

**THE GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE
OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY**

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES**

**February 7, 2024
230 Richmond St. E. &
VIA MS TEAMS
5:56 P.M.**

Present:	Bruce Choy, Chair Omo Akintan Jon Callegher Bhavna Duggal	Andrea Elliott Saideh Fard Gervan Fearon Roger Grochmal	Peter Koutsokeris Akrivi Papadaki Nancy Prenevost
Guests:	Paul Armstrong Giselle Basanta Susan Bowrah Steve Camacho Patricia Chorney Rubin Janene Christiansen	Joe Cressy Eileen De Courcy Cindy Gouveia Jennifer Grant Michael Herrera Michelle McCollum	Laura Jamer Mona Modaresi Leslie Quinlan Cory Ross Sumi Shan
Guests via Teams:	Rudi Fischbacher		
Regrets:	Rob Gilmour Millan Mulraine	Ansh Jain Arjun Jasuja	
Board Secretary:	Emily Bain		
Minutes:	Carina Lewis - Campbell		

1.0 Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

The Chair called the meeting to order and began by welcoming everyone to the first George Brown College Board of Governors meeting of 2024. A thank you was extended to Board members that were able to join early and participate in the Vision 2040 consultation with McPhie.

The Chair announced that President Fearon was inducted to the Order of Ontario and Chancellor Noella Milne was inducted to the Order of Canada. An event will be organized under to honour both recipients and celebrate the significant milestone.

The Chair announced that numerous events will be taking place in February for Black Futures Month. Board members are encouraged to review the scheduled events posted on BoardEffect and participate as able.

The Chair extended congratulations to Governor Akrivi Papadaki for completing the Good

Governance program through the College Centre for Board Excellence at Colleges Ontario.

Thanks was extended to the Board for their continued participation in committee meetings and preparing for the Board meetings.

A land territory acknowledgement was then provided.

No conflicts of interest were declared. No issue arising.

2.0 Approval of the Agenda and Consent Agenda (including past minutes)

MOTION BGPUB-2024-04-01

THAT the Board of Governors approves the Agenda for the meeting held on February 7, 2024

Moved: S. Fard Seconded: R. Grochmal CARRIED

MOTION BGPUB-2024-04-02

THAT the Board of Governors approves the Consent Agenda for the meeting held on February 7, 2024, which includes the following items:

1. Approval of the programs recommended by ASA Committee:

THAT the Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommend to the Board of Governors approval of the new programs proposals as presented.

- **Embedded Systems Development**
- **Customs and Trade**

2. Approval of Cyber Security Policy as recommended by P&T Committee:

THAT the Board of Governors approve the Cyber Security Policy as recommended by the People and Technology Committee.

Moved: B. Duggal Seconded: P. Koutsokeris CARRIED

3.0 Approval of Past Minutes

MOTION BGPUB-2024-04-03

THAT the Board of Governors approves the minutes of the public meeting on December 6, 2023.

Moved: B. Duggal Seconded: R. Grochmal CARRIED

4.0 President's Report

President Fearon reported that the winter term for 2024 is off to a great start and congratulated colleagues for the previous year and start of a new year.

President Fearon provided updates regarding the Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) announcement made on January 22, 2024, pertaining to international students, it was advised that the college is working diligently to assess the impact which will then inform the appropriate mitigation strategies. Further updates will be provided as they are made available.

President Fearon recognized the many new initiatives underway at the college including, but not limited to, the Brookfield For Tomorrow fashion sustainability event, the opening of the Black Student Success Centre and numerous Black Future events throughout the month of February.

5.0 Standing Committee Report

Academic and Student Affairs Committee

The Chair of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Roger Grochmal, gave an update on the January 17, 2024, meeting and thanked the Board Chair for attending the last meeting. During the ASA meeting it was reported that winter 2024 enrollment numbers are up from last winter (2023) to 94% for full-time enrollment and student enrollment numbers are recorded as 56% domestic and 44% international. Two new programs were recommended for approval: Embedded Systems Development and Customs and Trade.

It was shared that the college will now be a part of the Colleges Ontario Programs Standards for International Education. The standards will be integrated into the regular institutional audit process conducted by Ontario Colleges Quality Assurance Services (OCQAS) every 5 years. The ASA Chair congratulated GBC management for their continued leadership and innovation.

Finance and Property Committee (F&P)

The Chair of the Finance and Property Committee (F&P), Saeideh Fard, gave an update on the January 31, 2024, meeting. During the F&P meeting President Fearon provided an update, in addition the December financial update, winter 2024 enrollment update, strategic enrollment management update and institutional operating plan update were also shared.

6.0 People Plan

Susan Bowrah (VP, People and Culture) shared the inaugural People Plan on behalf of herself and Leslie Quinlan (SVP, People Enablement and Experience). The data collection process garnered input from a broad engagement pool within the organization, allowing anyone involved to contribute their thoughts. Over 300 employees participated in shaping the plan. After consolidating the feedback, four key themes emerged: the need to create a rich employee experience, great leadership, and the importance of the leader in the employment relationship, wellbeing, belonging and community, and service elevated technology. Equity and inclusion were focal points across all themes.

The Board engaged in discussion around clarity of the methodology, terminology, concepts, and

levels of employee engagement detailed in the plan. The next steps involve the operationalization of the plan over the long term.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to the private session at 6:33pm.