

## Summary of the May 1, 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 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*

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The Board of Governors convened a regular meeting on May 1, 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: Dementia in the Outdoors (Elaine Wiersma, Associate Professor, Department of Health Sciences Researcher, CERAH)**

The Board received a presentation highlighting the impact of community-based initiatives and research aimed at enhancing the lives of people living with dementia through inclusion, social engagement, and meaningful outdoor experiences. By bringing dementia care “out from behind closed doors,” these initiatives challenge stigma, foster active participation, and improve quality of life for individuals living with dementia and their care partners.

#### **Presentation: The Senate and the Board - Working Together to Advance Shared Governance (Dr. Leigh Potvin, Faculty Senator on the Board of Governors)**

The Board received a presentation highlighting the unique relationship between the Board and the Senate, and how each body works both independently and collaboratively to advance the University’s strategic plan goals.

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

#### **Executive Committee**

- Report of the April 9, 2026 meeting

#### **External Relations Committee**

- Report of the April 8, 2026 meeting

#### **Finance and Operations Committee**

- Report of the April 9, 2026 meeting

### **Governance and Nominating Committee**

- Report of the April 8, 2026 meeting
- Notice of Resignation from External Board Member Robert Arnone (as of October 15, 2026)
- Recommendations to External Organizations:
  - *MOVED that Cathy Tuckwell and Michel Piché be appointed to the Lakehead University Pension Plan Board for a 1-year term, commencing October 15, 2026 to the Board Annual meeting in 2027, as recommended by the Board Governance and Nominating Committee. CARRIED*
  - *MOVED that Pauline Tait be appointed to the Lakehead University Ogimaawin Indigenous Education Council for a 1-year term, commencing July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027, as recommended by the Board Governance and Nominating Committee. CARRIED*
  - *MOVED that Michael Nitz be appointed to the Lakehead University Senate for a 1-year term, commencing July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027, as recommended by the Board Governance and Nominating Committee. 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:

- Dr. Paul Cormier was reappointed as Chair in the Keewatinase Department of Indigenous Education for the term effective July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2029.

### **Other Reports Informational Items Received**

- Chair's Report
- President's May Report
- Ogimaawin Indigenous Education Council Reports:
  - February 3, 2026
  - March 31, 2026
- Senate Report (of the April 13, 2026 meeting)

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

- Approval of Tenure Application – Dr. Rebecca North, Department of Biology, Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies

## **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 April 9, 2026 meeting

### **Finance and Operations Committee**

- In Camera Report of the April 9, 2026 meeting
- 2026-2027 Budget Development Update

### **Reports Received**

- President's In Camera Report:
  - Approval of Tenure Application – Dr. Rebecca North, Department of Biology, Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies

The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Governors is June 4, 2026 from 9:30am to 1:30pm (ET), Orillia Campus.