



ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY

Federated with the University of Waterloo

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Minutes of Thursday, June 19, 2025 Meeting

Present: Michael Pautler (Board Chair), Melissa Carvalhal, Justin Heimpel*, Anne Jamieson, Carol Ann MacGregor, Peter Meehan, Tamara Nugent, Matthew Bondy, Bruce Rodrigues, Cheri Chevalier, Deron Waldock, Ayo Owodunni, Shannon Straus, Melanie Garaffa*

Resources: Karen Radcliffe, Director, Finance and Administration; Grace Nandi, Recording Secretary

Regrets: Michael Braga, Alexie Tcheuyap, Fr. Tim Uniac, Norm Klassen, Andrew Deman, Katrina Moller

Guest: Tracy Liu

**Attended the meeting virtually using Zoom.*

OPEN SESSION

1. PRAYER & TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

M. Pautler provided an acknowledgement that St. Jerome's University and the University of Waterloo reside and operate on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron, Anishinaabeg, and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land Frederick Haldimand granted to the Haudenosaunee of the Six Nations of the Grand River in 1784 that includes 10 kilometers on both sides of the Grand River and extends from its source to Lake Erie.

The prayer was provided by M. Pautler.

2. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair commenced the meeting by introducing Tracy Liu, recently elected President of the Students' Union, who joined the Board as a guest for the Open Session. The Chair noted that her appointment will be confirmed during the Confidential Session, effective July 1, 2025, for a one-year term. Members were also reminded to use microphones to ensure accessibility for virtual attendees.

3. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

P. Meehan provided the following updates:

- The past two months, particularly May and June, have been a busy period. The most recent highlight was the National Conference Dinner, which focused on *"The Journey of Encounter."* This was held in connection with the broader conversation on synodality, stemming from the last two sessions in Rome—an initiative that originated within this diocese. The event spanned three days at SJU and included conversations in the Spirit, liturgies, dynamic discussions, guest speakers, and a televised panel. We had approximately 150 participants, including members of the Indigenous Advisory Circle. G. Nandi will be circulating the YouTube recording and related synodality materials for the Board's reference. Special thanks were extended to Melissa for her key role in organizing the event.
- The Board retreat was recognized as a significant and strategic starting point in advancing the project in its current form. It offers a meaningful opportunity to enhance stakeholder

engagement, strengthen the University's public profile, and support the continued growth and expansion of its mission.

- The first cohort of the Catholic Leadership Program is nearing completion, with a small graduation ceremony scheduled for August 2025. Follow-ups with participants are currently being conducted to ensure all requirements are fulfilled. We are looking to recruit the second cohort of Catholic Leadership Program soon.
- I'd like to extend my sincere thanks to M. Pautler as he concludes four impactful years as Chair of the Board at St. Jerome's University. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work alongside you. I've learned a great deal through our collaboration and deeply appreciate your leadership, support, and dedicated contributions throughout your tenure.

M. Pautler expressed gratitude to the board members concluding their terms. Acknowledgment was given to A. Deman, who is finishing his term as the Faculty representative, who has been a pleasure to work with. He consistently offered a balanced perspective, guided by a generous view of the University's best interests, and served with integrity and passion. Although he was not present for a formal farewell, we thank him sincerely for his service and look forward to welcoming S. Bednarski.

M. Pautler also acknowledged Cheri Chevalier, who is concluding six years of dedicated service on the Board of St. Jerome's University. C. Chevalier has brought deep knowledge, strong business acumen, and valuable insight from the corporate sector into her role. Her passion, loyalty, and genuine affection for the University have been evident in all she does. I've personally learned a great deal from her. As Chair of the Mission Committee for three years, she provided thoughtful and impactful leadership. As this marks her final meeting as a board member, we extend our sincere gratitude for her outstanding service and commitment to the University.

C. Chevalier thanked the board Chair and reflected on her six-year tenure on the board, which has been a tremendous journey with a lot to learn through fiscal responsibility. There were challenges such as the pandemic, leadership process and highlighted success in attracting top talent from around the world. She expressed her gratitude to all those she had the privilege of working with, noting that their collaboration made the journey meaningful.

M. Pautler concluded by expressing his sincere gratitude to the Board, noting that it has been a great privilege to serve as the Chair of the Board. He reflected on the personal and professional growth he experienced over the past six years, remarking that the experience has given him more than he could give in return. He described the period as one of consistent growth, progress, and forward momentum for the University. He acknowledged the Board's active role in shaping the University's future, particularly through the recruitment of strong leadership, and affirmed that St. Jerome's University is in a stronger position today than it was six years ago. He thanked the Board for their continued confidence and support and wished everyone the very best moving forward.

4. VICE PRESIDENT ACADEMIC AND DEAN REMARKS:

The VPAD reported on relevant items from her area, including:

- The transition of the Registrar's Office portfolio into the Vice President, Academic and Dean's portfolio has become more formalized following the departure of two staff members from the same department within the same week. In response, Peter has assumed several responsibilities previously held by the Executive Director of Finance, while I have taken on the majority of the Registrar's Office portfolio. This shift has already led to closer collaboration with Recruitment, and we are identifying several opportunities

for process improvements. We have reposted the Manager of Outreach and Recruitment position, a critical role in St. Jerome's recruitment efforts. In the interim, the position is being held by a strong and capable individual.

- This year has been challenging for SJU in terms of co-registered student numbers, though this is unrelated to the recent staff departures. The decline appears to be influenced in part by a lack of overlap between short-term contract recruiters, external dynamics at the University of Waterloo that are beyond our direct control, and limitations within the admissions corridor that determines which students are eligible to join UW. Currently, we have 70 co-registered students, falling short of our target of 100 but hope we have a higher number of students next year.
- The Faculty of Arts at the University of Waterloo is currently undergoing a restructuring process led by the newly appointed Board of Governors Faculty representative, Alexie Tcheuyap, who will be spending most of the summer focused on this.

5. AGENDA REVIEW, DECLARE CONFLICTS, ADDITIONS, CHANGES

There were no conflicts to declare on the agenda.

J. Heimpel declared some changes to one of the Governance and Nomination reports under agenda item no. 8, to be included in the confidential session. Additionally, agenda item no. 10 on Financial Forecast update to be moved into the confidential session.

M. Bondy added Board housekeeping to be discussed in the confidential session.

Motion: To approve the agenda with the amendments.

Moved: A. Jamieson, **Seconded:** A. Owodunni, **Carried**

Consent Agenda

6. MINUTES OF MAY 1, 2025 OPEN BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

7. COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

8. SENATE COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP: A RECOMMENDATION FROM SENATE COUNCIL

Motion: To approve and receive for information by consent items 7 to 9 above.

Moved: T. Nugent, **Seconded:** D. Waldock, **Carried**

Regular Agenda

9. PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

The presentation was given by P. Meehan, with snapshots of some of the highlights broken down into 4 Strategic Priorities:

- Catholic Mission and Identity
- Academic Excellence
- Wellness & Community building
- Sustainable future

Based on the report provided by P. Meehan, A. Owodunni asked if there were more mental health

cases being reported and how the University is handling these cases. P. Meehan mentioned that the university has a Wellness Coordinator, Angelina Dodds, who has been providing detailed reports to staff and students. We are much better positioned to serve our students.

Motion: To rise out of the open session for a dinner break and resume at 6:00pm with the Confidential session.

Moved: A. Owodunni, **Seconded:** M. Carvalhal, **Carried.**

10. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

[Secretary's note: The Chair congratulated Chad Wriglesworth for receiving a 2025 Distinguished Teacher Award and expressed appreciation for his contributions to the University. The Chair also extended congratulations to P. Meehan, recipient of the G.E. Clerk Award from the Canadian Catholic Historical Association, presented during the Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities. This recognition was noted in the Confidential Session and is now being formally acknowledged in the Open Session.]

Following the adjournment of the confidential session, the Board reopened the open session to announce the appointment of new board members.

Peter Copeland and Dr. John Michiels were appointed as Members at Large for an initial three-year term beginning July 1, 2025.

Steven Bednarski was appointed as a Faculty Board Member for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2025.

Tracy Liu was appointed as the Student Board Member for a one-year term beginning July 1, 2025.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Moved: A. Owodunni, **Seconded:** M. Carvalhal, **Carried.**

June 19, 2025
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Michael Pautler
Chair of the Board of Governors