

## Summary of the February 6, 2026 Board of Governors Meeting

**From:** Marcie Morrison, Associate University Secretary

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**Members:** Rajni Agarwal; Robert Arnone; Dr. Claudine Cousins; David Elliott; Sunil Kumar; Tim Lade; Robert Lamb; Dr. Jason Lisi - Secretary (non voting); Dr. Nancy Luckai; Pauline Mickelson; Michael Nitz; Michel Piche; Dr. Leigh Potvin; Dr. Gillian Siddall; Dr. Bryanna Scott-Kay; Mark Smith (Vice-Chair); Simran Talpade; Cathy Tuckwell (Chair); Maria Vasanelli; Dr. Rose Zacharias

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The Board of Governors convened a regular meeting on February 6, 2026, at the Thunder Bay Campus. The agenda, supporting materials, and approved minutes from open Board sessions are accessible online at [www.Lakeheadu.ca](http://www.Lakeheadu.ca).

### OPEN MEETING

#### **Spotlight Presentation: Operational Readiness for Battery and Demand Response Dominated Grid in Ontario (Dr. Amir Ameli - Associate Professor, Electrical & Computer Engineering (Lakehead University))**

The Board received a presentation that highlighted the SPARES (Security and Protection of Advanced Renewable-rich Energy Systems) Research Group at Lakehead University. The SPARES Research Group is dedicated to preparing Ontario's power grid for a secure and more demanding future. The group's work addresses the challenges created by the power grid's evolution into a complex cyber-physical system, focusing on two main research areas: Cyber-Physical Security and Growing Demand with Limited Capacity. Initiatives within the group include developing methods to detect, prevent, and limit the cascading impacts of digital threats on physical power equipment and using Artificial Intelligence to manage and coordinate electricity demand. The research group is actively involved in numerous externally-funded projects, collaborating with partners such as Edgecom Energy, the City of Thunder Bay, and Synergy North.

The following items of business were dealt with during the open meeting:

#### **Audit and Risk Committee**

- Report of the January 16, 2026 meeting

#### **External Relations Committee**

- Report of the January 15, 2026 meeting

## **Finance and Operations Committee**

- Report of the January 16, 2026 meeting
- Policy Review - Budget Surpluses/Deficit Carry Forwards:
  - *MOVED that the Board of Governors rescind the Budget Surpluses/Deficit Carry Forwards policy. CARRIED*

## **Governance and Nominating Committee**

- Report of the January 15, 2026 meeting
- Amendments to 2025-2026 Approved Board Meeting Schedule:
  - *MOVED that the Board of Governors approve the following proposed amendments to the 2025-2026 meeting schedule, to align Board of Governors events with Orillia Homecoming and Lakehead University Alumni Association Board events in Orillia:*
    - *Move the October 1, 2026 Annual Meeting, Thunder Bay, to October 15, 2026, Orillia*
    - *Move the October 2, 2026 Board Fall Retreat, Thunder Bay, to October 16, 2026, Orillia CARRIED*
- Recommendations for Term Renewals - External Members:
  - *MOVED that the Board of Governors re-elect Mark Smith for a 3-year term. CARRIED*
  - *MOVED that the Board of Governors re-elect Sunil Kumar for a 3-year term. CARRIED*
  - *MOVED that the Board of Governors re-elect Claudine Cousins for a 3-year term. CARRIED*
  - *MOVED that the Board of Governors re-elect Michael Nitz for a 3-year term. CARRIED*
- Unscheduled Terms of Reference Review - Board Governance and Nominating Committee:
  - *MOVED that the Board of Governors approve the proposed amendments to the Board Governance and Nominating Committee Terms of Reference. CARRIED*

## **President's Report on Appointments**

Pursuant to the authority delegated to the President and Vice-Chancellor by the Board of Governors, the following appointments are being reported, for information:

### External Adjunct Professor

- Dr. Michel Beaulieu was appointed as an External Adjunct Professor in the Department of History for the term effective October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2029.

### Professional Associate

- Holly Freill was appointed as a Professional Associate in the School of Nursing for the term effective July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028.

## **Other Updates, Reports and Informational Items Received**

- Annual Enrolment Update
- First Progress Report on Strategic Plan Year 1
- Research & Innovation Week Highlights
- Lakehead University Achievement Program Overview
- Chair's Report
- President's Report

- Senate Report
- Ogimaawin Indigenous Education Council Report

### **In Camera Business to be Reported in the Open Meeting**

- President's Annual Report on Renewal and Tenure/Simultaneous Promotion to Associate Professor:
  - Renewal of Probationary Appointments
    - Dr. Abedalrhman Alkhateeb, Department of Computer Science
    - Dr. Dzhamal Amishev, Faculty of Natural Resources Management
    - Dr. Garima Bajwa, Department of Computer Science
    - Dr. Yong Deng, Department of Software Engineering
    - Dr. Seyedrahman Djafaripetroudy, Faculty of Natural Resources Management
    - Dr. Mohammed El-Gendy, Department of Civil Engineering
    - Dr. Muhammad Khalid, Department of Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering
    - Dr. Gail Kuhl, School of Outdoor Recreation, Parks & Tourism
    - Dr. James Kryklywy, Department of Psychology
    - Dr. Francisco Ramos-Pallares, Department of Chemical Engineering
    - Dr. Xiaoping Song, Faculty of Business Administration
    - Dr. Abigail Sprakes, School of Social Work
    - Dr. Xing Tan, Department of Computer Science
  - Tenure and Simultaneous Promotion to Associate Professor
    - Dr. Davut Akca, Department of Interdisciplinary Studies
    - Dr. Mehdi Arzandeh, Faculty of Business Administration
    - Dr. Joan Braun, Bora Laskin Faculty of Law
    - Dr. Mirit Grabarski, Faculty of Business Administration
    - Dr. Shafiqul Hai, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
    - Dr. Debra Mackinnon, Department of Interdisciplinary Studies
    - Dr. Benjamin Maiangwa, Department of Political Science
- Appointment Renewal - Dean, Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences - Dr. Mirella Stroink:
  - *MOVED that the reappointment of Dr. Mirella Stroink, including the terms and conditions outlined in the Appointment Letter, for a term beginning August 1, 2026, and concluding July 31, 2031, be approved. CARRIED*

## **IN CAMERA SESSION**

An in camera session was held to discuss items of personnel, legal, or real estate nature, and other sensitive or confidential matters. The following items of business were dealt with during the in camera session:

### **External Relations**

- In Camera Report of the January 15, 2026 meeting
- Fellow of the University:
  - The Board approved the recommendation to add new nominee(s) to the Board-approved "Fellow Nominees List".

**Other Reports, Updates, and Informational Items Received**

- President's In Camera Report

The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Governors is March 27, 2026 from 9:30am to 1:30pm (ET), Thunder Bay Campus.