A Primer on Western's Investments and Debt

Budget Town Halls
October 20 and 26, 2015



Investments

Two broad categories:

Endowed funds \$ 561M

Non-endowed funds \$ 472M

Total investments Aug. 31, 2015 \$1,033M

Cash/liquid assets to pay bills \$ 350M

Endowed funds: 4% payout annually

Non-endowed funds: limited to support one-time

initiatives on approval of Board



Non-Endowed Funds

Composition:

Underlying obligations \$267M

Underlying market gains \$205M

Total August 31, 2015 \$472M



Debt

At April 30, 2015:

Debenture due May 24, 2047 \$189M

Mortgages \$ 9M

Bank borrowings due Oct. 2026 \$100M

Total \$298M

Projected to increase to \$330M based on current capital commitments



A Bit of History

- 2008: Global equity meltdown
- Planned draw from non-endowed reserves:

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08-09 $18.55M
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09-10 \$11.35M

10-11 \$16.35M

Total \$46.25M

All had to be reversed. Decision taken midyear in a budget cycle.



Non-endowed Funds

Composition February, 2009:

Underlying obligations \$263M

Amount "under water" \$(7M)

Total non-endowed investments \$256M



Globe and Mail Headline Saturday April 18, 2009

University slammed over stockmarket losses

Officials defend investing strategy after University of Western Ontario suffered \$50M loss last year



Market Returns

At June 30, 2015 looking back over 20 years:

Annualized returns 8.2%

Annualized CPI 1.9%

Real return 6.3%



Withstanding a Black Swan Event

- What is a black swan event?
- Annual stress test of our portfolio
- Last done for balances at April 30, 2014
- Considers the availability of short term assets, likelihood of government funding cuts, as well as draws on underlying obligations



Stress Testing Conclusions

- Result: shortfall of \$26.7M cash and underlying market gains reduced to \$53.9M
- Non-endowed portfolio can sustain a worstcase scenario when invested alongside the endowed portfolio as long as:
 - Sufficient short term assets are on hand
 - We maintain a sufficient reserve in assets to obligations; and
 - We manage draws on the non-endowed returns

