

Meeting Minutes

Board Members present:	Christine Mahar (Vice-Chair), Jason Bilsky, Jeff Wolosewich, Jennifer Telford, Judy Gingell, Lesley Brown, Mark Wedge, Sara McPhee-Knowles, Samara Robertson-Lawless, Sharon Shadow, Tom Ullyett, Victoria Fred
regrets:	David Morrison (Chair), Brenda Butterworth-Carr, Michelle Parsons
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)

Required quorum: majority of the members

1. YukonU Foundation Board AGM – lunch meeting

Welcome and call to order at 12:05pm by Michale Hale, Chair of the Foundation Board. Minutes were recorded by and are filed with the Foundation Board.

The Board approved the Yukon University Foundation Financial Statements for the year ending March 31, 2025 as presented.

Members of the Foundation Board left.

Break, 15 min.

Sara McPhee-Knowles left.

2. Board session - call to order at 12:50pm by meeting chair Christine Mahar, Board Vice-Chair

- Moment of Reflection by Aisha Montgomery
- Declaration of Conflicts of Interest – none

3. Agenda approval

MOTION: MOVED by Jason Bilsky, SECONDED by Jeff Wolosewich to approve the meeting agenda as presented. **CARRIED**

4. Consent Agenda approval

Decision items:

1. Board minutes, June 13, 2025
2. Board Executive Minutes, August 20, 2025 (confidential)

Information items:

3. President's report on delegated authorities.

MOTION: MOVED by Samara Robertson-Lawless, SECONDED by Mark Wedge to approve the consent agenda item as presented: (1) Board minutes, June 13, 2025, (2) Board Executive Minutes, August 20, 2025 (confidential). **CARRIED**

5. Report from Board Chair (verbal)

None at this time.

6. Report from President (written)

Report provided in the meeting package.

Points of update:

- Initiation of the Chancellor Reappointment process begins shortly.
- Development of an expenditure plan for the Mastercard Foundation gift in progress. IAC provided input at its last week's meeting. The Plan will be presented to the Board in December.

Discussion:

- Opportunities for the Yukon private sector and FNs as related to the Mastercard Foundation gift. They are possible, but we are still at early stages to say something definitive.
- Inclusion of Indigenous knowledge – how we can start doing it. This is being realised through the University's Strategic and Academic Plans, and the Reconciliation Framework. The University has been working on finding ways to authentically include that knowledge in programs.
- Experiential study – importance of inclusion to ensure a balance between contemporary and Indigenous components of the curriculum.
- Quality Assurance agency for approval of YukonU's degree programs – historical background of partnership with Campus Alberta Quality Council (CAQC). This partnership is built through a contract between Yukon Government and CAQC to ensure high quality of offered programs and University's capacity in keeping with national and international standards. Last year, the Board had a discussion about the possibility of exploring a different option for the assurance body, but the decision-making rests with the Minister of Education.
- The President was asked about and shred the most recent, especially meaningful engagements.
- Mastercard Foundation gift next steps. Guiding principle and approval path for an expenditure plan were presented to IAC for input. The document will be brought to the Board in December.

7. Reports from Senior Executives (written)

a. Provost & VP Academic

Report provided in the meeting package.

Discussion:

- Community Safety Guardian Micro-Credential Program – registration date. Registration is not open to the public as learners will be nominated by FNs. This was suggested by the program partner, House of Wolf & Associates (HoW). The first cohort of 11 students started this Monday. The name "Guardian" was requested by HoW. The program is not on the YukonU website to avoid self-registration.
- Article 17.7 – ways to be less vulnerable; the suggested solution is to add Yukon FNs to the table and build partnership through accountability agreements.

b. Finance and Administration Portfolio Update

Report provided in the meeting package.

Discussion:

- Point of clarification: savings from the pension contribution holiday that go towards the Polaris Project will be spent over 2 years.

8. Finance, Audit & Risk Committee

1. Report from Christine Mahar, meeting chair at the September 17th FARC meeting.
Report provided in the meeting package.
Discussion: annual Insurance review – risks and insurance responsibility for students. The University will take those risks.

2. Motions:

Audited Consolidated Financial Statements 2024-25

No discussion.

MOTION: MOVED by Jason Bilsky, SECONDED by Christine Mahar to approve the Yukon University Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended March 31st, 2025, as presented. **CARRIED**

9. Governance Committee

1. Report from Chair Christine Mahar

Discussions from September 15, 2025 meeting:

- Standing update from the University Secretary and General Counsel – office staffing update and workplan for 2025-26.
- Board Evaluations 2025 results – further on the Board agenda.
- Yukon University Annual Report 2024-25 – motion provided further.
Administration is working on improving the reporting format; data collection is an ongoing issue.
- Yukon University Accountability Framework - motion provided further.
- Board Committee's vacancies – motion provided further.
The HR and Governance Committees are looking to increase the number of its members to the maximum allowed of 5 (currently 3 on each) to be able to effectively fulfill their duties as Board's advisory bodies. The most recent Governance committee vacancy occurred due to Judy Gingell's resignation announced at the September 15 meeting.

2. Motions:

- a. Yukon University Annual Report 2024-25

No discussion.

MOTION: MOVED by Jeff Wolosewich, SECONDED by Mark Wedge to approve the submission of the 2024-25 Yukon University Annual Report for the financial year ended March 31, 2025, to the Minister, under section 53(3) of the Yukon University Act. **CARRIED**

- b. Yukon University Accountability Framework

Discussion:

- Inclusion of FNs concerns.
The Framework went through an extensive consultation across Yukon FNs and their input has been included.
- Amendment process.
The Framework is proposed to be approved for a two-year period, followed by its review - the plan is provided in the BN.
- Targets and performance measures for growth.
Targets are not included in the Framework as they belong to institutional plans that are created in consultation with Yukon FNs and get approved by the Board.

- Importance of adding narrative to the report.

MOTION: MOVED by Jason Bilsky, SECONDED by Jeff Wolosewich to approve the Yukon University Accountability Framework for the period 2026-2028, with a review and update of the Framework prior to the 2028-2029 academic year. **CARRIED**

Sara McPhee-Knowles joined back.

c. Board Committees' vacancies

Discussion:

- Point of concern: meeting timing and challenge of workload as committee meetings are back-to-back.
- Current Board vacancies refresher.

One community member seat is still vacant. Requirement - member must reside out of Whitehorse, excluding Carcross (Board member Mark Wedge resides) and Dawson (Board member Brenda Butterworth-Carr resides). This is a YG appointed position. Big member turnover is expected in 2026 that will include 7 seats.

Self-nominations from the floor received:

Jason Bilsky for the HR Committee – confirmed eligible

Jeff Wolosewich for the Governance Committee – confirmed eligible.

MOTION: MOVED by Sara McPhee-Knowles, SECONDED by Sharon Shadow to appoint Jeff Wolosewich to the Governance Committee of the Board with the term effective immediately and expiring when the member ceases to be a member of the Board or resigns from the Committee, whichever comes first. **CARRIED**

MOTION: MOVED by Judy Gingell, SECONDED by Sara McPhee-Knowles to appoint Jason Bilsky to the HR Committee of the Board with the term effective immediately and expiring when the member ceases to be a member of the Board or resigns from the Committee, whichever comes first. **CARRIED**

10. Human Resources Committee

Report from Chair Tom Ullyett:

- No meeting this month.
- Supplementary Pension Plan for the Executive Compensation model - work in progress and comes for approval in December.
- Bargaining continues – more on this in the in-camera session.
- Presidential Appointment timeline – further on the agenda, under in-camera session.

Discussion: Indigenous student participation ratio – correlation between existing policies and level of support that the University offers.

11. Indigenous Advisory Circle

1. Report from Chair Victoria Fred.

Discussions from the September 19, 2025 meeting:

- Standing updates from the President and interim AVP/VP Reconciliation, including the new VP Reconciliation recruitment status.

- Relationships between PACFNI, IAC and Community Campus Committees – First Nation Summit. Approved to be held in Fall 2026.
- Indigenous Identity Policy development – conversation with the policy executive lead on next steps.
- Interdisciplinary Studies Degree – overview of the proposal; before the Board today for approval.
- Accountability Framework – overview of the proposal; before the Board today for approval.
- Expenditure Plan for Mastercard Foundation Donation – for discussion and input.
- Reconciliation Framework Implementation: Yukon Government Indigenous employee training - will require an additional in-depth meeting with the new VP Reconciliation included.
- CICan Indigenous Education Protocol – review of the new version of the Protocol and recommendation to the Board; motion provided further.

Point of Update from President Lesley Brown: the official start date for new VP Reconciliation is December 12; formal announcement follows.

2. Motions:

CICan Indigenous Education Protocol

Point of update from President Lesley Brown: signing in October was cancelled, new date TBD.

MOTION: MOVED by Mark Wedge, SECONDED by Samara Robertson-Lawless to approve that Yukon University will be a signatory on the Updated Indigenous Education Protocol for Colleges and Institutes. **CARRIED**

12. Report from Student Union

By student member Jennifer Telford:

- Student Union's participation in the leadership summit hosted by UBC
- Substantial increase in membership.
- Update on student life events.

13. Senate proposal

Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies program proposal

Preamble by Shelagh Rowles.

Discussion:

- Resources for teaching and research.
Primarily, current members who has qualification and expertise in this area. New FTEs could be added in future budget, if necessary, based on program grows and needs.
- Inclusion of Indigenous knowledge, culture and language
Inclusion of FNs voices is part is part of the degree development. Specific content will depend on a pathway / field of study. There will be additional consultations across faculties as a joint effort.

MOTION: MOVED by Mark Wedge, SECONDED by Samara Robertson-Lawless to approve the proposal for a new degree of Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies as presented. **CARRIED**

15. Action Items Update

No questions/discussion.

16. Future agenda items – requests from the floor

None.

17. In-camera session:

- 1. Board and Board Chair Evaluation 2025 results**
- 2. Presidential Appointment timeline and proposed process**

MOTION: MOVED by Mark Wedge, SECONDED by Samara Robertson-Lawless to move into in-camera.

CARRIED

Non-Board attendees left. Board members left: Jason Bilsky, Judy Gingell, Vitoria Fred.

In-camera discussions.

18. Adjournment

MOTION: MOVED by Mark Wedge, SECONDED by Samara Robertson-Lawless to move out of in-camera and adjourn at 4:45pm. **CARRIED**
