

Summary of the June 6, 2025 Board of Governors Meeting

From: Jason Lisi, Board Secretary

Members: *Rajni Agarwal; Robert Arnone; Dr. Claudine Cousins; David Elliott; Thomas Kehoe; Sunil Kumar; Robert Lamb; Pauline Mickelson; Michael Nitz; Dr. Leigh Potvin; Dr. Gillian Siddall; Anna Sampson; Dr. Bryanna Scott-Kay; Mark Smith (Vice-Chair); Brent Sylvester; Simran Talpade; Cathy Tuckwell (Chair); Maria Vasanelli; Rose Zacharias*

The Board of Governors held a regularly scheduled meeting on June 6, 2025 on the Orillia Campus. The agenda, materials, and minutes of the open Board meetings are available at www.Lakeheadu.ca.

OPEN MEETING

Spotlight Presentation: How Curriculums for Youth Move Among Small Countries of the Commonwealth (Dr. Gary Pluim)

Dr. Gary Pluim, Assistant Professor at Orillia, received an award from the Commonwealth of Learning for his work on educational programs addressing global youth issues such as rights, political engagement, mental health, and climate action. His project, part of a SSHRC-funded study, explores how youth work curriculum is transferred between small Commonwealth countries. The research highlights both the benefits and challenges of transferring educational practices across cultures, including concerns about cultural differences and neo-colonial implications. The Board of Governors found the presentation insightful and expressed their appreciation for Dr. Pluim's work.

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

Executive Committee

- Report of the May 15, 2025 meeting

Audit and Risk Committee

- Report of the May 15, 2025 meeting
- Lakehead University Pension Investment Fund:
 - MOVED that the Board of Governors approve the Lakehead University Pension Investment Fund financial statements. CARRIED

External Relations Committee

- Report of the May 14, 2025 meeting

Finance and Operations Committee

- Report of the May 15, 2025 meeting
- 2025-2026 Proposed Operating Budget:
 - MOVED that the Board of Governors approve the 2025-2026 Lakehead University operating budget. CARRIED

Governance and Nominating Committee

- Report of the May 14, 2025 meeting
- Notice of Board Member Resignation:
 - Yolanda Wanakamik, Lakehead Alumni Association Member, resigned from the Board effective May 14, 2025.
- 2025 Board Appointment Process Summary
- External Member Recommendation:
 - WHEREAS Rachael Paquette's term would have ended on October 2, 2025; and

WHEREAS the BGNC added Rose Zacharias to the Board Evergreen List on August 14, 2024, following a successful interview by the Board Interview Subcommittee;

MOVED that in alignment with the Board Bylaws, Article 3.7b, the Board of Governors elect Rose Zacharias as an External Member, commencing immediately to October 2, 2025, for the remainder of Rachael Paquette's term, and for a 3 year term, commencing at the close of the October 2, 2025 Board Annual Meeting to the close of the Board Annual Meeting in 2028. CARRIED

- Staff Member Recommendation:
 - MOVED that the Board of Governors appoint Tim Lade to serve as the Staff Member on the Board for a 3-year term, commencing at the close of the October 2, 2025 Annual Meeting, to the close of the 2026 Annual Meeting. CARRIED
- Recommendation to the Ogimaawin Indigenous Education Council:
 - MOVED that the Board of Governors approve the appointment of Michael Nitz to the OIEC for a 1-year term, commencing July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. CARRIED
- Standing Committee Chair Recommendations:
 - MOVED that the Board of Governors approve the following Standing Committee Chair appointments, and that the term for each be 1-year, commencing at the close of the 2025 Annual Meeting, through to the close of the 2026 Annual Meeting:
 - BARC - Sunil Kumar
 - BERC - Robert Lamb
 - BFOC - Robert Arnone
 - BGNC - Mark Smith
 - BLLC - Claudine CousinsCARRIED
- Standing Committee Assignment Recommendations:
 - MOVED that the Board of Governors approve the proposed Standing Committee assignments for the 2025-2026 term. CARRIED

Learning and Liaison Committee

- Report of the May 14, 2025 meeting

Other Reports and Informational Items Received

- 2018-2025 Strategic Plan Year 7 Report 2
- June 2025 President's Report
- Ogimaawin Indigenous Education Council Report (of the April 1, 2025 meeting)
- Senate Reports:
 - April 22, 2025 meeting
 - May 24, 2025 meeting

Business Arising from the In Camera Session

- President's Report on Renewal and Tenure/Simultaneous Promotion to Associate Professor - For Information:

Exercising the authority delegated by the Board of Governors, the President and Vice-Chancellor, granted Renewal and Tenure and Simultaneous Promotion to Associate Professor to the following individuals, effective July 1, 2025:

- Promotion to Professor
 - Dr. Ruth Beatty, Faculty of Education
 - Dr. Jason Blahuta, Department of Philosophy
 - Dr. Jian Deng, Department of Civil Engineering
 - Dr. Martha Dowsley, Departments of Anthropology & Geography and the Environment
 - Dr. Tanya Kaefer, Faculty of Education
 - Dr. Sonia Mastrangelo, Faculty of Education
 - Dr. Leila Pakzad, Department of Chemical Engineering
 - Dr. Robert Petrunia, Department of Economics
 - Dr. Subramanian Sivaramakrishnan Faculty of Business Administration
 - Dr. Beatrice Vernier, Department of Languages
 - Dr. Jo-Ann Vis, School of Social Work
- 2025-2026 Board Operating Budget:
MOVED that the Board of Governors approve the 2025-2026 Board operating budget, with a 15% overall reduction. 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:

Executive Committee

- In Camera Report of the May 15, 2025 meeting
- 2025-2026 Board Operating Budget

Finance and Operations Committee

- In Camera Report of the May 15, 2025 meeting

Governance and Nominating Committee

- Annual Board Performance Evaluation

Annual Presidential Assessment

In alignment with the Annual Presidential Assessment Policy and Procedures, the Board received and reviewed the President's 2024-2025 Goals and Objectives Report.

2025-2030 Strategic Plan: Metrics of Success

The Board continues working with the President to develop strategic plan metrics.

Other Reports, Updates, and Informational Items Received

- Chair's In Camera Report
- President's In Camera Report
- President's Report on Renewal and Tenure/Simultaneous Promotion to Associate Professor
- 2024-25 Board of Governors Meeting Schedule

The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Governors is October 2, 2025 from 9:30am to 1:30pm (ET), Thunder Bay Campus (Annual Meeting).