



BOARD OF GOVERNORS PUBLIC MEETING

Friday, March 27, 2026

1:00PM

Clock Tower Boardroom, CT309

MINUTES

Board members present:

President Airini, Hasnat Dewan, Heather Fader, David Hallinan, Dian Henderson, Niki Remesz, Dancing Water Sandy, Christine Sorensen, Tim Webber

Regrets:

Inderpreet Bains, Hee Young Chung, Amisha Patel

Executive and others present:

Baihua Chadwick (Vice-President International), Matt Milovick (Vice-President Administration and Finance), Shannon Wagner (Interim Provost and Vice-President Academic, Vice-President Research), Gordon Binsted (Provost and Vice-President Academic, designate), Mike Henry (Chief of Staff), Andrew Guerra (General Counsel), Scott Blackford (Associate General Counsel), Andrea Li (Special Advisor to the President), Lily Copeland (Office of the President).

1. CALL TO ORDER — Christine Sorensen

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT — Christine Sorensen

The Board Chair provided a territorial acknowledgment

3. INTRODUCTIONS

- i. Introduction of Andrew Guerra, General Counsel — Matt Milovick

Andrew Guerra was introduced and welcomed as the new General Counsel.

4. RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE — Christine Sorensen

- a. Dani Collins, Open Press Publication Manager
Dani Collins was recognized for receiving the BCcampus Award for Excellence in Open Education.
Her contributions to open education and leadership in establishing TRU Open Press were acknowledged.

5. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Board Chair asked if Governors have any comments regarding the adoption of the agenda.

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the agenda be adopted as amended.*

6. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES

No governors disclosed conflicts of interest.

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7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Minutes of board public meeting of February 20, 2026 (For Decision)

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Public meeting of February 20, 2026 be approved as circulated.*

8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- a. Planning Goals (2025-2030) (Information) — President Airini

An Ad Hoc Senate committee has been established to collect and review feedback on the planning goals. Senate has also created a process through which advice will be provided to the Board for consideration. The planning goals advice is expected to be brought forward to the Board at its June meeting to inform deliberations.

- b. Reimagining post-secondary education in the Williams Lake region (For Decision) – President Airini.

Dr. Airini emphasized that **no decisions have yet been made** regarding programming or facilities in Williams Lake.

Following discussion, the Board agreed to sever the three components and consider them separately.

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the three recommendations related to reimagining post-secondary education in the Williams Lake region be severed and considered individually.*

Motion 1: Launch of Planning Process (Programming Focus)

The Board considered a motion to approve administration to launch planning (2026–2028) to reimagine post-secondary education in the **Williams Lake region**, including TRU's ongoing contribution.

An amendment was proposed to strengthen transparency and trust.

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that administration be approved the motion with amendment (in red) as follows:*

approve Administration to launch of planning from 2026-2028 to reimagine post-secondary education in the Williams Lake region and Thompson Rivers University's contribution to this; with a first report to the Board in June 2026 on project scope, governance, **communications, engagement plan** and initial scenarios;

Motion 2: Consultation with Senate (Facilities and Land)

The Board discussed the need for consultation with Senate regarding the grounds and facilities at the **TRU Williams Lake campus**, as required under legislation.

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that administration be approved the motion with amendment as follows:*

To approve administration to support the Board's consultation with Senate on the closure and disposal of the grounds and facilities at the TRU Williams Lake campus, **and by June 2026, the Board will receive an initial report on the consultation process of Senate**

Motion 3: Closure and Disposal of Facilities (Bricks and Mortar)

Administration clarified that this motion relates **only** to the physical facilities and land, not programming.

Financial implications of maintaining the building were outlined, including significant deferred maintenance costs.

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that consideration of the motion regarding the closure and disposal of the grounds and facilities at the TRU Williams Lake campus be postponed until the **June 2026 Board meeting**.*

9. BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT — Christine Sorensen

a. Board Calendar from Board Governance Manual (Information)

The Board Calendar, as set out in the Board Governance Manual, was noted. Minor date changes to committee meetings were identified.

10. CHANCELLOR'S REPORT — Chancellor DeRose

The Chancellor reported on initiating a national gathering of Indigenous Chancellors to share challenges and best practices, including discussions on Indigenous identity fraud and campus safety issues.

11. PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT — President Airini

a. President's Report to the Board (Information)

Reaffirmation of TRU's commitment to open governance and public access to Board and Senate materials

Appreciation for Board members' service and the importance of relational time and hosting

12. REPORT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE — David Hallinan 2026–2027 Budget

12a. 2026–2027 Operating Budget

The Committee presented a **balanced operating budget**. Significant expense reductions achieved since 2024 were outlined.

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the **2026–2027 operating budget** be approved as presented.*

12a (i) Capital projects budget

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the **capital projects budget** be approved.*

12.b Procurement Policy Revisions

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the **revised procurement policy** be approved.*

13. REPORT FROM THE GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE — Christine Sorensen

Notice provided of proposed revisions to Board bylaws and the Board Manual, including the creation of a second Vice-Chair position. To be brought forward for decision at the June 2026 meeting.

14. NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next board meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 19, 2026 in the Clock Tower Boardroom, room CT309.

15. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting was adjourned.