



Meeting of the Board of Governors

August 14, 2025 – Minutes

The Board of Governors of Acadia University acknowledges that we are located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People.

A Special Meeting of the Board of Governors was held virtually on Thursday, August 14, 2025, at 8:30 a.m., using Teams.

Governors present: Henry Demone (Chair), Bert Frizzell (First Vice-Chair), Dr. Jeff Hennessy (President and Vice-Chancellor), Allan MacDonald, Dr. Andrew Davis, Rev. Dr. Anna Robbins, Bethany Moffatt, Cameron MacKeen, Cathy Simpson, Charles Coll, Dr. Candy O'Connor, Christine Lukasavitch, Clive Anderson, Rev. Dan Green, Ed Barrett, Gale Colpitts, Rev. Judith Tod, Karen Hutt, Mark Adam, Martin Suter, Nancy McCain, Nastasya Kennedy, Paul Black, Robert McGregor, Shana Lespere, Shelley Fleckenstein, Stan Thomas, Tracey McGillivray, Tim Formuziewich, Tove Bishop.

Management present: Erin Beaudin, Ashlee Cunsolo, Scott Duguay, Nancy Handrigan, and Natalie Weekes (Recording Secretary).

Regrets: Cora Tolliver, Dr. Jeff Banks, Melinda Daye, Pam Mood, Ross Langley, Shanna Lespere, Stan Thomas, Yas Jawad.

1. **Call to Order**

H. Demone, Board Chair, called the meeting to order, welcomed meeting participants, and provided a territorial acknowledgment.

2. **Approval of Meeting Agenda**

IT WAS MOVED by M. Suter / R. McGregor.

THAT the Meeting Agenda be approved as distributed.

CARRIED.

3. **Approval of the Financial Statements for 2024-2025**

The Financial Statements were circulated to the Board prior to today's meeting.

The Finance, Audit, and Risk Committee has spent a great deal of time on the documents shared

today, and they are the result of an improved process. B. Moffatt, Finance, Audit, and Risk Committee Chair, acknowledged the work of E. Beaudin and her team, which has provided a far more robust financial picture. A meeting has taken place with the Audit team, and they have confirmed that the Audit is clean. While the results show a deficit, they aren't unexpected, and the picture has improved when compared to the initial budget that was approved by the Board last year. A sustainability plan will be presented to the Board in the October, 2025.

E. Beaudin thanked the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee for their support over the past year as challenges were tackled and processes improved.

The Chair opened up the floor for questions, and a discussion took place.

One correction was requested to the naming convention of the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada within the statements.

The Chair called for a motion.

IT WAS MOVED by B. Moffatt / M. Suter

THAT the annual Financial Statements for the period ending March 2025 be approved by the Board.

CARRIED.

4. Bargaining Update

J. Hennessy provide a brief update on the Collective Bargaining process that has been taking place over recent months with the Acadia University Faculty Association (AUFA). Thanks to hard work on both sides of the bargaining table, negotiations concluded before classes began, which has provided reassurance and stability for incoming students. J. Hennessy extended his thanks to E. Beaudin and her team for leading a positive and collaborative bargaining process for the University.

The Chair echoed J. Hennessy's thanks to the bargaining team, led by E. Beaudin, and thanked J. Hennessy for his hard work in getting Acadia to this position.

The Chair opened up the floor for questions, and a discussion took place.

When it comes to the Province's request for universities to become more financially viable, the 2% grant is locked in for the next two years, but having a more financially sustainable sector will help to support the case to determine what the future needs of the sector may be.

It is hoped that a vote to get the Collective Agreement ratified will take place very soon.

5. Other Business

J. Hennessy shared that the Governance Committee of the Board has been discussing the Board Agenda structure, and is recommending that the Board moves to having written submissions of reports from Standing Committees to be included in the Consent Agenda for future meetings.

A template document was emailed to Governors prior to this meeting, and Governors were encouraged to share their thoughts and feedback on it today.

It was noted that these reports won't include President reports (including the Acadia Divinity College,

The Acadia Students' Union, and the Acadia Alumni Association), but that all Board Committees will prepare a standardized report in advance of the meeting, which will be provided to Governors as part of the meeting documentation.

A regular Report will still be provided by the President and Vice-Presidents.

A discussion took place.

Clarity was requested on who creates the first draft of the Reports, and workload management was noted. The Reports should be short and can be initially drafted by support staff who take the Committee Minutes and Meeting Notes. The Report should include a broad summary of discussion topics and current action items.

Any specific items for discussion should be submitted by Committee Chairs and added to the Agenda.

The Board were supportive of this recommendation, and Committee Reports will be submitted as part of the meeting documentation ahead of full Board meetings beginning in October 2025.

There was no further business.

The Chair called for a motion to move to Closed Session

IT WAS MOVED M. Suter / R. McGregor

THAT the meeting move to Closed Session.

CARRIED.

6. Adjournment

The meeting continued in Closed Session until it was adjourned.

Henry Demone, Chair

Natalie Weekes, Recording Secretary