

Board of Governors Task Force on Governance 2015

1. Members

The Task Force was struck by the Board of Governors in June 2015 in response to the issue of the president's compensation and to the non-confidence votes held by the Senate in April 2015. The following were elected to the Task Force by the Board:

Jeremy Adams, Alumni
Jonathan English, Student
Susan Grindrod, Staff
Hanny Hassan, Alumni
Paul Jenkins, Alumni
Richard Konrad, Board-Elected
Michael Lerner, City Appointee
Brendan Power, Student
Brian Timney, Faculty
Matthew Wilson, City Appointee

Matthew Wilson and Brian Timney were elected chair and vice-chair, respectively, by the Task Force.

2. Terms of Reference

Using universal board governance principles as its template, the task force will review and assess the Board's governance processes and procedures, and make recommendations as required to ensure that Western is at the forefront of university governance.

To carry out this mandate, the Task Force has determined that it will focus its attention on three key areas:

- 1) Relationships and communications with the larger community
 - a) What is our relationship with the Senate?
 - What structural connections are in place? Are they effective? Are they being properly used?
 - b) What is our relationship with the wider university community?
 - How can the Board engage more directly with the university community?
 - What opportunities are available for the Board, and for Governors, to learn more about day-to-day campus operations?
 - c) What is our relationship with the wider external community?
 - How can the Board engage more directly with the wider external community?

- To what extent is Board engagement appropriate?
- How can the wider external community bring issues and concerns to the attention of the Board?

d) What communications measures are in place to support the above?

2) Structure of the Board / Delegation of Authority

- a) Do we have any structural gaps in our Board structure? Are our processes being properly implemented?
- b) Are the terms of reference of our committees appropriate?
 - What is the role of the Senior Operations Committee?
 - Are we properly delegating responsibilities to committees, to the appropriate committee, or to administration?
 - Does our committee structure follow U15/Ontario-wide best practices for governance structures?
- c) How are external, Board-elected members selected?
 - How do we ensure we have diversity of membership appropriate for our Board?
- d) Do Board meetings meet the needs of the University, and Governors?
 - Are Board and committee agendas appropriately structured?
 - How do we ensure that members are confident in the delegations that have been made, ensuring enough information is being presented without being overwhelmed with information?
 - Is information presented to members at an appropriate time in the decision process?
- e) What are the roles and responsibilities of the Board Chair and of Committee Chairs?

3) Role of the Board and of Board Members

- a) Are the statements approved by the Board in 1997 with respect to the [role of the Board](#) and [Board member responsibilities](#) still relevant? Should they be reviewed?
- b) Is our current orientation / on-boarding process sufficient? If not, how should the process be revised to make it more effective?
- c) Are there issues of Board culture? If so, what are they and how can they be addressed?