

Present

Board

Ariana Arguello
David Atkinson/President
Shane King
Suzanne Pearce
Kim Richter
Derek Robertson
Gord Schoberg/Chair
Ken Tung
Amrik Virk

University Vice Presidents

John McKendry/Academic & Provost

University Community Members

Sandi Klassen/University Secretary
Elizabeth Merritt /University Secretariat

Guests:

Rob Adamoski / Dean, Social Sciences
Mazen Guirguis / Dean, Humanities

Regrets

Kristan Ash
Arvinder Bubber/Chancellor
Yuri Fulmer
Ryan Keigher
Scott Nicoll
Launi Skinner

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 11:00 am.

Confirmation of Agenda

The purpose of the teleconference was to discuss the possible amalgamation of the Faculties of Social Sciences and Humanities.

**Amalgamation of the
Faculties of Humanities
and Social Sciences**

Gord Schoberg chaired the meeting, establishing the process for dialogue. To focus the discussion, the following areas were articulated:

1. Customer value: How would this merger enhance the student learning experience to better prepare them for the labour market or further education?
2. Shareholder value: How would this merger improve financial value to Kwantlen?
3. Strategic direction: How would this merger move Kwantlen towards its vision and support its commitments?
4. How would #1 to #3 be measured?

David Atkinson provided background on the events that led to the development of the proposal to amalgamate the two Faculties. The resignation of the Dean of Humanities to take another position provided the opportunity to discuss a merger. The two Faculties consulted widely for two years and drafted the Green Paper, held separate Faculty non-binding votes on the issue and sent the issue to Senate for deliberation. Senate referred the matter to the Senate Governance Committee and the Senate Standing Committee on Academic Planning & Priorities, both of

which submitted reports to Senate. Senate passed a motion to approve the amalgamation in principle.

The Board must now consider a motion to approve the amalgamation in principle so the deans can develop detailed planning with the expectation that plans come back to Senate and Board in the fall.

The Board discussed the issue. Some points made were

- Confidence in the process leading to this since it shows a great deal of thought has been given to the matter
- A merger would benefit Kwantlen's future, especially on the student side
- Amalgamation would allow for elimination of duplicate services
- Amalgamation is a two-stage process: 1) The big issue as to whether a merger makes academic sense and improves student experience 2) Analyze efficiencies and costs incurred
- Concern was raised regarding amalgamating right now with a new Provost and new President – also unsure how the merger fits into the planning process
- A strong Arts Faculty is core to a polytechnic university – it protects the core of the institution and the development of programs that fit with the polytechnic mandate
- Concern was raised that the Board might be making a rush decision and should wait until the new VP Academic is here to consult with her. In response, it was noted that there have been 24 months of consultation and the hope is to maintain the momentum over the summer and complete important work towards amalgamation. The Board will have final approval once the full plans have been developed.
- The deans were encouraged to provide incremental updates to the Board during the process of amalgamation
- Lack of a policy on amalgamation of Faculties was noted – any policy developed regarding this would need to be very general in nature

The deans indicated that full integration could be attained within one year. They view this as an opportunity to launch a new Faculty rather than amalgamating two Faculties. The new Faculty would take part in the strategic planning process with the University.

Moved by Derek Robertson; seconded by Ken Tung:

THAT the Board of Governors approve in principle the Amalgamation of the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Faculty of Humanities subject to

- a) a review of potential resource implications**
- b) the approval of subsequent adjustments to the budget**
- c) the final Board approval of the amalgamation once all review is completed.**

A roll call vote occurred:

Amrik Virk – yes

Ken Tung – yes

Shane King – yes

Ariana Arguello – yes

Kim Richter – opposed

Suzanne Pearce – opposed

Derek Robertson – yes

Gord Schoberg – yes

David Atkinson – yes

Motion Carried

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:04 pm.

BOARD CHAIR