BOARD OF GOVERNORS
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

Thursday, June 26, 2025
Senate Chambers - Room 1079/Zoom
3:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Members – A. Alexander, I. Agoston, J. Henley, J. McKay - CHAIR, P. Mullins, G. Payne, G. Stewart, T. Whitcombe, D. McIntosh (Chancellor), J. Martin (VICE-CHAIR), T. Morrison

Regrets: A. Beswick, L. Shehata

Absent: E. Roberts

Governance: K. Howitt (University Secretary), A. Parent (Associate University Secretary – 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 3:31 pm

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.

We collaborate with many Indigenous communities, not just in Prince George, but across the North, and it's important we recognize and celebrate that with you today.

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

1. <u>Chair's Remarks</u>

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The chair reported that Order-In-Council Alumni appointments are expected to be confirmed by Cabinet in

- Declarations of Conflict - No conflicts were declared.
- Correspondence Received - None

2. <u>Presentation</u>: Northern Hub for Health Research
Paula Wood-Adams, Vice President Research and Innovation

Dr. Wood-Adams introduced the Northern Hub for Health Research, a $140 million initiative led by UNBC, Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, and Northern Health to address health inequities in Northern British Columbia through Indigenous-informed, purpose-built infrastructure. It outlined three research streams—community-engaged, clinical, and biomedical—highlighting the potential of nature-based molecules and regional partnerships. The project aims to transform health outcomes and economic development in the North, with federal, provincial, and partner funding contributions.

3. Approval of Agenda

The Chair requested that the Initiation of the Search Process for the Appointment of the President and Vice Chancellor as Item 8 (iii) h.

MOTION: 2025BP06.26.01 (T. Whitcombe/P. Mullins)
That, the Agenda for the Public Session of June 26, 2025, of the Board of Governors be approved as presented.
CARRIED as amended

4. Approval of Minutes

a. **Public Session Minutes of May 29, 2025**

MOTION: 2025BP06.26.02 (T. Whitcombe/G. Stewart)
That, the Public Session Minutes of May 29, 2025, of the Board of Governors be approved as presented.
CARRIED

5. Report from the Closed Session of the Board (March and May)

- Cyber-Security GAP Assessment Presentation and Update
- UNBC Land Trust - Approval of the Agreement to Lease (ATL)
- President's Recommendation for Tenure & Promotion
- Individual Market Differentials
- 2025 Collective Bargaining

6. Business Arising from Previous Public Session Minutes

7. Board Motions/Discussions

a. University Advancement Advisory Board

The University Advancement Advisory Board (UAAB) discussion focused on revising its terms of reference following concerns about its effectiveness and clarity of purpose. Members emphasized the need for better alignment with institutional priorities, especially around fundraising and enrollment strategy. The board reaffirmed UAAB's role as an advisory—not operational—body, and committed to refining its direction and engagement process.

MOTION: 2025BP06.26.03 (T. Whitcombe/G. Stewart)
That the Board of Governors approves of the changes to the UNBC University Advancement Advisory Board Term of Reference as presented.
CARRIED

8. Reports of Committees and Related Motions

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

a. Information Security Policy – C. Ross
Material received and discussed.

MOTION: 2025BP06.26.04 (P. Mullins /J. Martin)
That on the recommendation of the Audit and Risk Committee the Board of Governors approves the Information Security Policy as presented.
CARRIED

b. Data Governance, Privacy, and Information Security Report - C. Ross
Material received and discussed.

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

a. Scholarships, Bursaries and Awards – P. Wood-Adams
Material received and discussed.

MOTION: 2025BP06.26.05 (G. Payne/J. Martin)
That on the recommendation of the Finance and Investment, the Board of Governors approves the scholarships, bursaries and awards as recommended and approved by the UNBC Senate, for the period February 2025 – May 2025, as presented.
CARRIED

(iii) **<u>Governance and Human Resources Committee</u>** – J. McKay, Chair

a. Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding for Approval

i. **Exchange Agreement – UNE Partnership Renewal** – B. Owen
Material received and discussed.

MOTION: 2025BP06.26.06 (G. Stewart/P. Mullins)
That on the recommendation of the Governance and Human Resources Committee and the UNBC Senate, the Board of Governors approves that the following exchange agreements be renewed and approved under the previously agreed terms and conditions for a period of five (5) years as proposed.
CARRIED

ii. **Federated Agreement – Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Institute (WWN) and the University of Northern British Columbia**– G. Payne
Material received and discussed. The Federated Agreement between UNBC and Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Institute was renewed for another 30 years, reaffirming their longstanding partnership. It supports Indigenous education and includes provisions for joint academic programming and shared governance. The agreement incorporates UNDRIP principles and allows for periodic review by mutual consent.

MOTION: 2025BP06.26.07 (G. Stewart/J. Martin)
That on the recommendation of the Governance and Human Resources Committee and the UNBC Senate, the Board of Governors approves of the Federated Agreement between the Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Institute (WWN) and the University of Northern British Columbia as proposed.
CARRIED

iii. **Memorandum of Understanding - Yamagata Prefectural University of Health Sciences and UNBC**–P. Woods-Adams
Material received and discussed.

MOTION: 2025BP06.26.08 (P. Mullins/G. Payne)
That on the recommendation of the Governance and Human Resources Committee and UNBC Senate, the Board of Governors approves the Memorandum of Understanding between Yamagata Prefectural University of Health Sciences and the University of Northern British Columbia as presented.
CARRIED

iv. **Memorandum of Understanding – Aurora College and UNBC -** B. Owen
Material received and discussed.

MOTION: 2025BP06.26.09 (G. Stewart/J. McKay)
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 Aurora College and the University of Northern British Columbia be approved as proposed.
CARRIED

b. Intentional Diversity Hiring Policy – Revised May 2025– G. Payne
Material received and discussed.

MOTION: 2025BP06.26.10 (P. Mullins/ J. Martin)
That on the recommendation of the Governance and Human Resources Committee, the Board of Governors approves the Intentional Diversity Hiring Policy as presented.
CARRIED

c. **Naming of Physical Assets Policy**-P. Woods-Adams
Material received and discussed.

MOTION: 2025BP06.26.11 (G. Stewart/J. McKay)
That on the recommendation of the Governance and Human Resources Committee, the Board of Governors approves the Naming of Physical Assets Policy as presented.
CARRIED

d. **Naming of Physical Assets repeal** – P. Woods-Adams

MOTION: 2025BP06.26.12 (A. Alexander/J. McKay)
That on the recommendation of the Governance and Human Resources Committee, the Board of Governors repeals the Naming Policy as presented.
CARRIED

e. ***Appointment of Acting Registrar***– B. Owen

MOTION: 2025BP06.26.13 (A. Alexander/ G. Stewart)
That on the recommendation of the Governance and Human Resources Committee the Board of Governors approves the following positions as eligible to serve as "acting registrar" in the absence or incapacity of the Registrar. The order of appointment and division and distribution of responsibilities is at the discretion of the Registrar in the event of an anticipated absence, or at the discretion of the Vice-President Academic and Provost in the event of an unanticipated absence or incapacity:

- *Deputy Registrar*
- *Associate Registrar, International*
- *Assistant Registrar*
- *Director, Graduate*
- *University Secretary*

CARRIED

f. **Annual Schedule of Board Meetings 2025 and Approval of the 2026 Schedule** – K. Howitt

MOTION: 2025BP06.26.14 (P. Mullins/ J. Martin)
That on the recommendation of the Governance and Human Resources Committee, the Board of Governors the approves the Annual Schedule of Board Meetings for 2026 as presented.
CARRIED

g. **Approval of Mandate Letter –** J. McKay
Material received and discussed

MOTION: 2025BP06.26.15 (G. Stewart/A. Alexander)
That the Governance and Human Resources Committee recommends to the Board of Governors the approval of the signing of the 2025/2026 Minister Letter and further recommends that the Board authorize the Board Chair to sign the Minister Letter on behalf of the Board.
CARRIED

h. **Initiation of the Search Process for the Appointment of the President and Vice Chancellor**

MOTION: 2025BP06.26.16 (G. Stewart/P. Mullins)
That on the recommendation of the Governance and Human Resources Committee, the Board of Governors, in accordance with the University Act, the Appointment and Reappointment of the President and Vice-Chancellor Policy and the Search and Recommendation for the Selection of the President and Vice-Chancellor Procedures, initiates the process for the appointment of the next President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Northern British Columbia, and:

1. *Establishes a Presidential Search Committee as outlined in GV 6.1;*

2. Directs the Committee to follow the procedures and principles set out in GV 6.1 and the HR 1 Hiring Equity Policy;

3. Authorizes the Chair of the Board to oversee the formation of the Committee and to ensure that all members complete the required equity, diversity, and inclusion training;

4. Approves the development of a search timeline and consultation plan to ensure broad engagement with the university community;

5. Authorizes the use of external executive search support, if deemed appropriate by the Committee;

6. Requests regular updates from the Committee Chair to the Board on the progress of the search.

CARRIED

9. Primary Focus for September Meeting

- Statement of Financial Information Submission
- Five Year Capital Plan
- Quarterly Financial Reports

10. Mandatory and Standing Reports – Public Session

a. **Report of the President** – G. Payne

- President's Annual Report on Management's Progress against Strategic Priorities (material to follow)
  - UNBC Strategic Plan, READY
- Senate Report

b. **Public Reports of the Vice-Presidents, written**

- Interim Vice-President Academic and Provost – B. Owen
- Vice-President, Finance and Administration – R. Somani
  - Climate Change Accountability Report
- Vice-President, Research and Innovation – P. Wood-Adams

11. Other Business

a. Annual Report on UNBC Harassment and Discrimination Policy for the period April 30, 2024 to May 01, 2025 – for information– G. Payne
b. Schedule of Upcoming UNBC Events

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

12. Adjournment

MOTION: 2025BP06.26.17 (T. Whitcombe)
That the Board Closed meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 5:36 pm.