

University of Waterloo
BOARD OF GOVERNORS COMMITTEE
Minutes of the February 4, 2025 Meeting
[in agenda order]

Present: Nasser Abukhdeir, Avery Akkerman, Michael Ashmore, Marc Aucoin, Aubrey Basdeo, Linda Blair, Teresa Fortney, Murray Gamble (chair), Vivek Goel (president), Neela Hassan, Nancy Heide, Andre Hladio, Bilal Khan, Brian Lipskie, Dorothy McCabe, Kristiina Montero, Terry Mundell, Nicholas Pellegrino, David Porreca, Tracy Primeau, Neil Randall, John Saabas, James Skidmore, Dan Weber, Sarah Willey-Thomas (secretary), Jennisha Wilson

Guests: Suman Armitage, Jean Becker, Alison Boyd, Graham Brown, MaryAnne Chan, Charmaine Dean, David DeVidi, Nenone Donaldson, Bernard Duncker, Stepanka Elias, Melanie Figueiredo, Paul Fieguth, Jenny Flagler-George, Genevieve Gauthier-Chalifour, Bruce Frayne, Anne Galang, Mark Giesbrecht, Mike Grivicic, Diana Goncalves, Sarah Hadley, Angela Herman, Michelle Hollis, Trevor Holmes, Chris Houser, Diane Johnston, Andrea Kelman, Jennifer Kieffer, Lili Liu, Nick Manning, Jon Mason, Norah McRae, Christine McWebb, Ian Milligan, Bessma Momani, Beth Namachchivaya, Catherine Newell-Kelly, Fayaz Noormohamed, Nicholas Pfeifle, Chris Read, Jacinda Reitsma, James Rush, Daniela Seskar-Hencic, Kathy Smidt, Allan Starr, Kerry Stryker, Brandon Sweet, Christopher Taylor, Alexie Tcheuyap, Mathew Thijssen, Caitlin Vaux, Nickola Voegelin, Tim Weber-Kraljevski, Glen Wepler, Katy Wong-Francq

Regrets: Catherine Dong, Saheza Pardhan, Karen Redman, Asher Scaini, Jagdeep Singh Bachher, Berry Vrbancic

Organization of Meeting: Murray Gamble took the chair and Sarah Willey-Thomas acted as secretary. The secretary advised that a quorum was present.

OPEN SESSION

5. Approval of Agenda

5.1. Agenda and Minutes

5.1.1. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

5.1.2. Approval of Agenda and Consent Items

Porreca/Khan.

To approve the agenda of the February 4, 2025 Board of Governors meeting, as presented; and, to approve or receive for information consent agenda items

16.1 - 16.3.

CARRIED

5.1.3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters of business arising.

6. Remarks from the Chair

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and thanked Nenone Donaldson, Vice-President Advancement and her team for hosting the morning education session and also thanked members that attended the session. The Chair made note of various ongoing geopolitical and socioeconomic issues impacting post-secondary education and the need to identify opportunities and a path forward during these times.

7. Report of the President

As the President was unable to attend the meeting in person, the Chair opened the floor for members to ask questions of the President regarding current affairs in lieu of a formal report. No questions were asked.

8. Audit & Risk Committee Report

8.1. Report from the Chair

Bilal Khan, Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee, presented the report. There were no questions.

9. Building & Properties Committee Report

9.1. Report from the Chair

John Saabas, Chair of the Building & Properties Committee, presented the report. There were no questions.

10. Community & Culture Committee Report

10.1. Report from the Chair

Linda Blair, Chair of the Community & Culture Committee, presented the report. There were no questions.

11. Executive Committee Report

11.1. Report from the Chair

The Chair presented the Executive Committee report, noting the recent approval of changes to the University's Policy 33 – Ethical Behaviour to align with anti-racism and anti-hate directives issued pursuant to Bill 166, Strengthening Student Accountability and Supports Act, and which required approval by January 31, 2025, in accordance with the deadline set by the provincial government. There were no questions.

12. Finance & Investment Committee Report

12.1. Report from the Chair

Michael Ashmore, Chair of the Finance & Investment Committee, presented the report. There were no questions.

12.2. Operating Budget Update and Return to a Balanced Budget

James Rush, Vice-President Academic and Provost, presented the operating budget update, as well as a three year plan to return to a balanced budget.

The Board discussed opportunities for revenue generation through the new hospital project, and other options for addressing the deficit such as external debt and a reduced timeline to achieve a balanced budget. The board also discussed how funds are used and viewed at department and faculty levels.

12.3. 2025-26 Tuition and Co-op Fees

Jennifer Kieffer, Interim Associate Provost, Integrated Planning and Budgeting, presented the 2025-26 Tuition and Co-op Fees. It was noted that the schedules included as part of the report would be updated to reflect the 2025-26 fee schedule. The fees are as presented for approval.

Nicholas Pfeifle, President of the Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association, made a representation to the Board to express concern over the Co-op fee increase and the benefits received from this increase.

Norah McRae, Associate Provost, Co-operative and Experiential Education responded to questions and concerns raised during the representation, highlighting the need for the increased fees in order to continue service levels, and consultation undertaken.

The Board discussed proposed tuition increases and potential impact on enrollment, and concerns regarding the Co-op fee increase and the impact on student experience.

A governor requested that the motion be taken in two parts, to separate consideration of the tuition rate increases from co-op fee increases.

Abukhdeir/Porreca.

That “approval of 2025-2026 Tuition Rate Increases” and “approval of 2025-26 Co-op Fees” be presented as separate questions.

CARRIED

Ashmore/Skidmore.

That the Board of Governors approve the Tuition Rate Increases for 2025-26, effective May 1, 2025, as presented.

CARRIED

Ashmore/Primeau

That the Board of Governors approve Co-op Fees for 2025-26, effective May 1, 2025, as presented.

CARRIED

12.4. 2025-26 Campus Housing Fees

Jacinda Reitsma, Vice-President, Finance & Administration, presented the 2025-26 Campus Housing Fees. It was noted that the fees were being increased in accordance with the seven-year housing fee plan presented to the Board at its meeting held February 6, 2024.

Members discussed concerns expressed by the Graduate Student Association that the increases to housing fees were being made without commensurate increases to other graduate student funding. Members also discussed the impact housing fee increases would have on the competitiveness of campus housing in the current market.

Ashmore/Fortney.

That the Board of Governors approve the 2025-26 residence fee rates, effective Fall 2025, as presented.

CARRIED

12.5. Student Service Fees

Jacinda Reitsma, Vice-President, Finance & Administration, presented the updated student service fees, and noted that the fees were reviewed and received input from the Student Services Advisory Committee.

Ashmore/Weber.

That the Board of Governors approve the Student Service Fees for all full-time and part-time undergraduate students effective May 1, 2025, as presented.

CARRIED

13. Governance Committee Report

13.1. Report from the Chair

The Chair presented the Governance Committee report, noting consent item 16.3.1, approved earlier in the meeting, will amend the governance year to run from September 1 – August 31. There were no questions.

13.2. Governance & Leadership Committee: Proposed Terms of Reference

The Chair presented the proposed terms of reference for the new Governance & Leadership Committee, which reflected a modernized mandate for the existing Governance Committee.

**Board of Governors
Minutes of the Meeting held February 4, 2025**

Members discussed membership of internal governors on Board Committees, and in which cases membership on a committee can be increased.

Fortney/Skidmore.

That the Board of Governors approve:

- a) That the name of the Governance Committee be amended to the "Governance & Leadership Committee"; and**
- b) That the existing terms of reference for the Committee be repealed and replaced with the new proposed terms of reference; and**
- c) That the new Committee title and terms of reference be effective immediately.**

CARRIED

13.3. Presidential Nominating Committee Membership

The Chair presented the proposed Board appointees for membership on the Presidential Nominating Committee, in accordance with Policy 50 – The President of the University.

Fortney/Skidmore.

That the Board of Governors approve the following members for appointment to the Presidential Nominating Committee: Linda Blair, Tracy Primeau, Sahezaad Pardhan, Diana Vangelisti, Nicholas Pellegrino, Catherine Dong, and Achim Kempf.

CARRIED

14. Pension & Benefits Committee Report

14.1. Report from the Chair

Teresa Fortney, Chair of the Pension & Benefits Committee, presented the report. There were no questions.

15. Other Business

There were no matters of other business.

16. Consent Agenda

16.1. Minutes of the October 29, 2024 Meeting

To approve the minutes of the October 29, 2024 Board of Governors meeting, as presented.

CARRIED

16.2. Report of the Vice-President, Academic and Provost

16.2.2. Sabbatical and Administrative Leaves

**Board of Governors
Minutes of the Meeting held February 4, 2025**

To approve the sabbatical and administrative leaves, as presented.

CARRIED

16.2.3. Undergraduate and Graduate Admissions Update

Provided for information.

16.2.4. Academic Quality Enhancement Report

Provided for information.

16.3. Governance Committee Report

16.3.1. Governor Term End Dates – Changes Arising from By-law 1

That, on the recommendation of the Governance Committee and further to amendments to Board By-law 1 as approved by the Board of Governors on October 26, 2024, the Board of Governors approve the following:

- a) That current governor terms ending April 30, 2025 be extended to August 31, 2025; and**
- b) That current governor terms ending April 30, 2026 be extended to August 31, 2026; and**
- c) That current governor terms ending April 30, 2027 be extended to August 31, 2027.**

CARRIED

17. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

There were no items removed from the consent agenda.

February 19, 2025

Sarah Willey-Thomas,
Associate University Secretary