



Meeting of the Board of Governors

September 18, 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 Friday, September 18, 2026, at 2:30 p.m., by virtual means using Microsoft Teams.

Governors present: Henry Demone (Chair), (First Vice-Chair), Dr. Jeff Hennessy (President and Vice-Chancellor), Andrew Davis, Anna Robbins, Candy O'Connor, Cathy Simpson, Charles Coll, Christine Luckasavitch, Dan Green, Ed Barrett, Emma Boles, Gale Colpitts, Jeff Banks, Judith Tod, Melinda Daye, Martin Suter, Nancy McCain, Nastasya Kennedy, Paul Black, Robert McGregor, Shelley Fleckenstein, Stan Thomas, Tana Surette, Tim Formuziewicz, Tracey McGillivray, and Treyvon Nicolls.

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

Regrets: Allan MacDonald, Bert Frizzell, Bethany Moffatt, Cora Tolliver, Emma Boles, Martin Suter, Ross Langley, and Scott Duguay.

1. Call to Order

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

The Board Chair noted that this was a very short, but important agenda.

2. Approval of Meeting Agenda

IT WAS MOVED by T. McGillivray / R. Langley

THAT the Meeting Agenda be approved as distributed.

CARRIED.

3. Update on the University Board Governance Act:

An update was provided on the University Board Governance Act and the Province's proposed regulatory framework.

- The new framework would establish a 25-member Board, including eight government-appointed Governors, the President, one student, one faculty member, and 14 seats to be determined by the University.

- The proposed regulations would also establish 3-year Governor term limits, required standing committees, meeting and reporting requirements, and requirements related to governance policies, skills assessment, and the nomination and approval of Governors.
- The regulations are expected to be approved in the spring, after which universities would have one year to implement the new requirements through their By-Laws.
- A proposed work plan was presented to guide Acadia's transition, with the intention of completing the necessary planning and By-Law development while the Province finalizes the regulations.
- The Governance Committee would undertake the detailed work and report directly to the Board at key stages to ensure opportunities for broader Board input throughout the process.

A question was raised about how existing Governors' previous service would be treated when the new Board is established.

The current expectation is that Governors appointed to the new Board would begin a new three-year term.

A question was raised about considering gender and ethnic diversity in Board appointments, including those made by government.

The Province had identified diversity and inclusion as important considerations in the composition of boards.

A question was raised about whether a search firm should be considered as part of the Board Chair succession process.

It was noted that a search firm had not been considered but would be referred to the Governance Committee for consideration.

A question was raised about further development of the Board Skills Matrix and opportunities for Board input.

It was clarified that the existing Skills Matrix was being refined with a clearer assessment rubric and would return to the Board for consideration.

4. Update on Financial Position

The Chair called for a Motion to move the meeting to Closed Session.

IT WAS MOVED by T. McGillivray / C. Coll

THAT the meeting move into Closed Session

CARRIED.

5. Manulife Life Insurance – Certified Resolution of Signing Authority

It was reported that, during the closed session, the Board approved the following motion:

IT WAS MOVED by T. McGillivray / R. McGregor

THAT the Board of Governors approve the Manulife Certified Copy of a Resolution of the Board of Directors, as submitted.

CARRIED.

It was noted that Governors who are not Canadian citizens would be identified as required on the documentation.

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

7. Adjournment

The meeting continued Closed Session until it was adjourned.

Henry Demone, Chair

Sonya Pineo, Recording Secretary