MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

JUNE 18, 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	Lesley Oliver
Susan Clarke	Geoff Pollock
Greg Dick	Stephen Poloz
Ed Goehring	Terry Rice
Lee Greenberg	Alan Shepard
Lori Higgs	John Simcoe
Elizabeth Maccabe	Jane Toswell
Beth MacDougall-Shackleton	Ken Yeung
Marlene McGrath (Vice-Chair)	Noah Zabian

Regrets: Michelle Banik, Ayesha Hassan, George McAuley, Kelly Meighen, Josh Morgan, David Simmonds

By Invitation: Karen Bertrand, Althea Blackburn-Evans, Stephanie Hayne Beatty, Paul Eluchok, Lynn Logan, Michael McLean, Penny Pexman, Nancy Stewart, Florentine Strzelczyk, Caroline Whippey

Secretariat Resource: Bonnie Brown

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

S. Shortreed welcomed the following incoming members of the Board of Governors: Robert Brant, Karen Chan, Cherin Chung, Alison Hearn, Matt Lebo, and Guy Pratte.

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 L. Oliver, seconded by T. Rice:

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

CARRIED

2.2 **Approval of the Open Session Minutes of the Meeting of April 30, 2026**

Moved by S. Clarke, seconded by E. Maccabe:

That the open session minutes of the meeting of April 30, 2026 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 academic year and the spring convocation ceremonies.

A. Shepard recognized and thanked S. Hayne Beattie for stepping into the acting role of Vice-Provost (Students) for the past year.

A. Shepard reported on the domestic, international, and Navitas student enrolment numbers for September.

A. Shepard continued his report by highlighting several key achievements that included Western's continued recognition in global rankings.

A. Shepard commented on two recent reports authored by the Council of Ontario Universities; one entitled Charting a Path Forward for Ontario Universities in the Age of AI and one entitled Building Ontario's Future: One Million University Graduates Needed to Drive Innovation and Growth.

In concluding his report, A. Shepard noted that 15 Western graduates competed in the 1976 Montreal Olympic games. In recognition of the 50th anniversary of those games, Western plans to acknowledge and celebrate these athletes.

A. Shepard responded to questions of clarification regarding plans for AI infrastructure and the future location of the convocation ceremonies.

4.0 COMMITTEE AND SENATE REPORTS

4.1 REPORT OF THE PROPERTY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

4.1(a) **Campus Development and Open Space Strategies**

L. Logan, Vice-President (Operations & Finance), introduced the renewed Campus Development and Open Space strategies by describing their history, purpose, rationale for review, and objectives.

M. McLean, Director (Facilities Planning & Design), provided an overview of the capital development projects completed on campus over the last 10+ years and the development/projects to be completed over the coming years. He further illustrated the natural and open space amenities that shape Western's campus.

In reference to the Campus Development Strategy, M. McLean described the framework, the primary and secondary development sites, and the conceptual development opportunities for each site.

In reference to the Open Space Strategy, M. McLean outlined the vision, principles, and the "10 big moves". Plans/concepts to improve campus circulation/mobility and pedestrian safety were highlighted. Priority areas for low impact development and strategies for improving river access and stewardship of woodlots were identified.

M. McLean provided a brief update on the plan to twin University Drive Bridge.

In concluding the presentation, L. Logan described the Campus Development & Open Space Strategy Committee, the consultation process completed, the feedback received and incorporated into the strategies, and the initial work completed to understand the need for on-campus parking by students, faculty, and staff.

Administration responded to comments and questions of clarification regarding vehicular traffic on campus, campus safety, Western's collegiate gothic architecture, plans for several campus buildings, and intra-campus transit.

Moved by G. Dick:

> That, on the recommendation of the Property and Finance Committee, the Board of Governors approve the Campus Development Strategy.
>
> That, on the recommendation of the Property and Finance Committee, the Board of Governors approve the Open Space Strategy.

CARRIED

4.2 REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

4.2(a) Revisions to the Board of Governors Election Procedures re: Campaigning

A. Bryson presented the proposed revisions to the Board of Governors Election Procedures regarding campaign guidelines and processes.

Through discussion it was agreed to bring the revised procedures to the September meeting to allow for the proposed guidelines, referenced in the procedures, to first be approved by the Governance and By-Laws Committee.

A. Bryson clarified that the proposed guidelines will be approved by the Governance and By-Laws Committee and presented to the Board of Governors for information.

4.3 REPORT OF THE SENIOR POLICY AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

4.3(a) Annual Report on Student Mental Health

S. Hayne Beattie, Acting Vice-Provost (Students), presented the annual report on student mental health. It was noted that this is a new annual report and is intended to provide the Board with information on Western's progress on achieving its goals as outlined in the Mental Health Strategy approved by the Board last year.

In her report, S. Hayne Beattie highlighted the link between mental health and academic success.

S. Hayne Beattie responded to questions of clarification regarding identifiable groups presenting with higher mental health needs; and other factors affecting mental health such as food security and housing.

Feedback was provided on the value of outreach that previously was provided to students via email.

The lack of a waitlist for psychological services was applauded and discussed.

4.4 REPORT FROM SENATE

4.4(a) School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Introduction of a Master of Physician Assistant Studies

A. Shepard presented for approval the introduction of a new Master of Physician Assistant Studies.

A. Shepard described the newly proposed degree program for Western, the role of a physician assistant, the endorsement of the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, and the value of the program to the health care system in this region and in the country.

A. Shepard advised on the next steps in the approval process and responded to questions of clarification.

Moved by G. Pollock, seconded by J. Simcoe:

> That on the recommendation of the Senate and conditional on approval by the Quality Council, the Board of Governors approve that a Master of Physician Assistant Studies be introduced, effective September 1, 2026.

CARRIED

5.0 UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA

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

> That the items listed in the consent agenda, except for item 5.2(a) 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) 2025-2026 Operating Budget (Preliminary Year-End) as at April 30, 2026

A year-end update on the University's 2025-26 operating budget was received for information.

5.1(c) 2025-26 Ancillary Financial Report (Preliminary Year-End) as at April 30, 2026

The preliminary financial results for the 2025-2026 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**

The semi-annual ratio report on non-endowed funds was received for information.

5.1(e) **Investment Committee Membership**

A report on the approved reappointments of Lee Sienna and Doug Greaves to the Investment Committee was received for information.

5.1(f) **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)**

The report on Western's compliance with the MTCU directive on the requirement to communicate the cost of educational materials to students was approved by unanimous consent.

5.2 **ITEMS FROM THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

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

Removed from unanimous consent. See Item 6.1.

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 Work Plan for 2026-27**

The Board's Work Plan for 2026-27 was received for information.

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

5.4(a) **Annual Report on the Code of Student Conduct**

The Annual Report on the Code of Student Conduct for the period from May 1, 2025 to April 30, 2026 was received for information.

5.4(b) **Annual Report on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence**

The Annual Report on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence (GBSV) for the period from May 1, 2025 to April 30, 2026 was received for information.

5.4(c) **Annual Staffing Report**

The annual Staffing Report for the period from May 1, 2025 to April 30, 2026 was received for information.

5.4(d) **University Discipline Appeals Committee (UDAC) Membership**

On the recommendation of the Senior Policy and Operations Committee, the Board of Governors acclaimed the appointment of Melody Viczko to UDAC for a three-year term from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2029.

5.5 **ITEMS REFERRED BY SENATE**

5.5(a) **Annual Report of the Vice-President (Research)**

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

5.5(b) **Activities of the Research Ethics Board**

A report outlining the activities of the Research Ethics Board per MAPP 7.14 was received for information.

5.5(c) **Administrative Assignments**

A report on the academic administrative appointments, as of May 15, 2026, was received for information.

5.5(d) **Report of the Academic Colleague**

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

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

By unanimous consent, and on the recommendation of the Senate, the Board of Governors approved the revisions to the Appointment Procedures for Senior Academic and Administrative Officers of the University, effective September 1, 2026.

5.5(f) Senate Advice re: Campus Development and Open Space Strategies

A report from the Senate advising the Board of Governors of their review of the Campus Development and Open Space Strategies and their advice that the Board approve the strategies was received for information.

6.0 ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

6.1 Western Retirement Plans Report

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

Comments were received on Western's pension plan structure.

7.0 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS FOR THE OPEN SESSION

There were no questions.

8.0 OTHER BUSINESS

Appreciation was extended to the outgoing members of the Board.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

S. Shortreed Chair	A. Bryson University Secretary