

Board of Governors 139th Regular Meeting

Minutes of the Public Session of the October 9, 2025 Meeting Hybrid 1:35 p.m. - 2:13 p.m.

Governors Present:

Laura Elliott, Board Chair
Ahmad Barari
Nolan Bederman
Frank Carnevale
Joe DeSario
Cynthia Domjancic
Mitch Frazer, Chancellor
Lorraine Gray
Matthew Mackenzie
Lisa McBride

Steven Murphy, President and Vice-Chancellor
Roger Poirier
Michael Rencheck
Hannah Scott
Alveena Shrestha
Jeff Spiegelman
Dwight Thompson
Emily Whetung-MacInnes
Susanna Zagar

Regrets:

Eric Agius, Vice-Chair
Carla Carmichael
Neeraj Grotra
Laura Money
Gaurav Singh

Staff and Guests:

Kirstie Ayotte (Secretary)
Chelsea Bauer
Nicola Crow, Board Secretary
Mikael Eklund
Krista Hester
Les Jacobs
Lori Livingston
Kimberley McCartney

Joanne Nickle
Joe Stokes
Sarah Thrush
Jennifer MacInnis
Brad MacIsaac
Joe Stokes
Sarah Thrush

1. Welcome and Call to Order

The Chair called the Public Session of the Board of Governors meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

2. Agenda (M)

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

3. Conflict of Interest Declaration

None

4. Chair's Remarks

The Chair thanked participants and donors for their contributions to this year's Chancellor's Challenge, highlighting record attendance and advising that the \$200,000 fundraising target for student awards was exceeded. The Chair also reflected on the successful Becky Dinwoodie Memorial Golf Tournament, emphasizing the friendly competition and community engagement that made it a standout event.

The Chair provided an update regarding recent provincial consultations, explaining that the Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security is undertaking a governance review of universities and colleges. Input has been gathered from Board Chairs and Vice-Chairs through the Council of Ontario Universities (COU), and that the University has submitted documentation as part of this process. The consultations remain ongoing, with timing and outcomes yet to be determined.

5. President's Remarks

The President reported significant enrollment growth, exceeding undergraduate and graduate targets, driven by strong domestic recruitment and improved student retention, particularly in engineering, business, education and health sciences. He noted that these gains were achieved despite flat international application growth due to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) policies.

The President also provided an update on provincial funding, noting ongoing reviews of tuition and government grants, and emphasized the University's collaborative approach with the government on initiatives in STEM, energy, AI and robotics.

The President highlighted vibrant campus life, including record athletic event participation, and commended the efforts of the marketing and recruitment teams for sustaining the University's strong profile both domestically and internationally.

6. Academic Council Report

In J. Tam's absence, D. Thompson provided a high level overview of recent Academic Council activities, referring Members to the comprehensive report provided within the meeting materials for specifics.

D. Thompson highlighted the robust discussion on the proposed School of Ethical Artificial Intelligence (SEAI), approval of the Spring and Summer 2025 degree conferrals, routine governance matters and program modifications in the Faculty of Health Sciences and Faculty of Business and IT.

6.1 School of Ethical Artificial Intelligence* (M)

L. Livingston introduced the proposal for the new academically focused School of Ethical Artificial Intelligence (SEAI), referring Members to the detailed brief provided for specifics. She advised that the proposal, developed through extensive consultations, complements the existing Mindful Artificial Intelligence Research Institute (MAIRI) by focusing on AI pedagogy and the creation of a collective vision for integrating AI across academic programs. The proposal outlines the University's mandate, governance, membership, and minimal resource requirements, whilst emphasizing internal collaboration, efficiency, and avoidance of duplication. L. Livingston also highlighted an update since the proposal's presentation to Academic Council of an expanded

course list accurately reflecting courses developed or currently in the proposal stage of development.

The following discussion involved a thorough exchange among Members, with questions raised regarding the extent of the consultation, the governance process followed and the completeness of the proposal.

L. Livingston emphasised that SEAI is intended to unify existing AI initiatives, provide a cohesive framework for teaching and research, and foster a collective vision for AI education. She detailed the extensive consultations held with Deans, Associate Deans, and faculty experts, noting that ongoing consultation will continue as the SEAI develops. It was reiterated that the School's establishment aims to support the University's strategic priorities, prevent siloing, and ensure that AI programs evolve thoughtfully and consistently across all disciplines.

Upon a motion duly made by M. Mackenzie and seconded by F. Carnevale, and pursuant to the recommendation of the Academic Council, the Board of Governors hereby approves the establishment of the School of Ethical Artificial Intelligence (SEAI), as presented.

Two (2) Opposed.

7. Consent Agenda:

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

7.1 Minutes of the Public Session of Board Meeting of June 26, 2025* (M)

8. Adjournment

There being no other business, and upon a motion duly made by L. McBride, the Public session of the Board of Governors meeting adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

The meeting returned to the Non-Public Session Agenda.

Nicola Crow, University Secretary