

**Legislative
Assembly
of Ontario**



**Assemblée
législative
de l'Ontario**

Legislative Library and Research Services
Information and Technology Services Division
Room 2520, Whitney Block
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A9
Telephone: (416) 325-3675
Facsimile: (416) 325-3696

Bibliothèque et services de recherches législatives
Division des services de l'information et de la technologie
Bureau 2520, Edifice Whitney
Queen's Park
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1A9
Téléphone: (416) 325-3675
Télécopieur: (416) 325-3696

190784

**UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH BOARD OF GOVERNORS
ORDER-IN-COUNCIL APPOINTMENT OF
ELEANOR FRITZ ***

Prepared for:

Standing Committee on
Government Agencies

Prepared by:

Sude Bahar Beltan
Research Officer
Legislative Library and Research Services

March 5, 2020

- * Projects prepared by the Legislative Research Service are designed in accordance with the requirements and instructions of the Committee making the request. The views expressed should not be regarded as those of the Service or of the individual preparing the project.

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH BOARD OF GOVERNORS	1
CURRENT OPERATIONS	1
Role of the Board of Governors	1
Board Membership	2
Board and Committee Meetings	2
Overview of the University	2
RECENT DEVELOPMENTS	3
THE WITNESS	3
POSSIBLE QUESTIONS	3

INTRODUCTION

This paper has been prepared for Members participating in the Committee's review of the Order-in-Council appointment of Eleanor Fritz as a part-time member of the University of Guelph Board of Governors. It describes the operations of the board, presents information about the appointee, and identifies possible lines of questioning.

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Enabling Statutes	Responsible Ministry
<i>University of Guelph Act, 1964, c.120, s. 6(d) (Private Act)</i>	Colleges and Universities
Agency Type	Most Recent Annual Report
N/A	2019
Activities of the Agency	
The university and its board promote the advancement of learning and the dissemination of knowledge, including learning and knowledge in the field of agriculture, and encourage the intellectual, social, moral and physical development of its members and the betterment of society.	
Board Membership	
Statutory No. of Members: 24 Appointed by Cabinet: 4	Remuneration Nil
Term of Office: Members serve for three years. When a vacancy occurs before a member's term has expired, a new member is appointed for the remainder of the unexpired term. All members are eligible for reappointment.	

CURRENT OPERATIONS

Role of the Board of Governors

The University of Guelph is overseen by a bicameral governance structure consisting of a Board of Governors and Senate. The Board of Governors is responsible for oversight of the government, conduct, management and control of the University and its property, revenues, expenditures, business and affairs. The Board has the power to, among other things

- appoint and remove the President, and the vice-presidents, if any;
- appoint, promote and remove the heads of all faculties and schools, the senior administrative officers of the University, the teaching staff of the University, and all such other officers, clerks, employees, agents and servants as the Board deems necessary or expedient for the purposes of the University;

- fix the numbers, duties, and salaries of the officers, agents and servants of the University;
- appoint an executive committee and such other committees as it deems advisable, and to delegate to any such committee any of its powers; and
- enter into agreements with the Agricultural Research Institute of Ontario or with the Minister of Agriculture for the purpose of advancing learning and disseminating knowledge respecting agriculture.¹

Board Membership

As noted above, the Board is composed of a maximum of 24 members, four of whom are appointed by the Cabinet. Eight seats are filled through internal election representing three faculty, three student (one graduate and two undergraduate), and two staff (at least one must be an alumnus) members. The President (appointed by the Board) and Chancellor (elected by Senate) are ex-officio members. The ten remaining seats are filled by external Board appointees (three must be alumni).²

Board and Committee Meetings

The Board of Governors meets at least four times a year. The Board conducts its business through committees that bring recommendations to the full Board at regularly scheduled meetings. Currently, there are seven standing committees. The Board may also establish ad-hoc committees to report on specific issues.³

Overview of the University

The history of the university dates to 1874 when the Ontario School of Agriculture was established on a farm by the Ontario government. The University of Guelph was incorporated in 1964. Currently, the university has 29,507 undergraduate and graduate students in three campuses located in Guelph, Toronto and Ridgetown, including 1,400 international students from more than 120 countries.⁴

The university's Office of Research oversees a \$156 million research enterprise across seven colleges, the regional campus in Ridgetown, 15 research stations, and the University of Guelph/Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Partnership.⁵ Known as Canada's "Food University," it ranks first among universities in Canada for Agricultural Science. In general rankings, the university is 18th in Canada and 425th in the world.⁶

¹ [University of Guelph Act, 1964](#), c. 120, s. 11, as found on the website of University of Guelph.

² University of Guelph, [Board of Governors Appointment Protocol](#).

³ University of Guelph, [About the Board of Governors](#).

⁴ University of Guelph, [About us](#).

⁵ University of Guelph, [Research](#).

⁶ University of Guelph, [Rankings](#).

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

The University of Guelph is in the process of searching for a new president after the current president, Franco Vaccarino, announced that he will be stepping down in August 2020. In 2018, the Board of Governors had voted to extend Vaccarino's term through to 2024.⁷

On December 17, 2019, the University of Guelph terminated its relationship with Dave Scott-Thomas, the head coach of its track and field program, in response to allegations of sexual abuse and professional misconduct from former and current student-athletes spanning more than a decade.⁸ The university recently admitted that it had received a complaint in 2006, adding that the investigation at the time did not substantiate the allegations. The university statement noted that during the investigation for the 2019 allegations, new information was received regarding the 2006 episode showing that the coach lied repeatedly at the time.⁹

After a recent *Globe and Mail* [article](#) detailing the 2006 accusations and consequent community reaction to the university's handling of the events, the university president agreed that the results of a possible external review (and ongoing internal review) of the university processes for responding to gendered violence should be shared publicly.¹⁰

THE WITNESS

The witness, Eleanor Fritz, is seeking appointment as a part-time member of the University of Guelph Board of Governors.

According to the Office of the Premier, the witness, of Toronto, is a former Director of Compliance & Disclosure, Listed Issuer Services at the Toronto Stock Exchange. Ms. Fritz's community involvement includes serving as a member of the University of Guelph Board of Governors,¹¹ and as a Co-Chair/Chair of the issues committee for Canadian Investor Relations Institute.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. *What has motivated the witness to seek this appointment?*
2. *What particular contribution does the witness hope to make to the board?*

⁷ *Guelph Mercury*, "[U of Guelph president to step down in 2020](#)," July 25, 2019.

⁸ University of Guelph, "[U of G Terminates Relationship with Track and Field Coach](#)," *News Release*, December 17, 2019.

⁹ University of Guelph, "[Update about Dave Scott-Thomas, U of G's Running Program](#)," *News Release*, January 9, 2020.

¹⁰ University of Guelph, "[Letter from President Vaccarino to Concerned Faculty and Staff](#)," *News Release*, February 26, 2020.

¹¹ The witness's previous appointment was made by the Board of Governors.

3. *Drawing on the witness's previous experience with the Board, what does the witness see as the greatest challenges and/or opportunities facing Ontario's universities in general, and University of Guelph in particular?*
4. *The funding arrangement for universities is changing, with a greater portion to be tied to student economic outcomes. How does the witness expect to contribute to responding to these changes?*