



BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING MINUTES

Date:	December 5, 2025
Time:	8:30am - 1:20pm (ET)
Location:	Thunder Bay Campus: Senate Chamber (UC 1001) Orillia Campus: Room OA 3041 (will be connected to the Senate Chamber) Zoom Meeting

*Zoom

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

Regrets: Simran Talpade; Pauline Mickelson

Absent: Brent Sylvester

Executive Team Members and Support Staff in Attendance: Dr. Gillian Balfour - Provost and Vice-President, Academic; Michael den Haan - Vice-President, University Advancement; Alexandra Korinowsky - Associate Vice-President, Communications; Dr. Langis Roy - Vice-President, Research & Innovation; Marcie Morrison - Recording Secretary; Dr. Heather Murchison - Strategic Advisor to the President and Vice-Provost (Institutional Planning and Analysis); Kathy Pozihun - Vice-President, Administration and Finance; Dr. Linda Rodenburg - Principal, Orillia Campus; Rosanna Scaffeo - Chief of Staff, Office of the President

Invited Guests in Attendance: Roshni Antony - Associate Vice-President, Human Resources (Lakehead University); Cheryl D'Angelo - Director of Student Health & Wellness; Kristi Valley - Technician, Biology (Lakehead University); Andrea Tarsitano - Vice-Provost (Students) & Registrar (Lakehead University)

The Chair opened the meeting by acknowledging the Indigenous territories of Thunder Bay and Orillia.

The meeting was called to order at 8:36am.

Item	Presenter(s)
1. Approval of Agenda MOVED (M. Smith) that the agenda be approved. CARRIED	Cathy Tuckwell

2.	Reminder: Confidentiality, Ethics, and Conduct Members were reminded to declare any in camera items or conflicts of interest that arise and are expected to uphold the Board's Code of Conduct to maintain a respectful, ethical, and positive environment.	Cathy Tuckwell
3.	Consent Agenda The Board Bylaws allow the Consent Agenda to include routine or non-controversial items, such as committee reports, adjunct professor approvals, and academic chair appointments. Any Governor can request that an item be removed to allow for discussion or debate. Supporting documentation for the items in the Consent Agenda was circulated in advance of the meeting. MOVED (R. Lamb) that the Consent Agenda be approved. CARRIED	Cathy Tuckwell
3-C1.	Minutes of Previous Meeting MOVED that the minutes of the October 2, 2025 Annual Meeting be approved. CARRIED	
3-C2.	Executive Committee Report (of the November 13, 2025 meeting)	
3-C3.	Audit and Risk Committee Report (of the November 13, 2025 meeting) 1. Policy Review: Use of University Computers a. Current Policy b. Memo c. WHEREAS the Administration has determined that the policy has become outdated; and WHEREAS relevant elements are covered in the new Acceptable Use Policy; MOVED that the Board of Governors rescind the Use of University Computers policy. CARRIED	
3-C4.	External Relations Committee Report (of the November 12, 2025 meeting)	
3-C5.	Finance and Operations Committee Report (of the November 13, 2025 meeting)	
3-C6.	Governance and Nominating Committee Report (of the November 12, 2025 meeting)	

		<p>1. Notice of Expiring Terms</p> <p><i>In accordance with the Board Bylaws (Article 3.4a), once a year, the Board is advised in writing by the Secretary of the names of those Governors whose terms expire during the current year.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cathy Tuckwell (External) • Mark Smith (External) • Sunil Kumar (External) • Dr. Claudine Cousins (External) • Michael Nitz (External) • Brent Sylvester (LGIC) • David Elliott (LGIC) • Dr. Bryanna Scott-Kay (Student) • Simran Talpade (Student) 	
	3-C7.	Chair's Report	
	3-C8.	<p>President's Reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. December 2025 Report b. Report on Appointments 	
	3-C9.	<p>Other Informational Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Senate Report (of the November 3, 2025 meeting) 	
4.	Items for Discussion from Committee Reports		
4.1	<p>Finance and Operations Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Integrated Planning and Budget Development Process <p>The presentation, which had previously been shared with the Board Finance and Operations Committee on November 13, 2025, was distributed to the Board prior to the meeting.</p> <p>The Administration provided an overview of the presentation. Highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024/25 Fiscal Year End Update • 2025/26 Fiscal Mid-Year Budget Update • Looking Ahead: Environmental Scan 	Robert Arnone, Kathy Pozihun, Dr. Gillian Balfour	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strategic Plan – Financial Sustainability ○ External Environment ○ SMA 4 and Funding Formula Review ○ Revised Integrated Planning and Budgeting Model ● 2026/27 Budget Development ● Next Steps/Critical Timeline ● Capital and Ancillary Budgets <p>Following the presentation, the Administration addressed questions and concerns raised regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● prioritization, advocacy and funding of Northern Universities ● program modification to meet demand ● budget decisions, financial planning and the Board's role ● enrollment and funding impacts ● future growth and investment <p>Maria Vasanelli and Michael Nitz joined the meeting during the presentation.</p>	
4.2	Governance and Nominating Committee	<p>1. Proposal to Dissolve the Board Learning and Liaison Committee (BLLC)</p> <p>The following documents were circulated in advance of the meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Proposal to Dissolve the BLLC (from the Chair of the BLLC) b. Tentative BLLC Dissolution Timeline and Work Schedule (from the Board Secretary) <p>The BGNC Chair and Board Chair provided context and rationale for the proposal.</p> <p>MOVED (M. Smith) that the Board of Governors approve the dissolution of the Board Learning and Liaison Committee, in principle, pending confirmation of acceptable distribution of the committee's work and documentation obligations, and the reassignment of its members.</p> <p>CARRIED</p>	Mark Smith

	<p>2. Board Learning and Liaison Committee (BLLC) Member Reassignment</p> <p>a. MOVED (M. Smith) that the Board of Governors approve the following members of the BLLC be reassigned to the following Board Standing Committees, commencing December 5, 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claudinde Cousins - BGNC • Nancy Luckai - BERC • Rose Zacharias - BERC • Simran Talpade - BERC • Bryanna Scott-Kay - BERC • Michel Piche - BARC <p>CARRIED</p>	
5.	<p>Wellness Strategy Annual Update</p> <p><i>Secretary's Note – The Wellness Strategy Annual Update is overseen by the Board Finance and Operations Committee, which reviews it prior to presentation to the full Board. However, due to the government's 2025 reporting timeline, the usual review process could not be followed this year.</i></p> <p>Andrea Tarsitano, Roshni Antony and Cheryl D'Angelo joined the meeting.</p> <p>Highlights from the presentation that was circulated in advance of the meeting included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy Overview and Highlights • Student Mental Health Policy • Next Steps <p>Following the presentation, the Administration responded to questions related to some of the information provided.</p> <p>Andrea Tarsitano, Roshni Antony, Cheryl D'Angelo left the meeting.</p>	Andrea Tarsitano, Roshni Antony, Cheryl D'Angelo
6.	<p>In Camera Session and Lunch Break</p> <p>MOVED (R. Zacharias) to adjourn to an in camera session to discuss items of a personnel, legal, or real estate nature, or any other item of sensitive or confidential nature, and that only members of and others approved by the Board may be present.</p> <p>CARRIED</p>	Cathy Tuckwell

	<p>At 10:05am the Board adjourned to an in camera session. The Secretary, Recording Secretary and members of the President's Executive Team were invited to remain for the in camera session.</p> <p>The Board returned to the open meeting at 12:50pm.</p>	
6.1	<p>Business Arising from the In Camera Meeting</p> <p>The Secretary reported that the following decisions were adopted during the in camera session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gichi Kendaasiwin Site Plan Approval: <p>The Board of Governors approved the building site plan (the pedestrian bridge area) for the new Gichi Kendaasiwin building on the Thunder Bay Campus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of the new Advancement Investment Model (AIM) and Advancement Investment Model Policy: <p>The Board approved the new Advancement Investment Model and Policy for implementation on January 1, 2026.</p>	Dr. Jason Lisi
7.	<p>Spotlight Presentation: Claude E. Garton Herbarium Highlights and Community Impact</p> <p>Kristi Valley joined the meeting.</p> <p>The presentation, circulated in advance of the meeting, highlighted the vital work undertaken at the facility.</p> <p>The Herbarium houses a scientific collection of over 115,000 plant specimens, functioning as a key resource and botanical record, primarily for Northwest Ontario. Its operations are concentrated on three pillars: Preservation, Research, and Education and Outreach. The herbarium's strategic priorities for the coming years include: expanding Community and Indigenous Partnerships, advancing Digitization and Data Sharing, developing comprehensive Funding and Sustainability Plans, and growing Public Programming.</p> <p>A question and answer session followed the presentation.</p>	Dr. Gillian Balfour; Kristi Valley

	Kristi Valley left the meeting.	
8.	<p>Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">MOVED (M. Piche) to review and revise the Board Handbook and Board Orientation Program. It was encouraged to include the University Secretariat in the review and revisions of these Board documents. Establishing an Ad Hoc Committee was suggested. CARRIED	Cathy Tuckwell
The meeting adjourned at 1:20pm.		

Cathy Tuckwell, Chair

Dr. Jason Lisi, Secretary