



## BOARD OF GOVERNORS PUBLIC MEETING

Friday, June 19, 2026  
1:00PM

***Clock Tower Boardroom, CT309***

### MINUTES

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#### **Board members present:**

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

#### **Regrets:**

Inderpreet Bains, Hee Young Chung, Amisha Patel

#### **Executive and others present:**

Matt Milovick (Vice-President Administration and Finance), Shannon Wagner (Interim Provost and Vice-President Academic, Vice-President Research), Mike Henry (Chief of Staff), 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 1:18 p.m.

- a. Acknowledgement of departing Governors (Information)
  - i. Jim Hamilton
  - ii. Tim Webber
  - iii. Inderpreet Bains

#### **2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT — Christine Sorensen**

The board chair provided a territorial acknowledgment

#### **3. RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE — Christine Sorensen**

- a. Barbara Crutchley Memorial Award recipient – Anita Sharma

C. Sorensen recognized Anita Sharma for the Recognition of Excellence Award. She is the Director of Research Resources at TRU.

#### **4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

#### **5. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES**

No governors disclosed conflicts of interest.

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## 6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- a. Minutes of board public meeting of March 27, 2026 (For Decision)

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Public meeting of March 27, 2026, be approved as amended*

## 7. CHANCELLOR'S REPORT – DeDe DeRose

D. DeRose presented her report, noting that she attended convocation ceremonies in both Williams Lake and Kamloops. She expressed appreciation to staff and all involved for their work and dedication, and she highlighted several memorable moments from the ceremonies.

D. DeRose also discussed the Indigenous Chancellors Group, comprised of 14 Chancellors across Canada, which will begin meeting quarterly to discuss challenges facing students and to celebrate successes.

## 8. BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT – Christine Sorensen

C. Sorensen reported that convocation was an inspiring ceremony, noting the diversity of students participating. Minister Sunner attended the ceremonies and had an opportunity to meet with her, during which they discussed the departure of two board members. Minister Sunner will be seeking new appointments for the board.

## 9. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Dr. Airini

Dr. Airini noted that the report was to be taken as read. She thanked the chancellor and the chair for their involvement in Convocation and expressed appreciation to the board for the attention being given to the public board agenda. Airini responded to questions.

## 10. REPORT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE — David Hallinan

- a. Letter of Agreement between Thompson Rivers University and Skilled TradesBC (For Decision) – Dave Hallinan

D. Hallinan reported on the benefits of the Letter of Agreement between TRU and SkilledTradesBC. M. Milovick noted that the letter is signed annually. Discussion ensued, and M. Milovick responded to questions. The Dean of Trades also addressed questions from the board.

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the board approved the 2026 Letter of Agreement between Thompson Rivers University and Skilled TradesBC as presented.*

- b. Aramark Contract Renewal (For Decision) - Matt Milovick

D. Hallinan reported that Aramark has been at TRU for 10 years and was the successful proponent in the recent bid process. Due to the size of the contract, board approval is required.

M. Milovick noted that a consultant was engaged prior to going to market to work with the community in developing the RFP. Aramark was selected as the successful proponent for a 5-year contract, renewable for an additional 5 years, and the agreement includes a termination clause. He also highlighted that TRUSU partners with Aramark to provide 200 free lunches to students throughout the year. Discussion ensued, and questions were addressed.

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the board approved the Aramark Contract Renewal as presented.*

c. CURIE letter vs UCIPP (For Decision) – Matt Milovick/Steve Pottle

M. Milovick reported that the University is considering moving its insurance coverage from UCIPP to CURIE. He noted that while CURIE is more expensive, it provides guaranteed replacement in the event of a catastrophic loss, whereas UCIPP replacement is not guaranteed and depends on government decision.

T. Webber outlined the pros and cons of moving to CURIE, emphasizing that protection in a catastrophic event—such as a wildfire—is a key factor in recommending the change.

S. Pottle added that UBC is also transitioning to CURIE and had previously been part of UCIPP due to earthquake risk. He noted that CURIE offers significantly higher liability limits for board members and that the agreement is structured as a 5-year contract.

CURIE membership also includes a reciprocal component that may return funds to members, estimated at approximately \$40,000 per year. Discussion ensued.

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the board approved moving TRU insurance from UCIPP to CURIE effective July 2027.*

d. 2025/26 Student Full-Time Equivalent Summary Report (for Information) – Matt

T. Webber advised that this report was provided for information only. M. Milovick noted that the work is undertaken by D. Crespin-Mueller's office. Dr. Airini added that institutions do not all receive the same amount of funding per FTE. Discussion ensued.

## 11. REPORT AUDIT COMMITTEE — Tim Webber

a. Audited 2025/26 Financial Statements and Fourth Quarter Results (For Decision) –  
i. Audited Financial Statements, March 31, 2026

M. Milovick thanked the Finance team for their work on the financial statements. He noted that TRU is one of 19 universities not in a deficit and is reporting an \$8.9M surplus. He emphasized that there are significant costs ahead, including cyber-related and other emerging expenses.

He highlighted key variances from the original budget and noted that the financial statements are in solid condition as the university prepares for future challenges. The key takeaway is an \$8.9M operating surplus, while recognizing that circumstances continue to evolve.

T. Webber provided additional details and requested board approval of the financial statements.

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the board approved the Audited 2025/26 Audited Financial Statements and the fourth quarter results as presented.*

- ii. KPMG Audit Findings Report for the year ended March 31, 2026  
Included above.

## **12. SENATE REPORT**

- a. 2028/29 Academic Schedule of Dates (For Information)

This report was taken as read.

## **13. BUSINESS**

- a. Williams Lake Campus – Dr. Airini

- i. Report on Public Engagement in Reimagining Post-secondary Education in Williams Lake (For Decision)

Airini noted that the report was provided for decision and acknowledged the many Williams Lake participants joining online. She highlighted four updates to the report:

1. TRU Williams Lake remains open for enrolment year-round, with 5,000 student awards available specifically for Williams Lake students.
2. The board has received correspondence regarding process; subject to board approval of the engagement plan, TRU will engage students in Williams Lake as well as the broader Indigenous community.
3. The engagement process aligns with the City of Williams Lake's development of its city plan, which has been shared with TRU and is being used to inform TRU's approach.
4. Recognition was given to TRU Williams Lake colleagues and students for their work related to academic planning, financial management, and visioning.

Discussion ensued regarding TRU's continued commitment to offering programs in Williams Lake and the timeline for making a decision on the campus building. M. Henry responded to questions, noting that various models are being explored to support program delivery in Williams Lake, including potential partnerships with other educational institutions. Work with the City of Williams Lake will continue through the summer, with anticipated updates in November.

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the board approve accepting the report on Public Engagement in Reimagining Post-secondary Education in Williams Lake.*

- ii. Recommendation to move the decision on the facility to the December board meeting (For Decision)

This item was taken as read. Dr. Airini noted that TRU is seeking a postponement of the consideration of the TRU Williams Lake campus until the December 2026 board meeting. Discussion ensued regarding potential alternative uses for the Williams Lake building.

M. Milovick informed the board that the facility requires \$5.6M in deferred maintenance and an additional \$32M in upgrades. He noted that the building is significantly overbuilt for TRU's current needs. He also reminded the board that the agreement with government includes a reverter clause requiring the property to be used for educational purposes.

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** the board approved the recommendation to move the decision on the facility to the December board meeting.*

- b. Delivering on Envision TRU (For Decision) – Dr. Airini

Airini updated the board that the March senate meeting requested feedback on Envision TRU and provided several points of advice:

- Stop using language that may cause confusion, such as references to “goals.”
- Withdraw the motion to remove the planning goals.
- Approve that Administration continue engaging with Senate and other bodies to develop a recommendation report.
- Clearly articulate what will be different by 2030.

Three recommendations in package.

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the board approved the three recommendations from senate*

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the board approved to sever the recommendations.*

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the board approve withdrawal of the motion to approve the Planning Goals (2025-2030);*

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the board approve, in principle, the establishment of ten aspirations and indicators (2026-2030) for Envision TRU*

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the board approve Administration to:*

- *engage with senate and other relevant bodies;*
- *develop an implementation plan, including budget; and*
- *return to the board with a final implementation report and recommendation for approval.*

**Action:** bring back to the board the final implementation report and recommendations for approval by December board meeting.

c. Proposed changes to Board Bylaws and Board Manual (For Decision)

M. Henry informed the board that they are considering amending the bylaws to allow for an additional Vice-Chair to support fulfilling the role.

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** the board approve the changes to the board bylaws and board manual as presented.*

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the board allow a time extension of the meeting.*

#### 14. REPORTS AND UPDATES

a. Institutional Accountability Plan and Report (IAPR) (For Decision) – Dorys Crespín Muller

Airini informed the board that this report was provided for decision and is currently with government; it will not be distributed until it has been formally released. She emphasized that the report is intended for the TRU community.

D. Crespín-Mueller noted that the submission reflects collaboration across the entire institution. She added that TRU is still awaiting a few remaining components from the Ministry. The report outlines TRU's goals and responds to the mandate letter, and she confirmed that all performance measures have been met. D. Crespín-Mueller responded to questions.

*On motion duly made and adopted, it was **RESOLVED** that the board approved the 2025/26 Institutional Accountability Plan and Report (IARP) as presented.*

#### 15. PRESENTATIONS

a. Deficit Mitigation Report Presentation (for Information) – Matt Milovick / Christna Duquette

Airini informed the board that this report was prepared in response to a March request from the board regarding FTE reductions. She noted that a full report will be provided at the September board meeting, aligning with the first full year of deficit mitigation.

M. Milovick presented the report, highlighting that the data covers the period from September 2024 to March 2026. He reported a total reduction of 186 positions by the end of March 2026, representing an approximate cost savings of \$25.9M and a net reduction of 192.0 FTEs. Both M. Milovick and Airini responded to questions.

#### 16. NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next board meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 25, 2026, in the Clock Tower Boardroom, room CT309.

**Action:** Look into holding the September Board meeting at the TRU Williams Lake Campus and report back to the board by August 1, 2026.

#### 17. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.