



## BOARD OF GOVERNORS – OPEN SESSION

### Approved Minutes

Thursday, April 17, 2025

1:00 p.m., W646

- Present:** R. Casson (Interim Chair), T. Boulet, B. Burton (virtually), B. Chapman, C. Coburn, C. Crane, S. Davis, Y. Dixit (virtually), A. Dymond, T. Fox, D. Gonci, D. Jayas, D. Johnson, M. Kawchuk, M. Lockett, A. Mercader, J. Reiter, M. Thomas, N. Van Mulligen, D. Westwood, T. Whitehead,
- Regrets:** S. Zielke
- Other:** J. Gallais, K. Greenwood, M. Helstein, D. Lucas, D. McMartin, R. Westlund, M. Whipple, J. Westers

*Ok, and welcome to the University of Lethbridge. Our University's Blackfoot name is Iniskim, meaning Sacred Buffalo Stone. The University is located in traditional Blackfoot Confederacy territory. We honour the Blackfoot people and their traditional ways of knowing in caring for this land, as well as all Indigenous Peoples who have helped shape and continue to strengthen our University community.*

A moment of silence was observed to honor Dean Gallimore, Board Chair, who passed away on April 6, 2025. His name plate and his chair was left empty at the front of the room to honour his memory at this meeting

D. McMartin provided a brief introduction to the 3MT (Three Minute Thesis) presentations by the graduate student winners. The presenters were Tara Lavery, Amy Weidenfeld, Natalie Krizan, and Sara Asadi.

The Chair introduced Alajandro Figueroa as the new Student Union President and welcomed Lavonne Svenson as the Governance Officer.

The Chair also recognized outgoing Board of Director members – Yash Dixit, Maleeka Thomas, Jaxon Reiter and thanked them for their service with a certificate (1-year) and print (2-year).

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## 1. CONSENT AGENDA

### APPROVAL

- 1.1. Approval of the April 17, 2025 Open Agenda
- 1.2. Approval of the February 13, 2025 Open Minutes

MOTION: opn.2025.04.01

Reiter/Coburn

*That the Board of Governors approve the April 17, 2025  
Consent Agenda, as amended.  
Added agenda number to item 5.2*

Motion: Carried

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**2. INTERIM BOARD CHAIR REMARKS**

R. Casson reported: No additional remarks.

**3. PRESIDENT REMARKS**

D. Jayas highlighted from his attached report:

- D. Jayas thanked every board member for their support for the launch of the strategic plan process and events and noted that the team did a great job integrating the indigenous perspective to the strategic plan.

**4. CHANCELLOR REMARKS**

T. Whitehead highlighted April's senate meeting at Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump and noted participation in various community and university events. He specifically mentioned Abbondanza and Vibe Fest, which were extraordinary events that provided a fantastic opportunity to explore the Fine Arts building, attracting over 1,500 attendees. K. Greenwood reported that Vibe Fest raised over \$115,000.

T. Whitehead also gave a brief overview of the upcoming honorary degree recipients and the fundraising performance by Brent Butt at the Yates on May 25, with proceeds going to Food for Thought program. The event is already 50% sold. Convocation is scheduled for May 29-30, with the Chancellor's Dinner on May 29, and invitations are being sent out today. Additionally, the team visited Standoff for a recruitment fair aimed at indigenous students. Many post-secondary institutions were present, and the U of L team was actively engaged and fully participatory, leaving a very positive impression.

**5. ITEMS FOR ACTION**

**5.1. Research Policy**

MOTION: opn.2025.04.02

Gonci/Crane

*That Board of Governors approve the rescission of the Research Policy.*

Motion: Carried

M. Helstein explained that rescinding the Research Policy is part of an initiative to eliminate redundancy by removing items already covered by other policies. It was noted that most universities have similar other policies to manage research related items, not just a standalone research policy. The discussion highlighted that accreditation associations do not require a comprehensive research policy and that the original policy was operational

and now duplicated in other policies. Members suggested drafting a summary page to streamline researchers' access to critical information.

## 5.2. Professional Supplement Funds Policy

MOTION: opn.2025.04.03

Kawchuk/Coburn

*That the Board of Governors approve the Professional Supplement Funds Policy (Revised), effective immediately.*

Motion: Carried

D. Lucas reported that the policy revision primarily involves simplifying language and streamlining processes, marking the first substantial changes since 2010. D. Lucas commented that these changes will also shorten timelines to submit expenses.

## 5.3. Water Institute for Sustainable Ecosystems

MOTION: opn.2025.04.04

Gonci/Whitehead

*That the Board of Governors approve the termination of the Water Institute for Sustainable Ecosystems effective December 1, 2024.*

Motion: Carried

D. Gonci noted that the Water Institute for Sustainable Ecosystems has not been active, with no faculty involvement for years, and that the research center is not necessary for their work. D. McMartin mentioned that research centers typically have a 10-15 year lifespan. There was a discussion about the need for communication of this, which was deemed unnecessary since this is a standalone issue and it does not limit the research activity of those on campus. The termination was backdated to the date when the director ceased activities.

## 5.4. Advancement Committee Amalgamation

MOTION: opn.2025.04.05

Gonci/Van Mulligen

*That the Board of Governors approve the permanent assignment of the Advancement Committee's responsibilities to the Board of Governors Executive Committee, with the honorary chair of Advancement being the Chancellor, effective immediately*

Motion: Carried

T. Whitehead observed that transferring the responsibilities of the Advancement Committee to the Executive Committee enhances alignment and facilitates a more streamlined approach to advancement efforts, particularly given the current initiatives and the broader political context. He added that information continues to be shared throughout the ongoing campaign efforts.

## **6. REPORTS**

### **6.1. Provost & Vice-President (Academic)**

No additional questions were raised.

### **6.2. Advancement Reports**

- Vice President (External Relations)
- Executive Director, Communications, Marketing & Govt. Relations

No additional questions were raised.

### **6.3. Vice-President (Finance & Administration)**

No additional questions were raised.

### **6.4. Vice-President (Research)**

D. McMartin highlighted the changes made in the last few years to stimulate diversified research outside of traditional strengths through internal funding programming.

A discussion ensued regarding the success rate of research proposals. It was noted that the overall success rate is 50%, with most of these being invitational (targeted to the University). For proposals that are not targeted, the success rate is approximately 35%, which is comparable to other universities nationwide.

### **6.5. Board Member Reports**

B. Chapman – reported that the All Council’s meeting on April 7 hosted Dr. Lars City Scholars are also having a showcase and Board members were encouraged to take a look. -

## **7. OTHER BUSINESS**

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: opn.2025.04.06

Kawchuk/Coburn

*That the Board of Governors Open Session meeting of April 17, 2025 be adjourned.*

Motion: Carried