



Thursday, December 11, 2025
1:00 p.m., W646

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

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 President welcomed Karen Reid as the new Chair. Due to road conditions, Elder Kathy Hunt sent her regrets and offered her blessings to the Chair at her first meeting, along with prayers during her morning smudge.

The Chair shared her gratitude, welcomed guests to the Open Session and officially introduced Anne Dymond as a new Board member (pending receiving her ministerial order).

Dr. Richelle Marynowski delivered an educational session titled "Has AI Made Education Obsolete?" emphasizing that while AI can simulate human learning and creativity, it lacks depth and should be used to augment and not replace education.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Robert (Bob) Comstock, former Vice President of Campus Development, and Dr. Dennis Connolly, former University of Lethbridge professor and Honorary Degree Recipient.

1. CONSENT AGENDA
APPROVAL

- 1.1. Approval of the December 11, 2025 Open Agenda
- 1.2. Approval of the October 10, 2025 Open Minutes

MOTION: opn.2025.12.01

van Mulligen/Figueroa

That the Board of Governors approve the December 11, 2025 Consent Agenda.

Motion: Carried

The Chair noted that D. Gonci will introduce the items from Finance Committee.
A correction was noted on the attendance list in the minutes.

2. BOARD CHAIR REMARKS

K. Reid highlighted:

- Engaged with provincial leaders, including MLAs and the Minister regarding pending reappointments for two public members and the ULFA representative, with an update expected the following week.
- Met with the President multiple times and attended various events.
- Connected with several Board members and attended the 50-year celebration for the Dhillon School of Business.
- Engaged with provincial leaders, including MLAs and the Minister.
- Thanked donors for supporting the “Buy a Student a Breakfast” campaign, which raised over \$21,000.
- Noted the upcoming challenge with the “Pass the Hat” initiative and encouraged Board and Senate members to participate (if Board loses the Chair will have to recite a poem at Senate).

3. PRESIDENT REMARKS

D. Jayas highlighted from his attached report:

- Attended the celebration event for Sydney Whiting, a Rhodes Scholar and one of only three in Western Canada, highlighting the quality of instruction at the University.
- Reported positive feedback on the brand launch presentation, noting it conveyed a powerful story.
- Provided an update on Mintz, stating that the province had committed to consulting with institutions, though consultations had not yet begun.
- Noted that recommendations to invest in post-secondary education were not reflected in the current budget.
- Confirmed that the Annual Report had been approved, with Governance requesting additional information. Because approval was required, the report would be taken to Executive on December 19 for approval and then submitted to the OAG (auditors).
- Reported that the University Business Trust name would be changed for public-facing marketing purposes only, while the legal name would remain the same. This item would come to Executive on December 19 for discussion and was presented to the Board for information.

J. Gallais delivered a brief overview of the University Secretariat’s responsibilities and its role in supporting the Board. Gallais introduced the team and expressed appreciation for their work on behalf of the Board.

4. CHANCELLOR REMARKS

T. Whitehead highlighted:

- Attended variety of student activities and events.
- Upcoming events include Abbondanza and Vibe Fest to come in April 2026.

5. ITEMS FOR ACTION

5.1. 2026-2027 Proposed Fees and Rates Report

MOTION: opn.2025.12.02

Gonci/Johnson

That the Board of Governors approve the proposed fees and rates for 2026-27, with the fees and rates for 2027-2028 to 2029-2030 be approved in principle.

Motion: Carried

The Proposed Fees and Rates report was presented, noting extensive consultation. The maximum increases allowed by the government—2% for domestic students and 5% for international students—were proposed, aligning with other institutions in the province. A new fee was added for the Master of Economics program and for Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR), which must be in place before the offering can proceed.

In response to questions, it was explained that the PLAR fee covers the expertise required to evaluate learning assessments, primarily in areas such as Accounting, and would follow established standards through AQAC and CCC processes. The Early Start program fee was also discussed, with M. Helstein clarifying that the fee consolidates related costs to avoid one-off charges and supports retention and recruitment efforts.

5.2. 2026-2027 Proposed Exceptional Tuition Fee Increase

MOTION: opn.2025.12.03

Gonci/Davis

That the Board of Governors approve the exceptional fee increase for the Pre-Professional Transfer Program in Engineering for 2026-27 and 2027-28, pending approval by the Ministry of Advanced Education.

Motion: Carried

D. Gonci presented the proposed exceptional fee proposal for the Engineering program, noting that it is a high-cost, high-demand program requiring additional resources to maintain quality and provide small-group learning experiences. The fee increase would support more sections, industry partnerships, and enhanced student opportunities. D. Lucas noted that a proposal for a four-year degree program was also submitted, with plans to align fees if approved. The exceptional fee would not take effect until Fall 2027, and consultations with students had occurred.

In response to questions, it was clarified that additional revenue would fund program

enhancements and that, if approved by the ministry, the program would operate outside the normal tuition framework with an extensive reporting structure to ensure transparency and quality.

5.3. Postdoctoral Scholars Policy

MOTION: opn.2025.12.04

Davis/van Mulligen

That the Board of Governors approve the Postdoctoral Scholars Policy, previously the Postdoctoral Fellows Policy, effective immediately.

Motion: Carried

No additional questions or comments were made.

6. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION REPORTS

6.1. Strategic Directions Joint Report

D. Jayas presented the Joint Report, a standing agenda item designed to show ongoing progress on the Strategic Plan. Each department contributed two examples demonstrating how their work supports the plan's success. It was noted that this report will now be presented at every meeting rather than annually, and that UWeekly also provides key updates. The annual report, which compiles these contributions, will continue to be presented to the Board for approval each year.

Board members were encouraged to regularly review the UWeekly email to stay informed about current developments. Members noted that presenting outcomes and impacts in this format was both helpful and time-efficient.

6.2. ULSU Financial Audit Update

D. Gonci noted that the April 2024 financial statements are included in the agenda package, and confirmed that KPMG has finalized the audit. The financials for next year will be available soon.

Students' Union President A. Figueroa reported that the Student Union ratified the April 2024 financials on a recent Monday. The 2025 financials are expected shortly. There were no changes between the draft 2024 version and the ratified copy. Additionally, a new coordinator has been hired at ULSU to ensure governance and financial processes remain on schedule.

7. REPORTS

7.1. ULSU Pass the Hat

A. Figueroa announced the friendly competition between the Board, Senate and GFC and that ULSU's "Pass the Hat" annual fundraiser will provide food and gift cards to students in need - every contribution makes a meaningful difference.

7.2. Board Member Reports

A. Figueroa shared that ULSU attended the CASA meeting in Ottawa, describing it as an exciting week with many questions and discussions. Work is underway to create a

Lethbridge Student Alliance, bringing together U of L and Polytechnic students.

J. Oldfield noted that there was a provincial organization for graduate students in the past and shared efforts to establish a similar group with other graduate student associations to strengthen advocacy. The recent survey received 85 responses, and plans are in place to educate students on advocacy.

C. Crane expressed gratitude to everyone who contributed to the “Buy a Student a Breakfast” initiative, which raised over \$20,000—an incredible achievement! This support will benefit students during both fall and spring exams.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: opn.2025.12.05

Oldfield/van Mulligen

*That the Board of Governors Open Session meeting of
December 11, 2025 be adjourned.*

Motion: Carried