



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

NOVEMBER 20, 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

Michelle Banik
Susan Clarke
Greg Dick
Ed Goehring
Lee Greenberg
Ayesha Hassan
Lori Higgs
Elizabeth Maccabe
Marlene McGrath (Vice-Chair)

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

Regrets: Cameron Bailey, Beth MacDougall-Shackleton, George McAuley, Kelly Meighen, Josh Morgan, Geoff Pollock

By Invitation: Althea Blackburn-Evans, Ruban Chelladurai, Paul Eluchok, Lynn Logan, Jim Loupos, Eric Mallory, Penny Pexman, Florentine Strzelczyk, Caroline Whippey, Marisa Modeski

Secretariat: Bonnie Brown
Resource:

Chair S. Shortreed called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. She welcome Ayesha Hassan, the new undergraduate student representative, to the Board of Governors.

1.0 Land Acknowledgement

T. Rice offered a land acknowledgement.

2.0 Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

2.1 Adoption of Agenda – Open Session

Moved by L. Higgs, seconded by D. Simmonds:

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

CARRIED

2.2 **Approval of the Open Session Minutes of the June 26, 2025 and September 25, 2025 Meetings**

Moved by N. Zabian, seconded by S. Clarke:

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

That the open session minutes of the meeting held September 25, 2025, 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 several recent good news items including the awarding of the Nobel Prize in Economics to Peter Howitt who is a former faculty member of Western; the recently hosted Open House for prospective students; and the positive reception to the *All In* campaign.

A. Shepard continued his report by commenting on some of the investments and announcements in the federal budget for universities.

A. Shepard reported that Western's Chief AI Officer, M. Daley is presenting at the Canadian Science Policy Conference that is currently underway. He further reported on the recent U15 President's meeting with M. Joly, the Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada. He advised she is very supportive of research and of the development of the talent pipeline that supports the strengthening of the economy.

In relation to the fall economic statement issued by the Government of Ontario, A. Shepard advised that it is anticipated that tuition rates and grants will remain frozen.

A. Shepard reported on the passing of Bill 33 which includes several amendments to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities Act in relation to student applicant assessment, requirements for developing and implementing research security plans, and the governing of fees that universities may charge to students.

On invitation, F. Strzelczyk, Provost & Vice-President (Academic), provided an update on Navitas by describing the programs now accepting and receiving applications. She further described the work completed to establish new curriculum options in the Professional Master of Engineering programs to formalize the graduate pathways through Western International College. F. Strzelczyk continued her report by sharing information on the upcoming meeting with the Navitas regional managers and commenting on the collaborative efforts demonstrated between Navitas and Western's admission, recruitment, and marketing teams.

On invitation, P. Pexman, Vice-President (Research), provided an update on Horizon Europe and described the research applications now being submitted to Horizon Europe by Western researchers. P. Pexman described the current partnerships in Europe that are being leveraged to access larger networks of researchers, noting these larger networks are invaluable for establishing a foothold in Europe for future funding.

A. Shepard responded to questions of clarification pertaining to the lifting of caps on graduate students, graduate student housing, federal funding for research Chairs, and the current challenges posed by Immigration Canada for attracting international talent to Canada.

In addition, and in response to a question, A. Shepard advised that preliminary discussions regarding Western's 150-year celebration have been initiated. There was a suggestion that the installation of public art be considered for this celebration noting that it would need to be commissioned now.

4.0 **COMMITTEE AND SENATE REPORTS**

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

4.1 (a) **Revisions to the Terms of Reference for the University Discipline Appeal Committee**

M. Banik presented for approval revisions to the Terms of Reference for the University Discipline Appeal Committee. The proposed revisions and the rationale for the changes were outlined.

Moved by M. Banik:

That, on the recommendation of the Governance and By-Laws Committee, the Board of Governors approve the revised Terms of Reference for the University Discipline Appeal Committee, as shown.

CARRIED

4.1(b) **Revisions to MAPP 3.9 – Powers, Responsibilities, and Duties of Acting Ranks**

M. Banik presented for approval the revisions to MAPP 3.9 – Powers, Responsibilities, and Duties of Acting Ranks. The proposed revisions and rationale for the changes were described.

In response to a question, A. Bryson, clarified the change to the policy.

Moved by M. Banik:

That, on the recommendation of the Governance and By-Laws Committee, the Board of Governors approve the revisions to MAPP 3.9 - Powers, Responsibilities, and Duties of Acting Ranks, as shown.

CARRIED

4.2 **REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

4.2(a) **Revisions to MAPP Policy 1.43 - Safe Disclosure**

L. Higgs presented for approval the revisions to MAPP Policy 1.43 – Safe Disclosure. The proposed revisions and rationale for the changes were described. L. Higgs further reported that the Audit Committee received information on how the policy is communicated to the Western Community.

In response to a question, J. Loupos, advised that contractors and suppliers were added to the definition of the ‘Western community’ such that they be included in the list of groups that may disclose concerns about unethical behaviour or improper financial activity.

Moved by L. Higgs:

That, on the recommendation of the Audit Committee, the Board of Governors approve the revisions to MAPP Policy 1.43 – *Safe Disclosure*, as shown.

CARRIED

5.0 **UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA**

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

That the items listed in the consent agenda, with the exception of item 5.4(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) **Semi-Annual Ratio Report on Non-Endowed Funds**

The semi-annual report on non-endowed funds presented to the Property and Finance Committee was received for information.

5.1(c) **Annual Report on Endowments (Underwater)**

The annual report on endowments (underwater) presented to the Property and Finance Committee was received for information.

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

A report from the Investment Committee outlining the market value of assets under management and the recent activities of the Investment Committee was received for information.

5.1(e) **Investment Committee Membership**

A report advising the Board of Governors on the reappointment of Doug Greaves to the Investment Committee for a term ending August 2026 was received for information.

5.2 **ITEMS FROM THE GOVERNANCE AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE**

5.2(a) **Board of Governors Election Schedule for 2026**

A report on the vacancies to be filled by election and the election schedule for 2026 was received for information.

5.2(b) **Board of Governors By-Election Results**

A report on the results of the recently held by-election for an undergraduate representative on the Board of Governors was provided for information. Ayesha Hassan was elected for the term October 23, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

5.3 ITEM FROM THE SENIOR POLICY AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

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

A report advising the Board of Governors on the appointment of one undergraduate student to UDAC, by the Senior Policy and Operations Committee, for the term July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 was received for information.

5.4 ITEMS REFERRED BY SENATE

5.4(a) Annual Report of the McIntosh Gallery

Removed from the Consent Agenda. See item 6.1.

5.4(b) Report of the Academic Colleague

A report from the August meeting of the Academic Colleague was received for information.

6.0 ITEM(S) REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

6.1 Annual Report of the McIntosh Gallery

The Annual Report of the McIntosh Gallery was received for information.

In responding to questions, F. Strzelczyk advised that the advisory committee oversees the operations of the gallery, including the acquisitions and deaccession of artwork. Currently, work is underway to systematically review holdings. Should any items be identified for repatriation to First Nations communities that would be considered by the advisory committee.

The increase in student engagement in the gallery was highlighted.

7.0 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS - None.

8.0 OTHER BUSINESS - None.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

S. Shortreed
Chair

A. Bryson
University Secretary