
Present: Tarique Plummer, Michael Del Bono, Zemar Hakim, Idris Omar Hassan, Talha Naeem, Joseph Small, Klaudia Wojtanowski, Kanwar Brarr, Stephanie Bellotto, Courtney Collard, Shannon Kelly, Phil Champagne, Ilana Roitman, Emily Rezkalla, Moumita Paul
Regrets: Tarique Plummer, Kevin Bonnell, Ricky Liu
Guests: Anthony Tomizza, Megan Lacoursiere, Nathalie Bouchard, Adam Kovacs

1. Call to Order

Chair Plummer

So, we call this meeting to order at 7:14 pm on October 24th 2017 in the board room of the Fred Nichols campus center in Waterloo. We acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishnaabe, and Haudenosaunee peoples. Can I get a motion to approve the agenda as presented?

2. Adoption of Agenda

Motion 1 (Small/Hakim): Motion to adopt the agenda as presented

Vote: 7-0-0

Result: Motion Pass

President Brar

VP Tomizza will be providing his updates for this meeting as part of my updates, that is just because he was not able to come to the September meeting. The board requested that he come to a subsequent meeting and this is the one that worked best for everyone.

3. Adoption of Consent Agenda: Monitoring Reports GP#2a, GP#2f, GP#2g, EL#2j

Motion 2: (Hakim/Roitman): Motion to adopt consent of agenda as presented

Vote: 7-0-0

Result: Motion Pass

Director Rezkalla

I do not necessarily have something to pull but a subject of discussion I guess.

Del Bono

For sure

Director Rezkalla

So, on page 4 GP#2a3, methods, et cetera. For evidence, it says that the board provides feedback to the board when necessary. Something that I want the board to consider is the evidence in the 2016 board report GDP#2a3, it mentions every meeting instead of when necessary, something that I think we should take as a recommendation because we are a new board and I think this would be beneficial and a reasonable interpretation for us. In holding the board accountable as a collective in regards to preparation for meetings, policy making principles, et cetera.

Del Bono

I would advise the board to carry your interpretation in how you deal with the consent agenda.

4. Regrets and Absences

Del Bono

I wish to apologize on behalf of Chair Plummer and Director Bonnell who are away for personal reasons as well as Director Liu who has been experiencing academic conflict in his scheduling, he was not able to join us as well.

5. Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts

6. Auditors' Presentation

Motion 2: (Hakim/Rezkalla): Motion to adopt the auditors draft statement as presented

Vote: 6-1-0

Result: Motion Pass

Matt Betik

I don't usually get a big round-of-applause.

ED Champagne

Does the board actually have the package?

Matt Betik

That was my next question, so I am glad you had it. I see in the agenda that I have 46 minutes, I don't take that long so I will help you get back on time. I'll run through a handful of things with respect to the audit but by all means if anybody has any questions, stop me as I go. And there will be time at the end. For those of you who have not been introduced to me, my name is Matt Auditor, I am a partner here with KPMG in Waterloo. I am a Laurier alumni, although I think I graduated before any of you were alive so, don't hold that against me. We hire lots of your fellow students as co-op students and graduates, I am also the auditor for the university itself, so I am very familiar with what is going on, on campus. I can bring your attention to the first two pages inside the draft financial statements where you have got the independent auditor's report, and I won't sort of read that ad nauseam, but sufficient to say this is what is referred to as a "clean" or unqualified auditors report. What basically this means is that we believe the financial statements that are presented as part of your package are accurate. In very laymen's terms. It is still marked as draft because the statements need approval from the Board before we can issue our final report, presuming there are no changes or modifications based on this meeting, what you see today will be the items that are prepared in the final form. One of the things that we do, and I don't know if there are students in the room that have studied auditing, so far, seeing none, one of the things that we are required to do as part of any financial statement audit is considered what's material financial statements, or what is significant. So, if we find errors or issues, do those need to be reflected in the financial statements? We set

materiality at a value of approximately \$250,000, which is a little less than 3% of your revenue. What that means is if there were uncorrected amounts in these financial statements up to \$250,000, then we could still issue our "clean" opinion. We would say that those amounts are not material to the statements. And when you consider whether or not \$250,000 is a big number or a small number, obviously, it is a very big number, and we think about things on a much more granular level than \$250,000, but I would say to you that because you are an approximately 10 million dollar organization, if your revenue or expenses were higher or lower by less than \$250,000, as somebody from the outside looking at the statements, coming to a different conclusion, as to the size and scope of the operations. So, if we look at the actual income statement which is presented on page 3, to put it into context, you have revenues for the current year really above 9.7 million dollars. If your revenues were 9.5 million dollars...

Vice Chair Del Bono

Sorry, we are just going to halt the presentation for a quick second just so we can get the video conference system back on line. Sorry about that

**technical difficulties*

Matt Betik

Ok, great, I will carry on. We were looking at page three of the financial statements being the statement of operations and I was referring to the level of materiality, and so what I was getting at before is if the revenues were 9.5 million dollars or 9.9 million dollars, with somebody looking outside would come to a different understanding as to the organizations size and scope, and we believe that is not the case. Sufficient to say, through the course of our work any items that we identify that needed to be corrected in the statements have been corrected. So, there are no uncorrected parts. I will draw your attention back to page 1 of the financial statements and just touch on a couple of the key items on the balance sheet, we've got the assets on page 1, and liabilities and fund balances on page 2. On page 1 you see the cash accounts being down a little over \$500,000, we've got accounts receivable up a little under \$400,000 so our sort of net-liquid-assets are down \$200,000. The cash has gone down primarily due to the repayments of the long-term debt, both with the University as well as the third-party debt, as well as the return of about \$300,000 in contributions with respect to the Brantford athletic center; things that were built up over time but then there was an agreement to contribute those amounts to the University for that purpose. We also see a couple lines down the property plants and equipment, that number has gone from 5.2 million down to 4.7 million dollars, and really that is just the amortization, the depreciation expenses that has been recorded. It's not that equipment has been gotten rid of or anything, it is just showing that the equipment is being used up over the course of its life. If you flip over to page 2, which are liabilities and fund balances we see accounts payable and accrued liabilities, so these are the amounts that we owe to suppliers. It's the amounts that we owe to the University, amounts we owe to employees, and things like that. That's up over last year, and that is primarily just a timing matter; nothing significant going on there. Most of the other areas are fairly consistent other than the amounts due to the University and the long-term debt; those have all been decreased, past on payments that have been made. As well as the different capital contributions, as I've said before that is down a little under \$300,000 due to the collections for the Brantford athletics center that have been paid-off. About

halfway down the liabilities side below the non-current, you see that sort of the total liabilities being 7.9 million compared to 8.3 million dollars the year before. Moving onto the next page, back to the statement of operations which is on page 3, it shows that our revenues which are down slightly from the prior year, mostly that is due to various services revenues that were declined. But, the expenses we see those are being up, and those are primarily the Fred Nichols Center as well as the expenses on the Wilf's side were up higher than the corresponding revenues for the year. And we do see an excessive of revenues over expenses before below noted at \$417,000 compared to \$760,000. Then the expenses that are listed below, amortization and interest in long-term debt, again those are reduced over the prior year but still when you add those expenses in, we do show a deficiency or a net-loss of about \$230,000. That compares to a \$40,000 loss in the prior year. Contextually that is sort of going in the wrong direction, you should be looking to see an overall excessive of revenues over expenses. Now, in the current term we are not terribly concerned about that as sort of your cash revenues are exceeding your cash expenses, that's a good thing. Meaning that you are not burning through cash that is unsustainable, but what it does mean is that you really don't have cash on-hand or debt-capacity to invest in new capital as needed. So, this year I think there was only \$11,000 of new capital that was invested in, prior year: \$30,000 or something like that. Those are very low levels. Now, we do know several years ago there were significant capital projects, specifically in the Food Court area

Chris T

In Brantford, building of the Brantford Student Center.

Matt Betik

So, those are not expected to repeat on a frequent basis or even in the near term. Although certainly at this level you are not raising revenues that are sufficient to replace those assets as they come off. Whether there are other significant capital projects in the near of medium term that's really up to you folks to decide. I understand from talking to Chris, Wilf's needs a little bit of refurbishment, and that would take some funds. On the plus side you are paying down the debt which is a good thing, but you are sort of on the edge of that sustainable question. So, I just sort of bring that to your attention.

Director Naeem

Is appropriate to ask a question about the Cash Flow as you are going through the Cash Flow?

Matt Betik

Yes, go ahead

Vice Chair Del Bono

I will allow it if you are okay with it.

Director Naeem

You just mentioned that the Cash Flow seems to be reducing, revenues overall are reducing. Which apparently in a different picture, can become a sustainability or overall over the years it can be looked at as a problem. But as you mentioned, I see Cash Flow at the end of the year as compared to last year has decreased.

Matt Betik

The reason the cash...

Director Naeem

As you mentioned we are in a better state how come... the explanation when you said we are in a better state of Cash Flows.

Matt Betik

I said you were in a better state, maybe I was taken out of context: the Cash has gone down because you reduced your long-term debt by \$430,000. As well, money that you would have collected for the Brantford Athletic Center in the amount of about \$300,000 has now been handed over to the University, as they were originally intended to.

Chris T

That was the intent all along

Matt Betik

Yeah. You raised it to hand it over. So, when you put those things together, that it is sort of over \$700,000 in cash that has gone on out that's very specific. What I said before was that your cash revenues at this point were greater than your cash expenses. Which is a good thing or it's not a bad thing, but I hate using a double negative. At this point you do want to be raising your cash balances or eliminating your debts such that you have the capacity in the future to withstand any significant volatility in your revenues or expenses, plus the ability to spend on future capital projects. Does that make sense?

Director Naeem

That definitely makes sense because...

Vice Chair Del Bono

Director Naeem, we are going to allow the auditors to finish their presentation. We will allow further comments and questions at the end of the presentation.

Director Naeem

Okay

Matt Betik

Okay. I actually. I really only have one further comment, before I just open it up. On page 10, we do provide additional information on the financial statements with respect to long-term debt, and you will see in the bottom table that we show the amount of repayment of debt that is required in each of the next 5 years. So, you see for 18, 19, and 20 that is sort of that 240 – 250 thousand level, which is what you have been paying off. But you see that those amounts balloon in 2021 and 2022, so 2021 is the year that the Laurier loan is due to be paid off in full, as well as the term loan in 2022. So, likely what will happen at those periods of time: those loans will be re-negotiated and a new five-year term entered into. So, it's not like you are looking at large balloon payments in those years. But, what I do recommend to the Students' Union is that as you are approaching those dates be very proactive with your lenders to make those new agreements, such that you have the stability and the foundation to carry on. I think that is sort of the end of my presentation, certainly if there are any other questions I would be happy to take them. But then concluding on that, once the motion to approve the financial statements.

Vice Chair Del Bono

Awesome, sounds good. I would just like to thank the auditors again for their presentation, let's give them another big round of applause. And on that, I will now consider the speakers list to be open. Would anyone like to be added to the speakers list?

Director Naeem

I would like to be added to the speakers list

Vice Chair Del Bono

I have acknowledged that. Director Small.

Director Small

Am I first?

Director Naeem

Yes

Director Small

Alright, thank you. Mind if I just get right into it?

Vice Chair Del Bono

For sure

Director Small

Thank you, Matt. I'd like to redirect your attention back to the statement of operations. Now, I am curious, at what level of annual change should the organization be concerned about the excess of revenue over expenses? I think you said for this period it wasn't that much for concern, approximately a \$300,000 decrease in that excess, but what level of annual change should we be concerned about?

Matt Betik

I am not sure I can really answer that question, it really depends on a variety of factors. The Students' Union has so many different types of activities that you cannot really look at it from that perspective. Certainly, if we saw that number go negative, the 417. That's when we would be really concerned. I do not recall from 2016 why that number was higher. There could have been some one-time benefits that were experienced then. So, there is no rule of thumb that we can really say for that.

Director Small

Thank you

Vice Chair Del Bono

Ok. Director Naeem your question.

Director Naeem

So, I have a longer question. I would like to know if President Brar is more appropriate to ask this question or the person who just presented. So, my question is: the current cash flows have gone down for the last year as well as the Brantford activity services and revenues have down from the last year. Can I get some insight on the potential thing that was dragging down that... why there was an overall decrease in revenues in those particular components?

President Brar

I can speak to the Turret. We've seen a dramatic decline in regards to the programming specifically the night club operations over the past 3 to 5 years, and that is reflected in that. And to the extent that we have actually removed the word nightclub from the Turret, as it used to be called earlier, and just to say Turret. So, that is that. In regards to the Brantford activity and services operations, we talked about this at the April Board meeting. Chris, would you know more?

Chris T

Was it that line or was it the one above it for the Brantford BSC, administration feed and governance?

Director Naeem

No, I am talking about Brantford activity services and administration.

President Brar

The last line

Chris T

So, that one has actually increased from the previous year. Is that the one you wanted to know the increase from the previous one?

Director Naeem

Yes. I wanted to know where the change was from.

Chris T

That one I will have to go back and look in detail. I don't know specifically what that 17 thousand was, so I will have to report back to the Board on that one or provide it to Kanwar to be able to present it.

Vice Chair Del Bono

Does that answer your question Director Naeem?

Director Naeem

That does answer my question, but I will wait for the response. I do have one last question, if nobody else is on the speakers list I would like to...

Vice Chair Del Bono

We do have Director Hakim on the speakers list after you, so I can add you after Director Hakim if you would like?

Director Naeem

That's perfect

Vice Chair Del Bono

Sounds good. Director Hakim

Director Hakim

Yeah, this is just a quick question: you mentioned that there was a Laurier one and then a term loan. What is a term loan?

President Brar

So, we have two loans: one with the University and one with RBC, and the term loan is reflective of that.

Director Hakim

Ok, that is it.

Vice Chair Del Bono

Does that answer your question

Director Hakim

Yeah

Vice Chair Del Bono

Awesome. Going back to you Director Naeem

Director Naeem

This could be presented by President Brar of the person who presented. Now, I want to know what kind of... if there are any predictable sustainability at a corporate level... is there sustainability issues that you are foreseeing? And what are the two main predictors that we forecast that we can say these are the causes, these are the reasons, revenues... can you point to 2 or 3 main areas where we need a recovery on or where we can change our policy in term of our operations? How are we looking forward to dealing with this sustainability issues, if there are some?

President Brar

I don't understand your question.

Vice Chair Del Bono

Director Naeem, would you be able to form the question into a single question that is more concise?

Director Naeem

Ok. So, if there is an identified sustainability issue, what are the measures that we are taking as an organization to eliminate them?

Vice Chair Del Bono

So, I believe that would be a question that would be directed to President Brar. Sustainability with regards to the Finances?

Director Naeem

Yes

President Brar

For the revenues specifically?

**technical difficulties*

Director Naeem

Again, just to clarify my question, this is much more better, there were two hard questions: what are the favors in this auditor report which are the most concerning when it comes to sustainability issues, what are those components or elements that are really pushing us down or really making a sustainability issue? If there is one. What are the measure that external policy or operational changes, how are we trying to eliminate them or cooperate with them? What is our longer-term strategy here?

President Brar

Yeah. That's a wonderful question and I think you actually brought that to our attention with your earlier question. I would comment and say that is the Turret, because Turret comprises a huge part of our operations with regards to revenue and expenses, and I comment earlier: I think that the past 2 to 5 years we have seen a dramatic decline because... but a decade ago Turret used to be a major revenue stream for the organization in regards to making sure we were financially stable. We are still financially stable on that end, given that we presented a balanced budget: where the revenue equates the expenses and that was approved by the board. We had to explore other avenues, and I think in regards to your second part of the question moving forward; we have already taken steps to change the operations of the Turret and what it looks like. One small tweak would be that this year we have moved away from Turret Saturdays to Turret Thursdays and given Saturday back to clubs and other program activities who want to facilitate events, because we recognize that a lot of students want to do events on Saturdays but they were not able to do that earlier in the Turret because it was occupied with the night life programming, and again, the second part of the question with regards to the future strategic direction is the Turret renovation project which the Board has been briefly briefed on. The last Board was more specifically given direction with regards to what is happening, right now both Executive Director and myself are in conversation with the University to see the next steps of that project, and once we have more information and concrete plans and how to change the operations – that mitigates the risk regarding the revenue we've presented.

Director Naeem

Yeah. That answers my question

Vice Chair Del Bono

Awesome. Is there anyone else who would like to be added to the speakers list?

Director Naeem?

Director Naeem

The only reason I am asking one follow up question is that I was a studied auditing as my last course. One of the actual world things that we studied was the mission of the auditing team and the organization being audited. So, I can recall there was... an

auditors firm cannot audit the same organization for more than 3 or 4 years or something along those lines. I am just trying to know, what is our relationship with our external auditors and our organization? How many years have we consistently used the same audit team and partners, and what is the regulation or how are we going to proceed? Is it going to change?

Vice Chair Del Bono

I believe that is another question deferred to President Brar

President Brar

In regards to KPMG, in Matt McLean's year he was Chair of the Board and President Landberg was President and CEO, 2014/2015. That's when we realized that the Board was actually supposed to take the question of the auditor back to the general membership, and that wasn't being done, and that was a violation of the...

**technical difficulties*

Vice Chair Del Bono

If you could just put your phone of speaker phone, we will allow President Brar to restate the answer to your question.

Director Naeem

Thank you, so much
President Brar

So, I was saying that the Board at that time had realized that based on the policies of the organization, we actually couldn't decide on the auditor ourselves and that was a practice that was being done by the board for a number of years. I correct myself actually, through the transition of Matt McLean and Colin Aitchison is that the auditor has to be approved by the student body. So, as you probably saw in the last general election, when everyone was elected there was a question on the ballot to approve KPMG as the auditors and they have been the auditors for almost the last decade I would say. Correct me if I am wrong Kris and we don't see that that relationship changing, we have a very positive relationship with the organization and unless students think otherwise and they reject KPMG as the auditor at the general election. In that case, the board would have to go back and call special election with the new auditor.

Vice Chair Del Bono

Director Naeem, I will allow one follow-up question or one follow-up statement.

Director Naeem

Ok, this is the last one. This is for the KPMG person who is here, my apologies, I was unable to hear the name because the phone was disconnected. My question is that with KPMG's recommendation in terms of us as their client, is there an internal policy which is guided by specific details on how many years they can serve as an external auditor to an organization?

Matt Betik

For this type of organization there is no restriction as to the time frames. Those restrictions that you are referring to are limited to publicly traded companies and certain other types of organizations. We have an annual process that evaluates the skills and suitability of the audit teams for their clients, and certainly we have no issues or concerns there. So, we are well within the rules of professional conduct as well as our internal policies.

Director Naeem

Thank you

Matt Betik

You're welcome

Vice Chair Del Bono

And before we move on, is there anyone else who would like to be added to the speakers list? Ok, I would just like to thank the auditors again for giving their presentation and for working with us through the technical difficulties.

Matt Betik

No worries, thank you

**technical difficulties*

Director Hassan

I would like to be on the speakers list, that is what I was trying to say.

Vice Chair Del Bono

Sorry, I have already capped the speakers list and we have moved on. At this time I will be accepted comments from President Brar.

Director Hassan

I was trying to ask to be on the speakers list, but due to technical difficulties..

Vice Chair Del Bono

Director Hassan. We are going to be moving on to comments from President Brar. I apologize for that.

7. Comments from the President and CEO

President Brar

So, my comments and updates were included in the board package and I am happy to speak to those. In regards to the summary, the Fall Semester is in event and the execution of activities for the year, the team is busy responding to volunteer and student needs with an emphasis on proactive outreach. In the coming weeks, we are going to working on the plan for the Turret and major agreement renewals. Since the submission of the updates, we have more updates which have come up and I apologize those are not included there, I would like to speak to those. So, we had our orientation volunteer appreciation on the Waterloo campus over the weekend and it was a huge success. This year we have moved away from what we have done in the past and made it more interactive and... there was a basketball shooter out there, Mega-Jenga, interactive activities, which volunteers really appreciated because in the past they would have shown up, danced and then left. In regards with the strategic plan, which looks at volunteer retention, I think that we have moved in a positive direction in regards to that because we have recognized the trend that all together that we are seeing less volunteers returning and also applying and I think that this goes a long way to let volunteers know that we appreciate the hard work they do for us, and our organization would not be sustainable without their efforts. More things, so, I have brought to this board earlier, the provincial government will be undertaking the Campus Climate Survey which will be a survey taking place in February and March 2018 to assess the nature of gender and sexual violence on university campuses across

Ontario. VP Bellotto and I played a role with the firm who's helping develop this survey and to kind of provide student feedback along with other student leaders across the province. Right now, they are actually facilitating a focus group and asking someone to do the survey. The focus group is taking place on November 1st or November 2nd from 7pm to 8pm, and it is one hour in length and it will be online. Participants will have a choice of 25 dollars' electronic gift-card from one of the following options: Tim Hortons, Starbucks, Amazon or Indigo and there are more details I have regarding that, but if anyone is interested participating in the focus group or of any other students or volunteers who will be interested, definitely let me know through Michael or Tarique and I will be more than happy to send you a link for that. Another thing is on the Brantford campus, a new course will be piloted for the Winter 2018 term, it is called ExpLaur. Just for the record, that is a course that is being developed through Teaching and Learning and the goal is to focus on experiential learning and how it actually compliments studies. So, this is a pilot that is taking place for the next semester and the goal is to look at your involvement on campus or any other extra-curricular or leadership positions students may be involved in and how that actually impacts you in regards to your development and any feedback you may have. So, the goal of this class is to not only look at that but also provide feedback for the full-term course which will eventually be rolled out to Senate. So, this is just a pilot. There is a limit of 20 students and if anyone is interested it will be taking place at the Brantford campus from 1 to 4 pm, but anyone can enroll as long as they can be there. Please email Kay Carter who is the EVP for Teaching and Learning at kcarter@wlu.ca. Another thing, this week is Thrive Week on the Waterloo campus which is focused on building positive mental health and that is run through the Dean of Students office; events are taking place Monday to Friday. You can find out more at wlu.ca/wellness, it is also taking place on the Brantford campus- more specifically – through the athletics and recreation department and they are facilitating events such as breakfast, healthy eating, yoga, and you can find more information on their website for that as well. Another thing is this Friday, there will be a conference/workshop called Arts Against Post-Racialism, and the focus is to have a conversation regarding racism on university campuses and is done in partnership with Laurier and the DEO, other universities such as Brock, York, McGill, Government of Canada and the conference targets campuses which have face racism, more specifically with Black face. And that was an incident on our campus about a decade ago actually, in 2007, so there will be events taking place all day on Friday. And I am more than happy to circulate that to the board as well if anyone else who may be interested. As some of you may have seen this morning and potentially tomorrow as well, Laurier Life Link held an event on the University Avenue side of the school sidewalks that was done proactively in discussion with us, the Diversity and Equity Office and other campus partners. As of now we are facilitating and going through a lot of the feedback... just before the meeting I have released a statement regarding some of the feedback that we have received, but the general stance is that while the Students' Union may not agree with Life Link's stance, we support their right to express it. The stance that the organization has always taken is that we represent all students, I was elected by the student body to represent all students regardless of different views, different perspectives; our clubs and associations department of loans supports over 300 clubs across 2 campuses and there will be instances where we don't see eye to eye with a lot of different clubs because they have different views. But it is not our duty to shut them down just because we disagree, as long as you are civil, courteous and

respectful in regards to having the conversation and not engaging in anything aside from that. The reason I bring this to the board is because based on EL2N I am supposed to report any adverse media coverage which may result, as a part of this (and there is potential for that) – I've already been asked to comment on a few news articles based on this. You will probably see that tomorrow in this Cord's issue and you can see my statement on our website and Facebook page. One more update, final one, for the next board meeting on November 7th, both Executive Director and myself will not be present. Executive Director is on vacation and I will be in Ottawa alongside Vice President Bellotto engaged in lobbying with members of Parliament and because of that, VP Collard will be acting President and Ian Muller will be present as a resource. I looked at the monitoring schedule, there are no monitoring reports which are present. I will give my updates accordingly, in the case that there are more questions specific I will ask that you give them to VP Collard and I can answer those back to you when I am in office. I am happy to take any questions.

Vice Chair Del Bono

Awesome. Before we go into the question period for President Brar, I would just like to apologize. I forgotten to call and ask for a motion to approve the draft of that the auditors presented and so without further ado.... Director Hassan, your vote?

Director Hassan

I still have some questions

Vice Chair Del Bono

Sorry, Director Hassan we are not going to be taking questions right now. Can I get your vote to adopt the auditors draft statement as presented? Are you in favor?

Director Hassan

I am not

Vice Chair Del Bono

Okay. Director Naeem, your vote?

Director Naeem

I approve

Vice Chair Del Bono

Okay. The vote passes 6-1-0. Again, sorry about that. We will not move on to questions for President Brar. Would anyone like to be added to the speakers list to start things off?

Director Naeem

I would like to be added to the speakers list

Vice Chair Del Bono

Okay, I am going to be adding you Director Naeem, after Director Rezkalla and Director Small...

Director Small

Point of privilege Chair Del Bono?

Vice Chair Del Bono

Yes

Director Small

I've got three questions to direct to President Brar so please feel free to space out my questions as you see fit

Vice Chair Del Bono

I will space the questions out so we will have one question per position on the speakers list. I will add you after Director Naeem.

Director Rezkalla

Can you add myself again as well, I just have two questions for President Brar

Vice Chair Del Bono

Of course. Feel free to get the ball rolling Director Small

Director Small

Thank you very much. President Brar I would like to bring your attention to the President and CEO section on page 69. Could you please provide the Board a general summary of the Brantford Strategic Plan. It's not spoken about in particular detail. Are there any particular tenants on which the Board should be concerned?

President Brar

So, the Brantford Strategic Plan is for the University not the Students' Union and this is the year where that plan would expire and the University is undergoing consultation with the faculty, staff, and students and they have done surveys specifically for Brantford students, they've done facilitated conversation focus groups, specifically for students who are interested. Jean Taugen and VP Nathan Reeve and AVP Sarah Fischer and myself we attended those focus groups over the course of time, different ones and we provided out feedback. The next steps are to actually to take that and develop action items, and the goal for the Brantford Strategic Plan is to actually consult everyone and create a plan for the Brantford campus for the next five years and where that campus sees itself moving forward.

Director Small

Thank you. May I ask an immediate follow-up?

Vice Chair Del Bono

I will allow a follow-up question

Director Small

Thank you. At the recent Board of Governors meeting this plan was discussed, it was provided in the agenda package or it was suggested at least, that the plan would simply be a renewal of the 2012-2017 Strategic Plan. Can you confirm whether or not there will be any significant developments or changes?

President Brar

Yup. Those developments and on the feedback, which has been solicited through the survey, and since the University is coordinating that the University they would have access to that information, so, in regard to the renewal itself, this is not the first time that a strategic plan is being developed for the campus. Let me clarify that, it has been done. This year the renewal is being renewed to be presented to the Board of Governors and the University community again. It's being conducted through the office of the Senior Executive Officer, Brian Rosborough on the Brantford campus and his office is working diligently with all members of the Laurier community to make sure that their feedback is consulted.

Director Small

Thank you

Vice Chair Del Bono

Great. Director Rezkalla

Director Rezkalla

Yes, thank you. My question is on page 71 in regards to financial administration. So, referring to the Strategic Plans' vision for customer experience, specifically to performance management - since the system changed this year to the demerit and demerit - do we see this moving into the future? Has the feedback received by the AVPs been positive with the strategy?

President Brar

Yeah. One of the reasons we moved to that was the strike system we had, a lot of coordinator, especially though that, a lot of times where their violations of policy or conduct those weren't actually documented by coordinators because from the perspective that they were evaluate your own peers they felt there was a position of uncomfot even though a VP exist as a resource on that end. That is the primary reason we moved away from that, so volunteers can actually be appreciated based on merit and demerit, and have a conversation based on constructive feedback to improve that. So far it has been well received. I think our next steps are to review the policy and be more specific with it and consult volunteers. But so far, I think it has been good for the direction we have moved in for that.

Director Rezkalla

Chair Del Bono, could I retract my second question?

Vice Chair Del Bono

Yes, if you would like. We now move into Director Naeem, your question.

Director Naeem

I have more of a comment. And if President Brar would like to speak to that I would like to hear from him – if he choose to speak on that. But, I would like to question a little bit around on the new course which looks like a really creative course and there are learning outcomes that expected from that. Particularly Brantford campus students are frustrated for not having enough electives and second language courses, philosophy foundation courses are not followed up by formal logic courses. Which are basic philosophy courses. There is a lack of elective courses and that is usually the problem that students face at the Brantford campus. So, this is a larger student voice at the Brantford campus, wanting to have more language electives, wanting to have more courses which are complete courses equivalent to the Waterloo campus. So, that is just my comment.

President Brar

Yeah. I can speak to that. This is probably not the place to have the conversation regarding that because the Students' Union plays a little role in academics. The only reason I brought this up was because the Students' Union was consulted on this and it pertains more to student experience regarding to a for-credit-course, the volunteer activities, the leadership positions and extra-curricular activities play a role in leadership development. We were consulted and brought up to speed from Teaching and Learning and to solicit feedback on what we would find valuable and we provided that. The only reason we have brought this to the Board was because it is something which relates to student experience under our portfolio as an organization. But if you do have frustrations and very valid ones, I think a more appropriate channel would be Teaching and Learning, and ultimately Senate.

Vice Chair Del Bono

Okay. I believe we will be moving onto Director Small, your second question.

Director Small

Thank you. President Brar, at this time I would like to bring your attention to, sorry, page 70; the section about the Committee as a whole. At this time, is the Students' Union anticipating a significant financial commitment for the one year bike share program in Brantford?

President Brar

No. Let me give this group a lot of context and let me back track a little bit. Bike Drop is the company that approached us and wanted to pilot this initially. I don't want to go into too much detail about what Drop Bike does, you can look at the website to get all the information, the premise is that users can take advantage of that at one dollar an hour and there is no infrastructure requirements. There are no physical dock bikes which are required and all the bikes have a GPS system on them, so for example, I want to go from the FNCC to King Street Residence I would take the bike from outside FNCC to King Street Residence, leave it there, lock it, and never have to deal with it again. That's the biggest advantage of not having infrastructure investment because otherwise you would have to go to where a bike station is. The goal is to have hot spots where people park their bikes, but the financial commitment: we are not committing anything to this. There is no financial burden or commitment from our organization as a whole, it's more of a partnership with on the students' behalf and our role played is: we have connected with the University to seek their feedback and support. We have connected Drop Bike with the city (Waterloo) and subsequently this committee to say, "Hey, we find this really valuable, there would be student uptake on this and we recommend that the city try it." The committee as a whole, through the Brantford City Council has actually not approached Drop Bike or a public company, just based on the public procurement piloting rule. In principle, they have adopted a motion and a resolution at the committee level to support a bike share program, and one of the wordings in the motion was that it is actually supported by the University and the Students' Union, which is a huge success for us in regard to advocacy with the long-term plan of advocacy on the Brantford campus: we do you want to look at bike lanes for the city because that is something which isn't there and it's more of a chicken and egg question. Do you put bike lanes once you have more bikes or do you add bikes first and then more bike lanes? We have decided this is a priority for us and we are working on it, and unfortunately it won't be in my term but this is something that we are really proud of. AVP Jonna and Director of Brantford Operations Tony Mathews were at the committee meeting and by themselves and on my behalf to represent that, and our next step would be if city council choose to adopt Drop Bike, we would sign an MOU with Drop Bike to say "this is something that we are in support of," so even after April 2018 once myself and my team leave, this project would go through, regardless of who the next President is.

Director Small

Thank you

President Brar

That was a really long answer, I apologize

Director Small

It was very comprehensive, thank you!

Vice Chair Del Bono

Director Small, please feel free to go ahead with your third question

Director Small

Of course, last question: so, at this time President Brar, can you tell the Board how many student have participated in or bought tickets for Brantford's Homecoming activities?

President Brar

Really good question. I actually do not have the answer to that, but I can definitely get that for you.

Director Small

Fantastic! At the same time would you also be able to determine how those figures compared to last year's?

President Brar

For sure! One thing I can say, we had a meeting today and we solicited feedback for the "tailgate" specifically the entertainment venue because that is something that we took ownership of and we helped plan in conjunction with alumni. In regards to the hockey game that was done with alumni and athletics, that is the responsibility of those two departments, and so that will actually take place and I think the most appropriate time would be to solicit feedback from pilot and submit that with the questions you have asked, so I can do that for the Board.

Director Small

Thank you

ED Champagne

I don't know the specific numbers, like Kanwar, but I do know that the numbers are very consistent with the years past

Director Small

Thank you

Vice Chair Del Bono

Okay. Before we move on to the next item in the agenda package, would anyone else like to be added to the speakers list?

Director Hassan

Can I please be added to the speakers list?

Vice Chair Del Bono

Of course, go ahead Director Hassan

Director Hassan

This is for the President. You have talked about the Ontario Student Assistance Program conversation that you had with the MPP, can you talk to us a little but about the changes that are happening?

President Brar

Yeah. That was actually an event that is organized by the MPP through Neil's office in regard to the Ontario Student Assistance Program, also known as OSAP. So, as of a year ago the provincial government made a stride that they approved a program called "free tuition," in quotations for the record, basically the premise is that any one's family making less than 50,000 dollars a year would have access to "free tuition" and that would be available through grants, and basically what they would have to repay would be a minimal amount. That's on a scaled level by the government, so, let's say if 0 dollars you pay back at 50,000 dollars, but if your family makes 60,000 dollars, that does not mean that you are not eligible – you are eligible but it is not free. The way that program has been allocated has previously before this change just be tax credits offered to students, but now they have removed the tax credits and made it based on a needs system. That is something that our University Affairs department has advocated for a long time, including this year in addition to OUSA who we're a part of, and we have always taken the stance that we will support financial assistance from a needs based perspective because those who lack those funds who do have access to post-secondary need it the most instead of a standardized level of grants across the board regardless of your income, your parental income. So that's the advantage. In regards to me speaking, in spoke on personal experiences as a first-generation student and access to OSAP. There are other student leaders from the University of Waterloo,

Conestoga College, there was a political science student from the Association of Political Science Students who spoke to that the premise of the event was to let students know that this is a resource that exists for them.

Vice Chair Del Bono

Are there any more questions for President Brar? A follow-up question Director Hassan?

Director Hassan

It is not a follow-up question, it is a follow-up question from last meeting. I was expecting an email or some sort of information to how are students are using health, vision or along those lines. So, I am not sure of the President could get that information to me.

President Brar

Yeah. So, one of the follow-up questions at that meeting was specifically with regards to what you are looking for? The usage? Because under our plan there are many different things which are offered, so whether it is health or whether it is dental, even within those two categories there are some many things which vary on usage. So, if you are able to send me a list of what you are looking for I can give you use of those services.

Director Hassan

Can I follow-up?

Vice Chair Del Bono

I will allow one follow-up Director Hassan

Director Hassan

Is this available on the Students' Union website or something, or is it some information that only you have access to? So, that was presented last meeting when Kelly and I went through the information, but you can go to studentVIP.ca and select Laurier Students' Union and you can have the access. And subsequently it is offered on both campuses at the U-Desk, so even as you are leaving the meeting you can pick up a brochure which looks at all the coverage and what is offered under both the health and dental plan and based on that you can send that through the Chair of the Board to see exactly what you are looking for in usage. I would more than happy to provide that information.

Director Hassan

Ok, will do that. Thank you

Vice Chair Del Bono

Last class for any comment and questions for President Brar. We will move onto Executive Director ED Champagne. Seeing as there are no more questions, we now will be taking comments from Executive Director...

Questions from the Gallery?

President Brar

VP Tomizza will do his updates right after mine, so I just wanted to...

Vice Chair Del Bono

Apologies

VP Tomizza

No worries. Good evening everybody, just providing some updates from the Programming and Services department. So, first of all, the committee is functions with our fully hired team which is really awesome because they are working to achieve their specific objectives and goals for the academic year. Specifically, the essential service committee is working to serve the students to the best of their abilities, like keeping students safe and healthy on campus. They are also trying to strike a balance between

their events and campaigns which are running by ballots and social and educational programming, so an example would be with: healthy lifestyles. In the area such as providing content for students to educate them on different safe practices to engage with on a university, facilitating some more engaging programming such as the Drunk Bottle Campaign which helps students to stay safe with what they engage with on campus. So, they have been striking a balance between that pretty well and helping out the rest of the year's plans. The Winter Carnival Committee has also been actively planning and getting ready for this year's upcoming Winter Carnival in 2018. They have just filled their Executive Team last month and the volunteers are now able to dive into their specific portfolios, which is really exciting. Specifically, they are focused on developing innovative and inclusive programming to provide to participants, as well as we are focusing on mitigating risks for events by creating documents for each event that will outline how the event will run and the different areas of risk for those events. To underscore President's Brar's point about Orientation Week which occurred this weekend, it was a great event to be able to appreciate our volunteers and to really highlight the volunteer retention aspect of the Strategic Plan. We are looking to continue to implement volunteer appreciation throughout the year in collaboration with Vice President Collard moving forward throughout the semester. Those are the majority of the updates and I will take any questions if anybody has any.

Vice Chair Del Bono

Any questions for VP Tomizza? Director Wojtanowski

Director Wojtanowski

My question is in regards to Winter Carnival, with the recommendation that the Board gave last year that pertains to that – is that elections and Winter Carnival don't overlap or interfere with each other too much. So, was that taken into consideration this year?

VP Tomizza

I don't have a specific timeline of election upcoming but Kanwar, if you would...

President Brar

Yeah, so we have had conversations with Director Naeem and the goal is to move elections back to, not last year but, what we had the year before to week three of the Winter Semester. Last year, when we all ran the elections and elections started week two. So, this year we would have week 1, week 2 and then elections would be on week 3. And so, DUBC and has it has always taken place would be in week 2.

Vice Chair Del Bono

Any other questions for VP Tomizza? Ok, seeing as we have no more questions we will be taking questions from ED Champagne.

8. Comments from the Executive Director & COO

ED Champagne

I don't have too much to add from the report that was filed as part of the agenda package. It is worth noting that I am working diligently to work with the University Administration, as well as the Student Life Levy Committee to work on the financing for the Turret project, which is hopefully taking place in the spring and summer upcoming. Continuing to work with our administration people on HR concerns and projects, including performance appraisal packages, as well as the full-time staff manual hoping

to be able to finalize all the OPAs, so this Board of Director will be able to get a draft of approval no later than January.

Vice Chair Del Bono

Okay, would anyone like to be added to the speakers list? Director Small, go ahead

Director Small

Thank you. I'd like to direct your attention to section C on page 74, could you describe or perhaps explain the purpose of and potential outcome of non-tuition fee protocol sub-committee discussions. I will pass that off to President Brar as he is better equipped to answer that...

President Brar

Non-tuition fee protocol is actually an agreement that we have with the University to look at any fees not related to tuition, their oversight and how those are approved and what they're used for and the agreement is in place for 5 years. This is the last year in the agreement and it would have to be renewed and resigned for 2018 to 2023. And the committee is a pretty big committee from all across universities and us and the Graduate Student Association. So, the premise of the sub-committee is to take people from the bigger committee, from the Students' Union it would be DPRA Muller and myself who would be there and we would basically go through the orientation page by page, they would get some of the value propositions, we will have to ask what changes, taking into context any changes or potential changes at the provincial level in regards to how non-tuition fees are administered, as those are regulated through MAESD, which is the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development which oversees post-secondary education.

Director Small

Thank you

ED Champagne

Are there any other questions for Executive Director Champagne? Seeing as we don't have any other questions, we will be moving into comments from the Chair of the Elections Portfolio, Director Naeem.

9. Comments from the Chair of the Elections Portfolio

Director Naeem

Thank you so much Vice Chair Del Bono. I will try to make it as concise as possible. I will begin by letting the Board know that CRO interviews are conducted and the Board should hear about the CRO position soon and I would like to thank Brandy Mateen, specifically ED Champagne and making the time out short notice and helping me out and being part of the hiring panel. Thank you for that. On top of that, I would like to say a Referendum Question are now open. You can now send questions to my email nnaeem@wlu.ca and questions deal with the Referendum and I will start proceeding. I am looking forward to implementing a social media strategy around that, how we can go to promote our their specific task force and send along you referendum questions will be uploaded as soon as it is uploaded. I will share with all the Board members and the elements of the questions, the guidelines are pretty open accept for

four basic ones which in terms of the program applies to the associated cause regarding former Referred questions. This is just a basic framework which will be published and promoted, so when submitting the questions you just need to keep basic regulations in mind in terms of the question structure and the deadline for submitting the questions to me primarily will be for November which will be a whole month. It is a good amount of time for what we had last year, after that how the process will proceed is that myself, President Brar, and Executive Director Phil Champagne, and Director of Policy Research Ian Muller will have a look at those questions and will make them presentable, those questions presentable to the Board for final approval and that will be presented to the Board of approval on the final meeting of the semester. So, this is the official update that I have for the Board and questions I am happy to answer.

Vice Chair Del Bono

Would anyone like to be on the speakers list for Director Naeem? Director Rezkalla

Director Rezkalla

My is more of a request rather than a question. Just for the sake of transparency with the Board, I don't see in the agenda a report at all for the updates on the Elections portfolio, I am requesting that maybe for this one and the ones proceeding that we get a report of these updates so that we, since meeting minutes tend to be a little confusing and less comprehensive. So, that is just something that I as a representative would consider, if you would take that in consideration.

Director Naeem

Definitely I will take that into account for the following meetings as they are coming up.

Director Rezkalla

Thank you

Vice Chair Del Bono

Do we have any more questions for Director Naeem?

Director Hassan

I just have a question here

Vice Chair Del Bono

For sure, Director Hassan go for it

Director Hassan

Ok, so out of curiosity, you mentioned that you and couple of the management team have been in the process of hiring the CRO, I was just wondering who decides who sits at that panel. Is it your call, is it the Board's?

Director Naeem

Traditionally, the panel has included, someone from the VP of Finance and Administration, there is one representative from the organization to be there, Phil Champagne, I requested that he be on the hiring panel, I asked the VP of Finance and Administration to be on the panel, she said yes. It is important that

we get experts on the hiring panel to make is transparent and well balanced, fair and to give students a fair chance free of any bias.

Vice Chair Del Bono

Ok, would anyone else like to be added to the speakers list? Ok, since there are no other questions we will be skipping the agenda portion of the items pulled from the consent agenda just because we didn't pull any items from the agenda for the consent agenda and so now I will be opening the floor to discussion on the Finance Committee mid-term report. Feel free to direct your questions to Director Small as well as myself. Unfortunately, Director Lui was not able to attend as a member on the Finance Committee, and I will be opening-up the speakers lists now if anyone has any questions. Director Rezkalla?

10. Items pulled from the Consent Agenda

No items pulled from the consent agenda

11. Finance Committee Midterm Report

Motion 3 (Hakim/Roitman): To table the approval of the Finance Midterm Report until the meeting of November 7th

Vote: 6-0-2

Result: Motion Pass

Director Rezkalla

So, in regards to the first recommendation that you made for EL#2F7: the President will not allow property, information and files to be exposed to loss or significant damage. I just want to know, can the committee or anyone provide an example of when information or property could be exposed to loss or significant damage. I just want some clarification on what kind of situation that would happen

Director Small

So, when we were looking at that specific policy in evaluating its compliance and consistency we weren't concerned with... specific situations weren't necessarily considered. Our chief concern regarding EL#2F was that the interpretation lacked holism. So, it should be the President's duty not to allow any damage to come to the organization's information or possessions.

Vice Chair Del Bono

Does that answer your question?

Director Small

I'm sorry if it's subverts the question a little bit

Director Rezkalla

No, not a problem. I will follow up with a comment I guess just because I am not fully familiar with financial jargon. I just want to know the information that is provided should be accessible to students and certain aspects and maybe significant might be considered in discussion because let say they monitor the Strategic Plan for transparency I want to know if the onus should be fully put on the President, as the organization is the development of the President as well as the Board. So, maybe that is why it says significant because the checks and balances are there, but I just wanted to put that up there to see what kind of aspects, or ideas, perspectives that other Board members have for that.

Director Small

I appreciate the feedback...

Vice Chair Del Bono

Before we continue...

Director Small

I was just going to open it up, it seems as though Director Rezkalla is intending to engage in perhaps a little bit of strategic discussion to develop that idea. I think it is up to you to open the floor to that, I welcome strategic discussion on that.

Vice Chair Del Bono

I will allow us to open the floor for discussion on the matter, but first I am going to allow President Brar to speak on the matter as well

President Brar

I am actually pulling up EL#2F which was brought up during the August meeting and what my interpretation was of significant damage, so if you actually want to carry on with the conversation I can comment on that as well. So, go ahead.

Director Rezkalla

Thank you

Vice Chair Del Bono

For sure, I will be opening-up the floor for discussion on this matter. Director Wojtanowski?

Director Wojtanowski

I think it will be much easier to carry on the discussion when we have President Brar's interpretation of significant damage

Vice Chair Del Bono

My apologies

President Brar

Of course, I just have to find the document.

Director Rezkalla

I appreciate it

President Brar

So, I interpreted loss of significant damage as not properly secured meant to the point of damage beyond or theft beyond repair or irrecoverable. Basically it is gone to the extent that you cannot fix it.

Director Rezkalla

Okay. Can I just respond to that?

Vice Chair Del Bono

I will allow it for sure

Director Rezkalla

Thank you for the clarification, that makes it a lot more clear...

President Brar

And just to add on to that, the evidence that was presented to the Board had said that the FNCC and Student Center are equipped with electronic video surveillance systems but all the Students' Unions businesses' that have safes locked off is to protect cash. We have cash control procedures which was attached as an Appendix for that meeting and we have actually upgraded servers and which are in a fire and temperature protected server room. So, in a case where anyone tried to tamper with that or natural disaster would prevent it from significant damage

Vice Chair Del Bono

Does that clarify the concerns you have?

Director Rezkalla

Yes, because that makes sense in terms of the checks and balances, and the onus of minor damages on you. I don't feel they should necessarily I guess you could say compliant.

Vice Chair Del Bono

So, I guess opening the floor to discussion we will be starting with Director Wojtanowski.

Director Wojtanowski

I find that the wording of significant damage covers all basis just because there is no way that somebody would be able to prevent any damages to the fullest of extents. You can only do as much as possible with the resources that we have available. So, I find that this pretty much makes sense in the context.

President Brar

I would agree. I don't think this policy is scheduled for re-monitoring, but just Board policy you can request re-monitoring at any time during the year, but I agree I think that significant damage is adequate and I think that changing it to any damage opens it up to a lot more possibilities because it would be left up to the interpretation of what is defined as any damage. So, if a stapler at the front office breaks that is damage to the Students' Union property which the President failed to protect the stapler against. So, based on that the Board could reject my monitoring report for not being in compliant and the Board could take appropriate action for that. So, I think that is a role that the Board needs to play strategy, what's actually more important?

Vice Chair Del Bono

Would anyone else like to contribute to this discussion? Director Rezkalla?

Director Rezkalla

I apologies for all the inquires. Again, so just for the recommendation just for questions for EL#2D6...

Vice Chair De Bono

Sorry, are you wanting to be on the speakers list to further this question or to get on the speakers list for the Finance Report as a whole to ask question?

Director Rezkalla

As a whole

Vice Chair Del Bono

As a whole, for sure! I guess we seized the discussion on the current matters and we are moving back to questions for the Finance Report as a whole. Director Rezkalla?

Director Rezkalla

Yes, for EL#2D6 it states that the President will not purchase anything greater than 10,000 dollars, and I just want to know what was the committee's rationale for our strategic discussion afterwards. So, I just want to know what the rationale is because it states that there is a rationale. It doesn't state what it was

Director Small

Right, and I appreciate the inquiry into that. So, we touched on EL#2D section 6 in a couple of different spots. I assume you are referring to the initial mention, which is our recommendation, that we revise that section to situations in which project overage below 15 percent is 10,000. So, our understanding after we did some research, for which I have to commend Vice Chair Del Bono for his investigation, was that the wording of subsection A section 6 could prove contradictory to itself because it is possible that a project overage of less than 15 percent can incur an overall commitment that is greater than 10,000. So, under subsection A of the current policy that would not require

Board approval despite the fact that it exceeds 10,000 dollars. Does that answer your question?

Director Rezkalla

Yeah, kind of, I am processing it.

President Brar

Let Director Wojtanowski speak

Director Wojtanowski

If it would be possible for you to restate that because I didn't understand what you were saying

President Brar

Can I try and give a more precise example and tell me if I'm wrong or if I'm on the right track. So, if we decided to buy something that cost 9,000 dollars and that is a code that we get from the vendor, it does not require Board approval because based on the policy it is under 10,000 dollars. But, two weeks later the vendor comes back to us and says, by the way it is actually going to be 11,000 now, we hired someone new who is going to do this and they are charging us more. At that point, since the project has already been accounted for this is recommending, the President would not need to come back to the Board given that now the cost has exceeded over the 10,000 limit based on the 15 percent change and it is asking to not come back to the Board. Correct?

Director Small

That is pretty consistent with our interpretation, yes?

President Brar

Because now, let's say we budgeted 9,000 dollars for something. 2 weeks later, we find out: oh by the way it's actually going to be 11,500 dollars, before we actually release those funds I would have to come back to the Board, let the Board know "hey, this is the updated amount based on the new thing we've received," and if the Board approves that and at that point the President would be able to purchase that. Basically

Vice Chair Del Bono

Does that clarify the concerns?

Director Rezkalla

Yes, I just want to ask a follow up question

Vice Chair Del Bono

I will allow one follow-up question.

Director Rezkalla

It's more just... in terms of that... there are occasions where if the matter is pressing, you can send the motion through email. So, I feel like maybe that... if it's pressing it still should be approved by the Board, it would just be brought to the Board in a different form of communication. I don't know, I just want to keep certain aspects held the organization accountable who served well the past few years. Just something to consider, obviously not adopting or amending it right now, just for matter of strategic discussion.

Vice Chair Del Bono

I'm sure the "fine-ess" of your interpretation is appreciated

President Brar

I fully agree. I think the way it is right now keeps the President and CEO accountable to the Board, if the Board actually had the power to assess that and I think that removing that 15 percent overage would give my position a lot more power, exceed and over go the Board on a lot of those matters. My position should be held accountable on that end and if there is an overture of 15 percent, it's just a conversation: hey, we went over 15 percent, these are the reasons a,b,c and if the Board finds those reasons valid then it is the Board's discretion to approve that.

Vice Chair Del Bono

Before we continue, or as we are continuing now with the speakers list, up next President Brar and then after President Brar we will be going to Director Wojtanowski.

President Brar

Yeah. Do you want to go first by any chance?

Director Wojtanowski

Just because it is in response to what we were saying, do you mind if we just swap?

Vice Chair Del Bono

Of course, sure

Director Wojtanowski

Thank you so much. I just wanted to continue off of that. I think

that opening it up to that overage below 15 percent I think that opens it up to possibly someone in the future changing it to being more than that and that just opens it up to more risk that we have as an organization, giving the President and CEO more power. So, just reiterating that. But, I do agree with the comments that were made by ED Champagne at the previous meeting about the emergency situations have to deal with the safety of the building.

President Bar

And that was my next comment in regards to the third recommendation by ED Champagne, it's something that I have talked to Phil about and think I actually disagree with that recommendation is to exempt the Office of the President for purchases over 10,000 dollars for high risk situations without Board approval. Again, I think that it gives my position a lot more power to over go the Board for those purchases, I still think there are checks and balances, and one specifically being ED Champagne who can have that conversation, but even the word high risk situations it is straight forward but it can be left up to interpretation and I think the Board needs to think a little longer on that if a President decides whatever may be high risk and decide not to come to the Board for that approval. Again, it is risk to the organization. That is my personal view. The biggest challenge and I think, Phil and I have talked about this thoroughly as but what if things have to be approved on that end. And I think the fire alarm panel is a great example, because if that wasn't approved, we would be open to more risk as an organization and I believe that we still should go through the procedures and get Board approval and if the Board decides to reject that, let's say the Board rejected the fire alarm panel the Board is opening up the organization to risk on that end – it is there responsibility in the case there are any challenges based on that which could include legal action. But I still think we need to follow the procedures which we have been following and the President and CEO should come to the Board for purchases over 10,000 dollars, even if there are high risk and even if they are mandatory like they will take place- the Board may perceive that as rubber stamping it because it has to take place, but I still think from a governance perspective it gives the Board an opportunity to make a decision and ask questions as they come up.

Vice Chair Del Bono

Does that answer your question?

Director Wojtanowski

Yeah

Vice Chair Del Bono

Awesome. Would anyone else like to be added to the speakers list?

President Bar

So, can I add something then?

Vice Chair Del Bono

Yes

President Bar

This motion is to accept the Finance Committee Report, but all three recommendations have been rejected based on conversation, so either this would be rejected as a report and then represented or amended to just take those changes out. Just FYI

Director Small

My interpretation is while the primary recommendations have been rejected by the Board after strategic discussion, you'll note that at the end in the final paragraph of the report that the committee found the remaining policies, budgetary compliances and operation measures provided by the CEO are in compliance. And so I think you can open that up to strategic discussion, perhaps someone on the Board found something in EL#2E that wasn't compliant, but we found that to be consistent and if the Board finds it compliant and consistent, I believe that while you have rejected our main recommendations , you may except the report.

President Brar

You're right

Vice Chair Del Bono

Ok, next up on the speakers list we have Director Wojtanowski

Director Wojtanowski

While I agree with that last paragraph, I do know that these recommendations and committee reports are used in future committees as kind of basis to build off of... previous recommendations. I think it would be important to note in that case in making an amendment that was discussed at the Board table, that these recommendations upon strategic discussion were rejected and if somebody were to go forward and want to look at the meeting minutes from the October 24th meeting to find out the reasons for the rejection that would be a good idea going forward. The Finance Committee of perhaps the following Board that will be elected in January, of them having a look at this report next year and thinking that these were recommendations that we just never applied to our policies. If that makes sense.

Director Small

If I may respond to that, that is a very valid concern and I think that is an issue for Committee Protocol. Personally, I think it is a very valid measure that we would accept for future reference for future members of the Finance Committee. I believe that current Committee protocols suggest that motions and recommendations prior to the mid-term report are summarized or the Board responses to those recommendations are condensed in the final report and so, I will make a duty to note that in the final report and they will note that the three recommendations prior to the mid-term report were rejected by the Board after discussion.

Vice Chair Del Bono

Is everyone comfortable with Director Small's proposition?

Director Small

I can't change committee protocol right here and now, but I think it is worth noting, it is something that the committee can assess for itself, but thank you.

Vice Chair Del Bono

Ok, before we continue does anyone have any questions for the finance mid-term report? Ok, seeing as there are no other questions... I would personally like to address a questions to President Brar and Executive Director Champagne: we will not be calling a motion approve this mid-term report then . We will be continuing on with next item on the agenda...

President Brar

So, you can table to approve at the next meeting, so then you would accept a motion to table the Finance Committee's Report until the meeting on November 7th. Just an FYI I still won't be here for that, so if there are any questions that com e up and I am not able to answer them, then we may have to delay them again. But, I think we have gone through them very thoroughly...

Director Small

Sorry, do you mind if I provide a quick follow up?

Vice Chair Del Bono

Of course!

Director Small

If there happens to be questions at the next meeting, then will VP Collard be able to field those kinds of inquiries?

President Brar

Yes, but maybe not all of the questions. I don't really know to that end. I can go through the report with here in case something comes up, but just based on the governance structure it just makes more sense for me to answer those anyways. And I think we have had a very thorough discussion regardless...

12. Board of Governors' Update

Director Small

Alright then, I think you have all had the opportunity to perhaps review the report that the team provided in the agenda package for this meeting. Before I leave Governor Kovacs to launch into the primary discussion I would just like to provide a quick preface

that it has been provided in text, but just for verbal disclosure I just want to make another mention that the report that we are about to provide; the statements, are not officially released or anything, endorsed, or approved by the Board of Governors. It is not intended to be a representation of what was discussed, an official representation that is. We don't officially represent the Board and the statements don't reflect the view or policies of the Board. Essentially in a nutshell, anyone who attended the open session of the meeting and sat in the open gallery could have drawn these observations, and with that I will turn it over to Governor Kovacs to provide the bulk...

Adam Kovacs

I just want to make sure everyone hears me like I did earlier, can everyone hear me? Can everyone understand me? I do have a cold, so I do apologize if I sound a little squeaky and annoying, so I do apologize for that. I do apologize for using notes. It is just hectic and I came quickly from work, so I had to make something quickly. So, we are going to breeze through this. I want to go in depth about what was given to you in the agenda, but at the end, if the Chair will allow questions, I will be happy to answer questions. As well as Director Small would be happy to answer them as well. So, I will quickly start off with technology. So, the progress we have with technology is the Information, Communication & Technology department so-to-speak on July 31st start transferring over to Windows 10 to make it more efficient and better for students. So, that will use Microsoft 2016. On top of that, that will be done around February 2018, so that way both campuses will be fully updated to the current system: Microsoft 2016. Next is September 7th, what they actually implemented is a new service that allows guest verified Wi-Fi access unlimited version of that. So, very briefly how that works is that someone like myself or one of you, anyone who is on campus, faculty, teacher, staff, students, whoever it may be, they give approval of certain people who are guests to allow access to our Wi-Fi that's limited. But again, it has to be approved by us, and it is done through a survey approval system and this is still being implemented. So, next we are quickly moving over to mental health. So, this is a bigger subject, what happened is i'm not sure if Director Small did brief you but in early summer the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Department, what they did was they gave 4.5 million dollars to universities and colleges who are publicly funded to off-set costs for hiring direct service mental health professionals. To allow them to help students in that way, and in September, yeah early fall- I will consider that September – the second phase of that was happening and that was 6 million dollars was donated again to universities and public colleges to help off-set those costs. Now, since this is a brand new program, Laurier has volunteered to be a part of the pilot program and partner with Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Group of people to do a pilot program to help students with this service. So, how it works is there is going to be integrated therapist network, they are going to allow mental health assessment and treatments types that include face-to-face and online services and this is used to enhance the current efforts, support mental health and student success and student wellness. So, finally is the update about sexual violence and Climate Survey. All public institutions, once again, are going to have a mandatory survey that they must fill out, that is across Ontario. Of outreach of 650,000

students, that's a big number, a lot of people to outreach. Now, Laurier being a great campus and great school, they have become a pilot campus for this program. This one, I believe, was completed between March and February of 2018. Now, that is what we believed was best and most applicable to the students; however, there is some stuff that we would be glad to talk about at a later time. You have probably heard concerns about the Milton campus. None of the stuff that was brought up at the meeting was in open session, it is still in the "in-camera" session. So, we can't disclose that at this point, but once we can we'll be glad to have that discussion. And that is all I have.

Director Small

Very good. I think before we pose questions, I thought it might be worth providing the Board with a quick side note Adam's performance just for the sake of clarification and just to give an update since his appointment on September 12th. We've been in regular communication between ourselves, developing some initiatives and collaborative efforts. We would like to see potential and future Board of Governance candidates and undergraduate representatives accomplished, kind of raising the bar in a sense. Adam himself... I have been monitoring his progress since his appointment. He and I have been working on informal orientation, he's met with University Secretariat, Anne Lukin, the Associate University Secretary, going to specialists for new members of the Board, he was able to attend the Board retreat meeting on September 14th and 15th, so I feel as though a much more formal qualified idea distinction between, say, the Students' Union and the University, and his quite comfortable with his roles and responsibilities. I am hoping Adam can corroborate that. Would you agree Adam?

Adam Kovacs

I think I would agree. I also attended the committee meeting we did have. I couldn't go on campus unfortunately, but I did attend via conference call and I think that happened last Thursday. Was it not Director Small?

Director Small

Correct

Adam Kovacs

So, I did attend that meeting to get more information

Vice Chair Del Bono

Awesome. I will be opening the floor to any questions, starting with President Brar

President Brar

Not Board of Governors, but governance related, there is also Senate meetings which, because I am President I don't see any student Senators, I can comment on that: the biggest thing was that the Senate approved the report from the VP of the Registrar and

the Academic dates for 2018/2019, as well as the academic dates for the Faculty of Education and the updates from the Teaching and Learning by Kay Carter and those slides were presented there. Aside from that, it was all editorial program changes.

Vice Chair Del Bono

Does anyone else have any questions or would like to be added to the speakers list? Seeing as there are no other questions, we will be moving onto new business and announcements... I guess we will be opening the floor. Does anyone have any new business and/or announcements?

13. New Business & Announcements

Director Naeem

I would like to be on the speakers list

Vice Chair Del Bono

Director Naeem, is this for the Board of Governors update?

Director Naeem

I think you opened the new business and announcements. Yes I did, I just wanted to clarify with you. Director Naeem, go for it, you are on the speakers list for new business and announcements.

Director Naeem

Specifically, right out of our last training that we had on Sunday, the feeling is that we can have a more comfortable conversation in this part of the agenda. I just wanted to mention a few things, one thing is the meeting last week from September, just something for the Board to consider is right now, tentative, one of the last days of the semester. So, if we can move it to an earlier date, not leave it for the last day of the semester and if we can have our meetings, which are at 7pm, earlier in the day, and if somehow we can manage to make meetings part of our day. I am open to the weekend idea as well. Something that, if we can discuss, about how the meetings are going to be proceeding; these are just the two points that I have that I want to talk about.

Vice Chair Del Bono

Director Hakim?

Director Hakim

Yes. So, new business, Student Rights Advisory and Outreach for University Affairs are launching a SnapChat takeover today. So, follow, Students_Union on SnapChat for some fun videos and lease signing tips and on Thursday there will be another takeover for House Hunting Tips.

Director Rezkalla

I have something to add on. Tomorrow night, in this current Board room at 10pm there is going to be a House Hunting presentation for anyone who wants to come or anyone who would like to go on their computer, because it will also be livestreamed as well.

Vice Chair Del Bono

Is there any new business and announcements? Director Wojtanowski

Director Wojtanowski

I'd just like to congratulate Vice Chair Del Bono on running his first full Board meeting. I am sure that we are all pleased with his performance today.

Vice Chair Del Bono

Thank you for the claps. Are there any other new business and announcements before we motion to adjourn?

Director Hassan

A couple of things that I wanted to... but thank you very much Vice Chair Del Bono for a very nice meeting today, but there are a couple of questions that I have in the new business section. One, I need to make sure that the technical issues that we were having today, that did not allow me to effectively communicate in a very important document, that I still have questions. Because of that technical difficulties I was not able to pass my questions and we did not put that into consideration. So, to prevent such a thing happening again I would like to bring the attention to the Students' Union Executive team to fix this technical difficulty. That is a very very big thing. That is one thing that I would like to propose and I forgot the other one... I will remember in a second.

Vice Chair Del Bono

No worries. I apologize as well, again for the technical difficulties and I will be sure to relay you concerns to Chair Plummer, for sure, right after the meeting. I will give you a few second to remember your second business announcement that you wanted to present.

ED Champagne

Are they muted?

Vice Chair Del Bono

Director Hassan, Director Naeem, I believe you may be muted

Director Hassan

I can't remember the other question. I forgot. That's about it from this side

Vice Chair Del Bono

Feel free to message me anytime after the meeting and I can help you out as much as I can. President Brar?

President Brar

Director Naeem, in regard to your question about the amendment to the Board meeting schedule, I would recommend that you reach out to Chair Plummer because that would have to be an agenda item for the next meeting, proposed ahead of time for discussion.

Vice Chair Del Bono

Last call for new business and announcements.

14. Adjournment

Motion 4 (Wojtanowski/Paul): to adjourn the meeting

Vote: 7-0-0

Result: Motion Pass