

Summary of the March 27, 2026 Board of Governors Meeting

From: Marcie Morrison, Associate University Secretary

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 Tait; 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*

The Board of Governors convened a regular meeting on March 27, 2026, at the Thunder Bay Campus. The agenda, supporting materials, and approved minutes from open Board sessions are accessible online at www.Lakeheadu.ca.

OPEN MEETING

Spotlight Presentation: Humanities 101 at Lakehead University (Dr. Christina van Barneveld - Associate Professor (Lakehead University))

The Board received a presentation highlighting the Humanities 101 program structure and strategic themes, including the student selection process, local community partnerships, and the maintenance of academic quality comparable to a first-year university course. It was noted that Lakehead University was the first institution in Ontario to develop an online version of the program. A student participant also shared their personal experience, describing the transformative impact the program had on their life.

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

Audit and Risk Committee

- Report of the March 5, 2026 meeting
- Policy Review: Student Code of Conduct - Non-Academic:
 - *MOVED to approve the proposed amendments to the Student Code of Conduct Non-Academic policy. CARRIED*

External Relations Committee

- Report of the March 5, 2026 meeting

Finance and Operations Committee

- Report of the March 5, 2026 meeting
- Annual Report to the Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security on Costs of Textbooks and Other Learning Materials

- 2026-2027 Tuition Fees and Miscellaneous Fees
 - *MOVED to approve the proposed tuition and ancillary fees for 2026-2027 as presented. CARRIED*

Governance and Nominating Committee

- Report of the March 4, 2026 meeting
- Ogimaawin Indigenous Education Council (OIEC) Member Re-election
 - *MOVED to re-elect Dr. Bryanna Scott-Kay as the Ogimaawin Indigenous Education Council Member, for a 3-year term, commencing at the close of the 2026 Annual Meeting. 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. Lahcen Benomar was appointed as an External Adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Natural Resources Management for the term effective January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2029.
- Dr. Lesley Clement was appointed as an External Adjunct Professor in the Department of English for the term effective December 1, 2025 to November 30, 2029.
- Dr. Ryan Grow was appointed as an External Adjunct Professor in the Department of Biology for the term effective July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2029.
- Dr. Terri O'Sullivan was appointed as an External Adjunct Professor in the Department of Veterinary Science for the term effective July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2029.
- Dr. Tom Peotto was appointed as an External Adjunct Professor in the Department of History for the term effective November 1, 2025 to October 31, 2029.
- Dr. Alexander Ross was appointed as an External Adjunct Professor in the Department of Biology for the term effective July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2029.
- Dr. Michael Walton was appointed as an External Adjunct Professor in the School of Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Tourism for the term effective January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2029.

Internal Adjunct Professor

- Dr. Gail Kuhl was appointed as an Internal Adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Education for the term effective January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2029.

Professional Associate

- Dr. Carolyn Houlding was appointed as a Professional Associate in the Department of Psychology for the term effective July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2029.

Other Reports Informational Items Received

- Business + Higher Education Roundtable (BHER) 2026 Executive Summit Conference Debrief and Discussion
- Senate Reports:

- February 17, 2026
- March 16, 2026

In Camera Business to be Reported in the Open Meeting

- Approval of 2026-27 Board Operating Budget - The Board approved its 2026-2027 operating budget, with a 5% decrease in the overall budget.
- Approval of New Policy - The Board approved the new Fundraising Goal Setting Policy.
- Board Officer Election Results:
 - *MOVED to elect Mark Smith as Board Chair for a 2-year term commencing at the close of the 2026 Annual Meeting. CARRIED*
 - *MOVED to elect Sunil Kumar as Board Vice-Chair for a 2-year term commencing at the close of the 2026 Annual Meeting. CARRIED*
 - *MOVED to elect Cathy Tuckwell as Board Past-Chair for a 2-year term commencing at the close of the 2026 Annual Meeting. 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 March 5, 2026 meetings

Audit and Risk Committee

- Risk Register

External Relations Committee

- In Camera Report of the March 4, 2026 meeting
- 2026-2027 Board of Governors Operating Budget
- Recommendation of New Fundraising Goal Setting Policy

Finance and Operations Committee

- In Camera Report of the March 5, 2026 meeting
- Revenue Generation Analysis by Faculty
- 2026-2027 Budget Development Update
- Employee Experience Survey Results

Governance and Nominating Committee

- In Camera Report of the March 4, 2026 meeting
- Board Officer Elections

Other Reports Received

- Chair's In Camera Report
- President's In Camera Report

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