



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

MAY 1, 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	Geoff Pollock
Michelle Banik	Stephen Poloz
Arzie Chant	Terry Rice
Greg Dick	Alan Shepard
Ed Goehring	David Simmonds
Lee Greenberg	Jane Toswell
Kathleena Henricus	Joel Welch
Lori Higgs	Ken Yeung
Marlene McGrath (Vice-Chair)	Noah Zabian
Kelly Meighen	

Regrets: Susan Clarke, Beth MacDougall-Shackleton, George McAuley, Josh Morgan

By Invitation: Karen Bertrand, Althea Blackburn-Evans, Bill Chantler, Ruban Chelladurai, John Doerksen, Paul Eluchok, Lynn Logan, Eric Mallory, Jane O'Brien, Melissa O'Connor, Penny Pexman, Florentine Strzelczyk

Secretariat Resource: Bonnie Brown

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

1.0 **Land Acknowledgement**

A. Bryson offered a land acknowledgement.

2.0 **Approval of Agendas and Minutes**

2.1 **Adoption of Agenda – Open Session**

S. Shortreed advised that Items 5.4(h) and 5.4(i) were removed from the consent agenda and noted they would be addressed under Items 4.1(a) and 4.1(b), respectively.

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

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

CARRIED

2.2 **Approval of the Open Session Minutes of the Meeting of February 6, 2025**

Moved by K. Yeung, seconded by T. Rice:

That the open session minutes of the meeting of February 6, 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 in advance of the meeting, A. Shepard, President & Vice-Chancellor, reported on the recent Engage Western event; and the upcoming convocations ceremonies to be hosted at Canada Life Place.

A. Shepard continued his report by announcing the appointment of Mohamed Khimji as the new Dean, Faculty of Law, effective July 1, 2025; and by congratulating Christy Bressette on her reappointment as Vice-Provost & Associate Vice-President (Indigenous Initiatives).

A. Shepard concluded his report by describing the upcoming launch of a Western satellite from the mission control station; and the work of the Frugal Biomedical Innovations Program at Western that was established to co-design, develop, and deploy innovative medical technologies aimed at improving health care access for those living in remote and low-resource countries.

4.0 **COMMITTEE AND SENATE REPORTS**

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

4.1(a) **University Operating and Capital Budgets for 2025-2026**

On behalf of the Property and Finance Committee, G. Dick presented for approval Western's operating and capital budgets; and program specific fees and other supplemental fees for 2025-26.

4.1(a)(i) **2025-2026 Operating and Capital Budgets**
4.1(a)(ii) **2025-26 Program Specific Fees and Other Supplemental Fees**

F. Strzelczyk, Provost & Vice-President (Academic), and L. Logan, Vice-President (Operations & Finance), presented the 2025-26 operating and capital budgets.

F. Strzelczyk provided an overview of the external and internal factors impacting the budget. She noted this is the final year of the three-year budget cycle.

F. Strzelczyk presented data on full-time student enrolment and full-time undergraduate international student enrolment since 1995, and on full-time faculty and staff over the last 15 years. The student to faculty ratios at Western relative to the Ontario U6 peers was illustrated.

The decline in revenues associated with the decline in full-time undergraduate international enrolment since 2020 and the impact it has on Faculty budgets was described.

F. Strzelczyk outlined the strategic budget priorities for 2025-2026 and described how they align with Western's strategic plan and build upon previous investments.

F. Strzelczyk presented the operating revenue forecast and expenditures for 2025-26. Highlighted was the recent addition of one-time funding for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics programs newly announced by the Provincial government resulting in a projected in-year operating surplus of \$10.3M. The importance of continuing to focus on revenue generation was described.

L. Logan provided an overview of the capital budget by describing the prudent approach taken with respect to managing and funding capital projects. L. Logan reported that Western's capital investments continue to be aligned with the long-range space plan and academic/research priorities. L. Logan described the various capital projects underway and in the advanced planning stages.

In relation to Item 5.4(h), A. Shepard reported on Senate's advice to the Board that the Board approve the budget. A. Shepard and F. Strzelczyk summarized the questions that were asked and addressed at Senate.

Administration responded to questions of clarification regarding specific budget line items, the rationale for pausing the Platt's Lane housing project, the application of fundraising dollars for operational costs, enrolment projections, and the alignment of faculty budgets with enrolment.

Moved by G. Dick:

That the Board of Governors approve the 2025-26 University Operating and Capital Budgets (Item 4.1(a)(i)) and the proposed Program Specific Fees and Other Supplemental Fees for 2024-25 (Item 4.1(a)(ii)).

CARRIED

4.1(a)(iii) **Student Fee Funded Units, Ancillaries, Academic Support Units and Associated Companies: 2025-26 Budgets**

On behalf of the Property and Finance Committee, G. Dick presented the 2025-26 budgets for student fee funded units, ancillaries, academic support units and associated companies.

R. Chelladurai responded to questions of clarification regarding specific line items in the budget.

Moved by G. Dick:

That the Board of Governors approve the 2025-26 budgets for Student Fee Funded Units, Ancillaries, and Academic Support Units, and Associated Companies as shown in Item 4.1(a)(iii), Table 1,

And,

That the ancillary fees collected by the University will be as detailed in Item 4.1(a)(iii), Table 2 for full-time students and Table 3 for part-time students as supported by the Student Services Committee.

CARRIED

4.1(a)(iv) **Annual Report and Recommendations of the Student Services Committee**

The annual report of the Student Services Committee regarding full-time student activity fee rates was received for information.

4.1(b) **Revisions to MAPP 1.1 – Use of University Facilities for Other than Regularly Scheduled Academic Purposes**

G. Dick presented for approval the proposed revisions to MAPP 1.1 - Use of University Facilities for Other than Regularly Scheduled Academic Purposes.

L. Logan described the rationale for reviewing the current policy, detailed the consultation completed, and outlined how the feedback, received through the consultation process, was incorporated into the revised policy.

A. Shepard provided comment on the extensive consultation completed. In reference to Item 5.4(i), A. Shepard described the advice received from Senate regarding their suggested amendments to the policy.

G. Dick duly moved the recommendation to approve the proposed revisions to MAPP 1.1, as presented.

In relation to the advice of Senate to add a clarifying statement regarding security costs as outlined in 5.4(i), P. Eluchok provided wording to satisfy this request.

N. Zabian described the concerns of some community members regarding the earlier iterations of the policy and noted concerns regarding the policy as it relates to demonstrations.

Moved by M. McGrath, seconded by G. Dick:

That the following wording be added to Item 7.00 of the policy:

Members of the University community participating in a Demonstration that complies with the Policy will not be charged security costs unless they request additional security beyond the security the University has agreed to provide. The University shall advise the members of the cost of the additional security in advance and members shall only be responsible for those costs.

CARRIED

A motion to amend the above amendment by adding the word “reserved” in advance of the word “demonstration” was moved by N. Zabian, seconded by E. Goehring and DEFEATED

In relation to the advice of Senate to add the word “unreasonably” as described in Item 5.4(i), P. Eluchok provide the rationale against adding this word.

The discussion considered the rationale provided by P. Eluchok and further discussion considered the adding of the word “materially” instead of the word “unreasonably”.

A motion to amend the policy by adding the word “materially” to

describe the word “disrupts” under the definition of Prohibited Conduct, section (v) and under section 9.00 was moved by K. Henricus, seconded by N. Zabian and DEFEATED.

In relation to the advice of Senate to strike the word “bedding” from the definition of Camping, P. Eluchok provided the rationale against striking this word from the definition.

Moved by G. Dick:

That, on the recommendation of the Property and Finance Committee, the Board of Governors approve MAPP Policy 1.1 – Use of University Facilities, as provided and amended under section 7.00.

CARRIED

Members in favour of the motion spoke to the value of the policy, the extensive consultation conducted, and the substantive changes that were made to the policy in response to the feedback received during consultation.

Members against the motion spoke to the lack of rationale for the policy.

In relation to the Procedures, there was a suggestion that the timelines for decision-making and appeal processes be added to the procedures. The importance of having similar timelines for submitting an appeal and for making a decision on the appeal was noted.

4.1(c) **Revisions to MAPP 7.8 – Signing Authorities for Research Grants, Contracts, and Agreements and Rescission of MAPP 7.5**

G. Dick presented for approval revisions to MAPP 7.8 and the rescinding of MAPP 7.5.

Moved by G. Dick:

That, on the recommendation of the Property and Finance Committee, the Board of Governors approve revised policy MAPP 7.8 – Signing Authorities for Research Grants, Contracts, and Agreements and rescind MAPP 7.5 – Research Grants.

CARRIED

4.2 **REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

4.2(a) **Campus Safety and Emergency Services Annual Report**

L. Higgs presented the Campus Safety and Emergency Services Annual Report that was presented to the Audit Committee by the Director of Campus Safety and Emergency Services.

In her report, L. Higgs highlighted the new Ontario Regulations under the Community Safety and Policing Act and commented on the increase in the number of campus patrols in 2024 resulting from the increase in the number of demonstrations and the encampment on campus.

In response to a question, B. Chantler, Director (Campus Safety and Emergency Services), reported contractors are required to follow Western's policy regarding the collection, use, disclosure, retention, and destruction of video surveillance.

4.2(b) **Health, Safety and Employee Well-being Annual Report**

L. Higgs presented the Health, Safety and Employee Well-being Annual Report that was presented to the Audit Committee.

In her report, L. Higgs highlighted the WSIB claims experience at Western noting Western's lower average time back to work relative to other educational institutions.

L. Higgs continued her report by commenting on the unique hazards on campus and the activities in place and planned to address risks in this area.

4.3 **REPORT OF THE SENIOR POLICY AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

4.3(a) **Policy Updates Under the Authority of the President**

S. Shortreed advised on the rescission of the following policies under the authority of the President: MAPP 1.27- Western Home Page; MAPP 1.40 – Release of Information to the Media; and MAPP 1.18 – Food or Drink Consumption Policy for Western Libraries.

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

S. Shortreed advised the new draft MAPP policy to affirm declarations of Indigenous citizenship and membership at Western is presented for information to allow for the 60-day notification to UWOF. The policy will return to the June 26, 2025 Board meeting for approval. Board members having questions or suggestions in respect of the policy were invited to submit those to A. Bryson in advance of the June meeting.

5.0 **UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA**

Moved by S. Poloz, seconded by M. Banik:

That the items listed in the consent agenda, except for Items 5.4(h) and 5.4(i), 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**

The 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) **Standard and Poor's (S&P) Credit Rating Report**

The annual Standard and Poor's Credit Rating report for Western University was received for information.

5.1(c) **Investment Committee Membership**

A report advising the Board of Governors on the reappointment of Sarah Takaki to the Investment Committee for a three-year term ending May 2028 was received for information.

5.1(d) **Annual Public Report re: Bill S-211 – Fighting Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains Act**

By unanimous consent, the Board of Governors approved the 2025 public report submission that was prepared in compliance with the requirements of Bill S-211; and granted authority to the President & Vice-Chancellor to attest to the report and approve, on behalf of the Board of Governors.

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

5.2(a) **Fund Raising Quarterly Report (Q3)**

The quarterly report on fund raising as at January 31, 2025 was received for information.

5.2(b) **Naming Opportunities**

A report advising the Board of Governors on the naming of various rooms approved by the Naming Subcommittee of the Fund Raising and Donor Relations Committee was received for information.

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

5.3(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 the term July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026: Chris Sherrin (faculty) to the role of Chair; Dana Broberg (graduate student); Cara Davidson (graduate student); Jack Harris (undergraduate student); Shiven Sharma (undergraduate student); Brooklin Begg (undergraduate student). For the term July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028: Amy Horton (faculty).

5.4 **ITEMS REFERRED BY SENATE**

5.4(a) **Subcommittee on Enrolment Planning and Policy (SUEPP) Report**

The annual report on targets and processes for first-year undergraduate enrolment and overall enrolment projections for Western and its Affiliated University Colleges was received for information.

5.4(b) **Academic Administrative Appointments**

A report on the academic administrative appointments, as of February 2025 and April 2025, was received for information.

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

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

5.4(d) **Honorary Degree Recipients – Spring 2025**

A report listing the Honorary Degree recipients and the Spring 2025 convocation ceremonies at which they will be awarded their degree was received for information.

5.4(e) **Rescission of MAPP Policy 1.19 – Policy on AIDS**

By unanimous consent the Board of Governors approved the rescission of MAPP Policy 1.19 – Policy on AIDS.

5.4(f) **Annual Report on Faculty Recruitment and Retention**

The annual report on faculty recruitment and retention was received for information.

5.4(g) **Report of the Subcommittee on Teaching Awards (SUTA):
Recipients of Western's Excellence in Teaching Awards for 2024-25**

A report listing the recipients of Western's Excellence in Teaching Awards for 2024-25 was received for information.

5.4(h) **Advice re: 2025-26 University Operating and Capital Budgets**

Removed from consent. See Item 6.1

5.4(i) **Advice re: MAPP 1.1 – Use of University Facilities**

Removed from consent. See Item 6.2

6.0 **ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

6.1 **Advice re: 2025-26 University Operating and Capital Budgets**

A report advising the Board of Governors on Senate's review of Western's operating and capital budgets for 2025-26 and their advice that the Board approve the budgets was presented under Item 4.1(a).

6.2 **Advice re: MAPP 1.1 – Use of University Facilities**

A report advising the Board of Governors on Senate's review of MAPP 1.1 – Use of University Facilities and their advice in relation to proposed amendments was presented and discussed under item 4.1(b).

7.0 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS FOR THE OPEN SESSION** – None.

8.0 **OTHER BUSINESS**

S. Shortreed shared information on Western's new Free Store initiative. Additional information will be sent out in advance of the June 26, 2025 meeting.

9.0 **ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION**

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

S. Shortreed
Chair

A. Bryson
University Secretary