

**Board of Governors
Minutes of Meeting**

Date: April 16, 2026

Time: 4:01pm-6:41pm

Room: Freed-Orman Commons, Assumption Hall, University of Windsor

Members: Daniel Ableser, Ken Alexander, Fazle Baki, Amangel Bhullar (virtual), Jodi Butts (Acting Chair*) (virtual), Noah Campbell, John Cappucci, Brian Cowell (virtual), Shari Cunningham (Acting Chair*), Ferruccio Da Sacco, Megan Evans (virtual), Tiffany Gooch (virtual), Nadine Manroe-Wakerell, J.J. McMurtry, Lisa Milne, Husam Morra (virtual), Celso Oliveira, Rana Olwan (virtual), Gordon Orr, Beth Ann Prince, Jennifer S. Rooke, Mike Ruthard (virtual), Debbie Sheppard-Lemoine, Mario Sonogo, Gina Touma (virtual), Bruce Tucker, Bill Van Heyst.

Regrets: Carolyn Brown (Chair), Irene Moore Davis, Karen Robson, Stephen Weir.

Administration and Guest Speakers: Shelby Askin Hager, Judy Bornais, Marie Campagna, Lynn Charron, Cheryl Collier, Jody Fraser, Shanthi Johnson, Shetina Jones-Smith, Ryan Kenney, Angela Kharboutli (virtual), Andrew Kuntz, Erika Kustra, John Marcarian, Rachel McRae, John Osborne, Rachelle Prince (virtual), Linda Rohr, Mona Sleiman (virtual), Claudio Verani; Yvonne Arnowitz (Associate University Secretary (Board)), Renée Wintermute (University Secretary).

Declaration of conflict of interest and reminder of confidentiality: none reported.

Although items were not discussed in sequential order, the minutes do reflect the agenda order of business.

*Ms. Butts served as Acting Chair from 4pm-4:30pm and 5:24pm-6:41pm. Ms. Cunningham served as Acting Chair from 4:30pm-5:24pm.

1 Approval of Agenda

Items 4.2.1 and 4.4.4 were unstarred.

MOTION: That the Agenda be approved, as amended.

Van Heyst/Sheppard-Lemoine

CARRIED

2 Minutes of the meeting of February 24, 2026

(see document BG260224M for more details.)

MOTION: That the minutes of the meeting of February 24, 2026 be approved.

Orr/Prince

CARRIED

3 Business arising from the minutes

None to report.

4 Outstanding Business/New Business

None reported.

4.1 Reports**4.1.1 Remarks from the Chair**

No report as the Chair was unable to attend the meeting.

4.1.2 President's Report

(see document BG260416-4.1.2 for more details.)

NOTED:

- Outgoing student members Amangel Bhullar, Husam Morra, Gina Touma, and Stephen Weir were thanked for their work on the Board.
- The work on the upcoming Operating Budget continues, as clarification on the provincial government's funding mandate is being sought.
- Feedback on the two shortlisted Provost candidates is being sought, applications are coming in for the Registrar's position, and the search for a new Vice-President, Finance & Operations is expected to be finalized by September.
- It was noted that the recent senior leadership turnover is fairly common across the University sector. Informal interviews are held with outgoing Administration leaders but there is no formal exit survey in place.
- The Governance Committee will review and report back on a member's question regarding amending Board bylaws and policies with respect to delegated authority and instructing administration by Fall 2026.

4.1.3 Questions Arising from the Reports of the Vice-Presidents and Associate Vice-President, External

(see document BG260416-4.1.3 for more details.)

NOTED:

- The review of the Faculty Graduate Studies will focus on assessing how to best support and attract more graduate students.
- The revised Human Resources policies are administrative policies and will be posted to the University's Central Policies database.

4.2 Pension Committee

4.2.1 University of Windsor Employees' Retirement Plan (ERP) Benefit Improvements

(see document BG260416-4.2.1 for more details.)

MOTION: That the Board of Governors approve the funding policy and early retirement benefit improvements to the University of Windsor Employees' Retirement Plan.

Sonego/Tucker

NOTED:

- Improved retirement benefits will result in savings, as it will create vacancies which may be left unfilled or may be filled by employees at the early stages of their careers.
- Excess pension funds cannot be repurposed to capital or operating initiatives, per FSRA.

CARRIED

4.3 Executive Committee

*4.3.1 Annual Report on University's Health and Safety Programs

(see document BG260416-4.3.1 for more details.)

The document was received for information.*

4.4 Governance Committee

4.4.1 Access to Committee Minutes and Packages

(see document BG260416-4.4.1 for more details.)

MOTION: That the following provisions be added to the revised 2012 Board Resolution on Access to Committee Minutes, and that the resolution be expanded to include Committee packages:

- Board members are only able to request access to packages and minutes of committee meetings which were held during the period they were members on the Board and are only able to request access to packages and minutes of committee meetings held during their tenure on the Board. Such requests, accompanied by a clear rationale explaining how the request fills the fiduciary responsibility of the Board, will usually be accommodated, except in special circumstances, as in the case of matters involving appointments or personnel issues.
- Access will be denied to Board members who may have an actual, perceived, or potential conflict with the agenda items, discussions, or reports.
- Where access has been granted, copying or taking photos/images by any means (electronic, digital, audio/visual, hand-writing, etc.) of committee packages and minutes is prohibited.
- Note-taking is permitted provided that the member keeps the notes confidential and that a copy is filed with the University Secretariat.

Tucker/Campbell

AGREED:

- Requests to review previous Board and Committee minutes must be for a proper governance purpose and relevant to members' fiduciary duties during their term as a Board member.

CARRIED

***4.4.2 Roles and Responsibilities of the Board, and Individual Board Members' and Board Committee Members' Responsibilities and Expectations - Revision**

(see document BG260416-4.4.2 for more details.)

MOTION: That the proposed revision to the *Role and Responsibilities of the Board, and Individual Board Members' and Board Committee Members' Responsibilities and Expectations* be approved.

CARRIED*

4.4.3 Changing Appointment Terms

(see document BG260416-4.4.3 for more details.)

MOTION: That the board appointment terms be streamlined to a September 1 start date – August 31 end date as outlined in Appendix A.

Tucker/Cappucci

CARRIED

4.4.4 Board Bylaw – Proposed Revisions

(see document BG260416-4.4.4 for more details.)

MOTION: That the proposed revisions to Board Bylaw 1 be approved.

Tucker/Prince

NOTED:

- The revisions align with consent agenda procedures for governing bodies elsewhere.

CARRIED

4.5 Audit Committee

Nothing to report.

4.6 Investment Committee

Nothing to report.

4.7 Resource Allocation Committee

4.7.1 2026-2027 Ancillary Budget

*[Includes 2026-2027 Proposed Residence, Meal Plan, and Parking Fees]
(see documents BG260416-4.7.1 and BG260416-4.7.1a for more details.)*

MOTION: That the Board of Governors approve the proposed 2026-2027 Residence Fees, Meal Plans Fees, and Parking Fees.

Sonego/Tucker

NOTED:

- The 2026/27 consolidated operating budget for Ancillary Services is budgeting a profit of \$500K.
- Details of the fees, fee structure, and projected student enrolment for the University's residences were reviewed.
- The Department of Housing and Residence Life is budgeting a break-even profit of \$14K.
- Commission payments are anticipated to result in a projected profit of \$189K for Food Services in 2026/27 to be applied against accumulated deficits.
- Parking rates have a planned increase of 3% for all student and employee parking fees.
- Parking Services is budgeting \$294K in profit to be applied against accumulated deficits.
- UWindsor receives 3% commission on majority of Follett sales at the Bookstore.
- Total sales revenue at the Printshop are budgeted at \$517K in 2026/27, with break-even profitability. Services at the Printshop will continue to be expanded for future revenue.
- It was noted that opportunities to increase usage of residences during the summer are being discussed. There are no summer meal plans available.
- The number of first year Windsor-Essex County students on campus is in the 70%-75% range, with the number of out of town students in residences being between 90%-98%. The return rate for residence students is about 20%, with most students moving off campus after their first year.

CARRIED

4.7.2 2026-2027 Proposed Tuition and Compulsory Ancillary Fees

(see documents BG260416-4.7.2 and BG260416-4.7.2a for more details.)

MOTION: That the Board of Governors approve the proposed 2026-2027 Tuition and Compulsory Ancillary Fees.

Sonego/Prince

NOTED:

- The proposed 2026-2027 tuition and compulsory ancillary fees were reviewed in detail.
- MCU is lifting the domestic tuition freeze, allowing in-province tuition to increase by up to 2% for the first time since 2019. A recommendation of a 2% increase across Undergraduate, Masters, PhD, and Regulated Course Based Masters program is being made.
- Members were reminded that the International Student Tuition Guarantee, now in its sixth year, continues to apply and provides international students with stability in base tuition for the regular duration of their program.
- International tuition rates are assessed based on competitors' rates, student demand along with comparability of cost per students. These students remain subject to the Federal Government's enrolment cap.
- The out of province student strategy is program specific, with a portion of the operating grant coming from the province.

AGREED:

- An error regarding the Law and Dual JD rates was noted. The numbers should be reversed.

- Members agreed by general consent that minor changes to be made due to typographical errors can be made by Administration in keeping with the motion.

CARRIED, as amended

4.7.3 2026-2027 Capital Budget

(see documents BG260416-4.7.3 and BG260416-4.7.3a for more details.)

MOTION: That the Board of Governors approve the proposed 2026-2027 Capital Budget.

Sonego/Tucker

NOTED:

- \$25.3M is budgeted for capital spending in 2026-2027, which seeks to balance strategic space/program investments with capital renewal to protect critical infrastructure, reduce risk, and support the Aspire Strategic Plan and the Four Pillars Framework.
- Deferred maintenance and how capital projects are prioritized was discussed. The current deferred maintenance backlog is to exceed \$440M by the end of 2027.
- Members reviewed governance and risk management. A risk of not moving forward on projects is that FRP funding may not be available in the future.
- It was noted that donor recognition plates on chairs in Essex Theatre were removed and will be placed on a plaque in the newly renovated classroom.
- Plans for 7/11 property will be part of upcoming campus master planning.
- The future of Essex Hall will be contemplated based on upcoming space studies, renovation issues, and in light of the overall master plan.

CARRIED

5 In Camera

The following In Camera motions were read into the public minutes. Members did not participate in the portion of the meeting that pertained to their respective appointments.

MOTION: That the Board approve the following reappointments:

Ferruccio Da Sacco (for a 2nd term commencing May 20, 2026)

John Cappucci (for a 3rd term commencing May 20, 2026)

Cunningham/Campbell

CARRIED

MOTION: That the Board approve the following Board Committee member (re)appointments:

Rana Olwan, Audit Committee (for 2nd term commencing May 1, 2026)

Ken Alexander, Executive Committee (for 2nd term commencing May 1, 2026)

Tiffany Gooch, Executive Committee (for 2nd term commencing May 1, 2026)

Jennifer Rooke, Executive Committee (for 2nd term commencing May 1, 2026)

Rana Olwan, Governance Committee (for 2nd term commencing May 1, 2026)

Ferruccio DaSacco, Investment Committee (for 2nd term commencing May 1, 2026)

Mario Sonego, Resource Allocation Committee (for 3rd term commencing May 1, 2026)

Gordon Orr, Pension Committee (completed the remainder of term and for 1st term, commencing May 1, 2026)

Mario Sonego, Pension Committee (for 3rd term commencing May 1, 2026)

Megan Evans, Resource Allocation Committee (for 2nd term commencing July 8, 2026 and completing Brian Cowell's term)

Nadine Manroe-Wakerell, Governance Committee (completing remainder of Bruce Tucker's term and for 1st term, commencing Sept 16, 2026)

Isabelle Barrette-Ng, Resource Allocation Committee (completing remainder of Karen Robson's term and for 1st term commencing July 1, 2026)

Jodi Butts, Audit Committee (completing remainder of Brian Cowell's term and for 1st term, commencing July 8, 2026)

Bill Van Heyst, Resource Allocation Committee (for 1st term, commencing May 1, 2026)

Mike Ruthard, Pension Committee (for 1st term, commencing May 1, 2026)

Gooch/Tucker
CARRIED

MOTION: That the Board approve the following non-Board Committee member re-appointments:

Sabrina Nazzani, Audit Committee (for 3rd term commencing May 1, 2026)

Ram Balachandar, Investment Committee (for 3rd term commencing May 1, 2026-April 30, 2028)

Anthony Liolli, Investment Committee (for 2nd term commencing May 1, 2026)

Anthony Liolli, Pension Committee (for 2nd term commencing May 1, 2026)

CARRIED*

MOTION: That the Board of Governors approve the following reappointments:

- Jennifer Rooke, Senate (for 2nd term commencing September 1, 2026)

- Lisa Milne, Senate (for 2nd term commencing September 1, 2026)

CARRIED*

MOTION: That Shari Cunningham be appointed as Chair of the Board Governance Committee (effective September 16, 2026).

CARRIED*

MOTION: That Jodi Butts be appointed as Chair of the Board Audit Committee (effective July 8, 2026).

CARRIED*

MOTION: That Megan Evans be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Board Resource Allocation Committee (effective May 1, 2026).

CARRIED*

MOTION: That the Board of Governors ratify the following Senate appointments to the Board of Governors:

- Isabelle Barrette-Ng (completing remainder of Karen Robson's term and 1st term, commencing July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2030)

- Linda Rohr (for 1st term commencing September 1, 2026 to June 30, 2029)

CARRIED*

6 Adjournment

MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned.

Prince/Rooke
CARRIED