Board of Governors

Executive Committee

February 23, 2026

President's Boardroom and Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Confidential

Members	present:	Christine Mahar (Chair), Tom Ullyett, Victoria Fred, Shelagh Rowles
	regrets:	n/a
Attendees:		Board members - Mark Wedge, Judy Gingell
PEC members, present:		Gavin Gardiner, University Secretary and General Council Trika MacDonald, Executive HR Advisor
Visitors:		n/a
Recorder		Gavin Gardiner

Required quorum: majority of the members

1. **Welcome and call to order** at 6:30 pm

Overview of the background and current bargaining status.
Recommendation from the Committee: to have full note in the future.

MOTION (confidential): MOVED by Tom Ullyett, SECONDED by Christine Mahar to recommend that the Board approve the adjustment to the existing mandate to a total financial envelope for the three-year agreement not to exceed $4.3M with across the board increases of:

	24/25	25/26	26/27	Total
Faculty	4.25%	3.5%	3.0%	10.75%
Staff	6.0%	3.75%	3.0%	12.75%

CARRIED

2. **Adjournment**

Adjourned at 7:10pm

Board of Governors

March 6, 2026
President's Boardroom and Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Board Members present:	Christine Mahar (Chair), Brenda Butterworth-Carr, Carol Geddes, Carolyn Relf, Jeff Wolosewich, Jennifer Telford, Michelle Parsons, Sara McPhee-Knowles, Samara Robertson-Lawless, Shelagh Rowles, Victoria Fred
regrets:	Judy Gingell, Mark Wedge, Sharon Shadow, Tom Ullyett
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)
Required quorum: majority of the members	

1. LUNCH 12:00 – 12:30pm

2.
- Welcome and call to order at 12:26
- Welcome to new member Carolyn Relf, and roundtable of introductions
- Moment of Reflection by Board Chair Christine Mahar
- Declaration of Conflicts of Interest:
    - Brenda Butterworth-Carr for item 10.2(a) - Memorandum of Agreement between YukonU and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in
    - Shelagh Rowles for item 17.1 President Recruitment update
    - Sara McPhee-Knowles, Samara Robertson-Lawless, Jeff Wolosewich for item 17.2 Collective Agreement ratification

3. **Agenda approval**

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

4. **Consent Agenda approval**

1. Minutes – decision
   Board - December 12, 2025, January 19, 2026, and e-vote results
   Board Executive – February 2, 2026.

   Note: Minutes from December 12, 2025, were amended to correct the seconder for item 12 motion – from Sara McPhee-Knowles (abstained from voting) to Brenda Butterworth-Carr.

2. President's report on delegated authorities – information.

MOTION: MOVED by Sara McPhee-Knowles, SECONDED by Shelagh Rowles to approve the consent agenda decision items as presented:
a. Board, December 12, 2025 – amended
b. Board, January 19, 2026 (special)

c. Board Executive, February 2, 2026

d. E-vote results – Board member appointment to the President Recruitment Committee. **CARRIED**

Points of information:

- Tuition Fees 2026-27 approval status – expected to come forward soon, to the Board Executive as delegated by the Board, Dec 12, 2025.
- Jennifer Telford's last name changed to Walmsley.

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

- Recent and upcoming changes to the Board membership.
- Current vacancies - FARC and Governance Committee Chair positions, and General and Community members of the Board. The Governance Committee Chair position will be filled shortly by Brenda Butterworth-Carr through appointment by the Board Chair.
- Upcoming vacancies – faculty member (currently Sara McPhee-Knowles) and non-faculty staff member (currently Samara Robertson-Lawless).

Gavin provided a brief overview of the recruitment and application process, and will circulate policy BOG-17 - Board Member Selection Process for more details.

Brenda Butterworth-Carr joined during the report

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

Report provided in the meeting package.

Point of information: name of the appointed Law Program Chair will be announced shortly; expected start date – March 16.

7. **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.
Question: plans and opportunities for the Campus Bookstore – still under discussion.

8. **Report from Student Union**

Verbal report provided.
Key activity has been navigating through the time of instability as related to the collective bargaining negotiations and potential academic disruption.

President Shelagh Rowles acknowledged the great work that the Student Union did, specifically its Board and Senate representatives, their thoughtfulness and professionalism, and highlighted the importance of student participation in university decision-making.

No questions/discussion.

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

1. Chair Report

By Andrea McIntyre, VP Finance and Administration.
Written report provided in the meeting package.

2. Motions from February 23, 2026:

Preamble for each item provided by Andrea McIntyre, VP Finance and Administration.

a. Yukon University 2026-27 operating and capital budgets

Discussion:

- Implications of the new Collective Agreement.
  Ratification of the agreement, subject to the Board approval, will impact the budget and will appear as variance for salaries and wages; will come back to the Board.

- Decline in international student enrolment and reasons for higher revenue expectations for next year.
  Two reasons – conservative approach to the current year budget and expected increase in domestic enrolment next year due to the new enrolment strategy.

- Mastercard Foundation Gift – not included in the budget and will be treated separately.

- Additional revenue sources – research projects and restricted funding.

- Existing vacancies as a risk factor
  The vacancy factor is built into the budget as it is expected that those vacancies will be filled within the next fiscal year.

MOTION: MOVED by Shelagh Rowles, SECONDED by Brenda Butterworth-Carr to approve YukonU 2026-27 balanced operational budget with revenues and expenses of $61.081M and 2026-27 balanced capital budget of $20.304M. **CARRIED**

b. Yukon University 2026-27 Capital Reserve Plan

No questions/objections.

MOTION: MOVED by Sara McPhee-Knowles, SECONDED by Christine Mahar to approve (a) the Capital Reserve Plan for 2026-27 as presented and (b) that all available 2025-26 audited unrestricted in-year surplus be allocated to the internally restricted capital assets fund. **CARRIED**

c. YUEPP amendment – elimination of the waiting period

Point of clarification: new provisions are applied to the eligibility period only.
Employees will be given an opportunity to buy back any eligible past, including those who are currently in the waiting period.

MOTION: MOVED by Victoria Fred, SECONDED by Samara Robertson-Lawless to approve amendments to the YUEPP text as presented which would eliminate the two-year waiting period for plan members.
CARRIED

d. Pension Committee ToR revision

No questions/objections.

MOTION: MOVED by Shelagh Rowles, SECONDED by Brenda Butterworth-Carr to approve the revised YUEPP Pension Committee Terms of Reference as proposed by the Pension Committee. **CARRIED**

e. Pension Committee appointment

No questions/objections.

MOTION: MOVED by Sara McPhee-Knowles, SECONDED by Brenda Butterworth-Carr to appoint Christine Mahar as a non-voting member of the Yukon University Pension Committee, pursuant to section 4(d) of the Pension Committee Terms of Reference, effective immediately and until the Board September 2026 meeting. **CARRIED**

10. **Governance Committee**

1. Report from Chair Christine Mahar

- Board Retreat 2026 is proposed to be held in Dawson, as well as the June Board meeting. Suggested dates – June 1 and 2.
  No objections.

- Training plan for the 2026-27 fiscal year will include Essential and Financial trainings; sessions will be added to the upcoming Board Retreat.

2. Motions:

a. Board retreat 2026

MOTION: MOVED by Sara McPhee-Knowles, SECONDED by Michelle Parsons to approve that the 2026 Board Retreat be held in Dawson in conjunction with the June Board meeting (dates to be confirmed) and the signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Agreement between Yukon University and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. **CARRIED**

b. Memorandum of Agreement between YukonU and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in

Brenda Butterworth-Carr left due to COI.

Preamble by Bronwyn Hancock.
No questions. Unanimous support.

MOTION: MOVED by Shelagh Rowles, SECONDED by Jeff Wolosewich to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between YukonU and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in as presented. **CARRIED**

Brenda Butterworth-Carr returned.

11. **Human Resources Committee**

Chair Report

Provided by Board Chair Chris Mahar, on behalf of the Committee Chair, Tom Ullyett.

President Recruitment update and Collective Agreement ratification are further on the agenda, under In-camera Session.

12. **Indigenous Advisory Circle**

Report from Chair Victoria Fred.

Key updates and discussions at February 27 meeting:

- Memorandum of Agreement between YukonU and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in: on the Board agenda today for approval. IAC received an overview of and discussed the proposed agreement.
- Polaris Sacred Spaces, Signage and Language: members of IAC, KDFN, and TKC jointly reviewed and discussed concepts for signage and spaces for the future science building. Administration will create a working group comprised of members of IAC, KDFN, TKC, and YukonU (FNI) to oversee this issue and provide information back to IAC.
- Mastercard Foundation Gift Advisory Committee Terms of Reference: IAC approved the Terms of Reference, and the committee can now initiate its work.

13. **Senate proposal: Early Learning Diploma Program revision**

Preamble by Bronwyn Hancock.

Discussion:

- Admission requirement changes
  Keeping balance between satisfying YG expectations, as EL regulator, and offering flexibility to remove barriers.
- Criminal record check inclusion – pros and cons of doing it at the time of enrolment or prior to practicum.

MOTION: MOVED by Sara McPhee-Knowles, SECONDED by Carol Geddes to approve the proposed changes for the Early Learning Diploma program, effective September 2026. **CARRIED**

14. **Polaris Project Update**

- Water pressure conversation with eth City next week
- Parking situation: additional parking options by the Arts Centre and Yukon Archives. Requires better communication for planning purposes for students, staff, and visitors.
- Transit to the University. Requires conversation with the City on potential improvements to bus routes and schedule.

15. **Action Items Update**

No questions/discussion.

16. **Future agenda items**

No new requests.

17. **In-camera session**

MOTION: MOVED by Shelagh Rowles, SECONDED by Christine Mahar to move into in-camera. **CARRIED**
Attendees who are not members of the Board left.

a. Collective Agreement ratification

Board members in scope – Sara McPhee-Knowles, Samara Robertson-Lawless, Jeff Wolosewich – left.
In-camera discussion.

Board discussed the tentative agreement, the Board bargaining mandate, and other considerations. Thanks to Trika MacDonald, Executive HR Advisor.

MOTION: MOVED by Victoria Fred, SECONDED by Michelle Parsons to ratify the tentative agreement between the Yukon University Employee Union and Yukon University for the period July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027. **CARRIED**

a. President Recruitment update

Overview by Trika MacDonald.
Direction from the Board: to have a meeting, the week of March 23 or 30.

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

18. **Adjournment**

MOTION: MOVED by Brenda Butterworth-Carr to adjourn at 3:22 pm. **CARRIED**