

Meeting Minutes

Board Members present:	David Morrison (Chair), Christine Mahar (Vice-Chair), Brenda Butterworth-Carr, Jason Bilsky, Jeff Wolosewich, Jennifer Telford, Mark Wedge, Michelle Parsons, Sara McPhee-Knowles, Samara Robertson-Lawless, Sharon Shadow, Shelagh Rowles, Tom Ulyett, Victoria Fred
regrets:	Carol Geddes, Judy Gingell
PEC members, present:	Andrea McIntyre, Gavin Gardiner, Trika MacDonald, Bronwyn Hancock, Aisha Montgomery, Lindsay Moore
Visitors:	n/a
Recorder	Irina Bogachek (regular session), Gavin Gardiner (in-camera session), Christy Huey (joint session)

Required quorum: majority of the members

1. Board Regular Session

- Welcome and call to order at 9:38 pm.
- Moment of Reflection by Board Chair David Morrison.
- Declaration of Conflicts of Interest – none.

2. Agenda approval

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

3. Consent Agenda approval

1. Board minutes, September 26, 2025 – decision
2. President's report on delegated authorities – information.

MOTION: MOVED by Jason Bilsky, **SECONDED** by Tom Ulyett to approve the consent agenda item - Board minutes, June 13, 2025 – as presented. **CARRIED**

4. Report from Board Chair (verbal)

- Territorial government leadership change update.
- VP Reconciliation recruitment update – loss of the candidate and restart of the search in the new year.
- Conclusion of the Board Chair's term of office and retirement from the position. Reflections and thanks to the Board for support and great work. February Board meeting will be chaired by Board Vice-Chair Christine Mahar.

5. Report from President (written)

Written Report provided in the meeting package.

Discussion:

- VP Reconciliation Recruitment process and timeline; absence of a first runner-up.
- Financial impact of the declining international student enrolment.

This was anticipated and reflected in the budget. There will be a change in the surplus but no effect on the overall budget. YukonU has three programs that are eligible for the federal program for international students.

- University Foundation and upcoming campaigns.
- Accountability to FNs vs YG to maintain stability and continuity in future.

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

a. Provost & VP Academic

Report provided in the meeting package.
No questions/discussion.

b. Finance and Administration Portfolio Update

Report provided in the meeting package.
No questions/discussion.

7. **Report from Student Union**

Reported – ongoing MoU revision, and student activities update.
No questions/discussion.

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

1. Report from Chair Jason Bilsky

Overview of the written report provided in the meeting package - key updates and discussions from December 1 meeting.

2. Motions:

a. Pension Committee Conflict of Interest Policy Amendment

MOTION: MOVED by Tom Ulyett, SECONDED by Chris Mahar to approve the amended Yukon University's Pension Plan Committee Conflict of Interest Policy as presented. **CARRIED**

b. Pension Committee Appointment

MOTION: MOVED by Shelagh Rowles, SECONDED by Tom Ulyett to approve, pursuant to section 4(a) of the Pension Committee Terms of Reference, the appointment of Andrea Clark to the Yukon University Pension Committee as voting member to replace Shelagh Rowles, 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**

c. Financial Statements for the YukonU Pension Plan 2024-25

MOTION: MOVED by Sara McPhee-Knowles, SECONDED by Tom Ulyett to approve the audited financial statements of the Yukon University Employee's Pension Plan Fund for the year ending June 30, 2025 as presented. **CARRIED**

d. YUEPP Funding Policy Amendment

MOTION: MOVED by Jeff Wolosewich, SECONDED by Shelagh Rowles to approve the amended Funding Policy for the Yukon University Employees' Pension Plan as presented. **CARRIED**

e. Contribution Rates 2026

Typo correction – YMPA replaced with YMPE.

MOTION: MOVED by Sara McPhee-Knowles, by SECONDED by Jeff Wolosewich to approve an increase of the member contribution rates as follows:

- Group 1 members: Below YMPE – 9.77% / Above YMPE – 12.17%;
- Group 2 members: Below YMPE – 7.73% / Above YMPE – 9.51%. **CARRIED**

f. Surplus Utilization Recommendation

Typo correction – YMPA replaced with YMPE.

MOTION: MOVED by Sam Robertson-Lawless, SECONDED by Jeff Wolosewich to approve partial Yukon University Employees Pension Plan contribution holiday for Yukon University and its employees be implemented for the 2026 calendar year, December 27, 2025 to December 25, 2026 requiring contributions from the University and employees as follows:

- Group 1 members: Below YMPE – 3.26% / Above YMPE – 4.06%
- Group 2 members: Below YMPE – 2.58% / Above YMPE – 3.17%. **CARRIED**

g. Tuition Fees 2026-27

No changes at this time due to the approval delay of the revised Tuition Fee Policy by YG. Administration expects this to be resolved in the coming month. Next step would be adjustment and approval of the tuition fees for 2026-27. To expedite the process and ensure timely notification of changes to students, it is recommended that the approval be delegated to the Executive Committee of the Board.

Suggestion: for planning convenience for students, annual increases by the same percentage are preferable, as well as timely notifications.

MOTION: MOVED by Brenda Butterworth-Carr, SECONDED by Jeff Wolosewich to delegate the approval of tuition fees for the 2026-27 academic year to the Executive Committee of the Board. **CARRIED**

h. Ancillary Fees 2026-27

MOTION: MOVED by Sara McPhee-Knowles, SECONDED by Chris Mahar to approve the Ancillary Fees for the 2026-27 academic year as presented. **CARRIED**

i. Housing Fees 2026-27, 2027-28 and 2028-29

MOTION: MOVED by Shelagh Rowles, SECONDED by Brenda Butterworth-Carr to approve increases based on the average annual Consumer Price Index for the previous calendar year to Housing Fees and implement other ancillary housing fees as presented for the 2026-27, 2027-28 and 2028-29 academic years. **CARRIED**

9. **Governance Committee**

1. **Report from Chair Christine Mahar**

Thanks to the two outgoing members - Chair David Morrison and Public Member Tom Ulyett.
Verbal report - key updates and discussions from December 1 meeting:

- Board budget allocation 2026-27
- Board member transitions over the next six months
- Assessment of Board level policies initiated by the University Secretariat.

2. **Motions:**

Appointment of Board members to the Chancellor Selection Committee.

Call for nominations.

Self-nominations received from Brenda Butterworth-Carr, Victoria Fred, Tom Ulyett.

No objections.

MOTION: MOVED by Brenda Butterworth-Carr, SECONDED by Jeff Wolosewich to appoint the following Board members to the Joint Chancellor Selection Committee: Brenda Butterworth-Carr, Victoria Fred, Tom Ulyett. **CARRIED**

Two of the three appointed members are Yukon First Nations, which satisfies the aspiration of the Chancellor Selection Committee membership (BOG 21.1) to have 30% of Indigenous representation.

10. **Human Resources Committee**

1. **Report from Chair Tom Ulyett**

Updates and discussions from December 5 meeting are provided further, under *In-Camera* items 17.1 and 17.2.

2. **Motions:**

Appointment of Interim Provost and VP Academic

No objections/discussion.

MOTION: MOVED by Shelagh Rowles, SECONDED by Christine Mahar to appoint Dr. Bronwyn Hancock, Vice-Provost of Academic and Research, as Interim Provost and VP Academic, effective immediately and until June 30, 2026. **CARRIED**

11. **Indigenous Advisory Circle**

1. **Report from Chair Victoria Fred.**

Verbal report - key updates and discussions from December 5 meeting:

- Development of Law Program – ways to anchor it to Yukon specifics.
 - Recruitment of VP Reconciliation – IAC will meet in early January to discuss next steps.
Acknowledgement of Lindsay Moore’s leadership in supporting the FNI Office as Interim VP.
 - Mastercard Foundation Gift – IAC endorsed the establishment of a joint committee with administration to work on establishment of a gift expenditure plan.
 - Indigenous Identity Policy – work is underway; comes to the Board for approval in June.
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- Polaris Signage – discussion will continue at the February meeting.
 - Thanks to the administration and University Secretariat for their ongoing support to IAC.
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12. **Innovation & Entrepreneurship Program Discontinuation**

Preamble by Bronwyn Hancock, Interim Provost and VP Academic.

- Communication plan for staff and faculty is being developed.
- The lease was extended to 6 months to help with program closure and transition.

No objections.

This proposal was discussed at FARC within its area of jurisdiction – no concerns.

MOTION: MOVED by Jason Bilsky, SECONDED by Brenda Butterworth-Carr to approve the discontinuation of the Innovation & Entrepreneurship program, effective March 31, 2026. **CARRIED**

13. **Northern Institute of Social Justice**

Preamble by Shelagh Rowles.

No objections.

This proposal was discussed at FARC and IAC meetings, within their areas of jurisdiction – no concerns.

MOTION: MOVED by Tom Ulyett, SECONDED by Brenda Butterworth-Carr to approve the discontinuation of the Northern Institute of Social Justice (NISJ) and moving courses developed by the NISJ to Continuing Education (CE) as cost-recovery courses, effective March 31, 2026. **CARRIED**

14. **Polaris Project Update:**

1. **Construction Budget**
2. **Construction Model**

Overview by Gavin Gardiner, University Secretary and General Counsel.

MOTION: MOVED by Jason Bilsky, SECONDED by Christine Mahar to authorize Administration to formalize a construction budget for inclusion in the Construction Management contract which does not exceed \$40,620,000.00. **CARRIED**

15. **Action Items Update**

No questions/discussion.

16. **Future agenda items**

No new requests.

17. **In-camera session:**

1. **Appointment of VP Reconciliation update**
 2. **President Transition and Next Steps**
 3. **Confidential Minutes:**
 - a. Board minutes, November 6, 2025 (confidential)
 - b. Board Executive Minutes, October 13, 2025 (confidential)
 - c. Board Executive Minutes, October 27, 2025 (confidential)
 - d. Board Executive Minutes, November 3, 2025 (confidential)
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MOTION: MOVED by Sara McPhee-Knowles, SECONDED by Tom Ulyett to move into in-camera. **CARRIED**

In-camera discussion.

MOTION: to approve confidential minutes from (a) Board, November 6, 2025, (b) Board Executive, October 13, 2025, (c) Board Executive, October 27, 2025, (d) Board Executive, November 3, 2025, as presented. **CARRIED**

MOTION: MOVED by Sara McPhee-Knowles, SECONDED by Tom Ulyett to move out of in-camera and adjourn the regular session at 12:15pm. **CARRIED**

Lunch with Community Campus Committee Chairs

18. **Joint Session with Community Campus Committee Chairs**

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer

CCC Chairs in attendance:

Virtually - Jenny Skelton (Watson Lake), Stefanie Norman (Carcross), Julia Joe (Pelly Crossing).

In person - Darwyn Lynn (Dawson City), Mary Jane Moses (Old Crow), Jane Montgomery (Old Crow).

Resource people:

Dan Anton, Executive Director, Continuing Studies

John Reid, Department Head, Northern Campuses.

Eric Hoogstraten, Department Head, Southern Campuses.

2. Community Campus Committee Handbook revision

Status update. Expected to be finalized in the new year.

3. Honorary Credentials Policy

No discussion.

4. Updates from CCC Chairs

- Reports from the Chairs in attendance on program offerings and community led initiatives.
- Updates from administration:
 - Strong 3rd party funding continued this year, which have allowed to support vibrancy in communities.
 - List of programs with extended funding dates.
 - This year's joint efforts of YukonU, governments and communities to find opportunities to strengthen availability of academic programming in communities. This includes bite-size entry courses to help remove prerequisites barrier.

Discussion:

- Board members expressed interest in receiving reports from the absent campus Chairs.
- Possibility of moving the annual joint meeting from December to a different month and meeting at one of the community campuses.
- Arranging for a Board member(s) for leadership meetings in communities to help bring the Board and Community Campuses closer together.
- Finding ways to mitigate high accommodation costs to make it more feasible for people to go to another community for education. Administration will explore whether employee rates that YukonU has with many hotels in the communities could be extended to students.

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- Ways to support student wellness: creation of designated spaces for students to be able to culturally ground themselves, inclusion of cultural teachings with more in-depth land-based programming, and further incorporation of YFN ways of knowing and being into curriculum design.
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19. **Adjournment**

MOTION: MOVED by Brenda Butterworth-Carr to adjourn at 2:35 pm. **CARRIED**
