



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

SEPTEMBER 25, 2025 – OPEN SESSION

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

PRESENT: Sarah Shortreed, Chair
Amy Bryson, Secretary

Cameron Bailey
Michelle Banik
Susan Clarke
Greg Dick
Ed Goehring
Lee Greenberg
Lori Higgs
Elizabeth Maccabe
Beth MacDougall-Shackleton
George McAuley
Marlene McGrath (Vice-Chair)

Kelly Meighen
Lesley Oliver
Stephen Poloz
Terry Rice
Alan Shepard
David Simmonds
Jane Toswell
Ken Yeung
Noah Zabian

Regrets: Josh Morgan, Geoff Pollock, Joel Welch

By Invitation: Karen Bertrand, Althea Blackburn-Evans, Ruban Chelladurai, David Foster, Lynn Logan, Eric Mallory, Penny Pexman, Florentine Strzelczyk, Caroline Whippey

Secretariat Bonnie Brown

Resource:

Chair S. Shortreed called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

S. Shortreed provided welcoming remarks, introduced and welcomed Elizabeth Maccabe and Lesley Oliver to the Board, and congratulated Cameron Bailey on a successful Toronto International Film Festival.

1.0 **Land Acknowledgement**

M. Banik offered a land acknowledgement.

2.0 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

2.1 **Adoption of Agenda – Open Session**

Moved by K. Yeung, seconded by J. Toswell:

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

CARRIED

2.2 **Approval of the Open Session Minutes of the Meeting of June 26, 2025**

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

That the open session minutes of the meeting held June 26, 2025, be approved, as circulated.

DEFERRED

A suggested amendment to the minutes under item 4.5(a) was taken under advisement.

Approval of the minutes was deferred to the next meeting.

2.3 **Business Arising from the Minutes** – None.

3.0 **Report of the President**

A. Shepard, President & Vice-Chancellor, opened his remarks by commenting on the planning completed in preparation for Homecoming weekend. He further commented on the success of Orientation Week and extended his appreciation to the student leadership of the University Students' Council and to the staff and Faculty who volunteered their time.

A. Shepard continued his report by remarking on the student enrolment numbers; describing the partnership between Western's Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry and Bluewater Health; and highlighting the 50th Anniversary of the [Goodman Lectures](#) that were founded on an endowment bequest.

A. Shepard reflected on his recent opinion piece in the Hill Times regarding the challenges faced by international researchers in securing permanent residency in Canada. He provided the example of how Western's new Canada Excellence Research Chair in Neurovirology and Neuroimmunology is being impacted by the federal government's regulations in this area.

A. Shepard reported on the new federal government funding announced for housing, noting it includes student housing. Details on the funding criteria have yet to be released.

In terms of the provincial government, A. Shepard reported the Ministry is conducting a formula review to assess grant funding levels for each program.

A. Shepard concluded his report by stating he continues to advocate for pedestrian safety measures at the Western/Sarnia Road intersection. He highlighted some of the traffic calming measures implemented on campus to support pedestrian safety.

In response to a question, A. Shepard confirmed the Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA4) was signed over the summer. R. Chelladurai, Associate Vice-President (Institutional Planning & Budgeting) further advised on the metrics selected by the Ministry and by Western. It is anticipated the SMAs will be published by the Ministry at the end of the calendar year.

In response to a question, A. Shepard and R. Chelladurai clarified the intent of the provincial review of program costing noting they are looking at how much grant money is allocated per student in each program.

4.0 **COMMITTEE AND SENATE REPORTS**

4.1 **REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

4.1 (a) **Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended April 30, 2025**

L. Higgs, Chair of the Audit Committee, presented for approval the audited financial statements for the year ended April 30, 2025.

L. Higgs reported on the process used by the Audit Chair and members of the Audit Committee to review the audited financial statements, the due diligence completed, and the role of the external auditors.

L. Higgs advised it was a clean audit and that there were no concerns or control deficiencies noted by the external auditors. L. Higgs reported that Western continues to be under sound fiscal stewardship and continues to maintain a strong financial position.

L. Higgs concluded her comments by highlighting several milestones reached in the year including: the growth of the endowment; the monies given in student scholarships and bursaries; the growth in research grants; and the growth in construction-in-progress activity.

Appreciation was extended to Administration in recognition of their work.

Administration responded to questions regarding the ongoing costs related to the integration of Brescia with Western. This included the Brescia Legacy Fund, capital costs for building upgrades, and plans for use of the West Campus.

Moved by L. Higgs:

That, on recommendation of the Audit Committee, the Board of Governors approve the draft audited combined financial statements for the University for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2025.

CARRIED

4.2 **REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE**

4.2(a) **Revisions to the Election Procedures**

M. Banik, Chair of the Governance and By-Laws Committee presented for approval the revisions to the Board of Governors Election Procedures.

The discussion considered the proposed change in the procedure that specifies that references to social media handles in the 200-word candidate statements are not to be permitted.

A motion to remove the proposed amendment referencing social media handles was duly moved by N. Zabian, seconded by B. MacDougall-Shackleton, and defeated.

Those speaking in favour of allowing the use of social media handles in the 200-word candidate statements identified that social media handles are valuable information that directs the electorate to find more information about the candidate. It further was noted that the Senate Election Procedures permit the use of social media handles in the candidate statements.

Those speaking against the use of social media handles in the candidate statements spoke to the importance of not having any references to external resources in the candidate statements.

In response to a question, A. Bryson advised the 200-word candidate statement is used by the Secretariat for election purposes.

Moved by M. Banik:

That on the recommendation of the Governance and By-Laws Committee, the Board of Governors approve the revised Election Procedures as outlined in Item 4.2(a).

CARRIED

5.0 **UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA**

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

That the items listed in the consent agenda be approved or received for information by the Board of Governors by unanimous consent.

CARRIED

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.

5.2 **ITEM FROM THE FUND RAISING AND DONOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

5.2(a) **Approved Namings (under \$1M)**

A report advising the Board of Governors on the approved namings by the Vice-President (Western Advancement), per MAPP 1.44, was received for information.

5.3 **ITEM FROM THE GOVERNANCE AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE**

5.3(a) **Board By-Election Schedule**

The schedule for a by-election to elect an undergraduate representative to the Board was received for information.

5.4 **ITEM FROM THE SENIOR POLICY AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

5.4(a) **University Discipline Appeal Committee (UDAC) Membership**

A report advising the Board of Governors on the appointment of Anne Schuurman to fill the vacant faculty position on UDAC for the term July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028 was received for information.

It was clarified that a report on the appointment of a student representative to fill the current undergraduate vacancy on UDAC will be received by the Board pending receipt of nominations for that seat.

5.5 **REPORT FROM SENATE**

5.5(a) **Revisions to the Appointment Procedures for Senior Academic and Administrative Officers of the University**

By unanimous consent, the following recommendation was carried:

That, on the recommendation of Senate, the Board of Governors approve the addition of the Deputy Provost position to the Appointment Procedures for Senior Academic and Administrative Officers of the University as shown in Item 5.5(a).

5.5(b) **Administrative Appointments**

A report on the academic administrative appointments as of September 1, 2025 was received for information.

6.0 **ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

None.

7.0 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

In response to a question regarding the potential of Western becoming a member of the University of the Arctic, A. Shepard advised that on initial review this does not seem to be a priority at this time, but suggested he could ask the Vice-President (Research) to review.

8.0 **OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

9.0 **ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION**

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

S. Shortreed
Chair

A. Bryson
University Secretary