



Thursday, April 16, 2026
1:15 p.m., W646 & Zoom

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

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.

As part of Board Education, Dr. Tiffany Prete, Canada Research Chair, delivered a presentation on her research, including an update on the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Resiliency, highlighting themes of understanding harm, building relationships, and co-creating resilience.

The Chair welcomed Orion Legg, who was noted as the newly elected University of Lethbridge Students' Union Vice President Operations & Finance. It was noted that Mr. Legg will formally join the Board upon receipt of his appointment from the Ministry of Advanced Education.

The Board expressed appreciation to Moyosoreoluwa Oladoye for her service over the past year, acknowledging her valued contributions, and extended best wishes in her future studies and endeavours.

Appreciation was also extended to David Johnson for six years of dedicated service to the Board, recognizing his engagement, expertise, and commitment. Congratulations were offered to Alejandro Figueroa and Jade Oldfield on their reappointment to a second term.

1. CONSENT AGENDA
APPROVAL

- 1.1. Approval of the April 16, 2026 Open Agenda
- 1.2. Approval of the February 12, 2026 Open Minutes

MOTION: opn.2026.04.01

Davis/Oldfield

*That the Board of Governors approve the April 16, 2026
Consent Agenda.*

Motion: Carried

2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

K. Reid 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

K. Reid highlighted the following:

- Held monthly check-in meetings with D. Jayas to review progress against objectives.
- Attended the Indigenous Awareness Week Opening Event on March 2.
- Attended the International Women's Leadership Conference on March 11.
- Attended the ULSU changeover event on April 8.
- Attended the Abbondanza fundraiser on April 16.
- Participated in the Smile Cookie Week launch in Lethbridge, including cookie decorating with Board Member T. Boulet and other community leaders, in support of Green Shirt Day, the Logan Boulet Endowment Fund, and the Canadian Transplant Association.
- Attended the Canadian Universities Governance Association (CUGA) conference in Kitchener, Ontario, in late April.
- Offered congratulations to D. Jayas on his forthcoming induction as a Fellow of the International Academy of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, with the ceremony to be held in Italy later this year.

4. PRESIDENT REMARKS

D. Jayas highlighted from his attached report:

- Highlighted the Strategic Directions display currently posted in the Boardroom.
- Reported that the collective agreement with ULFA has been ratified by both parties, with thanks extended to both bargaining teams.
- Attended a meeting with the Deputy Minister of Advanced Education regarding implementation of recommendations from the Minz Panel Report, including the development of a new funding framework and related institutional changes. Noted a commitment to have a new funding model in place by 2027, including consultation with the post-secondary system.
- Provided a confidential update that the Province has agreed to fund an engineering program, with a proposed start date of July 2027. It was noted that governance processes are underway to administer the program, the curriculum has been approved by GFC, and GFC will provide a recommendation to the Board to approve the establishment of an engineering school. Plans include hiring an Associate Dean of Engineering and a Director once approvals are complete.
- Offered congratulations to Chancellor T. Whitehead on receiving two awards: the

Students' Union "Continued Support Award" at the Changeover Gala, and the Dr. Gary Bowie Leadership Award at the Pronghorn Gala, recognizing ongoing support of Pronghorn Athletics.

5. CHANCELLOR REMARKS

T. Whitehead highlighted:

- Extended congratulations and thanks to the organizers of several University events, including the International Women's Day Leadership Conference, the David Morrison Lecture on Foreign Policy, the third annual Mentorship Gala, and the presentation on the Truth about Residential Schools featuring Chief Dr. Wilton Little Child.
- Congratulated the University of Lethbridge Students' Union on a successful and engaging Changeover Event.
- Recognized the organizers of the Blue and Gold Awards event and congratulated the award recipients.
- Reported attendance at the Lethbridge Sports Council Awards and highlighted T. Boulet and B. Boulet as recipients of the Knud Peterson Award for public service in the sports community.
- Noted plans to attend Abbondanza and Vibe Fest following the meeting and extended congratulations to the organizers for their efforts.
- Advised of upcoming events, including the Donor Gala on May 14, Spring Convocation, and the Chancellor's Dinner.

6. ITEMS FOR ACTION

6.1. Employment of Relatives Policy (Rescind)

MOTION: opn.2026.04.02

Davis/Johnson

That Board of Governors approve the rescission of the Employment of Relatives Policy, effective immediately.

Motion: Carried

S. Davis noted that the Executive Committee met and recommended the motion, with the intent of reducing redundancy and streamlining policies.

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

7.1. Strategic Directions Joint Report

N. van Mulligen presented the Strategic Directions Joint Report, which highlights activities aligned with the four strategic directions of the Strategic Plan and provides examples across portfolios. It was noted that this report replaces the former Vice-President reports, and that additional highlights are regularly shared through UWeekly.

7.2. GSA Financial Audit

M. Kawchuk presented the item for information and advised that the financial statements received an unqualified audit opinion. D. Gonci highlighted the Graduate Students' Association's contribution to the Scholarship Fund and expressed appreciation for its support of this initiative.

8. REPORTS

8.1. Board Member Reports

A. Figueroa reported that Council is currently focused on transitioning to the new Council and noted plans to attend the upcoming ULSU retreat.

J. Oldfield advised that the executive is in a transition period and is actively working to build Council membership for the next academic year, encouraging nominations of interested graduate students.

C. Crane, Alumni President, invited nominations for the Alumni Honour Society, noting that inductees are recognized for their professional achievements and lasting contributions to their communities. Members were encouraged to share the call for nominations and submit names to the Alumni Association. Members highlighted the importance of alumni pride and engagement, noting the strength of the University's alumni network and the value of celebrating graduates' achievements.

B. Chapman shared observations underscoring the visibility of the University's brand in the community and highlighted recent successes by local teams at provincial hockey and basketball championships.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: opn.2026.04.03

Whitehead/Kawchuk

That the Board of Governors Open Session meeting of April 16, 2026 be adjourned.

Motion: Carried