

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2025
BISHOP'S UNIVERSITY
IN PERSON AND BY VIDEOCONFERENCE

MINUTES

Chair: Murielle Lortie

Present: Daren Bardati, Nanci Chagnon, Alexandre Demers, Michelle Dunn, Anthony Dumas-Stephenson, Daniel Fournier, Christopher Gokiert, Sébastien Lebel-Grenier, Pascale O'Bomsawin, Alena Perout, Jean-Pierre Perreault, Nicole Riley, Junior Sirivar, Arshad Taseen

Regrets: Alexandra Lebel, Jessica Riddell

Senior Administration: Nick Andrews, Danai Bélanger, Kylie Côté, Julie Desjardins, Valerio Faraoni, Kerry Hull, Annick Lambert, Jean Manore, Matthew Peros, Margaret B.K Sherpherd, Jacqueline Scott

Secretary: Geneviève Gagné

1. CHAIR'S WELCOME

Chair Murielle Lortie called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. She welcomed new Board of Governors member Michelle Dunn and invited her to introduce herself. A tribute to Chancellor Emeritus Alexander Paterson, who recently passed away, followed.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved without modification.

- Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

Board members were invited to declare any conflicts of interest regarding the items on the agenda. No conflicts of interest were declared by any member.

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, the agenda was adopted as presented.

It was agreed to move the Vice-Principal Academic's Report (Item 7) ahead of Item 5. The Research Report associated with Item 7 will be addressed later as the agenda resumes its original order.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Board of Governors' meeting held on September 26, 2025, were presented for approval.

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, the minutes of the September 26, 2025, meeting were adopted as presented.

4. BUSINESS ARISING

Secretary General Geneviève Gagné updated the Board members on the Enterprise Resources Project, noting that the government formally approved the project in July and has since increased its funding to cover almost the entire cost. A formal confirmation letter is still pending.

Interim Vice-Principal Academic and Research Kerry Hull reported that discussions regarding appointments in residence are ongoing and that the item is scheduled for presentation at Senate on November 14, 2025. She further noted that the academic report will address faculty course allocation.

Secretary General Geneviève Gagné, on behalf of Kylie Côté, provided an update on the cost overrun related to the Psychology Clinic renovation. She noted that the overrun was limited to the general contractor's work for asbestos decontamination, pulley repairs, and window and ceiling replacement.

7(1) VICE-PRINCIPAL ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH REPORT

Interim Vice-Principal Academic and Research Kerry Hull presented an overview of academic planning exercises currently underway, including the three-year delivery plans, the five-to-ten year staffing plans, and the viability and growth reviews of individual departments and programs. She outlined the three resources relevant to course delivery: the central full-time academic budget, the central part-time budget, and targeted special funds. Dr. Hull explained how the theoretical teaching capacity of 620 courses represents the approximate number of courses that would be delivered by full-time faculty, if they did not have course releases for tasks such as grant-funded research and certain types of University service. By 2028-2029, offering 644 courses (the theoretical teaching capacity plus 24 additional courses) would allow us to reach our financial targets. The first iterations of the three-year delivery plans submitted by the Departments reveal that we will need to do additional program modifications to reach this goal.

Dr. Hull emphasized that the ongoing viability and resource reviews will play an important role in future curricular and resourcing decisions. Given time constraints, priority is being placed on units requesting new positions to ensure decisions on resource allocation and program sustainability are well-informed and support effective Senate and Board deliberations.

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier offered brief remarks, acknowledging the complexity of the academic planning discussions currently underway. He expressed appreciation for the leadership of the Interim Vice-Principal Academic and Research, the Senate, the Senate Planning Committee and the faculty members across departments. Principal Lebel-Grenier highlighted the importance of this overview in advance of Senate's forthcoming recommendations on tenure-stream positions noting that while no positions were authorized last year for financial reasons, tenure-stream hiring remains essential to academic quality and long-term program vitality.

Governors briefly discussed the academic planning updates and the exploration of flexible staffing model.

5. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier reminded Governors that the Town Hall – held on November 5th, 2025 – supporting materials has been shared to maintain transparency regarding the evolving financial situation and progress toward achieving the \$5M savings and revenue-generation target. He highlighted the financial impact of recent decisions, including the Collective Agreement roll over, and enrolment mix, underscoring the need for continued progress on academic and operational reviews. Principal Lebel-Grenier added that, while external factors have contributed significantly to the financial constraints, the situation also presents opportunities for institutional innovation and improvement.

Homecoming

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier addressed an incident that occurred during homecoming weekend emphasizing that while it remains part of the University's identity, an off campus gathering posed significant safety risks resulting in property damage. An independent review will be conducted with recommendations on safety measures to reduce the risks moving forward. He noted that the University is cooperating with the police investigation and reaffirmed the institution's commitment to student safety, responsible operations and positive community environment.

Government Relations

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier updated Governors on government relations, noting Bishop's submission of a brief on Quebec's multi-year immigration planning and his testimony before the National Assembly Commission on October 21, 2025, in his roles as Vice-President of the *Bureau de coopération interuniversitaire* and as Principal of Bishop's University. Representations on this topic have been coordinated with municipal and community partners. Despite strong sector-wide advocacy, early indications suggest the provincial government may maintain its current restrictive approach, which assimilates international students with immigrants. Federally, the government has signalled modest reductions to overall international student intake but has committed to exempting graduate students. The Principal emphasized that international student policy remains the University's most significant government-relations issue, given its impact on both finances and the campus learning environment. The advocacy efforts will continue despite the provincial government's current refusal to change course.

He also briefed the Board members on federal budget measures that include substantial new investments in talent recruitment, research infrastructure, and potential housing and infrastructure programs for universities, assessing the overall federal direction as positive for the sector.

Bill n°. 1 – Proposed Quebec Constitution

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier gave an overview of Bill n°1, the government's proposed Quebec constitution, noting several provisions that raise concerns for universities. These include limitations on the capacity of publicly funded institutions to challenge legislation and constraints on accepting federal funding. The University is reviewing the implications in collaboration with sector partners and will report back to the Board of Governors as the situation evolves.

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier concluded his remarks by noting that the political landscape is shifting and that the University is engaging in discussions with all parties to ensure continued recognition of the University's distinct role in Quebec and to maintain strong relationships across the political spectrum.

6. STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL REPORT

Students' Representative Council President Anthony Dumas-Stephenson provided a brief update noting the success of recent student-life initiatives. He noted that the Halloween events were well attended and supported by a range of on-campus events and the SafeDrive initiative – which provided transport for 90 students over the weekend.

The Board members were informed that following the resignation of the Graduate Student Senator Mathieu Garceau-Tremblay, a recruitment process is underway to fill the position in the coming weeks.

The President concluded his report by noting his participation in a provincial forum at the *Université de Sherbrooke* – to discuss funding reductions and their implications for students – and to the *National Advocacy Week* which will be held in Ottawa. Key topics will include the housing crisis, student mental health, and issues related to international students.

7(2) VICE-PRINCIPAL ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH REPORT

Interim Associate Vice-Principal Research Matthew Peros reported that faculty and students continue to be very actively involved in research across the University. He highlighted the Tree Canopy Project led by Elisabeth Levac, an initiative supporting experiential learning and climate-change research.

Members of the Board of Governors were also briefed on the recent Celebration of Research Day, during which two (2) faculty members received awards. The event showcased a range of students and faculty projects.

Chair of the Task Force on Artificial Intelligence Jean Manore provided an update on the group's progress. Benchmarking indicates that universities share similar approach with training and guidance for faculty and students being developed, while privacy and ethical consideration remain central concerns. She reported that consultation with faculty, and the review of the benchmarking results are underway, with final recommendations to be presented to Senate at the December 5th, 2025, meeting.

The Board was also updated on the future of the Department of Religion, Sociology and Culture in light of low program enrolments and an upcoming faculty retirement in 2028. A proposal includes transferring the faculty member to another department and closing of the Major Degree, while courses with broader relevance may be offered through other units. A decision regarding the Minor Degree is still being evaluated.

An overview was provided on the proposed Senate Academic and Curriculum Committee (SAC), which will oversee program and course changes and support academic planning. The committee will consolidate inactive or infrequently meeting Senate committees to create a more efficient curriculum review process.

A discussion on the impact of Artificial Intelligence highlighted access limitation due to security requirements and provincial directives. The importance of ensuring that faculty and students can develop artificial intelligence related skills was emphasized.

8 FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Chair of the Committee Kent Carson reported that the Committee welcomed Michelle Dunn as a new member. He noted that the 2025–2026 forecast remains on track, with higher-than-expected enrolment contributing to a reduced projected deficit—from \$1.4M to \$634K—despite increased labour costs. The long-term forecast continues to show a deficit in 2028–2029. A full update will be presented at the December Board of Governors meeting.

9 OUI EXPERIENCE

Dean Julie Desjardins and Chair of the Department of *Études françaises et québécoises*, Sarah Théberge, presented an update on the OUI Experience project, which aims to enhance the visibility of the French language at the University while meeting government expectations for English-language institutions. The update included visual materials, examples of activities, participation data, and details on course offerings developed in collaboration with the Department. Board members were also introduced to the project team and to Mélanie Noël—journalist, poet, novelist, and songwriter—who serves as the project’s ambassador. Julie Desjardins and Sarah Théberge invited Board members to attend the *Une Vie* benefit event for *Centraide*, sponsored by the *OUI Experience* project, at Bandeen Hall later that evening. Further updates will be provided as the project continues to evolve.

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier reaffirmed the importance of the *OUI Experience* project and the broader mandate to support French learning and fluency among non-Francophone students. He emphasized that strengthening French at Bishop’s is both academically valuable and politically significant, underscoring the University’s role as a Quebec institution serving the needs of Quebec society.

10 CITY OF SHERBROOKE – BISHOP’S UNIVERSITY PARKING AGREEMENT

Secretary General Geneviève Gagné provided an overview of the renewal of the University’s parking enforcement agreement with the City of Sherbrooke, brought forward for approval in accordance with the University’s *Statutes* requiring Board approval for contracts exceeding five years. The contract remains unchanged from previous years and provides City support for equipment, training and court proceedings, while Bishop’s employs enforcement staff and receives a percentage of eligible fines. It was noted that the Parking Committee reviewed the agreement earlier in the year and that the arrangement is consistent with agreements in place at other institutions.

RESOLUTION 2025-04-01
FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF SHERBROOKE
FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF PARKING REGULATIONS ON THE UNIVERSITY'S CAMPUS LOTS
AND DELEGATION OF SIGNING AUTHORITY

WHEREAS Bishop's University's current parking agreement with the City of Sherbrooke expired in December 2024 and the University wishes to renew this agreement for the enforcement of parking regulations on the University's campus lots;

WHEREAS the University has negotiated the renewal of its parking agreement with the City of Sherbrooke for an initial term of five (5) years, starting retroactively in December 2024, with an automatic renewal for an additional term of five (5) years, for a total duration of ten (10) years ending in November 2034;

AND WHEREAS the Signing Authority provision in the University's *Statutes* requires that any lease or agreement with a term exceeding five (5) years be approved by the Board of Governors;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Governors authorizes the University to enter into the agreement with the City of Sherbrooke for the enforcement of parking regulations on the University's campus lots, for a term of five (5) years, starting retroactively in December 2024, with an automatic renewal for an additional term of five (5) years, for a total duration of ten (10) years;

AND BE IT RESOLVED THAT any two of the University's Signing Officers – namely the Principal and Vice-Chancellor, any Vice-Principal, or the Secretary General – are jointly authorized to sign the agreement with the City of Sherbrooke.

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, the resolution was adopted as presented.

11 APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES FOR THE LCOP

Secretary General Geneviève Gagné presented the item which pertains to the delegation of authority under the *Loi sur les contrats des organismes publics*. The change assigns the delegation to the position of Vice-Principal Finance and Administration (VPFA) and designates alternates to act when the VPFA is unavailable, ensuring continuity without requiring future approvals when personnel change.

RESOLUTION 2025-04-02
FOR THE DELEGATION OF EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES GRANTED UNDER
THE ACT RESPECTING CONTRACTS OF PUBLIC BODIES TO BISHOP'S UNIVERSITY

WHEREAS the *Loi sur les contrats des organismes publics* (LCOP) designates the Board of Governors of a university (or its equivalent) as the primary authority responsible for awarding and managing contracts, and allows it to delegate certain responsibilities to a dirigeant to ensure efficient and timely contract management;

WHEREAS on June 13, 2025, the Board of Governors of Bishop's University granted Kylie Côté, Vice-Principal Finance and Administration, the authority to make decisions regarding matters that may be delegated under the LCOP, subject to the limits of her signing authority;

WHEREAS the Administration of Bishop's University recommends that this delegation henceforth be continuously attached to the position of Vice-Principal Finance and Administration, regardless of the individual holding the position;

AND WHEREAS the Administration of Bishop's University recommends that, in the event of a short-term absence of the person holding the position of Vice-Principal Finance and Administration, the authority be delegated to the individuals holding the positions of Principal and Vice-Chancellor and Secretary General;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Governors approve that, effective November 7, 2025, all powers that may be delegated under the *Loi sur les contrats des organismes publics* (LCOP) to a dirigeant be conferred to the person holding the position of Vice-Principal Finance and Administration, and in the event of their short-term absence, to the individuals holding the positions of Principal and Vice-Chancellor and Secretary General.

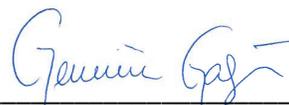
On a motion duly proposed and seconded, the resolution was adopted as presented.

The open session adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

The meeting ended at 6:21 p.m.



Murielle Lortie, Chair



Geneviève Gagné, Secretary General