



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

FEBRUARY 5, 2026 – 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	Kelly Meighen
Michelle Banik	Lesley Oliver
Susan Clarke	Geoff Pollock
Greg Dick	Stephen Poloz
Ed Goehring	Terry Rice
Lee Greenberg	Alan Shepard
Ayesha Hassan	John Simcoe
Lori Higgs	David Simmonds
Elizabeth Maccabe	Jane Toswell
Beth MacDougall-Shackleton	Joel Welch
Marlene McGrath (Vice-Chair)	Noah Zabian

Regrets: George McAuley, Josh Morgan, Ken Yeung

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

Secretariat: Bonnie Brown
Resource:

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

S. Shortreed welcomed John Simcoe to the Board of Governors, noting he was appointed to the Board by the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council.

1.0 **Land Acknowledgement**

A. Bryson offered a land acknowledgement.

2.0 **Approval of Agendas and Minutes**

2.1 **Adoption of Agenda – Open Session**

Moved by N. Zabian, 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 November 20, 2025**

Moved by J. Toswell, seconded by T. Rice:

That the open session minutes of the meeting of November 20, 2025 be approved, as circulated.

CARRIED

2.3 **Business Arising from the Minutes**

None.

3.0 **Report of the President**

In addition to the written report provided with the agenda materials, A. Shepard, President & Vice-Chancellor, provided a verbal report on several positive items regarding students and faculty. He began his report by commenting on Western Alumni and faculty that are active in the upcoming Olympics; and highlighting several recent media stories on Western researchers.

A. Shepard shared information on a public lecture being hosted this evening by the Faculty of Information & Media Studies. Katie Simpson, Foreign Correspondent for CBC News, is the guest speaker.

A. Shepard continued his report by providing an update on recent funding by the Canada Foundation for Innovation. He further reported on several funding opportunities that Western is taking advantage of to recruit international scholars, post-doctoral students, and research Chairs.

A. Shepard commented on the recent QS India Summit noting Western's sponsorship and the attendance at the summit by the Provost and the Associate Vice-President (Strategic Partnerships).

In concluding his report, A. Shepard reported on the application numbers for domestic and international students and highlighted the Open House being hosted on campus on March 28, 2026.

In response to a question, A. Shepard advised there has not been any news from the Ministry about grant or tuition increases.

4.0 **COMMITTEE AND SENATE REPORTS**

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

4.1(a) **Key Financial Indicators Report**

L. Logan, Vice-President (Operations & Finance), presented the Key Financial Indicators report noting it is a culmination of the financial monitoring/compliance reporting that is provided throughout the year.

L. Logan reported Western continues to have a solid financial position and it is expected that Western's S&P credit rating will not change this year. In concluding, L. Logan, advised they continue to monitor employee future benefits and are now monitoring the fundraising results.

4.1(b) **Climate and Sustainability Strategy**

H. Hyde, Director (Office of Sustainability), and J. Cordes, Manager - Sustainability Engagement (Office of Sustainability) joined the meeting.

L. Logan provided an overview on the development of the Climate and Sustainability Strategy. Appreciation was extended to H. Hyde, J. Cordes, and the members of the President's Advisory Committee on the Environment and Sustainability (PACES).

H. Hyde presented an overview of the Climate and Sustainability Strategy. The presentation included information on sustainability efforts at Western, the vision and guiding principles for the strategy, the key priorities identified, the community engagement process, the community feedback received in response to the draft strategy, and the development of the action plan.

In response to a comment regarding the stewardship of Western's land, L. Logan advised that the campus development strategy is the best place to have conversations around how we think about Western's developable and non-developable land. She advised that consultation is set to begin in April/May.

In response to a concern that the work of PACES operates outside of Western's governance structure, it was noted that the committee is considered a working group. It was confirmed that Senate was provided with the same presentation at its January 16, 2026 meeting.

L. Logan and H. Hyde responded to questions of clarification regarding Western’s climate action goals and progress to date on those goals; the survey questions; and the demographics of the survey respondents.

H. Hyde advised that detailed information about the survey and the consultation sessions may be found on the [Climate and Sustainability Strategy website](#).

Moved by G. Dick:

That, on the recommendation of the Property and Finance Committee, the Board of Governors approve the Climate and Sustainability Strategy.

CARRIED

H. Hyde and J. Cordes left the meeting.

4.1(c) **Revisions to MAPP Policy 7.7 – Overhead on Contract Research and MAPP Policy 7.11 – Over-Expenditure of Research Accounts and Rescission of MAPP Policy 7.1 – Sundry Donations for Research**

P. Pexman, Vice-President (Research), presented for approval revisions to MAPP Policy 7.7 – Overhead on Contract Research and MAPP Policy 7.11 – Over-Expenditure of Research Accounts, and rescission of MAPP Policy 7.1 – Sundry Donations for Research.

P. Pexman highlighted the consultation completed on the review of these policies. She noted that MAPP Policy 7.1 – Sundry Donations for Research is presented for rescission as its contents are sufficiently covered under MAPP Policy 2.1 – Gift Acceptance and its procedures.

Moved by G. Dick:

That, on the recommendation of the Property and Finance Committee, the Board of Governors approve:

the rescission of MAPP 7.1 – Sundry Donations for Research;

the revised MAPP 7.7 – Overhead on Contract Research, as shown; and

the revised MAPP 7.11 – Over-Expenditure of Research Accounts, as shown.

CARRIED

4.2 **REPORT OF THE FUND RAISING AND DONOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

4.2(a) **Revisions to MAPP Policy 1.12 – Advertising and Commercial Activity**

K. Bertrand presented for approval the revisions to MAPP Policy 1.12 – Advertising and Commercial Activity.

Moved by M. McGrath:

That, on the recommendation of the Fund Raising and Donor Relations Committee, the Board of Governors approve the revisions to MAPP Policy 1.12 – Advertising and Commercial Activity, as shown.

CARRIED

4.2(b) **Revisions to MAPP Policy 2.2 - Fund Raising and Canvassing and Rescission of MAPP Policy 2.27 - Issuing Receipts for Charitable Events**

K. Bertrand presented for approval revisions to MAPP Policy 2.2 - Fund Raising and Canvassing and the rescission of MAPP Policy 2.27 - Issuing Receipts for Charitable Events.

In describing the changes to the policy, K. Bertrand advised on the removal of references to ‘canvassing’ noting that a separate policy will be created in this regard.

Moved M. McGrath:

That, on the recommendation of the Fund Raising and Donor Relations Committee, the Board of Governors approve the proposed revisions to MAPP Policy 2.2 – Fund Raising and Canvassing, as shown; and

approve the rescission of MAPP Policy 2.27 - Issuing Receipts for Charitable Events.

CARRIED

4.3 **REPORT FROM SENATE**

4.3(a) **Recommendation from Senate re: Western’s Investment and Responsible Investing Policy (within MAPP 2.26)**

A. Shepard presented, for information, the advice of Senate to the

Board in relation to Western's investment and responsible investment policy. He noted that the UWO Act provides Senate with the ability to give advice to the Board on various matters.

A. Shepard advised that a new draft responsible investing policy currently is out for feedback from the university community. He noted that plans for this consultation process were shared with the community in September 2025. The draft policy was posted in late January, alongside an online survey that is open to March 27 to collect written feedback from the university community. Invitations have since been circulated for in-person and virtual consultation sessions scheduled for late February.

In terms of the governance process, S. Shortreed advised that the revised policy will be submitted to the Investment Committee, then to the Property and Finance Committee and then to the Board for approval.

As part of the discussion, a Board member expressed the importance of listening to the community as there has been a strong voice asking that a human rights lens be applied to investment decisions as they relate to weapons of destruction.

In response, there was a comment regarding the production of weapons in support of freedoms around the world and the need for that kind of investment.

In response to a question, L. Logan advised the revised policies are expected to come forward to the Board at their April meeting.

In terms of the consultation process, there was a request that the timeline allow for consultation with Senate and there be as many townhall opportunities as possible to allow for fulsome participation.

5.0 **UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA**

Moved by S. Shortreed, seconded by M. McGrath:

That the items listed on the consent agenda, with the exception of Item 5.1(f), 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.

5.1(b) **Update on the 2025-26 Operating Budget as of December 31, 2025**

A report providing an update on the 2025-26 operating budget as of December 31, 2025 was received for information.

5.1(c) **Update on the 2025-26 Ancillary Budgets as of December 31, 2025**

A report providing an update on the 2025-26 ancillary budgets as of December 31, 2025 was received for information.

5.1(d) **Annual Report on Trademark Licensees doing Business with the Dellelce Family Bookstore**

The annual report on trademark licensees doing business with the Dellelce Family Bookstore was received for information.

5.1(e) **Investment Committee Membership**

A report on the approved reappointments of David Stenason and Doug Porter to the Investment Committee was received for information.

5.1(f) **Report of the Investment Committee**

Removed from consent. See Item 6.1

5.2 **ITEM FROM THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

5.2(a) **Annual Report of the Office of the Ombudsperson**

The annual report of Western's Office of the Ombudsperson was received for information.

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

5.3(a) **Rescission of Procedures for Joint Appointments within the University**

By unanimous consent and on the recommendation of the Senior Policy and Operations Committee, the Board of Governors approved

the rescission of the Procedures for Joint Appointments within the University.

5.4 **ITEMS REFERRED BY SENATE**

5.4(a) **Academic Administrative Appointments**

A report on the academic administrative appointments as of December 5, 2025 was received for information.

5.4(b) **Report of the Academic Colleague**

A report summarizing the October 2025 meeting of the Academic Colleague was received for information.

6.0 **ITEM REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

6.1 **Report of the Investment Committee**

The report of the Investment Committee was received for information.

In response to a question, L. Logan described the rationale for separating out the current policy into two separate policies.

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 11:01 a.m.

S. Shortreed
Chair

A. Bryson
University Secretary