

Meeting:	Board of Governors		
Meeting Date:	September 25, 2026		
Agenda Item (as on the agenda):	President and Vice-Chancellor Report		
Purpose (1 of):	Information ☒ Discussion ☐ Recommendation (motion) ☐ Decision ☐		
Prepared by:	Shelagh Rowles	Approved by:	n/a

PRESIDENT & VICE-CHANCELLOR REPORT
I. Reflection:

Another summer has passed, and now students are back, and the hallways are filled with energy. Over the Labour Day weekend, I saw so many young people out and about buying mops, dishes, bed-in-a-bag, and cooking staples. There is something marvellous about setting up new spaces and preparing yourself for the year ahead. I kept hoping they were buying those items because they were new students at Yukon University. I will never know if they were preparing to be here, but some of them must be our students. I only caught glimpses of them as they cruised the aisles at the stores I go to for our weekend chores, like Canadian Tire and the Independent Grocer. I was with my family, and they would have been most unhappy if I delayed much longer. All to say, the good energy is not only in our hallways at the university, but it is in the community broadly. How cool is that!

II. Key Updates:
Roddy's Camp

Over the past few years, we've done considerable planning to improve the infrastructure at Roddy's Camp. Since his appointment as Associate Vice President, Strategic Initiatives, Peter Johnston has focused on turning planning into action. The Yukon University Foundation provides funding for this work. Our goal is to have Roddy's Camp ready for the upcoming Summit.

As part of this work, the shelter near the fire pit was removed to build a structure designed to support cultural activities at the camp. While the new structure will not be in place for the Summit, we intend to build it as quickly as possible while following the City of Whitehorse building guidelines. The adjacent Red Hut is being inspected to determine its suitability for occupation. In addition to a persistent rodent infestation, it may have some structural and safety challenges. More to come on this. We have currently halted bookings for the building.

The area is being prepped for a new fire pit and seating to be installed before the summit. We know this work may interfere with plans to use the camp, but these changes have been in the works for a long time. It is really exciting to see the work happening.

On the first day of the Summit, there will be a recognition of the impact that Roddy's guidance has had on our organization and a recognition of the Blackjack family.

Yukon First Nations Post Secondary Education Summit

Yukon University is hosting a Yukon First Nations Post Secondary Education Summit from October 13-15. The theme of the event is: *From Vision to Action - A 50-Year Path Forward*, and the draft agenda

included in the BoG meeting package. Please do not distribute this, as we are still finalizing the details in the agenda.

The Summit will bring together Yukon First Nations leaders, Elders, youth, educators, community representatives and Yukon University participants to explore the future of post-secondary education in the Yukon and identify priorities for action. We are grateful to eleV for being the primary sponsor for the summit.

The Summit takes place during Reading Week, which will increase opportunities for faculty and staff to participate in and witness these important conversations.

Opportunities for Participation. We have reserved 20 spaces for Yukon University faculty and staff to participate fully as Summit delegates. Full participants will attend the plenary sessions and take part in the working sessions focused on:

- Education & Belonging
- Language & Land-Based Learning
- Governance & Decision-Making
- Programs, Services & Community Needs

All Board members are invited to attend the Summit as delegates.

Engagements

Engagement with Federal Government Officials

- In late July, Chris Maher, Andrea McIntyre and Fiona Schmiegelow welcomed the Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Nature, the Honorable Julie Dabrusin, to announce approximately \$7 million for eight projects throughout the North under the Clean Energy for Rural and Remote Communities program and the Smart Renewables and Electrification Pathways program, including funding for Yukon University's Clean Energy Research Team for Northern Grid Impact Studies, supported by Natural Resources Canada and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada.
- On August 18, Chris Mahar, Bronwyn Hancock, Michelle Leach, and I met with the federal Minister of Health, the Honourable Marjorie Michel, the Deputy Minister of Health, Shalene Curtis-Micallef, and MP Brendan Hanley's team to highlight the work of the Yukon Strategy on Patient Oriented Research (YSPOR). We were pleased that Elder Jerry Soltani, the YSPOR Oversight Committee Elder and Shellby Fultun, YSPOR Co-Chair, RN, Selkirk First Nation joined us as well. In addition to discussing the amazing contributions of the YSPOR team, we also had the opportunity to discuss other health education priorities, including introducing a Northern nursing degree.

Engagement with Yukon First Nation Governments

- On June 24, I attended the CYFN General Assembly in Burwash Landing. This was a good opportunity to witness many important discussions and to reconnect with many old friends attending the assembly.
- In preparation for signage in the science building, we in late August, Lexie McKinnon, Fraser Pearce, Lindsay Moore, Bronwyn Hancock and I met with Kwanlin Dun Chief Sean Smith and Chief Ruth Massey to determine how Southern Tutchone language should be represented in the new science building and across the Ayamdigut Campus. Through these conversations we have direction to use the Ta'an dialect as the dialect is reflective of families who have traditionally resided in the Whitehorse area.
- On August 31, Lexie McKinnon, Dan Anton and I travelled to Faro to meet with campus staff. On September 1, we drove to Ross River to meet with representatives from the Ross River Dene Council and the Dena Nezziddi Development Corporation to discuss how to strengthen our work in Ross River. Interim Campus Coordinator Lorraine Sterriah helped guide the conversation. The

three-hour meeting was frank and productive. We will follow-up shortly and we anticipate the campus committee in Ross River will play a role in convening community partners to identify programming supporting community priorities.

- On September 2, Peter Johnston, Lexie McKinnon, Bronwyn Hancock, Andrea McIntyre, Lindsay Moore, Dan Anton, and I met with Teslin Tlingit Council (TTC) leadership in Teslin. Once again, the meeting reinforced the importance of campus staff and regular engagement between YukonU leadership and TTC leadership. After the meeting, Peter hosted us at his cabin and a most abundant berry patch!

Engagement with Yukon Government Officials

- On August 18, Chris Mahar, Paulo Gillani, and I met with Ministers Kent and Gehmair and their deputies, Paul Moore and Sierra Van Der Meer, to explore Northern opportunities for trades and labour market-related programming. Paul Moore and I were tasked with creating a working government/university group to move the conversation from discussion to action.
- On August 26, the university hosted Minister Kent, Deputy Paul Moore, and Board Chair Chris Mahar for a tour of the science building. It is exciting to see how far the construction has progressed since my last tour in the spring.

Engagement with Municipal Officials

- On July 3, Chris Mahar and I met with Mayor Kirk Cameron and Interim Manager Valerie Braga. We discussed the status of several initiatives we have in place with the City of Whitehorse, as well as the potential for future collaboration.

Conferences, Events and Celebrations

- The June 6 convocation ceremony went well at the new venue, Takhini Arena. The venue offered ample parking and accommodated the graduates' families. I would like to acknowledge the convocation planning committee for helping make the transition from the YukonU gym to the arena seamless.
- On June 8, I was able to attend the celebration for the appointment of Dawna Hope as the University's Research Chair in Water Governance. At their Annual General Meeting, held on June 8th in Whitehorse, representatives of The Gordon Foundation and Yukon University welcomed Dawna in her new role.
- From June 9- 12, I had the privilege of attending the EleV Conference in Saskatoon with Sue Glynn-Morris. The conference included Mastercard Foundation partners from every region in the country. I gave a series of brief presentations about Yukon University's journey with EleV since our partnership began in 2013. One of my biggest takeaways was the number of questions across the country about whether existing university quality assurance processes can assess whether degrees uphold First Nations' worldviews.
- From June 15-17, Bronwyn Hancock, Lindsay Moore, Sarah Lennie, Judy Colin, and I attended the Arctic Expo in Inuvik. This year's theme was Arctic Security. Bronwyn and I presented on Yukon University's current approach to Arctic Security. The sessions ranged from understanding the practical implications of Department of Defence investments in the Northern Operational Support Hubs to the possible threats to the North and Canada from growing geopolitical uncertainty. We were also pleased to see our waste and water operator instructors, Alison Anderson and Germaine Cave attending the session. While in Inuvik, we also met with:
 - The Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
 - Aurora College's Research Centre faculty in Inuvik
 - The Gwitch'in Tribal Council's Education Department
- On August 5, I attended the President's Committee on First Nations Initiatives (PACFNI) meeting in Atlin, BC. We had an opportunity to share current initiatives and challenges happening across the territory

and spend some time together on the land. On August 6, Peter Johnston provided an overview of the Yukon First Nations Summit.

YukonU Activities

- On August 19th the university held its 2026 Fall Huddle. This year's theme was understanding 17.7. Angie Joseph-Rear reflected on the importance of 17.7 for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (TH) nation through her life experience, and we reviewed scenarios exploring situations requiring university employees to work in partnership with TH employees to respond effectively. The Academic Retreat on August 20 gave faculty and staff an opportunity to explore the potential academic implications of 17.7.
- On August 25 and 26, we welcomed Toni De Mello, Vice President, Equity and Community Inclusion at Toronto Metropolitan University, to deliver a series of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) sessions for all university employees. The sessions aimed to help employees explore what YukonU's EDI statement means in practice and provide tools to engage students and peers in EDI conversations. The administration will work with Toni to build an EDI strategy for YukonU.
- On September 11, I joined Peter Johnston and Tony Penniket in Peter's *In the Pit with Peter Sessions*.

III. Report on Senate:

Motions – The following motions were carried:

Sept 16 Senate

- MOVED and SECONDED to approve the meeting agenda, as presented. CARRIED
- MOVED and SECONDED to approve the consent agenda item, Senate minutes, June 10, 2026, as presented. CARRIED
- MOVED and SECONDED that Senate recommend to Board of Governors the terms of the academic agreement between YukonU and UCalgary within the Senate's purview, for the delivery, in Yukon, of a law degree cohort starting in September 2027. CARRIED
- MOVED to adjourn at 5:17pm. CARRIED

IV. President's Key Engagements (June 1 to Sept 16):

Meetings in Advancement of Government Relations

- June 4 – Meeting with Paul Moore, DM Education
- June 15 – Meeting with Inuvialuit Regional Corp
- June 16 - Meeting with Gwich'in Tribal Council
- June 16 – Meeting with President Onalik, CanNOR
- June 17 – Meeting with Mister Gehmair
- June 29 – Meeting with DM King
- July 3 – Meeting with Mayor Cameron
- Aug 10 – Meeting with Chief Medical Officer
- Aug 11 – Meeting with Jason Bilsky, DM Finance
- Aug 18 – Meeting with Minister Gehmair and Kent
- Aug 26 - Polaris Tour with Minister Kent and DM Moore
- Aug 26 – Meeting with Chiefs Smith and Massie
- Sept 2 – Teslin: Meeting with Teslin Tlingit Council

Meetings & Engagements in Advancement of Yukon University Programs & Research

- June 29 – Meeting with Arctic College President
- Aug 18 – Federal Minister announcement Yukon-NEIHR
- Aug 21 – Meeting with Aurora College President

Engagements as Representative of Yukon University

- June 9-12 - EleV Network Gathering in Saskatoon
- June 15-17 – Arctic Development Expo in Inuvik
- June 25 - Tour for T̓silhqot'ín National Government Delegation
- Aug 10 – Tour for Association franco-yukonnaise Education Team
- Sept 4 – Surface Rights Board
- Sept 15 – PACIU Meeting in Vancouver

Yukon Community Visits

- June 25 – Burwash: CYFN General Assembly
- Aug 4-6 – Atlin: YU PACFNI
- Aug 31-1 – Ross River: Meeting with Dena Nezziddi Development Corp
- Sept 2 – Teslin: Meeting with Teslin Tlingit Council