



BOARD OF GOVERNORS – OPEN SESSION

Approved Minutes

Tuesday, May 27, 2025

1:00 p.m., W646

- Present:** R. Casson (Acting Chair), T. Boulet, B. Burton, B. Chapman, C. Coburn, C. Crane, S. Davis, A. Dymond, A. Figueroa, T. Fox (virtual), D. Gonci, D. Jayas, D. Johnson (virtual), M. Kawchuk, M. Lockett, A. Mercader, M. Oladoye, J. Oldfield (virtual), D. Westwood, T. Whitehead, S. Zielke
- Regrets:** N. van Mulligen
- Other:** J. Gallais, K. Greenwood, M. Helstein, D. Lucas, D. McMartin, R. Westlund, M. Whipple, J. Westers, C. Kanashiro, M. Sawa, L. Svenson
- Guests:**

Oki, 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.

The Chair acknowledged that D. Jayas and M. Helstein were attending the meeting virtually. A moment of silence was observed in honour of Blackfoot Elder Bruce Wolf Child, who gifted the Blackfoot name Iniskim to the University of Lethbridge in 2002.

The Chair welcomed new student members Alejandro Figueroa, Moyosoreoluwa Oladoye, and Jade Oldfield. Appreciation was extended to outgoing member Anne Dymond for her dedicated service during her term and was presented with a buffalo statue as a token of gratitude.

1. CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL

- 1.1. Approval of the May 27, 2025 Open Agenda
- 1.2. Approval of the April 17, 2025 Open Minutes

MOTION: opn.2025.05.01

Kawchuk/Coburn

*That the Board of Governors approve the May 27, 2025
Consent Agenda, as amended.*

Motion: Carried

The Chair noted that C. Coburn would be bringing forward the items on behalf of the Governance Committee, in place of N. van Mulligan, the Governance Chair.

2. INTERIM BOARD CHAIR REMARKS

R. Casson expressed gratitude to all who attended the Dean Gallimore’s Celebration of Life, noting that the support was deeply appreciated. He congratulated J. Gallais on her recent election as Board Chair of the Canadian University Governance Association. The Chair also shared highlights from a recent conversation with Minister McDougal, the new Minister of Advanced Education, who proactively reached out to connect. The discussion reaffirmed the University’s ongoing efforts to address key challenges, including the process of appointing a new Board Chair.

3. PRESIDENT REMARKS

D. Jayas highlighted from his attached report:

- D. Jayas provided a presentation to the Minz Panel on May 27 and noted that the intended points were effectively communicated, and the panel demonstrated strong engagement throughout. The meeting was considered productive.

4. CHANCELLOR REMARKS

T. Whitehead highlighted the celebration of student and honorary degree recipients during convocation, noting it as a meaningful occasion and encouraging Board members to participate where possible. Upcoming events include the Chancellor’s Dinner on Thursday. The “Food for Thought” fundraiser featuring Brent Butt raised approximately \$20,000. Appreciation was extended to the Senate, Governance team for their contributions, with special thanks to Brent Butt and Charlie Demeris for their generous donations.

T. Whitehead also noted that Author David Robertson will be featured at convocation and will hold a book signing following the ceremony.

5. ITEMS FOR ACTION

5.1. Bylaws of the Board of Governors

MOTION: opn.2025.05.02

Coburn/Chapman

That the Board of Governors approve the revised Board of Governors Bylaws, effective immediately.

Motion: Carried

C. Coburn noted that the changes were primarily editorial in nature. These included the removal of references to the Advancement Committee and clarification regarding the confidential ballot process, specifically the removal of the term “secret” from its description.

5.2. Strategic Planning and Progress Report

MOTION: opn.2025.05.03

Coburn/Lockett

That the Board of Governors endorse the attached Progress and Achievement Report 2024-2025, UofL Strategic Plan.

Motion: Carried

Members inquired about the availability of the report for distribution. M. Whipple clarified that the report is intended for internal use but will be made available in digital format.

5.3. 2024-2025 Year End Financial Statements

MOTION: opn.2025.05.04

Kawchuk/Gonci

That the Board of Governors approve the 2024-2025 Financial Statements.

Motion: Carried

M. Kawchuk reported that the Financial Statements process proceeded smoothly and noted that no further comments were received.

5.4. 2024-2025 Annual Report Approval Plan

MOTION: opn.2025.05.05

Kawchuk/Westwood

*That the Board of Governors approve the following pathway for the 2024-2025 Annual Report.
In September 2025, after the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) have reviewed the Annual Report, the Finance Committee will initiate a meeting (potentially email) to recommend to the Board Executive Committee approval, who by this resolution, shall be delegated approval of the Annual Report on behalf of the Board of Governors.*

Motion: Carried

M. Kawchuk noted that the Annual Report pathway will ensure alignment and is progressing as expected. The timing allows the committee to move forward with approvals more efficiently. D. Gonci added that while the new Annual Report is intended to be posted publicly, it is not expected to be the celebratory report for community.

5.5. 2025-2026 Budget

MOTION: opn.2025.05.06

Kawchuk/Figueroa

That the Board of Governors approve the 2025/26 budget and approve in principle the 2026/27 and 2027/28 budgets.

Motion: Carried

C. Kanashiro provided an overview of the budgeting processes and the consolidated budget for information and feedback from the Board – prior to approval. The presentation included both continuing and one-time funding. The focus was on the ongoing budget, particularly the unrestricted funds for General Operating and Ancillary Services, with a projected surplus in Ancillary Operations. The presentation underscored the significant impact of provincial grant funding reductions from 2019 to 2022.

C. Kanashiro also emphasized that the university's website provides access to financial statements, including budget reports, budget briefs and the budget approval process.

Members engaged in a discussion on strategic priorities, including lifecycle equipment replacement, shovel-ready capital projects, student housing, and deferred maintenance planning. Additional topics included staffing alignment, recruitment strategies, and the allocation of strategic priority funds to support institutional goals.

5.6. University Brand Policy

MOTION: opn.2025.05.07

Gonci/Westwood

That the Board of Governors approve the University Brand Policy.

Motion: Carried

D. Gonci clarified that the document under discussion pertains to policy rather than strategy. J. Gallais noted that this is an appropriate time for review, emphasizing the importance of safeguards to support decision-making and ensure a sound process. The Governance team has been actively engaged in consultation and conducting a thorough review prior to submitting the Brand policy for Board approval.

5.7. Policy Against Hazing (Rescind)

MOTION: opn.2025.05.08

Gonci/Kawchuk

That the Board of Governors approve of the rescission of the Hazing Policy, effective July 1, 2025.

Motion: Carried

D. Gonci noted that the policy is being rescinded as part of a broader initiative to streamline and update institutional policies. The matters previously addressed in this policy are now incorporated into the comprehensive Student Code of Conduct Policy.

5.8. Board of Governors Research Chairs Terms of Reference

MOTION: opn.2025.05.09

Gonci/Kawchuk

That the Board of Governors approve the attached Board of Governors Research Chairs Guidelines, effective immediately.

Motion: Carried

D. McMartin noted that the revision of the Board of Governors Research Chairs Guidelines aims to address and resolve existing gaps in communication.

6. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION REPORTS

6.1. Board Reporting Review: Report and Recommendations

J. Gallais reported that, in response to Board feedback, materials were reorganized into clearer categories to better support members' fiduciary responsibilities. Recommendations were made to enhance the clarity and relevance of Board content. Members were encouraged to complete the Board Evaluation, as their feedback is key to driving ongoing improvements.

7. REPORTS

7.1. Provost & Vice-President (Academic)

No additional questions were raised.

7.2. Advancement Reports

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

K. Greenwood encouraged members to remain attentive to upcoming events. R. Westlund reported that the paid advertisements in the Lethbridge area, as well as province-wide radio and print campaigns, were successful in reaching their intended audiences.

No additional questions were raised.

7.3. Vice-President (Finance & Administration)

No additional questions were raised.

7.4. Vice-President (Research)

D. McMartin acknowledged and celebrated the achievement of 54 fully funded undergraduate student researchers, noting that participation numbers have remained stable compared to previous years.

6.5. Board Member Reports

The Chair extended congratulations to Dr. S. Zielke on being awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal.

8. **OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: opn.2025.05.10

Coburn/Oldfield

That the Board of Governors Open Session meeting of May 27, 2025 be adjourned.

Motion: Carried