

Report of the Presidential Search Committee
to UPEI Board of Governors
November 23, 2010

1. Pursuant to Section 14 of the University Act, a joint committee of the Board and Senate was convened on November 9, 2009 for the purpose of seeking a qualified person to be recommended to the Board of Governors for appointment as the university's sixth President.

Members of the Committee are:

Senate Elected

Marva Sweeney-Nixon - Faculty
Nebojsa Kujundzic - Faculty
Alfonso Lopez - Faculty
Barb Campbell - Faculty
Jillian Stewart - Student
Christian Lacroix - Administration

Board Appointed

Mitchell Moore - Grad Student
Pat Mella - Alumni
Glenda Clements-Smith - Support Staff
Lynn Murray - Board
Tom Cullen - Board
Fred Hyndman - Board

The committee held 22 meetings and has enjoyed an open and collegial relationship.

2. The committee was advised of an "agreed procedure", approved by both the Senate and Board, which provided wide discretion to the Committee in determining methods for conducting the Search.

Committee members were also provided confirmation of modest, discretionary funds available in support of their activities.

3. The committee agreed that the Board Chair would be its chair, without voting privileges, and that all work would proceed without standing sub-committees.

In order to assure confidentiality, the committee agreed that all members would sign a Confidentiality Agreement and that support work and records would be handled off campus.

It was also agreed that a Search Committee web site would be established, as a link from the University site, to send and receive communication.

4. It was decided that the committee could benefit from professional executive search assistance as had been utilized in prior UPEI searches. Two well regarded firms were invited to provide proposals and meet with the committee, following which Ms. Colleen Keenan of Janet Wright and Associates was engaged.
5. The committee reviewed alternative University search methods and opted to follow what is believed to be current Canadian 'Best Practice'.

This implied a 'confidential' or 'closed' search. This was a change from UPEI past practice, and a change that the committee recognized would be questioned by many, and disappoint some, and thus require powerful trust and respect for the work of the committee.

With the advice of several eminent and experienced persons, the committee was convinced that the conduct of a confidential search would avoid promising candidates excluding themselves from short-list consideration, for want of confidentiality.

The committee notes that there are, in Canada each year, between 10 and 15 presidential searches, creating a strong demand on a limited talent pool and that all barriers to promising candidates must be avoided.

6. Guided by the Board of Governors' **Strategic Overview** document of September 2009, along with input from extensive campus, alumni, and civic consultations, the committee prepared a 'Position Profile', describing opportunities and challenges in the University's near-term future.

A public advertisement inviting applications or nominations was widely published in May 2010.

7. The names of over 25 people of accomplishment came to the committee's attention and were carefully evaluated as to their meeting the Position Profile and their potential for effective leadership.

As this arduous process of assessing qualifications, experience, references and interviews concluded, the committee unanimously agreed with confidence, to recommend Dr. Alaa S. Abd-El-Aziz, currently Provost and Vice-Principal Academic and Research at University of British Columbia, Okanagan, for consideration by the Board of Governors as UPEI's sixth President and Vice-Chancellor.

Members of the committee will be pleased to elaborate on Dr. Abd-El-Aziz's many accomplishments and qualifications, described in his Academic Curriculum Vitae and personal biography attached, which only fail to adequately describe his infectious enthusiasm, energy, and collaborative attitude to developing scholarship.

We thank the Board of Governors and Senate for the confidence placed in the committee and may I, as its Chairman, commend to Board and Senate the extraordinary voluntary time, effort, and concern committed by each committee member—motivated solely by their dreams of future achievement and success in this University.

Respectfully submitted,

November 23, 2010

Presidential Search Committee

Frederick E. Hyndman
Chairman