MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

SEPTEMBER 24, 2026 – OPEN SESSION

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

Present:	Marlene McGrath, Chair Amy Bryson, Secretary	
	Cameron Bailey Michelle Banik Robert Brant Karen Chan Cherin Chung Susan Clarke Ed Goehring Lee Greenberg Alison Hearn Lori Higgs (Vice Chair) Matthew Lebo	Elizabeth Maccabe Lesley Oliver Stephen Poloz Guy Pratte Terry Rice Alan Shepard John Simcoe David Simmonds Jane Toswell Noah Zabian
Regrets:	Ayesha Hassan, George McAuley, Kelly Meighen, Josh Morgan, Geoff Pollock	
By Invitation:	Karen Bertrand, Althea Blackburn-Evans, Paul Eluchok, Rachel Halaney, Lynn Logan, Penny Pexman, Nancy Stewart, Florentine Strzelczyk, Caroline Whippey	
Secretariat Resource:	Bonnie Brown	

Chair M. McGrath called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and provided welcoming remarks.

1.0 Land Acknowledgement

M. Banik offered a land acknowledgement.

2.0 Approval of Agendas and Minutes

2.1 Adoption of Agenda – Open Session

Moved by E Maccabe, seconded by J. Simcoe:

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

CARRIED

2.2 **Approval of the Open Session Minutes of the Meeting of June 18, 2026**

Moved by S. Clarke, seconded by T. Rice:

That the open session minutes of the meeting of June 18, 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 last year and the positive start to the new academic year. He further described the opportunities for alumni engagement that have been planned for Homecoming weekend.

A. Shepard described the economic impact study that Western is initiating and described the value of being able to identify Western's economic impact in the region.

A. Shepard shared Western's rankings in this year's Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Ratings and the Bloomberg Business School Rankings (Canada).

In concluding his report, A. Shepard, reported that fall Convocation is scheduled for October 21 and 22.

Administration addressed questions regarding the results of the recent Impact+ Chair Program competition and addressed concerns regarding the recent power outages on campus.

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, 2026

E. Maccabe, Chair of the Audit Committee, presented for approval the draft audited financial statements for the year ended April 30, 2026.

E. Maccabe 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.

E. Maccabe advised there were no adjustments required by the external auditors and there were no audit findings. She reported the external auditors are prepared to sign an unqualified audit opinion on the approval of the draft audited financial statements by the Board of Governors.

Administration responded to questions of clarification.

Moved by E. Maccabe:

> 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, 2026.

CARRIED

4.2 REPORT OF THE PROPERTY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

4.2(a) Purchase of an MRI Scanner

R. Brant, Chair of the Property and Finance Committee, presented for approval the purchase of an MRI scanner to be used for medical research.

Moved by R. Brant:

> That, on the recommendation of the Property and Finance Committee, the Board of Governors approve the purchase of a Siemens 7T MAGNETOM Terra.X MRI scanner with a Head Coil 7T Clinic package and a 10-year extended service package at an estimated cost of $17.822 million.

CARRIED

4.3 REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

4.3(a) Revisions to Resolution re: Presentations to Retiring Members of the Board of Governors and Commemorating Service of Chancellor, Chair of the Board and President

L. Higgs, Vice-Chair of the Governance and By-Laws Committee, presented for approval several housekeeping revisions to the Resolution re: Presentations to Retiring Members of the Board of Governors and Commemorating Service of Chancellor, Chair of the Board and President.

Moved by L. Higgs:

> That, on the recommendation of the Governance and By-Laws Committee, the Board of Governors approve the revisions to *Resolution re: Presentations to Retiring Members of the Board of Governors and Commemorating Service of Chancellor, Chair of the Board and President*.

CARRIED

5.0 UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA

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

> That the items listed on 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.

5.1(b) Investment Committee Membership

A report on the approved reappointment of Greg Dick to the Investment Committee was received for information.

5.1(c) Pugliese-Zorzi Visiting Professorship in Italian Canadian Studies

A report on the approved establishment of the Pugliese-Zorzi Visiting Professorship in Italian Canadian Studies was received for information.

5.1(d) Administrative Revision to MAPP 7.16 – Intellectual Property

A report on an administrative revision to MAPP 7.16 - Intellectual Property was received for information.

5.2 ITEMS FROM THE SENIOR POLICY AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

5.2(a) University Discipline Appeal Committee (UDAC) Membership

On the recommendation of the Senior Policy and Operations Committee, the Board of Governors acclaimed the following appointments to UDAC:

Jasmine Antonelli and Thomas Liang (undergraduate students) for the term July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027; and John Tolentino (graduate student) for the term July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

5.2(b) Audit Committee Membership

A report on the appointment of David Thomson to the Audit Committee was received for information.

5.3 ITEMS REFERRED BY SENATE

5.3(a) Administrative Appointments

A report on academic administrative appointments was received for information.

5.3(b) Report of the Academic Colleague

The report from the August 2026 meetings of the COU Academic Colleague was received for information.

5.4 BOARD E-VOTE APPROVALS

A report on the following actions was received for information:

The department name change from the Department of Languages and Cultures to the Department of Languages, Cultures, and Linguistics was approved by the Board of Governors through an e-vote on July 15, 2026.

The $20,000 annual tuition fee for the new Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) Program and a $500 non-refundable tuition deposit was approved through an e-vote on August 21, 2026.

6.0 ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

None.

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 9:30 a.m.

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M. McGrath	A. Bryson
Chair	University Secretary