

June 9, 2023

## Meeting Minutes

### Board-Senate joint meeting

Present	Board members: David Morrison (Chair), Carol Geddes (Vice-Chair), Tom Ulyett, Christine Mahar, Pearl Callaghan, Mark Wedge, Kathleen Van Bibber, Samara Robertson-Lawless, Sara McPhee-Knowles  Senate members: Victoria Castillo (co-chair), Amanda Graham, Andrew Richardson, Dan Anton, Doug McRae, John Reid, Julie Hawkins, Katie Aitken, Kevin Kennedy, Shelagh Rowles, Sky Pearson, Terri Wright  Board and Senate members: Lesley Brown (Senate co-chair), James Allen, Joel Cubley
Regrets	Board: Jason Bilsky, Judy Gingell, Chris Milner  Senate: Alexander Garcia, Aline Goncalves, Brent Langbakk, Ernie Prokopchuk, Kim Diamond, Liris Smith, Rhonda Wildeman, Nicole Rayburn, Jaclyn Semple
Resource persons (PEC members)	Gavin Gardiner, Shelagh Rowles, Bronwyn Hancock, Peter Deegan, Trika MacDonald, John Reid
Recorder	Irina Bogachek

*Required quorum:*

*Board - majority of its members;*

*Senate - 10 members, of which 6 must be faculty; to carry a motion - majority of these members.*

- Welcome: call to order at 9:08am.
- Moment of reflection by James Allen.
- Declaration of Conflict of Interest: none declared.

### BS1 Agenda for the Joint Session

MOTION: moved by Carol Geddes, seconded by Christine Mahar to approve the agenda for the joint Board-Senate meeting as presented. CARRIED

### BS2 Universities Canada application

Introduction by President Lesley Brown.

*James Allen left at 9:29 am*

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Presentation by Christine Tausig Ford, President of Higher Thinking Strategies:  
what Universities Canada is and what it is not; membership benefits to Yukon University, its faculty,  
and students; application process and timeline.

*Key discussions:*

- Universities that are not eligible to be a member (private, for-profit universities).
- Universities that have chosen not to be a member – what are they and reasons.
- Standard university governance structure – membership requirements and YukonU status.
- Membership benefits YukonU and goals (promoting the North of 60 voice is one of the main goals).
- Traditional knowledge resource sharing: how and whether to share, membership requirements.
- Integral role of Trades (not reflected in the application since only degree programs will be evaluated).
- Requirement for a minimum number of degrees (no requirements).
- Other representative bodies, their relationships, and our relations to them as members of Universities Canada (as a regional type of universities, we would be belonging to both, Universities Canada and CICAN).

*Julie Hawkins left at 10:06am*

- Next steps, typical scenarios (incl. failed application);  
application submission – June 21, application review – summer 2023, mock visit (other Universities' Presidents who are members of Universities Canada).
- Indigenization and de-colonization of the university, its space, curriculum, governance, etc.;  
partnership programs with FNs; preparing students to transition into FNs self-governance; reflection of emotions and feelings in the programming.  
Add First Nations self-governance to the application.
- Categories of rank and their distribution – application requirements and evaluation (PhDs will be but rank distribution won't be looked at).
- Application and membership costs.

Acknowledgement of the work done by the previous YukonU leadership team led by President Karen Barnes and to Chair of the School of Liberal Arts Amanda Graham for her assistance with the application drafting and review.

MOTION: moved by Kevin Kennedy, seconded by Tom Ulyett that YukonU Board and Senate jointly approve the Yukon University's draft application to Universities Canada with amendments: add First Nations self-governance and the uniqueness of the Final Agreements into the Application. CARRIED unanimously.

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Break

*Katie Aitken and Pearl Callaghan left.*

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**BS3** Academic Freedom Policy

Preamble by University Secretary and General Counsel Gavin Gardiner.

*Key discussions:*

- Academic Freedom vs. Freedom of Expression.

- Oral histories and stories – ownership and Academic Freedom.
  - o OCAP – national body established to govern this and can be looked at for best practices.
  - o will be covered in the Academic Integrity Policy.
- Traditional knowledge and research results: refining knowledge while honouring traditions. Teaching & research is guided by Academic Freedom and publishing is based on the research results.
- Implications of the Policy and readiness for it.  
*This Policy is a framework and reflects regulations and commitments that are already in place.*
- Typical policy review period at YukonU (3 years).

**MOTION:** moved by Doug McRae, seconded by Carol Geddes that YukonU Board and Senate jointly approve the YukonU Academic Freedom Policy with the addition that it be reviewed following the finalization of the Indigenization Strategy. CARRIED unanimously.

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#### **BS4** Board and Senate Relationship Policy

Preamble by University Secretary and General Counsel Gavin Gardiner.

This Policy reflects collegial decision-making process, responsibilities, and relationships of the two governing bodies as directed by the YukonU Act.

*No objections.*

**MOTION:** moved by Doug McRae, seconded by Victoria Castillo that YukonU Board and Senate jointly approve the Board and Senate Relationship Policy as presented. CARRIED unanimously.

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#### **BS5** Joint Session adjournment

**MOTION:** moved by Lesley Brown to adjourn the joint session at 11:36am. CARRIED

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#### *Board-Senate Lunch*

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#### **Board regular meeting**

Present	Board members: David Morrison (Chair), Carol Geddes (Vice-Chair), James Allen, Lesley Brown, Tom Ulyett, Christine Mahar, Pearl Callaghan, Mark Wedge, Kathleen Van Bibber, Samara Robertson-Lawless, Sara McPhee-Knowles, Joel Cubley, Chris Milner
Regrets	Jason Bilsky, Judy Gingell
Resource persons (PEC members)	Gavin Gardiner, Shelagh Rowles, Bronwyn Hancock, Peter Deegan, Trika MacDonald, John Reid
Recorder	Irina Bogachek

*Required quorum: majority of the members*

- Welcome: call to order at 1:00pm.  
*New member welcome:* Samara Robertson-Lawless – employee (non-faculty) representative, Sara McPhee-Knowles – faculty representative.  
*Outgoing member farewell:* Jennifer Harkes - employee (non-faculty) representative, March 2020-2023.

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- Moment of reflection by Mark Wedge.
  - Declaration of Conflict of Interest:  
Joel Cubley, Sara McPhee-Knowles for item 13(a, b);  
Samara Robertson-Lawless for item 13(b).

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**B1** Meeting Agenda approval

MOTION: moved by Sara McPhee-Knowles, seconded by Christine Mahar to approve the meeting agenda as presented. CARRIED

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**B2** Consent Agenda: approval of minutes from September 23, 2022

MOTION: moved by Joel Cubley, seconded by Christine Mahar to approve the meeting notes from February 17, 2023 as presented. CARRIED

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**B3** Report from Board Chair (verbal)

Update from David Morrison; special note on the Polaris project next steps as discussed at FARC and brought to this meeting for information (item B7).

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**B4** Report from President (written)

Provided in the meeting package.  
*No questions/discussion.*

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**B5** Reports from Senior Executives (written)

Written reports provided in the meeting package.

- Provost & VP Academic.  
No questions/discussion.
- VP Finance & Administration, CFO.  
Clarification point: request for additional funds for new info system includes Banner replacement.
- Polaris Update / science building.  
to be provided under B7, Finance, Audit & Risk Committee.

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**B6** Accountability Framework Update

Provided by President & Vice-Chancellor Lesley Brown.

*Key discussions:*

- Current status of the amended plan: with YG for consideration, no formal confirmation/approval.  
Approval timeline:  
Dec 2022 - Board endorses the draft and sends it to YG.  
Winter/Spring 2023 - YG holds public consultations.  
Fall 2023 – approval by Minister of Education.
- The Framework captures high-level categories and measures; more detailed, specific indicators can be added for internal use.

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- Definition of “co-created projects” needs clarification; currently, these are the YukonU partnership projects with Yukon First Nations and communities.
  - Indigenous student data can now be captured going forward.
  - Student satisfaction: this data is taken from the internal survey; the use of NSSE is in plans (National Survey of Student Engagement)

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## **B7** Finance, Audit & Risk Committee

### 1. Chair Report by Chris Milner - discussions from June 8 FARC meeting:

- Polaris Project update and discussion:
  - o Health Science addition: risks of doing vs not doing; impact on YukonU’s Health programs.
  - o risks of waiting longer and staying inactive: unconfirmed YG’s commitment.
  - o other sources of financing: absence of the private health sector to support the Health Science part.

Proposed next steps:

- a. The President and Board Chair (or their respective designates) will follow up in person with Yukon Government officials following the letters.
- b. If there is no indication that the Health Sciences addition is a priority for Yukon Government, the University will proceed to tender, following Board Two Approval, with a single-story Polaris Project.

*No objections.*

- Budget Variance report.  
*No questions/discussion.*
- Cybersecurity framework  
Great report; add to a future Board meeting for more details and Q&A.
- 2021-22 Audit Management Letter
  - o tool for improvement
  - o delayed communication - a lot has been done since it was issued.

### 2. Motions from June 8 FARC meeting:

- a. Procurement Policy
- b. Asset Management Policy
- c. Authorization Policy

*Discussion:* the definition of “Asset” - will be set out in procedures.

MOTION: moved by Christine Mahar, seconded by Joel Cubley to revoke the existing Approval Authority (AS 1.0) and Procurement and Contracting (AF 3.0) policies and replace them with the three new policies AF 3.0 Procurement Policy, AS 1.0 Signing Authority Policy, and AF 5.0 Asset Management Policy, as presented, effective July 01, 2023. CARRIED unanimously.

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## **B8** Governance Committee

- ### 1. Chair Report by Christine Mahar - discussions from June 2 Governance Committee meeting:
- June 2 meeting overview.

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- Establishment of the process to access legal advice at YukonU, policy and governance work completed by the University Secretariat and reviewing of policies and terms of reference for governing bodies this summer.

2. Motions from June 2 Governance Committee meeting.

a. Board meeting calendar 2023-24

- Increased meeting time as requested by the Board – now 3 hours instead of the prev. average 1.5 hour.
- Two committees per day to accommodate longer meetings (same one week before Board meetings): Monday – Governance and FARC, Friday – HRC and IAC.
- The Board Planning Calendar is a living document and included for information purposes.

*No objections/discussion.*

MOTION: moved by Tom Ulyett , seconded by Carol Geddes to approve the meeting dates for the Board and Board Committees for 2023-24 as presented, with understating that dates and times are subjects to change as agreed by the group’s members (Board/Board committee). CARRIED unanimously.

b. Legal Services Policy

Recommendation: for external counsel to give preference to a local counsel.

MOTION: moved by Tom Ulyett, seconded by Sara McPhee-Knowles to adopt the Legal Services Policy with the addition of “availability of local counsel to provide the service” to the factors that need be considered for outside counsel in section 5, External Counsel. CARRIED unanimously.

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**B9** Human Resources Committee

1. Chair Report by Tom Ulyett - discussions from June 2 HR Committee meeting:

- HR Dashboard: updated data.
- Board training opportunities 2023-24:
  - o Financial training will be provided at the Board retreat this Fall.
  - o Governance Foundations online workshop with Cheryl A. Foy, September 7; 10 seats reserved for Board members.
  - o Communication and Indigenous Core Competency trainings will be scheduled for Winter-Spring 2023-24.
- Equity Diversity & Inclusion at YukonU:
  - o Update by President Lesley Brown.
  - o Performance measures to be determined.
  - o EDI and governing bodies membership to be looked at.
- Board Evaluations: individual interviews will be scheduled during this summer.
- Policy revision - BOG 13.0, BOG 18.0, BOG 20.0: approval is deferred until after this summer’s big revision by the University Secretariat.
- Status of Board of Governors: membership and vacancies as of June 2023.
- University Foundation Board representative:  
Board members interested in serving on the Yukon University Foundation were asked to identify themselves to the Board Chair no later than June 23, 2023.

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2. Motions from June 2 HR Committee meeting.

No motions (HR's recommendation was withdrawn to ensure the selection process is followed):

Jason Bilsky's Board appointment as a general representative expires June 4, 2023. To follow the provisions of the policy BOG 17.0, "an ad for application to the Board of Governors with specific requirements and eligibility" will be posted in the coming days. Appointment proposal will be brought to the Board through the HR Committee in September. Until then, Jason will continue to serve as regulated by the Act.

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**B10** Indigenous Advisory Circle

1. Chair Report by Carol Geddes - discussions from June 2 IAC meeting:

- discussions from June 2 meeting.
- youth engagement in planning and decision-making

*Comments:*

- o planning: all institutional plans have been developed in consultations with our students and community youth.
- o decision-making: the memberships of the governing bodies and their committees require student representation.

2. Motions from June 2 IAC meeting.

No motions.

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**B11** Report from Student Union

The Board student member position is not filled; anticipated date – September.

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**B12** 2023-2028 Academic Plan

Presented by Provost and VP Academic Shelagh Rowles,

Acknowledgements to Vice-Provost, Academic and Research Bronwyn Hancock, senior advisor Dr. Fiona Schmiegelow and the Working Committee.

*Key discussions:*

- Indigenization Strategy (under development) and Academic Plan alignment.
- Innovative Learning and setting the most vulnerable students for success.
- Post pandemic enrolment issues.
- Serving community needs: flexible learning options including distant programs.
- Assessment tools and their cultural relevance.

MOTION: moved by Mark Wedge, seconded by Christine Mahar to approve Academic Plan 2023-2028 as presented. CARRIED unanimously.

Action Item: add *Academic Plan Update* to the Board agenda for June 2024.

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**B13** a. Academic Ranking system (re. Board, Feb 17, action item)

Members with the Conflict of Interest left: Sara McPhee-Knowles, Joel Cubley, John Reid.

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Preamble by Executive Advisor to the President Trika MacDonald.

*Discussion:* academic ranking for indigenous knowledge holders and teaching opportunities as per the new Collective Agreement.

b. Collective Agreement 2022-24: executive summary

Members with the Conflict of Interest left: Samara Robertson-Lawless.

Bargaining Mandate summary provided by Trika MacDonald.

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**B14** Future agenda items – *requests from the floor.*  
Action Items Update - *provided in the package.*

*No questions/discussion*

*Carol Geddes left at 4:07pm*

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**B15** Adjournment

MOTION: moved by Marl Wedge, seconded by Pearl Callaghan to adjourn at 4:11pm. CARRIED

*Next meeting - September 23, 2023.*

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