



Meeting of the Board of Governors

August 19, 2026 – 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 on Wednesday, August 19, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., by virtual means using Microsoft Teams.

Governors present: Henry Demone (Chair), Bert Frizzell (First Vice-Chair), Dr. Jeff Hennessy (President and Vice-Chancellor), Allan MacDonald, Andrew Davis, Bethany Moffatt, Cathy Simpson, Charles Coll, Rev. Dr. Dan Green, Emma Boles, Gale Colpitts, Dr. Jeff Banks, Rev. Judith R. Tod, Martin Suter, Nancy McCain, Nastasya Kennedy, Paul Black, Payton Wood, Robert McGregor, Ross Langley, Shanna Lespere, Shelley Fleckenstein, Tanya Surette, Tim Formuziewicz, Tracey McGillivray, Treyvon Nicolls, and Payton Wood.

Management present: Ashlee Cunsolo, Erin Beaudin, Nancy Handrigan, Natalie Weekes (Admin Support), and Sonya Pineo (University Secretary).

Regrets: Dr. Anna Robbins, Candy O'Connor, Clive Anderson, Cora Tolliver, Ed Barrett, Scott Duguay, and Stan Thomas.

1. Call to Order

H. Demone passed the Chair to B. Frizzell and recused himself from the meeting.

B. Frizzell confirmed that a quorum had been reached, and called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Meeting Agenda

B. Frizzell noted that the agenda would be amended to add a motion to accept H. Demone's resignation from the Board.

IT WAS MOVED by T. McGillivray / R. Langley

THAT the Meeting Agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED.

3. Henry Demone's resignation from the Board.

B. Frizzell reported that H. Demone had submitted his resignation as a Governor and Board Chair. It was agreed that the Board would formally accept the resignation by motion.

IT WAS MOVED by D. Green / C. Coll

THAT the Board accept Henry Demone's resignation from the Board.

CARRIED

It was noted that Karen Hutt had also resigned from the Board, in part to facilitate the proposed transition.

4. Henry Demone's Appointment.

R. Langley reported that the HR Committee, Governance Committee, and Executive Committee had endorsed the proposed approach to Board Chair succession. Given the anticipated governance changes, the proposal would allow H. Demone to continue as Chair for a transitional period while the search for a successor proceeds. He noted that K. Hutt's resignation created a Board-appointed vacancy that would enable H. Demone to remain on the Board and provide continuity through the transition.

Questions were raised seeking clarification on the process for H. Demone's reappointment and the status of the Board Chair succession process.

It was clarified that, rather than seeking another Alumni Association appointment, H. Demone would be appointed to a Board-appointed seat and subsequently reappointed as Chair until the next Annual Meeting, when Board officers are considered. The HR Committee had begun identifying potential successors but required additional time to conduct a more fulsome search before bringing recommendations forward to the Executive Committee and Board.

The goal was to identify a successor and, if necessary, appoint that individual to the Board before the end of the calendar year, subject to the University Board Governance Act. Appointment as Chair would likely occur in spring 2027, with H. Demone remaining on the Board for a transition period to provide continuity.

A question was raised regarding the term of H. Demone's appointments.

It was confirmed that he would be appointed to the Board until 2029 and reappointed as Chair only until the next Annual Meeting, when Board officer appointments would be reconsidered.

Concerns were expressed regarding the Board Chair succession process, with emphasis placed on meaningful involvement of the full Board rather than receiving a recommendation from the Committees for approval. A more consultative and transparent process was strongly encouraged, including opportunities for Governors to suggest candidates and greater communication and consultation regarding the process and potential candidates.

It was acknowledged that the Board Chair succession process had not historically been clearly defined or consistently followed. The current approach would provide additional time to establish a more structured and consultative process while maintaining continuity through the anticipated governance changes. The important role of the Committees in managing the process efficiently was also recognized. Governors were encouraged to suggest potential candidates.

A comment was made that the Board should continue to operate under its existing governance framework until any changes are formally implemented.

A question was raised regarding whether there is student representation on the HR and Governance Committees.

It was confirmed that the HR Committee does not have a Student Representative, while the Governance Committee has a student position that is currently vacant and should be filled for the upcoming year.

IT WAS MOVED by R. Langley / B. Moffatt

THAT the Board of Governors appoint Henry Demone as a Board appointee to the Board of Governors, filling the vacancy resulting from Karen Hutt's resignation, for a term ending September 30, 2029, and reappoint Henry Demone as Chair of the Board until the next Annual Meeting, at which time the Board will consider the reappointment of its officers.

CARRIED

H. Demone returned to the meeting and thanked Governors for their confidence in reappointing him as Board Chair, noting his commitment to working with the President and Senior Leadership Team to move Acadia forward through the current period of transition.

5. *Appointment of Charles Coll as Second Vice-Chair.*

Charles Coll left the meeting for the discussion.

H. Demone reported that due to K. Hutt's resignation, the Second Vice-Chair position would need to be filled. He noted that C. Coll had previously stepped in as Board Secretary when B. Moffatt's reappointment by the Province was delayed and had willingly offered to assist again. He recommended C. Coll as Second Vice-Chair, noting his institutional knowledge, experience, and commitment to Acadia.

IT WAS MOVED by B. Frizzell / M. Suter

THAT the Board of Governors appoint Charles Coll as Second Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors, filling the vacancy resulting from Karen Hutt's resignation.

CARRIED

C. Coll rejoined the meeting.

6. *Update on the University Board Governance Act*

J. Hennessy reported that the Province had re-engaged the University Board Governance Act process, with a meeting scheduled for September 1 to outline next steps and establish the process for the coming months. While details of the proposed Board structure were not yet known, he noted there may be some flexibility regarding the proposed 50% government-appointed representation.

A discussion took place regarding the importance of Board involvement in establishing

Acadia's objectives for negotiations with the Province on the future composition of the Board.

A comment was made that the future Board should be appropriately sized to function effectively as a decision-making body and enable meaningful discussion among Governors, rather than relying heavily on committees for significant decisions.

A suggestion was made that current Governors should be consulted about their interest in continuing on a reconstituted Board.

7. Other Business

Appreciation was expressed to K. Hutt for her service as a Governor and Second Vice-Chair, inviting a motion of thanks from the Board.

IT WAS MOVED by T. McGillivray / S. Lespere

THAT the Board of Governors extend its sincere thanks and appreciation to Karen Hutt for her dedicated service to the Board of Governors and as Second Vice-Chair.

CARRIED

A question was raised regarding whether the Skills Matrix for the next Board Chair reflects the anticipated composition and needs of a smaller Board.

It was noted that the Chair criteria and broader Board Skills Matrix will be reviewed and updated as part of the succession and governance process, with the revised matrix to be circulated to the full Board for input.

8. Adjournment

The Chair called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

IT WAS MOVED by M. Suter

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

CARRIED.

Henry Demone, Chair

Sonya Pineo, Recording Secretary