

## Meeting Minutes

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

**1. Welcome and call to order at 11:08am**

Changing the order of the agenda by moving the in-camera item "President Reappointment" to the beginning of the meeting.

No objections.

Non-Board attendees left except for Gavin Gardiner, pursuant to section 6.1.7 of the Board Bylaws that permits the University Secretary to remain to provide advice and make records as needed and appropriate.

**MOTION:** MOVED by David Morrison, SECONDED by Jason Bilsky to move into in-camera. **CARRIED**

- Overview of the President Reappointment process.
- Withdrawal of Dr. Lesley Brown from the process.
- President Reappointment Committees' proposal to offer the one-year extension.
- Initiation of the recruitment process in September.

In-camera discussion.

**MOTION:** MOVED by Tom Ulyett, SECONDED by Jennifer Telford to accept the offer of a one (1) year extension of Dr. Lesley Brown as President, term expiring June 30, 2027, subject to conflict confirmation by the HR Committee of the Board. **CARRIED**

Action Item: HR Committee to start working on the recruitment process; to consider feedback received from the University Community during the Reappointment process, and to explore recruiter vs. non-recruiter options for recruitment of a new President.

**MOTION:** MOVED by Sara McPhee-Knowles, SECONDED by Christine Mahar to move out of in-camera. **CARRIED**

Non-Board attendees returned.

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*Break, 30 min.*

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**2. Regular session opening**

- Moment of Reflection by Jennifer Telford
- Declaration of Conflicts of Interest – none

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**3. Agenda approval**

**MOTION:** MOVED by Samara Robertson-Lawless, SECONDED by Jason Bilsky to approve the meeting agenda as presented. **CARRIED**

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**4. Consent Agenda approval**

Decision items:

1. Board minutes, March 7, 2025

Information items:

2. President's report on delegated authorities.

**MOTION:** MOVED by Jeff Wolosewich, SECONDED by Michelle Parsons to approve the consent agenda item - Board minutes, March 7, 2025 – as presented. **CARRIED**

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**5. Report from Board Chair (verbal)**

- Congratulations from the Minister on moving forward with the Polaris project
- Note from the Watson Lake Community Campus wanting to discuss a few items with the Board; planning in progress by the Board Chair and the University Secretary
- Big thanks to the Board for their ongoing commitment.

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

- Report provided in the package.
- June 6<sup>th</sup> Convocation recipients of this year's
  - o Honorary Credential - Däkwäül Mary Jane Jim, who was recognized with the degree Doctor of Arts
  - o Governor General's Academic Medals: Bronze Medal - Kathryn Westberg, Silver Medal - Paul Butterworth.

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

**a. Provost & VP Academic**

**b. Finance and Administration Portfolio Update**

Written reports provided in the meeting package.

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

**1. Report from Chair Jason Bilsky**

Discussions from May 26, 2025 – power point presentation:

- Financial matters:
  - o estimated operating surplus for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025 is \$1.839M which is 16% higher than anticipated
  - o Full-year forecasting – additional report will be performed in June and presented at the Board in September
  - o No foreseeable variances for the approved 2025-26 budget
  - o Capital reserve plan – proposal under 8.2(a) below. The University infrastructure, Campus Housing, Hospitality, and IT have been requested to look at creating a 5-year capital plan for

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operational capital needs

- Audit: the most recent management letter, for the year 2023-24, dated December 2024 was provided on February 27, 2025 and has one new and five remaining previous observations. The management is working on addressing these
- Annual write-off of debts over \$10K – none this year
- Pension Committee report, including annual governance report and Annuity Buy-in update.
- Annual Litigation Report.

## 2. Motions from May 26, 2025

### a. Capital Reserve Plan 2025-26

By Lesley Brown:

- The Capital Reserve Policy requires a plan for surplus expenditures.
- The Capital Reserve Fund is \$3.7m as of April 1, 2025.
- Proposed priorities for 2025-26:
  - #1 - Polaris project – allocation of \$2.5m
  - #2 - Other capital projects - will be prioritized based on urgency and impact and will be brought forward to the Board for approval of use of the capital reserve fund.

Discussion:

- Allocation doesn't mean the money will be spent.
- Budget and Capital Plans – keeping balance between the two and strengthening budget planning efforts to minimize unforeseen expenses.

**MOTION:** MOVED by Christine Mahar, SECONDED by Sara McPhee-Knowles to approve the Capital Reserve Plan for 2025/26 as presented. **CARRIED**

### b. Enterprise Risk Management Project Charter

By Lesley Brown:

- Proposal to initiate the project.
- Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Framework is a comprehensive risk management tool, aligned with international standards as well as indigenous risk management principles, that will help evaluate and mitigate institutional risks, strengthen decision-making, and enhance institutional resilience.
- The Framework has been under development for the last 3 years.
- To create accountability, the Framework will be regularly brought back to the Board.

Discussion:

- Existing policy – last updated in 2001 and will be revised as part of this project.
- Importance of regular risk reassessment.
- Framework as a primary document of the Board; it should require Involvement and contribution of each Board Committee.

**MOTION:** MOVED by Jason Bilsky, SECONDED by Mark Wedge to approve the Enterprise Risk Management Project Charter. **CARRIED**

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## 9. Governance Committee

### 1. Report from Chair Christine Mahar

Discussions from May 26, 2025:

- Board and Board Chair Evaluations 2025.

The surveys were distributed in advance of this meeting. They require a major revision, and the committee is intending to get this done prior to the next evaluation. In the meantime, a few additional questions were added as an addendum to the existing Board self-evaluation template for a more fulsome assessment. Results coming back in September for discussion. Members were reminded of the importance of participation to help improve Board's governance; the survey is anonymous.

### 2. Motions from May 26, 2025

#### a. Board and Board Committees meeting dates 2025-26

Overview of changes by Chris Mahar.

Discussion:

- The June Board meeting is scheduled the day before the Convocation - done intentionally, for the convenience of Board community members to attend the ceremony next day.
- Board meeting in March may coincide with the Winter Games 2026 – this date will be revisited and confirmed close to the meeting.

**MOTION:** MOVED by Sam Robertson-Lawless, SECONDED by Sara McPhee-Knowles to approve the 2025-26 Board and Board Committees meeting dates, with understating that the dates and times are subject to change during the year. **CARRIED**

#### b. Board PD training update and plan for 2025-26

Overview of changes by Chris Mahar. No discussion.

**MOTION:** MOVED by Tom Ulyett, SECONDED by Sam Robertson-Lawless to approve the Board Training Plan for the 2025-26 fiscal year as presented. **CARRIED**

#### c. Transfer and Articulation Agreements Procedures

Members acknowledged great opportunities that these procedures will create for YukonU students.

**MOTION:** MOVED by Brenda Butterworth-Carr, SECONDED by Jeff Wolosewich to approve the new Transfer and Articulation. **CARRIED**

#### d. Yukon University Centres Policy

Proposal overview by Bronwyn Hancock, Vice-Provost, Academic & Research.

Discussion:

- Definition of Centre in the context of this policy – it is a unit which is established with the purpose of advancing research and scholarly activity of the University to support its programs, that is formally under the jurisdiction of Yukon University. Yukon Native Language Centre - physically located in the University's building but jurisdictionally not affiliated with it.
- Development of a policy on engagement with FN centres to remove barriers, support effective

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- collaboration, and advance interdisciplinary nature of the centres. To be discussed in future.
- Provisions for the existing YukonU centres – currently none but this new policy sets out guidelines for both new and existing centres.
  - Financial sustainability – a broad definition is used for YukonU centres. It includes YG contributions as one of the funding options, for example for situations when a faculty member is affiliated with a centre, but their salary is covered through core funding since their primary duty is teaching.
  - Incorporation of the Reconciliation Framework principles and review of the policy in accordance with Chapter 28 of the Umbrella Final Agreement.

**MOTION:** MOVED by Mark Wedge, SECONDED by Tom Ulyett to approve the new University Centres Policy and Procedures, with understanding that principles of the Reconciliation Framework will be incorporated as part of the Framework implementation plan, specifically as related to Chapter 28 of the Umbrella Final Agreement. **CARRIED**

*An overview of YukonU's Centres as part of the organizational structure will be provided at the special IAC meeting in August.*

#### **e. Authority Delegation for Micro-credentials**

Preamble by Shelagh Rowles. No questions/objections.

**MOTION:** MOVED by Sam Robertson-Lawless, SECONDED by Christine Mahar to approve (a) delegation of the Board's authority to approve establish, modify or discontinue micro-credential programs to the President, without subdelegation; and (b) subsequent adjustments to the policy and procedures AP 1.0 Development of New Instructional Programs and BOG 3.0 Yukon University President Responsibility Policy (section 6). **CARRIED**

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*Break, 10 min.*

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## **10. Human Resources Committee**

### **1. Report from Chair Tom Ulyett**

Discussions from May 30, 2025:

- EDI strategy document. The document went to IAC for feedback and endorsement of the consultation copy, pursuant to the IAC's mandate.

Discussion:

- Bargaining status – provided in-camera at the end of this meeting, under item 17.

### **2. Motions from May 30, 2025**

**Authority delegation to the Board Executive: VP Reconciliation confirmation and Bargaining Mandate adjustment.**

No questions/discussion.

**MOTION:** MOVED by Jason Bilsky, SECONDED by Christine Mahar to delegate to the Board Executive Committee (a) confirmation of a new VP Reconciliation, and (b) potential adjustment of the Bargaining Mandate. **CARRIED**

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## 11. Indigenous Advisory Circle

### Report from the Chair presented by Vice-Chair Michelle Parsons.

Discussions from May 30, 2025:

- Updated from the administration on the key areas of interest across the University, including the status of the VP Reconciliation recruitment, FNI portfolio, and Reconciliation Framework Implementation update.
- Continued discussion on the relationship between IAC and PACFNI, and coordination of the various bodies serving communities outside of Whitehorse - IAC, PACFNI and the Community Campus Committees.
- Received an overview of the proposal for Establishment of the School of Indigenous Governance – further on this agenda for approval of the Board.
- Approved the initiation of a YukonU's Indigenous Identity Policy.

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## 12. Report from Student Union

By student member Jennifer Telford:

- Recent upgrades to the Student Lounge and its grand re-opening on the Convocation Day.
- New University's branding colours for the Mascot.
- Implementation planning for the new Student Union Bylaws – in progress.
- Student Union's social media accounts were restored; increased presence and engagement to come.

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## 13. Senate proposals

Presented by Shelagh Rowles.

### 1. Liberal Arts School name change

- The current name doesn't reflect the disciplines that reside within it.
- The suggested new name, as proposed by faculty members and endorsed by the Senate, is broad and inclusive to include both Western and Indigenous worlds.

Discussion:

- Definition of School. Shelagh Rowles provided an overview of the organizational structure where School is an academic unit within a bigger one called Faculty that offers courses and programs with a focus on a specific area. It is not a building as can be viewed in communities.

**MOTION:** MOVED by Sara McPhee-Knowles, SECONDED by Jennifer Telford to approve the name change of the School of Liberal Arts to be the School of Social Sciences and Humanities. **CARRIED**

*An overview of the YukonU's organizational structure will be provided at the special IAC meeting in August.*

### 2. Establishment of the School of Indigenous Governance

- Returning item – was deferred by the Board from the last meeting for a chance to improve the Briefing Note and provide more context.
- This proposal went to IAC in May to clarify definitions.

Discussion:

- Schools and community campuses - how they are related: community campuses don't have schools, but their faculties are affiliated with relevant schools within YukonU based on what they

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are teaching.

**MOTION:** MOVED by Michelle Parsons, SECONDED by Christine Mahar to approve the establishment of the School of Indigenous Governance. **CARRIED**

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**14. Polaris Update**

By Shelagh Rowles:

- Report provided in the package.
- The project is on track and on budget.

Discussion:

- Risks of having an outstanding permit: no risks as the City gave formal permission to start the project. The water issue has been resolved, and the administration is now working with YG on the new building ownership.

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**15. Action Items Update**

No questions/discussion.

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

None.

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**17. Bargaining status update, in-camera**

Members who are in conflict and non-Board attendees left.

In-camera update and Q&A.

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**18. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** MOVED by Mark Wedge to adjourn at 3:30pm. **CARRIED**

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