KING'S
Western University · Canada

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF MEETING

JUNE 10, 2025

The meeting was held at 4:31 p.m. in Dante Lenardon Room 112 and via Zoom.

PRESENT:	Adam Bohnet Nonie Brennan (Chair) Ken Deane Rev. Gary Ducharme Larry Frederick Ed Goehring Dan Lang Braedan Lovie Vince MacDonald Randolph Mank	Houssam (Sam) Mourad Ilona Niemi Chuck Scott Michaela Therrien Joseph Turnbull Paul Tufts (Vice-Chair) Rob Ventresca Amna Wasty Peter Wilkinson Paul Wilton (Secretary)
Regrets:	Deanna Bond, Sara De Candido, Jean-Pierre Morris	
By Invitation:	Vishal Kothari, Associate Director of Finance Karen Thomson, Chief Operating Officer Mark Yenson, Interim Vice-President Academic Dean	
Committee Resource	Ann Hoffer	

N. Brennan, Chair, called the meeting to order 4:31pm, welcoming everyone and introducing our newest member, Peter Wilkinson. A round of introductions followed.

1. Opening Prayer and Land Acknowledgment

V. MacDonald opened with a prayer. B. Lovie offered the land acknowledgement.

2. Approval of the Agenda and Conflict of Interest Declarations

N. Brennan shared that N. Sutherland has decided to not seek reappointment, as her other personal commitments no longer align with the demands of the Board. Although absent, Nonie expressed sincere appreciation for Nancy's dedication and contributions, and she looks forward to welcoming a new member to the Board in due course.

No conflict of interest was declared.

To approve the draft meeting agenda.
CARRIED by unanimous consent.

3. Mission Moment

K. Deane offered Mission Moment.

4. Consent Agenda

L. Frederick moved, V. MacDonald seconded
That the Board receive the Property Committee Report, the Master of Social Work Ancillary Fees Report and the Annual Gender Based and Sexual Violence Report on the Consent Agenda and approve the Minutes of Meeting of April 30, 2025.
CARRIED

5. President's Report

R. Ventresca, President (Interim), provided an update on enrollment, Western's negotiations with *Navitas*, and the Affiliation Agreement.

- Domestic **enrollment** has exceeded targets, while international enrollment is behind. Accepted international students are awaiting government approvals. Rob acknowledged the efforts of Enrollment Services and faculty volunteers but cautioned about the risks associated with international enrollment. In response to a 16-minute discussion, he added:
  - Residence spots are 19% ahead of last year
  - There is an increase in students from the GTA
  - A strategy to boost domestic intake includes managing no-shows or non-payers
  - Planning for next year's international recruitment is underway, with a focus on in-house recruitment and increased marketing. A strategic enrollment plan will be ready by fall.
  - K. Thompson credited the rise in domestic enrollment to targeted marketing, the work of three task forces (recruitment, retention, conversion), a larger Open House turnout, and the efforts of 17 faculty volunteers who personally encouraged student acceptances.
  - International retention (from year one to two) stands at 43% following outreach
  - Regarding PAL caps, M. Yenson noted that we are mindful of reaching limits, as this will affect next year's allotment.
  - K. Thomson noted that a clearer picture of next year's outlook will emerge this summer, as market trends in Canada suggest potential for continued growth
  - Part of our strategy will focus on strengthening our domestic base, with 12% international enrollment. This will be further discussed in the Strategic Enrolment Academic Plan this summer.

- Western's Senate has recommended that the Board of Governors explore negotiations with **Navitas** to potentially increase international enrollment (from 7.5% to 20%). The Board will decide whether to proceed. As an affiliate partner, discussions have highlighted both risks and opportunities related to student VISA numbers. This is a significant development, and we will monitor the situation closely.

- The **Affiliation Agreement** is complete but needs Senate ratification. There are few changes, with a notable adjustment being a modest relief on affiliation fee: a 3-year reduction from 12% to 11%, with incremental increases thereafter.

Non-voting Directors were excused at 5:10pm, with invited guests K. Thomson and M. Yenson remaining to discuss matters in-camera about identifiable personnel.

Non-voting Directors returned to the meeting at 5:50pm; however, discussions remained in-camera for a 4-minute update from the Chair.

At 5:57pm, the meeting moved out of camera.

Moved and seconded by Executive Committee
MOTION: To extend the interim appointment of Vice-President and Academic Dean M. Yenson until December 31st, 2025, as revised to extend the interim appointment of Vice-President and Academic Dean M. Yenson until June 30, 2026
Vote: CARRIED

6. Committee Reports

   a. Finance and Risk Management Committee

      In the Chair's absence, R. Mank reported that the audit is proceeding at a cost of $49K, and the auditors have been asked to correct misrepresentations.

      - K. Thomson noted the fiscal year-to-date data is as of end-March and now outdated. She reiterated that the projected $6.8M deficit from the last meeting remains accurate, with current figures within $100K of the estimate.

      Moved and seconded by the Finance and Risk Management Committee
      Motion: To receive the financial results to March 31, 2025.
      Vote: CARRIED

   b. Governance Committee

      K. Deane, Committee Chair, highlighted the key areas of the report and presented the following for discussion and vote.

      Moved and seconded by the Governance Committee
      Motion: That the Board approve the proposed updates to the: Audit and Risk Management Committee Terms of Reference, Finance and Property Committee Terms of Reference, and Governance Committee Terms of Reference
      Vote: CARRIED

      - A non-Voting Director indicated their understanding, based on the report and policies, that they are not eligible to serve on any of the above committees and sought confirmation. The Chair confirmed this to be correct.

      Moved and seconded by the Governance Committee
      Motion: To recommend to the Corporate Members to Dan Lang and Paul Tufts each for an additional three-year term.
      Vote: CARRIED

      Moved and seconded by the Governance Committee
      Motion: To appoint the slate of nominees to board leadership positions as presented.
      Vote: CARRIED

      N. Brennan congratulated the incoming slate of King's officers starting July 1 and expressed looking forward to working with them. K. Deane expressed appreciation to P. Wilton for his leadership and support over the past year.

7. Student's Council Report

B. Lovie, KUCSC President, introduced himself, thanked the Board, and highlighted the names of the new KUCSC Executive Team. Braedan announced the finalization of a $1.5 million contribution to the classroom modernization project, thanking T. Ahrens. N. Brennan thanked the KUCSC for the donation and said she looks forward to working with Braedan.

P. Tufts, Vice-Chair, requested an agenda amendment to acknowledge N. Brennan before the Executive Session. He recognized her outstanding dedication as Board Chair, highlighting her leadership in the transition to Academic Council, navigating financial challenges, and setting a path toward financial stability. N. Brennan thanked the Board, emphasizing the team effort, with special thanks to P. Tufts and K. Deane as Vice-Chairs.

All non-voting members were excused at 6:16pm

8. Executive Session

9. Adjournment

Moved by M. Therrien, seconded by L. Frederick, to adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Nonie Brennan,
Chair

Paul Wilton,
University Secretary