MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

JUNE 26, 2025 – OPEN SESSION

The meeting was held at the Western Interdisciplinary Research Building, Room 3000 and on Zoom.

PRESENT:	S. Shortreed, Chair Amy Bryson, Secretary	
	Michelle Banik Arzie Chant Susan Clarke Greg Dick Kathleena Henricus Lori Higgs Beth MacDougall-Shackleton George McAuley David Simmonds	Marlene McGrath (Vice-Chair) Geoff Pollock Stephen Poloz Terry Rice Alan Shepard Jane Toswell Joel Welch Ken Yeung Noah Zabian
Regrets:	Cameron Bailey, Ed Goehring, Lee Greenberg, Kelly Meighen, Josh Morgan	
By Invitation:	Karen Bertrand, Althea Blackburn-Evans, Christy Bressette, Ruban Chelladurai, Chandlee Dickey, John Doerksen, Paul Eluchok, Brent Fowles, Jeff Hutter, Lynn Logan, Jane O'Brien, Penny Pexman, Florentine Strzelczyk, Caroline Whippey	
Secretariat Resource:	Kseniia Kotsiuruba	

Chair S. Shortreed called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

S. Shortreed began her welcoming remarks by introducing Lesley Oliver, an incoming member of the Board. She also acknowledged and thanked Arzie Chant and Kathleena Henricus, the outgoing members of the Board.

1.0 Land Acknowledgement

T. Rice offered a land acknowledgement.

2.0 Approval of Agendas and Minutes

2.1 Adoption of Agenda – Open Session

Moved by M. McGrath, seconded by M. Banik:

That the agenda for the open session be approved, as circulated.

CARRIED

2.2 Approval of the Open Session Minutes of the Meeting of May 1, 2025

Moved by S. Clarke, seconded by G. Dick:

That the open session minutes of the meeting of May 1, 2025 be approved, as circulated.

CARRIED

2.3 Business Arising from the Minutes – None.

3.0 Report of the President

A. Shepard, President & Vice-Chancellor, began his report by commenting on the success of the spring convocation ceremonies held for the first-time off-campus.

In terms of enrolment, A. Shepard reported that the domestic student enrolment numbers for September have exceeded targets, and that while the international student enrolment numbers are below target they are in alignment with the national trend of declining international student recruitment numbers.

A. Shepard continued his report by highlighting several key achievements that included Western's continued recognition in global rankings, the recent national gold medal award received for the redesign of the Alumni Magazine, the progress being made through Western Research, and the deepening of the work being done in the area of artificial intelligence.

A. Shepard concluded his report by announcing that Western will be hosting the 2027 Canadian track and field championships and the 2028 track and field trials for athletes competing to represent Canada at the 2028 Olympics and Paralympic Games.

4.0 COMMITTEE AND SENATE REPORTS

4.1 REPORT OF THE FUND RAISING AND DONOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE

4.1(a) **Revisions to MAPP 1.44 – Naming Policy and Rescission of MAPP 1.9 – Naming of Campus Buildings, Physical Structures and Space**

On invitation of the Chair, K. Bertrand, Vice-President (University Advancement) presented for approval revisions to MAPP 1.44 and the rescission of MAPP 1.9.

K. Bertrand referred to the materials, provided in advance of the meeting, that summarized the consultation completed and the proposed revisions to the policy.

In response to a question of clarification regarding the role of Board and Senate in institutional naming decisions, K. Bertrand advised that the final approval authority lies with the Board. K. Bertrand further commented on the consultation process with academic leaders that is integrated into the process.

Moved by M. McGrath, seconded by T. Rice:

> That, on the recommendation of the Fund Raising and Donor Relations Committee, the Board of Governors approve revised MAPP 1.44 – Naming Policy, as presented in Item 4.1(a).
>
> And,
>
> That, on the recommendation of the Fund Raising and Donor Relations Committee, the Board of Governors rescind MAPP Policy 1.9 - Naming of Campus Buildings, Physical Structures and Space.

CARRIED

Those speaking against the recommendation expressed their concern regarding the lack of Senate involvement in the naming approval process.

4.2 **REPORT OF THE PROPERTY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

4.2(a) **Report on Western University's Compliance with the Revised Directive on the Costs of Educational Material under the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities Act (MTCU Act)**

G. Dick presented for approval Western's report on the cost of educational materials in compliance with the directive of MTCU.

J. Hutter, Acting Deputy Provost, described the directive under the

MTCU Act requiring all universities and colleges to share information with students on the cost of educational materials.

In response to a question regarding the use and cost of third-party platforms for student evaluations, J. Hutter advised these platforms are permitted for use by the Ministry and noted that there has been guidance provided to Faculties regarding their use and the need to address student access as it relates to cost.

Moved by G. Dick:

> That, on the recommendation of the Property and Finance Committee, the Board of Governors approve the *Report on Costs of Textbooks and Other Learning Materials* in compliance with the Revised Directive on the Costs of Educational Material under the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) Act, Subsection 21(6).

CARRIED

4.3 REPORT OF THE SENIOR POLICY AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

4.3(a) Affirming Declarations of Indigenous Citizenship or Membership at Western University

C. Bressette, Vice-Provost & Associate Vice-President (Indigenous Initiatives), presented the new proposed MAPP policy to affirm declarations of Indigenous citizenship or membership at Western.

C. Bressette provided the rationale for having a policy and noted how the current self-identification process has led to harms such as fraud. In her presentation, C. Bressette provided an overview of the policy's scope, guiding principles, affirmation process, and implementation/communications plan.

C. Bressette addressed questions of clarity regarding the scope and intent of the policy. The work of the Indigenous Affirmation Advisory Committee (IAAC) to affirm indigenous citizenship or membership within a two-week time frame was described.

Moved by S. Clarke, seconded by G. Dick:

> That, on the recommendation of the Senior Policy and Operations Committee, the Board of Governors approve MAPP Policy 1.58 - Affirming Declarations of Indigenous Citizenship or Membership at Western University.

CARRIED

A member speaking against the motion stated concerns regarding the definition section of the policy and suggested that legal further be consulted to provide clarity of definitions.

4.3(b) **Revisions to the Code of Student Conduct**

On the recommendation of the Senior Policy and Operations Committee, S. Shortreed presented for approval the revisions to the Code of Student Conduct and welcomed J. Doerksen, Vice-Provost (Students), to the meeting to address questions.

In responding to questions, J. Doerksen clarified the authority of the Special Constable Service in relation to imposing interim measures; provided clarity on the fundamental distinction between the complainant-driven Policy on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence (GBSV) and the Code of Student Conduct; and pointed to various sections of the revised policy addressing concerns raised by members.

There were several suggestions put forward for future consideration that included adding staff as members to the University Discipline Appeal Committee; having the policy move through the Governance and By-Laws Committee for review rather than through the Senior Policy and Operations Committee; and the need to create a complainant-driven process for victims of violence that would be considered outside of the GBSV policy.

Moved by G. Dick, seconded by D. Simmonds:

> That, on the recommendation of the Senior Policy and Operations Committee, the Board of Governors approve the revised Code of Student Conduct as set out in Item 4.3(b).

CARRIED

4.3(c) **Staffing Report**

J. O’Brien, Associate Vice-President (Human Resources), presented the staffing report that was provided to the Board in advance of the meeting and responded to questions of clarification.

4.4 **REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

4.4(a) **Annual Report on Information Security**

The annual report of the Working Group on Information Security was provided for information.

4.5 REPORT FROM SENATE

4.5(a) Proposal for Internationalization at Western: A Multi-Pronged Approach – Proposed Partnership between Western and Navitas

A. Shepard and F. Strzelczyk, Provost & Vice-President (Academic), presented for approval the proposed partnership with Navitas.

Information was provided on the rationale for engaging Navitas to support international student recruitment, the experience of Navitas, the proposed partnership, the benefits to Western, and the consultation completed.

F. Strzelczyk responded to questions of clarification regarding the hiring process under the collective agreement. In response to a question, it was noted the collective agreement would be followed in respect of hiring instructors for the international school.

In response to a question, A. Shepard commented on the capital plans in place to address the on-going needs of the university in relation to student residential spaces and recreational facilities. A. Shepard further commented on the history of international student recruitment at Western leading to the need to explore new and different options and the value of increased internationalization at Western.

In response to a question about the final contract, it was noted that the contract has not yet been negotiated. The Board, however, will be kept up to date as they proceed to contract. A. Shepard advised they could bring a term sheet to a future confidential session of the Board.

In response to a question, R. Chelladurai described the revenues realized through tuition anomalies and out-of-province tuition fees.

Moved by L. Higgs, seconded by M. McGrath:

> That, on the recommendation of Senate, the Board of Governors approve that the University proceed with an affiliation with Navitas substantially on the terms set out in the proposal as presented in Item 4.5(a) and take into consideration the recommendations of Senate's ad hoc Committee to Review the Navitas Proposal as presented in its Final Report.

CARRIED

A motion duly moved by J. Toswell, seconded by B. MacDougall-Shackleton to conduct the vote by roll call was defeated.

A recorded vote was taken as follows:

In Favour: 13
Opposed: 4
Abstained: 1

Those speaking against the motion raised concerns about potential issues with the hiring process, the lack of support from UWOFA, the existing strain on campus facilities, the lack of support from student representatives at Senate, not exploring other options for revenue generation, and the potential for reputational risk.

Members in favour of the motion spoke to the extensive and inclusive consultation process, the financial analysis conducted, the significant work of the Ad Hoc Senate Committee, and the potential consequences of inaction.

5.0 UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by G. Dick, seconded by N. Zabian:

That the items listed in the consent agenda, except for items 5.1(d) and 5.6(e), be approved or received for information by the Board of Governors by unanimous consent.

CARRIED

In reference to item 5.1(e), a tribute to James G. McLeod was provided by a Board member.

5.1 ITEMS FROM THE PROPERTY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

5.1(a) New Scholarships, Awards, and Prizes

A report on the terms of reference approved by the Property and Finance Committee for the new donor-funded scholarships, awards, and prizes was received for information.

5.1(b) 2024-2025 Operating Budget (Preliminary Year-End) as at April 30, 2025

A year-end update on the University's 2024-25 operating budget was received for information.

5.1(c) **2024-25 Ancillary Financial Report (Preliminary Year-End) as at April 30, 2025**

The preliminary financial results for the 2024-2025 student fee-funded units, ancillaries, academic support units, and associated companies was received for information.

5.1(d) **Semi-Annual Ratio Report on Non-Endowed Funds**

Removed from the unanimous consent agenda. See item 6.1.

5.1(e) **James G. McLeod Professorship in Family Law**

A report from the Property and Finance Committee advising the Board of Governors on the approved revision to the terms of reference of the James G. McLeod Professorship in Family Law was received for information.

5.2 ITEMS FROM THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

5.2(a) **Western Retirement Plans Report**

A report on the Western Retirement Plans, presented to the Audit Committee, was received for information.

5.2(b) **Annual Report on the Non-Discrimination/Harassment/Sexual Misconduct Policy**

The Annual Report from the Human Rights Office on harassment, discrimination and sexual misconduct addressed by the Human Rights Office and the Office of the Associate-Vice President, Human Resources, per MAPP 1.35 was received for information.

5.3 ITEM FROM THE GOVERNANCE AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

5.3(a) **Board Annual Work Plan for 2025-26**

The Board's Annual Work Plan for 2025-26 was received for information.

5.4 ITEM FROM THE FUND RAISING AND DONOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE

5.4(a) **Fund Raising Quarterly Report (Q4)**

The quarterly report on fund raising as at April 30, 2025 was received for information.

5.5 ITEMS FROM THE SENIOR POLICY AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

5.5(a) **University Discipline Appeals Committee (UDAC) Membership**

On the recommendation of the Senior Policy and Operations Committee, the Board of Governors acclaimed the following appointments to UDAC for a one-year term from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026: Mohamed Essa (graduate student); Bruce Yu (undergraduate student).

5.5(b) **Annual Report on the Code of Student Conduct**

The Annual Report on the Code of Student Conduct for the period from May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025 was received for information.

5.5(c) **Annual Report on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence**

The Annual Report on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence (GBSV) for the period from May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025 was received for information.

5.6 **ITEMS REFERRED BY SENATE**

5.6(a) **Report of the Academic Colleague**

The report from the April and May meetings of the COU Academic Colleague was received for information.

5.6(b) **Annual Report of the Vice-President (Research)**

The annual report of the Vice-President (Research) presented to Senate was received for information.

5.6(c) **Revisions to the Procedure for MAPP 7.9 - Establishment, Governance and Review of Research Institutes, Centres and Groups**

A report outlining the revisions to the Procedure for MAPP 7.9 was provided for information.

5.6(d) **Revision to MAPP 7.14 – Research Involving Human Participants**

On the recommendation of Senate, the Board of Governors approved the revisions to MAPP 7.14 – Research Involving Human Participants by unanimous consent.

5.6(e) **Student Mental Health Strategy**

Removed from the unanimous consent agenda. See item 6.2.

5.6(f) **Renaming of Western Continuing Studies as Western School of Professional and Continuing Education**

A report on the renaming of Western Continuing Studies as the Western School of Professional and Continuing Education was provided for information.

5.6(g) **Advice re: Affirming Declarations of Indigenous Citizenship or Membership at Western University**

A report advising the Board of Governors on Senate's review of the new MAPP Policy – *Affirming Declarations of Indigenous Citizenship or Membership at Western University* and their advice that the Board approve the policy was received for information.

6.0 ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

6.1 Semi-Annual Ratio Report on Non-Endowed Funds

The quarterly activity of the non-endowed funds and report on the ratio of investments to obligations against the target ratio was received for information.

In response to a question, L. Logan advised that the decrease in the amount of non-endowed investments was due to an allocation toward the paying down of a capital project.

6.2 Student Mental Health Strategy

A report on Western's Student Mental Health Strategy was provided for information.

On invitation, J. Doerksen commented on the work completed in the development of the Student Mental Health strategy and recognized C. Dickey, Clinical Director (Mental Health Care), for her work.

7.0 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS FOR THE OPEN SESSION – None.

8.0 OTHER BUSINESS - None.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

S. Shortreed Chair	A. Bryson University Secretary