

Board of Governors 142nd Regular Meeting

Minutes of the Public Session of the May 7, 2026, Meeting via Videoconference 12:00 p.m. - 1:28 p.m.

Governors Present:

Laura Elliott, Board Chair
Ahmad Barari
Nolan Bederman
Joe DeSario
Lorraine Gray
Matthew Mackenzie
Laura Money
Steven Murphy, President and Vice-Chancellor

Roger Poirier
Michael Rencheck
Hannah Scott
Gaurav Singh
Jeff Spiegelman
Dwight Thompson
Emily Whetung-MacInnes
Susanna Zagar

Regrets:

Eric Agius, Vice-Chair
Carla Carmichael
Frank Carnevale

Cynthia Domjancic
Mitch Frazer, Chancellor
Neeraj Grotra

Lisa McBride
Alveena Shrestha

Staff and Guests:

Kirstie Ayotte
Mya Brown
Jamie Bruno
Nicola Crow, Board Secretary
Sandra Grouette (Secretary)

Krista Hester
Les Jacobs
Lori Livingston
Jennifer MacInnis

Brad MacIsaac
Dr. Carolyn McGregor AM
Jemma Tam
Sarah Thrush

1. Welcome and Call to Order

The Chair called the Public Session of the Board of Governors Meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and provided the Land Acknowledgement. The Chair asked Governors, as they took time to reflect during the Land Acknowledgement, to remember and honour the lives of Missing, Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ People, to mark the National Day of Awareness that was on May 5, also known as Red Dress Day.

2. Agenda (M)

Upon a motion duly made by D. Thompson and seconded by J. Spiegelman, the Agenda was approved as presented, including approving and receiving the Consent Agenda and its contents.

3. Conflict of Interest Declaration

None Declared.

4. Chair's Remarks

The Chair highlighted some key agenda items, including the Board of Governors Award recipient announcement and Dr. Caroline McGregor's presentation on astronaut health and space research, which was timely given the recent Artemis II mission. In recognition of Mental Health

Awareness Week, the Chair also encouraged reflection on mental health and social connection. Governors were reminded about the upcoming Chancellor's Challenge event in October.

5. President's Report

The President provided updates on the University's alignment with federal and provincial priorities and highlighted increased momentum across sectors as organizations move from strategy to implementation. He noted Ontario Tech is at the forefront in helping the Federal government achieve its priorities with the University's strong positioning in areas such as energy, nuclear, advanced manufacturing, defence and dual purpose, mining and critical minerals, robotics, and workforce upskilling and reskilling, together with its ability to rapidly respond to emerging opportunities. The President also referenced continued partnership development and opportunities associated with projects such as the proposed Wesleyville nuclear facility.

The President announced that L. Livingston, the Provost and Vice-President Academic, will step down from the role at the end of the calendar year and thanked her for her significant leadership and contributions to the University. The President advised that an Academic Search Advisory Committee is being established for the next provost, with the goal of appointing a successor in late fall or early winter.

The President announced the 2026 Honorary Degree recipients as follows:

- Tabatha Bull, recognized for leadership in economic reconciliation and Indigenous entrepreneurship;
- Mark and Vanessa Mulroney, recognized for contributions to business, philanthropy, and community development;
- Ralph Lean, recognized for service to Canadian legal, corporate, and educational communities;
- Nitin Jain, recognized for leadership in Canada's health and seniors' sectors; and
- Nick Eaves, recognized for leadership and community engagement through sport.

The Chair echoed the President's recognition and acknowledgement of L. Livingston, in her role as Provost and Vice-President Academic, and expressed appreciation for her exemplary leadership and significant contributions to the University.

The Chair also congratulated the Honorary Degree recipients and encouraged Governors to attend Convocation Ceremonies to celebrate the achievements of graduates and their families.

5.1. Board of Governors Award Recipient

The President introduced and extended his congratulations to Mya Brown, the 2025-2026 Board of Governors Award recipient and noted that M. Brown, a first-year forensic psychology student, was recognized for her academic achievement, leadership, resilience, and commitment as both a student and athlete. He advised that in addition to their studies, they compete as a member of the Ridgebacks women's soccer team.

Mya Brown spoke about their first year at Ontario Tech University and reflected on the challenges and growth associated with transitioning to university life, balancing academics and athletics, and pursuing their passion for supporting others through forensic psychology. They expressed gratitude for the Board's support, noting that the award has strengthened their ability to focus on academic and athletic goals while motivating continued success.

The Board congratulated M. Brown on their accomplishments and contributions to the university community. The Chair also thanked M. Brown for sharing their academic and athletic journey with the Board and recognized their resilience and leadership.

6. Academic Council Report

J. Tam provided an overview of the March 24 and April 28, 2026 Academic Council Meetings. She highlighted the Centre of Police Science, Education and Training which was on the Board's agenda today, a posthumous degree conferral, curriculum updates, Academic Council committee activities, and governance matters, including the transition to more in-person Academic Council meetings. She concluded by thanking the Board and Academic Council members for their support during her tenure as Academic Council Liaison and reflected on the importance of collaboration and diverse perspectives within the University community.

The Chair thanked J. Tam for her report, leadership, and service on Academic Council, recognizing her contributions and dedication.

6.1. Centre of Police Science, Education and Training* (M)

L. Jacobs provided an overview of the proposed Centre of Police Science, Education and Training, describing it as a multi-faculty initiative that brings together expertise in social sciences, engineering, information technology, artificial intelligence, and emerging technologies. He reported that this Centre positions Ontario Tech as a national leader in the evolving field of police science, supported through partnerships with police services across southern Ontario. He also noted this was the first such Centre in Canada.

Upon a motion duly made by D. Thompson and seconded by J. DeSario, and pursuant to the recommendation of Academic Council, the Board of Governors hereby approves the establishment of the Centre of Police Science, Education, and Training, as presented.

7. Presentation: Astronaut Health Space Research (D)

Dr. C. McGregor AM, Dean of the Faculty of Business and Information Technology, presented on Ontario Tech University's leadership in astronaut health and space research, highlighting collaborative research initiatives focused on artificial intelligence, real-time physiological monitoring, and autonomous health-support technologies for future space missions.

Governors commended Dr. McGregor for her internationally recognized research. The Chair also thanked Dr. McGregor for her presentation and recognized her leadership and contributions to advancing innovative and globally significant research at the University.

8. Audit & Finance (A&F) Report

S. Zagar reported on the Public Session of A&F's April 23, 2026 Meeting, which included a review of the University's 2024-2025 Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security (MCURES) Financial Accountability Framework Report. She advised that the University remains in the medium-risk category primarily due to its long-term debenture obligations, with ongoing debt repayment identified as the key mitigation strategy. It was noted that due to the MCURES' risk escalation protocol and the University being in the medium-risk category for three years, this will mean the University will be in the high-risk category usually resulting in an external review. She advised that the University with the Council of Ontario Universities are advocating for qualitative assessments to allow recognition for institutional progress and negate the need for an external review.

S. Zagar also shared that A&F received the Annual Risk Report, where it was highlighted during A&F's discussion on this item that the higher risk ratings for enrollment and student experience reflect the potential impact, likelihood and time horizon rather than current performance, and these were highlighted to ensure ongoing strategic oversight.

8.1. 2026-2029 Budget Approval* (M)

S. Zagar reported that A&F had a fulsome dialogue on the 2026-2029 budget and expressed appreciation for the extensive work involved in its development. She advised that A&F was satisfied that the balanced budget puts the University in a strong position for the future by appropriately supporting the University's priorities and reflecting a multi-year strategy focused on long-term growth, sustainability, and transformation while managing risks tied to enrollment, inflation, and infrastructure. S. Zagar emphasised this was a defining moment for the University, one which the University is seizing by leveraging its strengths and expertise to secure not only the University's sustainability but also its growth.

B. MacIsaac provided an overview of the proposed 2026-2029 budget, highlighting investments in enrollment growth, faculty hiring, artificial intelligence initiatives, financial aid, infrastructure renewal, and long-term sustainability planning to support continued institutional growth and student success.

During the ensuing discussion, the importance of maintaining a cautious financial approach to support flexibility, strategic reinvestment, and stability amid uncertain long-term provincial funding trends was emphasised. It was also clarified that the multi-year financial model is designed to support long-term stability, strategic flexibility, and sustainable growth while avoiding significant staffing reductions experienced at other institutions. The investments in Banner, as part of the Enterprise transformation strategy, and AI related pilot projects and future innovation initiatives, were differentiated as separate investments.

It was further noted through the discussion that enrollment planning is informed by demographic projections and opportunities for growth in reskilling and upskilling. Ontario Tech's strengths in STEM and related fields also position the University competitively within the sector.

B. MacIsaac also addressed questions related to capital market sensitivity and noted that future borrowing for major capital projects could increase exposure to changes in interest rates and economic conditions. He explained that business cases for future capital investments would incorporate multiple interest-rate scenarios to support prudent financial planning and risk management.

The Chair thanked L. Livingston, B. MacIsaac and S. Thrush for their extensive work in developing the 2026-2029 budget.

Upon a motion duly made by L. Money and seconded by S. Zagar, and pursuant to the Audit & Finance Committee's recommendation, the Board of Governors hereby approves the 2026-2027 budget and the approval in principle of the budgetary projections for 2027-2029.

One (1) Opposed.

One (1) Abstention.

9. Governance, Nominations & Human Resources (GNHR) Report

The Chair noted that there was no report from GNHR.

10. Strategy & Planning (S&P) Report

10.1. Campus Master Plan Update* (M)

B. MacIsaac presented the Campus Master Plan Update, developed collaboratively with Durham College which focused on the North Campus. He reported that the updated Plan highlights a shift from long-term conceptual planning to implementation-focused development. He outlined current and future campus growth initiatives, including new student residences, expanded parking, additional academic and mixed-use building opportunities, and long-term land development strategies designed to support enrollment growth, enhance the student experience, and create a more connected and walkable campus environment.

In the discussion that followed, B. MacIsaac confirmed that the campus remains private property and noted that security planning continues to evolve through a combination of personnel, technology, and infrastructure measures. He also emphasised that the presentation focused specifically on the North Campus, while planning for the Downtown Campus continues under an existing framework developed with the municipality. Information was also shared on the broad consultation undertaken as part of the updated Plan's development, including students, municipal and regional planners, and community stakeholders.

The Chair thanked B. MacIsaac and the project team for their extensive work on the initiative and acknowledged the collaborative planning efforts undertaken with Durham College to support the future growth and development of the shared North Campus environment.

Upon a motion duly made by M. Rencheck and seconded by M. Mackenzie, and pursuant to the Strategy & Planning Committee's recommendation, the Board of Governors hereby approves the Campus Master Plan Update, as presented.

11. Consent Agenda:

The Chair confirmed that the contents of the Consent Agenda were approved and received under Agenda Item # 2.

11.1. Public Session Minutes of the March 5, 2026 Board Meeting* (M)

11.2. Public Session Minutes of the February 19, 2026 A&F Meeting* (I)

11.3. Public Session Minutes of the February 5, 2026 S&P Meeting* (I)

A&F Public Reports:

11.4. Annual Risk Report* (I)

11.5. Annual Compliance Report* (I)

11.6. Investment Oversight: Annual Endowment Disbursement* (M)

11.7. Fighting Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains Annual Report* (M)

12. Adjournment

There being no other business, and upon a motion duly made by M. Rencheck, the Public Session of the Board of Governors Meeting adjourned at 1:28 p.m.

Nicola Crow, University Secretary