

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

SPECIAL PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

Thursday, May 29, 2025

Zoom Only

9:15 am –

10:30

Members – A. Beswick, I. Agoston, J. McKay - CHAIR, P. Mullins, G. Payne, G. Stewart, L. Shehata, T. Whitcombe, J. Martin (VICE-CHAIR), T. Morrison

Regrets: A. Alexander, J. Henley, D. McIntosh,

Absent: E. Roberts,

Governance: K. Howitt (University Secretary), A. Parent (Governance Officer – Recording)

Administration: B. Owen (Interim Vice-President Academic & Provost), R. Somani (Vice-President Finance and Administration), P. Wood-Adams (Vice-President Research and Innovation), C. Ross (Chief Information Security and Privacy Officer), M. Barnes (Interim Associate Vice-President, Strategy and Outreach)

The meeting commenced at 9:17 am

Acknowledgement of Territory

For thousands of years, Indigenous Peoples have walked gently on the diverse traditional territories where the University of Northern British Columbia community is grateful to live, work, learn, and play. We are committed to building and nurturing relationships with Indigenous peoples, we acknowledge their traditional lands.

The Prince George campus is situated on the unceded traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, part of the Dakelh (Carrier) peoples' territory.

The Chair acknowledged the First Nations territories on which we work and live.

1. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chair welcomed new student Board members, Lina Shehata (Graduate) and Emily Roberts (undergraduate) to the Board. The chair reported that Order-In-Council Alumni appointments are expected to be confirmed by Cabinet in

- **Declarations of Conflict**

The Chair asked if on reviewing the agenda, if any member of the Board believes they may have a conflict with any item that it be declared. No conflicts were declared.

- **Correspondence Received**

None

2. Report from the Closed Session of the Board

- Cyber-Security GAP Assessment Presentation and Update
- UNBC Land Trust - Approval of the Agreement to Lease (ATL)
- President's Recommendation for Tenure & Promotion
- Market Differentials
- Update Enrolment Management

3. **Approval of Agenda**

MOTION: 2025BP05.29.01 (T. Morrison/P. Mullins)

That, the Agenda for the Public Session of May 29, 2025, of the Board of Governors be approved as presented.

CARRIED

4. **Approval of Minutes**

a. **Public Session Minutes of March 13, 2025**

MOTION: 2025BP05.29.02 (T. Whitcombe/G. Stewart)

That, the Public Session Minutes of March 13, 2025, of the Board of Governors be approved as presented.

CARRIED

5. **Business Arising from Previous Public Session Minutes**

None.

6. **Reports of Committees and Related Motions**

(i) **Audit and Risk Committee** – G. Stewart, Chair

The Committee Chair reported that the Audit and Risk Committee met earlier in the week and received KPMG audit review finding presentation.

a. **Audit Findings Report – KPMG Audit Representatives** – C. Naphtali

There are no concerns, and the university is assessed as low risk. C. Naphtali from KPMG was present to answer questions on the Audit Findings report.

b. **Presentation and Approval of Financial Statements** – R. Somani

The Consolidated Financial Statements were reviewed and discussed.

MOTION: 2025BP05.29.03 (T. Morrison/J. Martin)

That, on the recommendation of the Audit and Risk Committee, the Board of Governors approves the University of Northern British Columbia's Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2025.

CARRIED

c. **UNBC Enrollment Audit – Annualized FTE Audit Report** – B. Owen

Report received. The Interim Provost reported on the utilization rates of academic programs, particularly in the School of Engineering. The Board discussed how UNBC's utilization compares to similar universities.

(ii) **Finance and Investment Committee** – A. Beswick, Chair

Nothing to report.

(iii) **Governance and Human Resources Committee** – J. McKay, Chair

a. **Memorandum of Understanding between Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine and UNBC**

The agreement was received. The Board discussed the implications of a MOU with a specific institution, financial obligations and the operational impact on faculty. The Interim Provost and Interim Associate Vice President clarified that the MOU is research-focused, with no financial risk or undue burden on faculty.

MOTION: 2025BP05.29.04 (G. Payne/J. Martin)

That on the recommendation of the Governance and Human Resources Committee and the UNBC Senate, the Board of Governors approves the Memorandum of Understanding between Tohoku

University Graduate School of Medicine and the University of Northern British Columbia to promote further intercultural, education, scientific and technological exchanges as well as for the exchange of students as promoted by the Agreement on Academic Exchange as proposed.
CARRIED

b. **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between UNBC and the City of Prince Rupert**

The agreement was received. This MOU represents a renewed and deepened partnership with the City of Prince Rupert that is aimed at supporting the city's development through education, research, and community engagement. The President reported that the agreement emerged from recent collaborative efforts and stakeholder meetings and the city expressed strong interest in UNBC being a long-term partner in its revitalization.

MOTION: 2025BP05.29.05 (T. Morrison/G. Stewart)

That on the recommendation of the Governance and Human Resources Committee and the UNBC Senate, the Board of Governors approves the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) formalizes the partnership between the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) and the City of Prince Rupert to pursue areas of joint interest, including workforce development, research and innovation, and broader community engagement.
CARRIED

c. **UNBC Global engagement: Ready for student Success plan 2025-2029**

Plan received. The Interim Provost reported that the Global Engagement Plan (2025–2029) is a strategic initiative required by the Ministry to maintain its Education Quality Assurance and Designated Learning Institution status. It aligns closely with UNBC's broader strategic framework, *UNBC Ready*. The plan marks the beginning of a revitalized approach to international education at UNBC, emphasizing student-focused global engagement and expanded international partnerships.

MOTION: 2025BP05.29.06 (G. Stewart/P. Mullins)

Plan received. The Interim Provost reported that the Global Engagement Plan (2025–2029) is a strategic initiative required by the Ministry to maintain its Education Quality Assurance and Designated Learning Institution status. It aligns closely with UNBC's broader strategic framework, UNBC Ready. The plan marks the beginning of a revitalized approach to international education at UNBC, emphasizing student-focused global engagement and expanded international partnerships.
CARRIED

d. **Executive Compensation Disclosure – R. Somani**

Report received. Following this meeting the attestation letter is to be signed by the Board Chair.

MOTION: 2025BP05.29.07 (G. Stewart/J. McKay)

That on the recommendation of the Governance and Human Resources Committee the Board of Governors approves the Executive Compensation Disclosure as presented.
CARRIED

7. **Other Business**

a. Annual Schedule of Board Meetings 2025 – for information – J. McKay

b. Schedule of Upcoming UNBC Events

- **Class of 2025 Convocation – May 30, 2025**
Location: Northern Sport Centre, Prince George
- **Class of 2025 Graduate Campus Celebrations**
 - Northwest campus (Terrace, B.C.) - June 3, 2025
Location: R.E.M. Lee Theatre
 - Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Institute (Gitwinksihlkw, B.C.) - June 4, 2025
Location: Ts'oolh Ts'ap Memorial Centre

- South-Central campus (Quesnel, B.C.) - June 11, 2025
Location: UNBC South-Central Campus Atrium
- Northeast campus (Fort St. John, B.C.) - June 6, 2025
Location: Room 1405 (Formerly room 202) Northern Lights College Atrium

For more UNBC events, please visit www2.unbc.ca/events

8. Adjournment

MOTION: 2025BC05.29.08 (T. Whitcombe) <i>That the Board Closed meeting be adjourned.</i> CARRIED
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The meeting adjourned at 10:02 pm.

DRAFT