



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**APRIL 30, 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	Josh Morgan
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
George McAuley	Ken Yeung
Marlene McGrath (Vice-Chair)	Noah Zabian

Regrets: Kelly Meighen

By Invitation: Martin Bélanger, Karen Bertrand, Althea Blackburn-Evans, Bill Chantler, Ruban Chelladurai, Paul Eluchok, Dave Foster, Louise Koza, Eric Mallory, Jane O'Brien, Penny Pexman, Florentine Strzelczyk, Caroline Whippey

Secretariat Resource: Bonnie Brown

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

S. Shortreed thanked Joel Welch for his service on the Board of Governors noting that this was his last meeting.

1.0 **Land Acknowledgement**

L. Oliver offered a land acknowledgement.

2.0 **Approval of Agendas and Minutes**

2.1 **Adoption of Agenda – Open Session**

Moved by J. Simcoe, seconded by M. McGrath:

That the agenda for the open session be approved.

CARRIED

2.2 **Approval of the Open Session Minutes of the Meeting of February 5, 2026**

Moved by J. Toswell, seconded by L. Olver:

That the open session minutes of the meeting of February 5, 2026 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 several positive stories including the recent hosting of Nobel Laureate Peter Howitt, the opening of Ivey's new Donald K. Johnson Centre in Toronto, and Western's recent recognition as a top regional employer and one of Canada's greenest employers.

A. Shepard reported on the Open Space Strategy currently out for consultation; the volume of student application numbers for the fall; the positive feedback received about Western's open house events; the successes of the *All In* communications strategy and Alumni engagement; and recent media coverage in relation to the Artemis expedition.

S. Shepard advised that the recent Federal budget update did not reflect a decrease in grant funding that is available through the tri-agency. In reference to this funding, A. Shepard reported on the Canada Impact Chair Program noting Western has nominated 8 applicants to date; funding announcements are expected in June. A. Shepard commented on his meeting in Ottawa this week with individuals in the Federal government.

In concluding his report, A. Shepard recognized Western Alumni, Cameron Bailey and Darryl White who were named to the CUSMA Advisory Committee; and Terry Rice for being named as a Change Maker by United Way. It was noted that Western is the leading university in Canada for its donations to United Way. Cameron Bailey further was recognized for his appointment to the Order of Ontario.

4.0 **COMMITTEE AND SENATE REPORTS**

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

4.1(a) **Introduction of MAPP Policy 2.32- Responsible Investing**

J. Parr, Chair of the Investment Committee, joined the meeting.

G. Dick presented for approval MAPP Policy 2.32 – Responsible Investing.

L. Logan and J. Parr presented the *Responsible Investing Policy Consultation Report*. The presentation included an overview of Western’s investments, governance and policy structure, the evolution of the responsible investing policy, and the recent consultation completed to gather community feedback on the new policy.

On behalf of the Investment Committee, J. Parr, summarized the themes distilled from the community consultation process, the fiduciary responsibilities of the Investment Committee and that of the Board of Governors, the relevance of ESG factors in investment decisions, the response of the Investment Committee to the Senate’s advice, the policy revisions made to the draft policy in response to the community feedback through the consultation process, and conveyed the unanimous support of the Investment Committee for the new Responsible Investing policy.

The approval of MAPP Policy 2.32 – Responsible Investing was duly moved by G. Dick.

Amendments to the policy were moved by N. Zabian, seconded by A. Hassan and CARRIED as follows:

That under section 2.0, paragraph 2 be reworded as follows:

*The Board has a Fiduciary Duty. Investment decisions must be made by investment professionals and guided by financial risk and return assessments. Incorporating RI and ESG factors into investment financial risk assessment is in keeping with this duty.*

That under section 3.7, paragraph 3, the word “only” be struck:

*If a Manager’s stance on ESG factors is not compatible with the University’s goals in those matters, demonstrated through persistent, systemic misalignment, the Investment Committee will consider replacing the Manager, but such a decision will be guided **only** by the Investment Committee’s Fiduciary Duty.*

In response to questions, Administration provided the cost modeling

completed to move away from pooled investments noting the reduction in the value of the portfolio would be substantive.

Administration further advised on the various examples provided in the Annual Responsible Investing reports to demonstrate the effectiveness of manager engagement.

Moved by G. Dick:

That, on the recommendation of the Property and Finance Committee, the Board of Governors approve MAPP Policy 2.32 – Responsible Investing, as amended.

CARRIED

Those speaking in favour of the recommendation identified the importance and value of the consultation process, the balance of the community feedback with the Board's fiduciary responsibilities, the inclusion of responsible investing factors in investment decisions, and their agreement with the decision to not use the policy as a tool for addressing geopolitical issues.

Those speaking against the motion identified concerns with the process, a lack of actionable commitments to human rights, and the separation of politics from an investment strategy.

4.1(b) **Revisions to MAPP Policy 2.26 – Statement of Investment Objectives, Policies and Governance for the Short-Term Portfolio, Mid-Term Portfolio and Operating and Endowment Fund**

Moved by G. Dick:

That, on the recommendation of the Property and Finance Committee, the Board of Governors approve the revised MAPP Policy 2.26 - Statement of Investment Objectives, Policies and Governance for the Short-Term Portfolio, Mid-Term Portfolio and Operating and Endowment Fund.

CARRIED

The comments made both in favour and against this motion are reflected under Item 4.1(a).

4.1(c) **University Operating and Capital Budgets for 2026-2027**

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 2026-2027.

- 4.1(c)(i) **2026-2027 Operating and Capital Budgets**
- 4.1(c)(ii) **2026-2027 Program Specific Fees and Other Supplemental Fees**

F. Strzelczyk, Provost & Vice President (Academic), presented the 2026-2027 operating budget. She began her presentation by highlighting the major investments included in the \$985.5M budget.

The increase to base funding for faculties and support units, due to the 2% domestic tuition increase, was described. F. Strzelczyk advised that increased grant revenues will be folded into the budget once details are confirmed.

F. Strzelczyk presented data on student FTE enrolment for both domestic and international students over the last 20 years; and the student to faculty ratios in the U6.

F. Strzelczyk detailed the operating revenue forecast and expenditures for 2026-27 resulting in an in-year position of \$9.5M.

L. Logan, Vice-President (Operations & Finance), provided an overview of the 2026-27 capital budget noting it supports Western's Long-Range Space Plan. She described the major capital projects underway and those in the advanced planning phase. L. Logan described the funding mechanisms used to support capital projects and outlined the 2026-27 capital budget for new construction, major renovations and other.

Administration responded to questions of clarification regarding recent electrical outages, the relocation of the McIntosh Gallery, the integration of budget planning with risk management oversight, and the Huron/King's shuttle service.

A comment was received on the amount of capital investments Western can make because of its good financial planning practices.

Moved by G. Dick:

That the Board of Governors approve the 2026-2027 University Operating and Capital Budgets and the proposed Program Specific Fees and Other Supplemental Fees for 2026-27.

CARRIED

- 4.1(c)(iii) **Student Fee Funded Units, Ancillaries, Academic Support Units and Associated Companies: 2026-2027 Budgets**

On behalf of the Property and Finance Committee, G. Dick presented the 2026-2027 budgets for student fee funded units, ancillaries, academic support units and associated companies.

Moved by G. Dick:

That the Board of Governors approve the 2026-2027 budgets for Student Fee Funded Units, Ancillaries, and Academic Support Units, and Associated Companies as shown in Item 4.1(c)(iii), Table 1,

And,

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

CARRIED

4.1(c)(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(d) **Revisions to Resolution re: Banking**

Moved by G. Dick:

That, on the recommendation of the Property and Finance Committee, the Board of Governors approve the revisions to the Resolution re: Banking.

CARRIED

4.1(e) **Campus Development and Open Space Strategy Updates**

L. Logan introduced the planned updates to the Campus Development and Open Space Strategies by describing their history, purpose, rationale for review, and objectives. The consultation process and timelines for review were described.

Board members were encouraged to attend an upcoming presentation.

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.

In her report, L. Higgs highlighted the various software and hardware updates being completed.

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 low incident rates and the annual savings on long-term disability noting Western continues to have the best performance relative to peers on the time it takes to return to work.

5.0 **UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA**

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

That the items listed in the consent agenda, with the exception of Items 5.1(b), 5.1(c), and 5.3(b) 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) Global Ratings Report**

Removed from consent. See Item 6.1

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

Removed from consent. See Item 6.2.

5.1(d) **Chair in Leader Character**

A report advising the Board of Governors on the establishment of the Chair in Leader Character in the Ivey Business School was received for

information.

5.3 **ITEMS 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:

Chris Sherrin (faculty) to the role of Chair for the term July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027; Brooklin Begg, Jack Harris, Zahra Nadeem (undergraduate students) for the term July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027; Randal Graham (faculty) for the term July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2029.

5.3(b) **Rescission of MAPP 1.7 – Chaplains to the University Community**

Removed from consent. See Item 6.3.

5.4 **ITEMS REFERRED BY SENATE**

5.4(a) **Advice re: 2026-2027 University Operating and Capital Budgets**

A report advising the Board of Governors on Senate's review of Western's operating and capital budgets for 2026-2027 and their advice that the Board approve the budgets was received for information.

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

A report summarizing the December 2025 and February 2026 meetings of the Academic Colleague was received for information.

5.4(d) **Academic Administrative Appointments**

A report on the academic administrative appointments, as of March 13, 2026, was received for information.

5.4(e) **Western Libraries Annual Report**

The annual report on Western Libraries was received for information.

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) **Honorary Degree Recipients – Spring 2026**

A report listing the Honorary Degree recipients for the 2026 Spring convocation was received for information.

5.4(h) **Report of the Subcommittee on Teaching Awards (SUTA):  
Recipients of Western’s Excellence in Teaching Awards for 2025-26**

A report listing the recipients of Western’s Excellence in Teaching Awards for 2025-26 was received for information.

5.4(i) **Annual Report of the Office of Academic Quality and Enhancement**

The annual report of the Office of Academic Quality and Enhancement was received for information.

5.4(j) **School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Introduction of a Doctor of Health Sciences in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences**

On the recommendation of Senate and by unanimous consent, the Board of Governors approved the introduction of a Doctor of Health Sciences in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences effective September 1, 2026.

6.0 **ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

6.1 **Standard and Poor’s (S&P) Global Ratings Report**

In response to questions, Administration clarified the language/content presented in the report under the ‘downside’ and ‘upside’ scenarios.

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

There were no questions. A comment was received suggesting the principles reflected in the report ought to be similarly reflected in the Responsible Investing policy.

Moved E. Maccabe, seconded by N. Zabian:

That, on the recommendation of the Property and Finance Committee,

the Board of Governors approve the 2026 Public Report submission to comply with Bill S-211; and

Grant the President & Vice-Chancellor the authority to approve and attest to the report, on behalf of the Board of Governors.

CARRIED

6.3 **Rescission of MAPP 1.7 – Chaplains to the University Community**

In response to a question, A. Shepard described the rationale for rescinding the policy and implementing the operating guideline noting it provides an enhanced process for appointing spiritual advisors.

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 12:06 p.m.

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S. Shortreed  
Chair

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A. Bryson  
University Secretary