

# FACT SHEET: BOARD OF GOVERNORS WHY SO SECRET AT THE U OF S?

February 21, 2007

**The following email was sent to CAUT member organizations well over a year ago:**

*Hello everyone. The USFA would greatly appreciate any information you may be able to provide with respect to obtaining copies of Minutes from the Board of Governors at your University. Do you have collective agreement provisions that state you receive a copy? Are you provided copies as a matter of course? Do you receive copies on request?*

**Here is a summary of the responses we received:**

Lakehead	Association Chair is observer on BoG. Materials provided and also on website.
Guelph	Minutes of BoG provided.
Bishops	Association President is observer on BoG. Minutes of BoG are public documents. "Executive" minutes are distributed to all members of "Executive" including union members.
Waterloo	Collective Agreement says Association to receive public agenda materials and minutes for BoG. Also available on Secretariat's website.
Calgary	Observer status on BoG. Association nominates someone that Minister appoints as full member. Nominee speaks in confidence to Association according to Collective Agreement.
Queen's	Collective Agreement provision that Association receives BoG minutes. Three observers also receive minutes.
McMaster	Observer status on BoG. Association receives complete minutes and agenda packages including "closed" session material. Minutes of both on website.
St. Mary's	BoG Minutes sealed. Association has to ask faculty rep, who is not member of union while on BoG.
Brock	Collective Agreement Provision for non-confidential agenda, associated papers, minutes of Board of trustees and committees.
Victoria	After fight with admin, have it in writing that the Association automatically receives BoG agenda packages in advance of meetings.
Simon Fraser	Receives papers and minutes for the open sessions of BoG as a matter of course.

Nova Scotia School of Art and Design	Board minutes are public documents, so can be requested. Board bylaws provide for two faculty members, elected by faculty, on the Board and one is on the Executive of the Board.
Memorial	Minutes are on university website.
Manitoba	Association receives copies of minutes and upcoming agenda of Board. Also some sub-committees. Also has "Assessor" who attends all meetings, including some in-camera (those not related to bargaining).
Northern BC	Collective Agreement states copies of minutes of opens sessions of BoG provided.
Royal Military College	Nothing in Collective Agreement. Not provided. Never requested. Suspicion is that request would be denied but copies could be obtained via freedom of info request
Acadia	Collective Agreement provision that Board provides electronic agenda and approved minutes of Board and Executive Committee meetings
Brandon	Association secretary sits as observer at BoG meetings.
Winnipeg	Collective Agreement states copy provided and Association president is observer.
Windsor	Association president is ex-officio, non-voting member of BoG but is excused when in-camera and agenda will read "in camera session".
Ontario Community College Staff	Practices vary from college to college. Legislation provides for faculty rep on board but position is not considered to be a voice of the union.
Wilfrid Laurier	Collective Agreement provides University required to send BoG Minutes/Agenda. Recently notified available online.
Cape Breton	Association has seat on Board according to BoG by-laws.
Western Ontario	Collective Agreement provides access to publicly available BoG Minutes (on University website).

Carleton	Automatically receives copies of Senate Minutes. Senate package includes copies of brief report listing items discussed at BoG, but no minutes. Association has two elected reps on BoG.
Laurentian	Collective Agreement provides two seats on BoG and Association automatically receives minutes.
Concordia	Collective Agreement provides for receipt of Agenda, Minutes & attached docs for open meetings of BoG. Admin sends email notice of meeting and link to documents. Each Faculty has reps elected to the Board.
McGill	Association receives hard copy of BoG Minutes, including relevant, non-confidential, documents.
Trent	No rep on BoG and no minutes received.
Ottawa	Association has observer. Receives Minutes and Agenda, but not supporting documentation
Moncton	Minutes available online. Association pres is faculty rep on BoG and expected to provide documentation to Association.