



BOARD OF GOVERNORS – OPEN SESSION Approved Minutes

Friday, October 10, 2025
8:30 a.m., W646

Present: R. Casson (Interim Chair), T. Boulet, B. Burton, B. Chapman, C. Crane(Virtual), S. Davis, A. Dymond, A. Figueroa, D. Gonci, N. van Mulligen, D. Jayas, D. Johnson, M. Kawchuk, M. Lockett, A. Mercader, M. Oladoye, J. Oldfield (virtual), D. Westwood, T. Whitehead, S. Zielke(virtual)

Regrets: T. Fox

Other: J. Gallais, K. Greenwood, M. Helstein, D. Lucas, D. McMartin, R. Westlund, M. Whipple, J. Westers, C. Kanashiro, M. Sawa, L. Svenson

Guests: A. Rosenau

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 welcomed guests to the Open Session and officially introduced Brendan Cummins as a new Board member. Congratulations were extended to Sherry Davis on her reappointment as Vice Chair. S. Davis expressed appreciation to Rick Casson, outgoing Interim Chair, for his dedicated service and presented a buffalo in recognition of his six years of service.

1. **CONSENT AGENDA** APPROVAL

- 1.1. Approval of the October 10, 2025 Open Agenda
- 1.2. Approval of the May 27, 2025 Open Minutes

MOTION: opn.2025.10.01

Kawchuk/Johnson

*That the Board of Governors approve the October 10, 2025
Consent Agenda.*

Motion: Carried

2. **INTERIM BOARD CHAIR REMARKS**

R. Casson expressed gratitude to Board members and the University team for their hard work and support.

3. PRESIDENT REMARKS

D. Jayas highlighted from his attached report:

- Recent alumni events in Vancouver, Surrey, Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat, noted strong engagement from attendees and emphasized ongoing efforts to strengthen alumni connections.
- Attended the Mintz Final Report presentation in Calgary, which included 11 recommendations focused on:
 - Funding structure: base funding for administration, library, and systems; portions tied to enrollment and quality metrics.
 - Deferred maintenance calculated on a three-year average.
 - Student financial assistance treated more as grants rather than loans.
 - Advocacy for international student processes with federal government.
 - Funding recommendations for technology development.
 - Encouraging institutional collaboration; D. Jayas noted that the U of L already has work underway with Lethbridge Polytechnic, Medicine Hat College, and Red Crow College to develop a Southern Alberta collaboration network.
 - No new funding or cuts were proposed, but changes to the model could impact allocations. The University will continue reviewing the report to prepare an appropriate response.
 - Administration plans to provide updates on the potential impact/timing of the report recommendations going forward
- Invited Board members to attend the Naming of the University of Lethbridge's Centre for Sport & Wellness on October 14, 2025.

4. CHANCELLOR REMARKS

T. Whitehead highlighted:

- Public Professor event in Calgary: Dr. Anne Dymond delivered an excellent presentation.
- Japanese Studies Association of Canada (JSAC) event on Oct 3 was fantastic and expressed congratulations to the organizers for a successful event.
- All-Candidates Forum (municipal government) on Oct 5: Thoughtful questions from staff and students; commendations for a well-run event.

5. ITEMS FOR ACTION

5.1. Use and Booking of Athletics and Recreation – Facilities Procedure (Revised)

MOTION: opn.2025.10.02

Davis/Johnson

That the Board of Governors approve rescinding the Use and Booking of University Sport and Recreation Facilities Policy upon the successful approval of the Use and Booking of Athletics and Recreation Facilities Procedure by the Statutory Deans' Council (SDC).

Motion: Carried

5.2. Strategic Planning Committee - Appointment

MOTION: opn.2025.10.03

Gonci/Lockett

That the Board of Governors approve the appointment of Sherry Davis to the GFC Strategic Planning Committee, effective immediately and continuing until June 30, 2027.

Motion: Carried

No additional questions or comments were made.

6. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION REPORTS

6.1. Themed Feedback to Legislated Response to Bill 29 (Fairness and Safety in Sport Act) Policy

D. Jayas provided themed feedback on the Legislated Response to Bill 29 (Fairness and Safety in Sport Act) Policy. This feedback was presented during the Open Session to confirm that all input received had been shared with the Board in its entirety. D. Jayas expressed appreciation to everyone who contributed their feedback and comments and noted that the General Faculties Council had passed a motion recommending that the Board not proceed with this policy.

A. Figueroa reported that the Student Union had conducted a survey with over 300 responses, and summary will be presented during the Closed Session meeting of the Board of Governors.

6.2. Strategic Directions Joint Report

D. Jayas presented the Joint Report, which is a regular agenda item intended to demonstrate ongoing progress on the Strategic Plan. Each department provided two items illustrating how their work contributes to the success of the plan. It was noted that this report will be presented at each meeting rather than annually and that the UWeekly report also includes key information. M. Helstein explained that this report replaces the previous portfolio reports. Board members were encouraged to review the UWeekly email report regularly to stay informed about current developments and activities at the University.

6.3. Key Messages

Key messages were distributed and D. Jayas emphasized that the document is intended as a guide for Board and Senate members when engaging with the community, government officials, and provincial representatives to promote the University. Members highlighted the importance of accessibility and the value of fostering a Community of Practice.

7. REPORTS

7.1. Board Member Reports

B. Chapman: shared updates progress on the Highway 3 Corridor project, emphasizing the importance of safe travel for families.

J. Oldfield: Announced the food pantry is now operating in the Lounge; plans to provide a free plated meal at the upcoming “Meet Your Alumni” event to connect graduate students with alumni.

M. Oladoye: Reported that the council is beginning strategic planning, noting the

challenge of one-year terms; highlighted the recent “Meet the Candidate” event aimed at fostering proactive engagement.

C. Crane: Shared involvement in championing and evaluating food security initiatives on a national level.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: opn.2025.10.04

Kawchuk/Gonci

*That the Board of Governors Open Session meeting of
October 10, 2025 be adjourned.*

Motion: Carried