



BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

MINUTES

Date:	February 6, 2026
Time:	9:30am - 2:05pm (ET)
Location:	Thunder Bay Campus: Senate Chambers (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; *Dr. Claudine Cousins; Sunil Kumar; Tim Lade; Robert Lamb; Dr. Nancy Luckai; *Pauline Mickelson; Michael Nitz; Michel Piché; Dr. Leigh Potvin; Mark Smith (Vice-Chair); Simran Talpade; Cathy Tuckwell (Chair); Maria Vasaneli

Regrets: Robert Arnone; David Elliott; Dr. Jason Lisi - Secretary (non voting); Dr. Bryanna Scott-Kay; Dr. Gillian Siddall; Dr. Rose Zacharias

Executive Team Members and Support Staff in Attendance: *Dr. Gillian Balfour - Provost and Vice-President, Academic; Michael den Haan - Vice-President, University Advancement; Dr. Langis Roy - Vice-President, Research & Innovation; Trudy McKinnon - Recording Secretary; Marcie Morrison - Acting 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: Dr. Amir Ameli - Associate Professor, Electrical & Computer Engineering (Lakehead University); Amanda Stephanile - Achievement Program Coordinator (Lakehead University); Tom Warden - Athletics Director (Lakehead University)

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

In Memoriam - Jack McCartney

The Chair spoke in memory of Jack McCartney, former Lakehead University Board Chair and Fellow of Lakehead University. The Board observed a moment of silence for Mr. McCartney.

The meeting was called to order at 9:32am.

Item	Presenter(s)
<p>1. Approval of Agenda</p> <p>MOVED (T. Lade) that the agenda be approved. CARRIED</p>	<p>Cathy Tuckwell</p>
<p>2. Reminder: Confidentiality, Ethics, and Conduct</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Cathy Tuckwell</p>
<p>3. Consent Agenda</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Supporting documentation for the items in the Consent Agenda was circulated in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>MOVED (M. Smith) that the Consent Agenda be approved. CARRIED</p>	<p>Cathy Tuckwell</p>
<p>3-C1.</p>	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting</p> <p>MOVED that the minutes of the December 5, 2025 meeting be approved. CARRIED</p>
<p>3-C2.</p>	<p>External Relations Committee Report (of the January 15, 2026 meeting)</p>
<p>3-C3.</p>	<p>Finance and Operations Committee Report (of the January 16, 2026 meeting)</p> <p>a. Policy Review - Budget Surpluses/Deficit Carry Forwards</p> <p>i. Reference Document: Policy Governance Framework</p> <p>ii. Memo</p> <p>iii. Current Policy</p> <p>iv. MOVED that the Board of Governors rescind the Budget Surpluses/Deficit Carry Forwards policy. CARRIED</p>

3-C4.	<p>Governance and Nominating Committee Report (of the January 15, 2026 meeting)</p> <p>a. Amendments to 2025-2026 Approved Board Meeting Schedule</p> <p>i. 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>b. Recommendations for Term Renewals - External Members</p> <p>i. MOVED that the Board of Governors re-elect Mark Smith for a 3-year term. CARRIED</p> <p>ii. MOVED that the Board of Governors re-elect Sunil Kumar for a 3-year term. CARRIED</p> <p>iii. MOVED that the Board of Governors re-elect Claudine Cousins for a 3-year term. CARRIED</p> <p>iv. MOVED that the Board of Governors re-elect Michael Nitz for a 3-year term. CARRIED</p> <p>c. Unscheduled Terms of Reference Review - Board Governance and Nominating Committee</p> <p>Current Terms of Reference</p> <p>i. Proposed Amendments (with markup)</p> <p>ii. MOVED that the Board of Governors approve the proposed amendments to the Board Governance and Nominating Committee Terms of Reference. CARRIED</p>
3-C5.	Chair's Report
3-C6.	President's Reports

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. President's February Report b. President's Report on Appointments 	
	3-C7.	<p>Other Informational Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ogimaawin Indigenous Education Council Report (of the November 25, 2025 meeting) b. Senate Report (of the January 19, 2026 meeting) 	
	4.	Items for Discussion from Committee Reports	
	4.1	<p>Finance and Operations Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Annual Enrolment Update <p>The presentation, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, was delivered and covered these key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strategic Enrolment Management ● Recruitment ● Admissions ● Student Awards and Financial Aid ● Retention <p>Following the presentation, the Administration addressed questions and concerns raised regarding some of the details provided.</p>	<p>Robert Arnone, Dr. Heather Murchison</p>
	5.	<p>Strategic Plan Metrics Interim Report 1</p> <p>The presentation, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, was delivered and included an overview of the reporting timeline and a report on the performance of these seven Strategic Plan metrics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Metric #3 - Enrolment of under-represented student groups in specific programs ● Metric #4 - Increase the cumulative number of international students at Lakehead University ● Metric #6 - Seven-year graduation rate ● Metric #7 - Lakehead's economic impact ● Metric #10a -The number of graduates that stay in the local regions served by Lakehead upon graduation: Northwestern Ontario ● Metric #10b - The number of graduates that stay in the local regions served by Lakehead upon graduation: Simcoe County ● Metric #23 - Increased Enrolment 	<p>Dr. Heather Murchison</p>

	Following the presentation, the Administration responded to questions about some of the data that was provided.	
6.	<p>2026 Research & Innovation Week Highlights - <i>“Our Next-Gen Transformative Research”</i></p> <p>The presentation, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, was delivered, showcasing the Research & Innovation Week events in Thunder Bay.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thunder Bay: February 23-27, 2026 • Orillia: March 3, 2026 <p>Following the presentation, the Administration responded to questions about promoting R&I Week and provided clarification on the Orillia schedule.</p>	Dr. Langis Roy
7.	<p>Lakehead University Achievement Program Overview</p> <p>Tom Warden and Amanda Stephanile joined the meeting.</p> <p>The presentation, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, was delivered, highlighting the success and impact of Lakehead’s Achievement Program.</p> <p>Following the presentation, the Administration responded to questions related to the information that was provided.</p>	Maria Vasanelli, Tom Warden, Amanda Stephanile
8.	<p>In Camera Session and Lunch Break</p> <p>MOVED (M. Smith) 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. CARRIED</p> <p>At 11:23am the Board adjourned to an in camera session. The Acting 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 1:56pm.</p>	Cathy Tuckwell
8.1	Business Arising from the In Camera Meeting	Cathy Tuckwell

It was reported that the following business was dealt with during the in camera session:

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*

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

9.	<p>Spotlight Presentation: Operational Readiness for Battery and Demand Response Dominated Grid in Ontario</p> <p>Dr. Amir Ameli joined the meeting.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Dr. Amir Ameli left the meeting.</p>	Dr. Amir Ameli
10.	<p>Other Business</p> <p>There was no other business.</p>	Cathy Tuckwell
The meeting adjourned at 2:30pm.		

Cathy Tuckwell, Chair

Marcie Morrison, Acting Secretary