



**Thursday, February 12, 2026**  
**1:30 p.m., W646 & Zoom**

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

*Okî, 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.*

Prior to the meeting, Board members participated in an optional tour of University Hall led by Gene Lublinkhof, Director, Major Capital Projects, Facilities.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of former President and Vice-Chancellor Bill Cade and the residents of Tumbler Ridge, BC, with University of Lethbridge flags lowered in recognition.

Congratulations were extended to Anne Dymond on her appointment to the Board as the ULFA appointment, and to Nikki van Mulligen and Bev Burton on their reappointments to the Board of Governors for a second term.

J. Gallais noted that, as part of the boardroom renovations, elevated tables and seating are being tested along the side of the room.

It was also noted that in the absence of K. Reid, Board Chair, S. Davis Vice-Chair would be chairing the Open and Closed Meeting today.

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**1. CONSENT AGENDA**  
**APPROVAL**

- 1.1. Approval of the February 12, 2026 Open Agenda
- 1.2. Approval of the December 11, 2025 Open Minutes

MOTION: opn.2026.02.01

Kawchuk/Chapman

*That the Board of Governors approve the February 12, 2026 Consent Agenda.*

Motion: Carried

Monica Lockett will present Governance Committee items 7.1 and 7.2.

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**2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

S. Davis noted that this item has been added as a standing agenda item for reminder purposes only, to reinforce good governance practices and the Board's responsibilities under the Post-Secondary Learning Act and the Board's Code of Conduct.

**3. BOARD CHAIR REMARKS**

S. Davis highlighted the following on behalf of Board Chair, Karen Reid:

- Attended the Staff Holiday Party and connected with faculty and staff.
- Participated in monthly meetings with President Jayas.
- Continued one-on-one meetings with Board members.
- Met with VP Finance & Administration Deborah Lucas and ULPG CEO Michael Kelly for a South Campus development update.
- Toured University Hall with Digvir, Richard Westlund, and Gene Lublinkhof to review renovation needs.
- Attended a South Campus presentation at SACPA by Trevor Lewington.
- Hosted Advanced Education Minister Hon. Myles McDougall and MLA Nathan Neudorf for their inaugural campus tour and Board/student meet-and-greet on Feb. 6.
- Upcoming events include:
  - Mar 2 – Indigenous Awareness Week Opening Event
  - Mar 11 – International Women's Leadership Conference

Additional Notes:

- S. Davis will attend the Feb. 26 Ag Expo Stakeholder Reception, the International Women's Conference, and Abbondanza in March.
- Appreciation extended to Gene Lublinkhof for the tour of University Hall.

**4. PRESIDENT REMARKS**

D. Jayas highlighted from his attached report:

- Participated in Universities Canada's visit to India, which received Globe and Mail coverage and aimed to strengthen relationships with India amid recent strains. India continues to invest heavily in post-secondary education, with a target of 80 million students. Met with the High Commission to emphasize the need for greater stability in Canadian federal policies, particularly frequent changes to IRCC rules.
- Addressed a February 4 on-campus incident involving a controversial speaker and subsequent protest that disrupted the learning and work environment; discussions are ongoing at the President's Executive level to identify lessons learned and opportunities for improved response. A Sweetgrass Over Coal ceremony was planned to further promote peace and reconciliation within the University community.

**5. CHANCELLOR REMARKS**

T. Whitehead highlighted:

- Noted an upcoming Senate meeting scheduled for tomorrow.
- Highlighted the “If Music Be the Food of Love” event featuring University of Lethbridge student performers, held as a fundraiser.
- Referenced Indigenous Awareness Week, with anticipated participation if possible.
- Noted future events like Abbondanza and International Women’s Events as upcoming engagements.
- Attended a “Chess for Life” session involving chess programming with inmates at a correctional facility and extended appreciation to the event and program organizers.

**6. ITEMS FOR ACTION**

6.1. 2026-2027 Interim Budget

MOTION: opn.2026.02.02

Kawchuk/Gonci

*That the Board of Governors approve the 2026-2027 Interim Budget.*

Motion: Carried

M. Kawchuk noted that the budget, as presented, remains subject to the forthcoming provincial budget, with expectations of neutral funding from the government. A balanced budget was presented. D. Lucas added that this represents an interim budget, with a final version to be brought forward in April, noting that work is ongoing to refine enrolment projections and budget assumptions.

**7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

7.1. Strategic Directions Joint Report

M. Lockett presented the Strategic Directions Joint Report, which highlights activities aligned with the four strategic directions of the Strategic Plan and provides examples across each portfolio. This report replaces the former Vice-President reports.

7.2. 2026-2027 Board Meeting Schedule

M. Lockett advised that the meeting schedule was reviewed by the Governance Committee. No questions were raised.

7.3. Mandate & Roles Document

D. Jayas reported that the Executive Committee met and approved the Mandate and Roles document, which was brought forward to the Board for information. The mandate was originally presented to the Board in December, at which time the Executive Committee was delegated authority to approve the document. In response to a question regarding approval process, J. Gallais clarified that, in this instance, the Executive was authorized to act on behalf of the Board within the parameters set out in the Bylaws and Terms of Reference.

7.4. ULBT – Operating Name

D. Jayas reported that the ULBT operating name was brought forward to the Executive Committee in December and approved. Following a question from a member about

