
THE SHERIDAN COLLEGE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND ADVANCED LEARNING

MINUTES OF A MEETING
BOARD OF GOVERNORS

April 8, 2020

8:30 am – 10:30 am

Teleconference

Present: J. Fleming, Board Chair, D. Hampton-Davies, M. Rubinoff; S. Boone;
T. Depascal; S. Abd El-Sayed; P. Palermo; J. Rivard; V. Varma; M. Dube; B. Dosunmu;
T. Leedale; M. Hofstetter

Ex Officio: J. Morrison, President and Vice Chancellor

Treasurer: W. Steffler, VP Finance and Administration and CFO

Recorder: J. Hinchliffe

Guests: P. Davey; M. McCollum; M. Reid (Urban Strategies); B. Hoff (Urban Strategies);
C. Szustaczek; T. Smith; R. Dewey; R. Sandhu; R. Piper; J. Vallentin; J. Ngobia; A. Pike;
C. Altilia;

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 8:31 am.

2. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by T. Leedale, seconded by J. Rivard;

Be it resolved:

THAT the agenda for April 8, 2020 be approved as presented.

Carried.

3. Approval of the minutes from March 11, 2020

It was moved by P. Palermo, seconded by S. Abd El-Sayed:

Be it resolved:

THAT the minutes from March 11, 2020 be approved as presented.

Carried.

It was moved by M. Hofstetter, seconded by J. Rivard:

Be it resolved:

THAT the minutes from March 25, 2020 be approved as presented.

Carried.

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

In response to the Chair's query, there were no conflict of interest.

5. Chair's Remarks

The Chair provided some comments on using Microsoft Teams as a platform for meetings and shared some tips to ensure a positive video/audio meeting experience.

6. Campus Master Plan

A penultimate report of the campus master plan was presented. The final presentation and approval for the plan is scheduled for June 3, 2020. A financial plan is being developed to accompany the master plan to build credibility and increase the ability to deliver on the plan. The financial plan will be shared with the Board.

7. President's Report

J. Morrison provided an update on activities undertaken during the pandemic. The following principles are being used to guide decision-making during this unprecedented emergency:

- The physical health and holistic wellbeing of our entire learning community is paramount.
- Across as many academic programs as possible, we will facilitate winter semester completion for learners through an alternate/remote delivery model that facilitates social distancing. IN all instances, planning will respect the pillars of our Academic Plan: character, quality and accountability.
- Sheridan will navigate the Pandemic response together, as a learning community in ways that demonstrate kindness, generosity, and compassion.
- Safeguarding the long-term economic sustainability of Sheridan is an imperative.
- Our long-term lens will remain rivetted to the four priorities and five enablers crystalized in our Strategic Plan.

In response to rapidly evolving circumstances, many activities and initiatives have been implemented to shift our operating model. Some examples of these shifts are:

- Reorganizing approximately 3,000 courses for remote delivery.
- Free and confidential counselling sessions for Sheridan students via phone or video in more than 35 languages.
- Over 323 online tutoring sessions facilitated over the last two weeks.
- 320+ students have received laptops through our loaner program.
- As of April 8, 2020, 6272 students have applied for the COVID-19 Emergency Financial Aid Bursary.

Sheridan has launched the #SheridanHelps initiative, which is providing immediate and substantial assistance for our learnings and the communities we serve. All our personal protective equipment and materials from Sheridan's health and technology programs was donated to the joint stores serving Trillium Health Partners and the William Osler Health System. Sheridan's Centre for Advanced Manufacturing and Design Technologies (CAMDT) is working collaboratively with academic, industry and community partners to meet resource shortfalls such as medical equipment and supplies. They started producing face shields yesterday for Trillium, Osler and Oakville Trafalgar hospitals.

We are looking to convert one of our residence buildings at Trafalgar to temporary housing for healthcare workers at Oakville Trafalgar hospital.

Our board colleague Michael Rubinoff has been leading a relief effort for artists through a production called “Places Please”. His focus has now shifted to providing musical theatre ‘therapy’ for residences of long-term care homes.

This crisis is having a significant impact on our student community and the potential threat it poses to Sheridan’s long-term financial health. Some examples of these challenges include:

- Learners are expressing significant anxiety related to the cessation of part-time employment
- Food and housing insecurities
- Lack of access to technology and/or the internet

We are committed to mitigating these challenges through financial aid, but the enormity of need is beyond our capacity. Requests have been made to the Ministry of Colleges and Universities to return a significant portion of the ISR – which is proportionate to international enrolment at every College in Ontario – to be returned to Sheridan for the sole means of providing emergency support to international students. This would allow us to allocate all our other financial aid resources – including those that are restricted – to domestic learners.

We anticipate a significant hit to enrolment revenue and are modeling scenarios wherein 30-54% of our revenue is at risk for this fiscal.

Immediate action includes:

- Hiring freeze with any new investment going only to enrolment recovery, expense mitigation or revenue generation.
- Full review of the Strategic Planning objectives and all year 2 objectives.

The meeting moved in camera at 10:15.

The meeting moved out of camera at 10:23.

8. Commercial General Liability

Sheridan is part of an insurance consortium of 21 colleges managed through a subcommittee. A fulsome report on property and liability will be brought to the board as soon as negotiations are complete.

9. Equity Statement

The equity diversity and inclusion statement has gone through a period of intense consultation with reviews by the Equity Diversity and Inclusion task force and the Governance and People Committee of the Board. The statement will shape and guide Sheridan’s strategic direction in the future. It will be prominently posted and brings Sheridan in line with other post-secondary institutions.

It was moved by M. Hofstetter, seconded by J. Rivard:

Be it resolved:

THAT the Board of Governors approves Sheridan’s statement of “Our Commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion” as presented.

Carried.

10. Adjournment

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.