, but if it passes, they should be complementary services. Discussions were held about how to communicate with council on this report and what is needed for consultation. The speaker of council agreed that a 1-week voting would be better, and this should be sufficient time for reaching quorum (10% according to bylaw). The need for a survey prior to the referendum was discussed; it may be redundant and add work. A note in the appendix explaining the role of inflation over time may help to clarify fee expectations.

d) In-camera discussion

2:39

e) GRT Contract

3:52

There are two different plans for annual fee rates that can be chosen from. The document delivered by GRT with proposed fee structures from 2020-2025 was reviewed. The official document is different from what was discussed with management and so approval needs to be delayed.

Motion to extend the meeting by 15 minutes (Reid/ Bériault). Approved unanimously.

The deadline for GSA approval is until the end of April. Request for information on opt-out possibilities; it will be built into contract discussions. How would opt-outs for transit be enforced? For thesis-only opt-outs, the registrar’s office can check student status to confirm their opt-out. The need for flexible opt-outs was discussed, as there are several reasons why a student may not be in the region for a term. Is it possible to ask GRT to charge for academic year and break down their fees by term?

Adjournment

4:24

Meeting adjourned at 4:24pm.