

Board Meeting Highlights

The March 25, 2021, Board of Governors’ meeting was held via Microsoft Teams.

The board received a number of reports, including:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Committee Minutes • Finance and Audit Committee Minutes – February and March • Public-Private Partnership Update • Recognition Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2021-22 Budget Approval • Program Advisory Committee Appointments • Enrolment Update • Emergency and Risk Management • Auditor General Presentation
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Motions were passed by the board to approve:

- Budget Approval 2021-22
- Internally Restricted Net Assets
- Golf degree tuition reduction

Budget approval 2021-22

The college has continued to refine its budget assumptions based on the enrolment trends and the COVID-19 landscape over the course of the last several months. The college has continued to evaluate the impacts of the federal government policy changes on international student enrolment and these have been reflected in the scenario planning for the college budget. The college has modelled the worst case, moderate case, most likely case and best-case enrolment scenarios to determine the potential shortfalls in revenue. The Board of Governors approved the 2021-22 budget, with a budgeted deficit of \$3.5 million. Further, the board directed the college to report back in April on how the \$7 million in COVID-19 support funds will be allocated with the final 2021-22 budget motion for approval.

Regular budget meetings will continue to be held with budget holders over the course of the spring/summer as the college assesses the enrolment impacts on revenue. The college will monitor enrolment trends and continue to reassess the impacts on the fiscal forecast and adjust accordingly. The 2021-22 budget will be submitted to the Ministry of Colleges and Universities once the official submission date has been released.

Enrolment update

Annual domestic student registrations are 1.6% or +239 students ahead of the COVID-19 modified plan, and annual international student registrations for the year are ahead of the COVID-19 modified plan by 3.05% or +215 students. On a fiscal year basis, the impact of the summer, fall, and winter audit enrolment is an increase of \$2.256M compared to the approved COVID-19 modified plan when combining domestic, international, and University Partnership Centre (UPC) activity. When compared to last year, annual college wide student registrations are down -12.3% or -1,576 students.

Year-over-year comparison and full-time enrolment history

- Domestic enrolment has decreased -8.7% when compared to last year or -721 students
- International enrolment has decreased -19.1% when compared to last year or -855 students
- Overall college enrolment has decreased by -12.3% when compared to last year or -1,576 students
- Overall college degree and UPC enrolment has increased by 10.5% when compared to last year or 116 students

Emergency and risk management

This past year, the majority of work has been focused on the pandemic. As such, the Emergency Management Steering Committee has been active on a weekly or bi-weekly basis for the majority of the year.

All major changes to policy, protocol and campus activity related to the pandemic have been discussed and approved through the Emergency Management Steering Committee.

Lessons learned for future pandemic emergencies have been documented. Of significance is the work done on a draft IT disaster recovery plan. This plan is essential to help the college respond to a disaster or cyber attack on our IT network. Our preparedness will be key in averting or responding to a major system inoperability. Updates on the college response to the pandemic have been provided at each board meeting.

Meeting with the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario

The college received correspondence from the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario; they regularly conduct value-for-money audits in areas that relate to provincial government programs, including the broader public sector such as school boards and colleges. The Ministry of Colleges and Universities, and the Auditor General, is currently auditing the oversight of public colleges in Ontario.

As part of their planning process, they reached out to key stakeholders to obtain an understanding of their operations and their relationship with the ministry.

They requested a meeting with the Board Chair and President/CEO to seek input in the following areas:

- General overview of how Georgian College operates, including the uniqueness of Georgian
- Ministry oversight and the reporting relationship
- Key challenges and risks faced by Georgian, and the sector as a whole
- Best practices in the sector, both in Ontario and in other jurisdictions
- Key success factors
- Other areas of concern

Chair Paul Larche and President and CEO Dr. MaryLynn West-Moynes participated in a virtual meeting with the director of the value audit, a number of staff, a co-op student and the Assistant Auditor. The college provided a presentation in advance of the meeting. Chair Larche put forth the board's position on a number of key items.

The Auditor General's goal is to create incentive for change through a report, which they have oversight to follow up on at the end of two years and every year after, until items are dealt with.

They were interested in the issue raised around enrolment – including reliance on international students, tuition freeze and reduction, red tape, lack of capital funding for major initiatives, as well as concern about the increase of performance funding at the same time we're coming out of the pandemic. They were impressed by our balanced score card, interested in how enrolment numbers were audited, and eager to learn more about how we modeled performance data.