

## Meeting Minutes

Board Members present:	David Morrison (Chair), Christine Mahar, Jason Bilsky, Jeff Wolosewich, Jennifer Telford, Lesley Brown, Mark Wedge, Michelle Parsons, Sara McPhee-Knowles, Sharon Shadow, Tom Ullyett, Victoria Fred
regrets:	Brenda Butterworth-Carr, Judy Gingell, Samara Robertson-Lawless
PEC members, present:	Shelagh Rowles, Andrea McIntyre, Gavin Gardiner, Trika MacDonald, Aisha Montgomery, Lindsay Moore
Visitors:	n/a
Recorder	Irina Bogachek, Governance Officer
<i>Required quorum: majority of the members</i>	

1. Call to order at 1:00pm
  - Moment of reflection by Tom Ullyett
  - Land acknowledgement by David Morrison.

### 2. Agenda approval

**MOTION:** MOVED by Michelle Parsons, SECONDED by Sara McPhee-Knowles to approve the meeting agenda as presented. **CARRIED**

### 3. Consent Agenda approval

Decision items:

1. Board minutes, December 13, 2024
2. Board Executive minutes, January 10, 2025 (confidential)
3. Board Executive minutes, February 15, 2025 (confidential)
4. Board Executive voting results – President Reappointment Committee, Senate nominees.

Information items:

5. President's report on delegated authorities.

**MOTION:** MOVED by Christine Mahar, SECONDED by Jason Bilsky to approve the consent agenda items 1, 2, 4, and 5 as presented, and item 3 - Board Executive, February 15, 2025 minutes, with Christine Mahar added as a meeting attendee. **CARRIED**

### 4. Report from Board Chair (verbal)

- Several Executive Committee meetings early this year on the Polaris Project.
- Meeting with the Minister – no concerns with the report.

- President Reappointment Committee – had three meeting; great effort and discussions; working hard to aim for Board June meeting.

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**5. Report from President (written)**

- Report provided in the package.
- Universities Canada publication on YukonU's membership, interview with the President; will be shared with the Board members.
- Executive Team appointments: new VP Finance and Administration Andrea McIntyre and interim AVP Reconciliation Lindsay Moore.

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**6. Reports from Senior Executives (written)**

Written reports provided in the meeting package.

**a. Provost & VP Academic**

No additions.

**b. Finance and Administration Portfolio Update**

- YG tabled their budget for debate; YukonU funding is status quo, with reduced capital budget (more under the Budget item below).

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**7. Finance, Audit & Risk Committee**

**1. Report from Chair Jason Bilsky**

Discussions from February 24, 2025:

- Previous quarter close report (up to Dec 31, 2024) – positive variance.
- Full year forecast and anticipated year-end surplus.
- Audit Plan review with OAG – approved by FARC as presented.
- Audit Management letter for the previous year's report - received at the end of last week, after FARC met; to be discussed at the May meeting.
- Pension plan report: very healthy plan, in surplus; risk factors/liabilities – assets, people's longevity, inflation; actions taken to minimize risks - eliminated the Letter of credit, initiated contribution holiday for 2025 calendar year (will be funded from the surplus); pension governance report.
- Major projects update on Polaris (further on the agenda) and Enterprise Resource Planning System – close to completion.
- Annuity buy-in: goal – to outsource out liability to derisk part of the Plan; quotation received at 5% less than expected.
- University Budget 2025-26 and Pension appointment – further, under the motions part.

*Mark Wedge joined*

Discussion:

- Pension plan - numbers of retirees and active members are the same – should this be a concern? It's on the radar and not concerning as it's the indication of a mature plan.
- Thank you from the Board Chair to the Pension committee for their hard work and dedication; the Minister thanked for reversing the pension deficit.
- Enterprise Resource Planning System status update – at business planning stage; coming to the Board in June.

## 2. Motions from February 24, 2025

### a. Yukon University Budget 2025-26: operating and capital

Preamble by President Lesley Brown

- Decisions are made to uphold our priorities – Reconciliation, Polaris Project, and growing enrolment.
- Endorsement process – Provost Council, President’s Executive Committee, Senate, and Town Hall presentation.

Budget presentation by VP Finance and Administration Andrea McIntyre.

Discussion:

- Contributions from FN Governments and funding of Reconciliation implementation – no direct contributions; YG’s funding captures some commitments; the Accountability Framework, once established, will capture this and help with advancing Reconciliation; addition of FN courses, i.e., peace-making program (dispute resolution), Bachelor of Indigenous Land and Water Planning (based on traditional knowledge), and international cooperation and Indigenous student exchange. Purview note - program planning and development are under Senate’s jurisdiction, Board supports funding.
- Funding for Law Degree: proposed by CYFN; funding is secured; expected launch – 2026-27 academic year.

**MOTION:** MOVED by Jason Bilsky, SECONDED by Jeff Wolosewich to approve the YukonU 2025/26 operational budget with revenues of \$58.448M and expenditures of \$58.248M with a projected surplus of \$200K and 2025/26 capital budgets \$19.7M funding and \$19.7M expenditures. **CARRIED**

### b. Pension Committee Appointment

Replacement of Andrea Clark, HR Director, in her role as a voting member of the Pension Committee by VP Finance Andrea McIntyre.

**MOTION:** MOVED by Jason Bilsky, SECONDED by Sara McPhee-Knowles to approve the appointment of Andrea McIntyre to the Yukon University Pension Committee as a voting member, pursuant to section 4(a) of the Pension Committee Terms of Reference, effective immediately and until they cease being eligible to be a member of the pension plan, resigns from the Pension Committee, or is removed by the Board, whichever is first. **CARRIED**

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## 8. Governance Committee

### 1. Report from Chair Christine Mahar

Discussions from February 24, 2025:

- Board retreat - keeping the scheduled day, April 26, 2025.
- Board training opportunities – members are asked to review the BN for options and contact the Secretariat for expression of interest; option #1 in the BN is not relevant for Board members and is no longer an option.
- Policy update provided by the University Secretary; Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response Policy - further, under the motions part.

No discussion.

## 2. Motions from February 24, 2025

### **Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response Policy**

Introduction and overview of key changes by Committee Chair Cris Mahar.

No objections; support of the new version.

Typo correction: “discloser”, instead of “disclosure”, on page 69 of the meeting book.

**MOTION:** MOVED by Jason Bilsky, SECONDED by Sara McPhee-Knowles to approve the revised Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response Policy and Procedures, effective March 8, 2025.

**CARRIED**

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## 9. Human Resources Committee

### **Report from Chair Tom Ullyett.**

Discussions from March 7, 2025:

- Succession planning and training to reduce risks.
- Recruitment of a new AVP Reconciliation (at VP level).
- Collective Bargaining update.
- EDI strategy update – the University stays committed to the development.
- Executive Compensation Framework – work in progress; proposal coming to HRC and Board in June.

No discussion.

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## 10. Indigenous Advisory Circle

### **Report from Chair Victoria Fred.**

Discussions from February 28, 2025:

- Recruitment process for new AVP Reconciliation and IAC involvement.
- Formal confirmation of Chancellor Carol Geddes as a voting member of IAC.
- Reconciliation Framework launch - the Circle will schedule an additional meeting to review the Framework in-depth to better support the administration.
- Future discussions: PACFNI visioning, Indigenous Identity policy.

No discussion.

Comment: important to take the time in implementation planning; Indigenous Identity Policy - importance of development and collaboration with other institutions.

*Jennifer Telford joined*

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## 11. Report from Student Union

By student member Jennifer Telford.

*10 min. break*

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## 12. Senate proposals

### **1. Program changes for the Office Administration Program**

Overview of changes by VP Academic Shelagh Rowles.

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Discussion:

- Keyboarding course – rationale for making it non-credit: the intension is that students work on their keyboarding skills and attain a minimum of 25 words per minute to pass the course. It remains a critical skill, and so the course will be fully revised and made more flexible and modernized.
- Follow-up question: how AI can possibly change the future of this skill.  
There is no formal solution about the role of AI, but students are engaged in conversations.

**MOTION:** MOVED by Michelle Parsons, SECONDED by Chris Mahar to approve the program changes for the Office Administration program as presented. **CARRIED**

## 2. Establishment of the School of Indigenous Governance

Preamble by VP Academic Shelagh Rowles.

Discussion:

- School establishment process: this is the first precedent of formally establishing a school at YukonU, but we have been having a school structure for a number of years; the process is regulated by the YukonU Act.
- Risks involved in implementing this and how the institutions will achieve the outcomes listed in the proposal.
- Involvement of IAC and FNs leaders and elders. Content of the schools is Senate's purview; it will be developed with involvement of other parties as appropriate.
- Indigenous Governance School vs existing Indigenous Governance Degree: the school will house the degree, and many other course/programs/initiatives as related to Indigenous Governance.
- Have "development" instead of "establishment" in the motion – "establishment" is chosen intentionally to align with the requirements of the Act.

*Jennifer Telford disconnected.*

**MOTION:** to approve the establishment of a School of Indigenous Governance.

**MOTION:** MOVED by Tom Ulyett, SECONDED by David Morrison to revise the Briefing Note and bring the proposal for Establishment of the School of Indigenous Governance back in June. **CARRIED**

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## 13. Polaris Project

### 1. Status Update

### 2. Polaris Project Governance document revision

Introduction by David Morrison:

- Update on activities since the last Board meeting in December: the tender came over budgeted; Board Executive instructed the contractor to find ways to get process back to the budget; the contractor came back with phase 1 and 2 construction proposal.

By Shelagh Rowles:

- Stage 1 and 2 overview: indigenous aspect of the building not compromised.
- Stage 1 – all aspects included except for the lecture room, indoor gathering space, and commercial kitchen. This meets the Board approved budget.
- Stage 2 – addition of those 3 areas; will require additional fundraising -preliminary timeline 5-10 years.

By Gavin Gardiner:

- Update on three critical points: budget - complete, permitting – close to completion, ownership – in progress.

Discussion:

- US tariffs and any anticipated adjustments to the budget: Ketz's contract includes variance; Ketz will be given very clear communication that we are going to reimburse true tariff costs only.
- Contingency funding: construction and project contingencies can be dedicated to offset tariff costs; both contingencies are eligible for this use, project contingency – discretionary; there is a modest surplus and additional revenue that can be added to the contingency fund.
- University Foundation's fundraising: estimate of 1.5m can be raised; flexibility if this can't be raised – there are a few additional options, including line of credit.
- Stage 2 estimated start: any time, based on availability of additional funding/fundraising. No incremented costs of doing it now vs then (after Stage 1 completion).
- Canada Foundation for Innovation – funding of up to 2.5m is available and the University will be applying for it.
- YG's contribution – formalized through their 2025-2026 Capital Plan.

**MOTION:** MOVED by Jeff Wolosewich, **SECONDED** by Sara McPhee-Knowles to approve the amended Polaris Project Governance document, specifically the change in scope and budget (\$52.2M), as presented. **CARRIED**

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14. **Action Items Update**

No questions/discussion.

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15. **Future agenda items – requests from the floor**

None.

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16. **Adjournment**

**MOTION:** MOVED by Victoria Fred to adjourn at 4:04pm. **CARRIED**

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