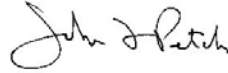


**Memorandum to:** Members of the Governing Council

**From:** John F. (Jack) Petch  
Chair



**Date:** June 17, 2008

**Re:** **Governing Council Meeting of April 10, 2008**

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At our last Governing Council meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup>, a member raised questions about the minutes of the April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting and, in addition to submitting comments for the Secretariat's review, also commented on the process followed in response to the actions of non-members at that meeting. The member questioned the authority to recess the meeting, the manner in which it was recessed and the status of the re-located meeting. In light of the issues raised, I suggested that approval of the minutes be deferred until our next meeting. We have proposed some revisions to the draft minutes and will be requesting approval of the revised minutes at our upcoming meeting on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

In light of the issues raised, I consulted with the Executive Committee who agree that, given the circumstances, it was appropriate to move the meeting. In doing so, I exercised the powers of the Presiding Officer defined in section 47 of By-law Number 2 in an effort to ensure the orderly conduct of the Council's business. Consistent with that authority and informed by the practical guidance of the *Policy on Disruption of Meetings*, I declared a recess, taking into account several factors as noted in my May 16<sup>th</sup> communication to you.

As required by our *Act* and our By-law, we always endeavour to keep our Council meetings open. In the circumstances of the April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, however, we had no choice but to re-locate the meeting and had every reason to believe that the individuals involved in disrupting the meeting intended to continue their disruptive activities. Because of the inadvertent absence of media representatives, no non-members were present, except for senior University staff; those responsible for disrupting the meeting were excluded. The principle of openness should not be exploited to undermine or delay the orderly and civil conduct of Governing Council business. However, we also do not wish to see potential legal or other challenges regarding the application of that principle in this particular situation delay or complicate the legitimate business of governance.

Within this context, the Executive Committee at its meeting yesterday (June 16<sup>th</sup>), concluded that it would be appropriate to confirm the resolutions that the Governing Council approved on April 10<sup>th</sup> and approved a recommendation to the Governing Council to that effect. In its deliberations, Committee members emphasized our collective commitment to transparency in decision-making.

I would therefore ask that the following motion be approved:

Be it resolved

THAT the resolutions adopted by the Governing Council at its meeting on April 10, 2008 be confirmed as recorded in the minutes of the meeting.