

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2026
BISHOP'S UNIVERSITY
VIDEOCONFERENCE

MINUTES

Chair: Murielle Lortie

Present: Daren Bardati, Kent Carson, Nanci Chagnon, Alexandre Demers, Michelle Dunn, Anthony Dumas-Stephenson, Daniel Fournier, Christopher Gokiart, Alexandra Lebel, Sébastien Lebel-Grenier, Pascale O'Bomsawin, Alena Perout, Jessica Riddell, Nicole Riley, Junior Sirivar, Arshad Taseen

Regrets: Jean-Pierre Perreault

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

Secretary: Geneviève Gagné

1 CHAIR'S WELCOME

Chair Murielle Lortie called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. and introduced a new procedure, the Consent Agenda, to be used henceforth, explaining that it would allow routine or non-controversial items to be approved together without discussion.

2 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved without modification.

- Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

Board members were invited to declare any conflicts of interest regarding the items on the agenda. A member declared a conflict of interest with respect to Item 5 and withdrew from the discussion and decision on that item.

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

Consent Agenda

The following items were presented for approval en bloc.

3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Board of Governors' meeting held on December 18, 2025, were presented for approval. It was noted that corrections to items 5, 7 and 8 had been brought to the attention of the Office of the Secretary General and will be reflected in the final version.

4 FUNDING AGREEMENT FOR THE ENTERPRISE RESOURCES PLANNING (ERP) PROJECT

Chair Murielle Lortie highlighted that the funding for the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) project had been bonified, noting that the adjustment would help support the continued modernization and optimization of the information systems across the University.

RESOLUTION 2025-06-01 FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE FUNDING AGREEMENT FOR THE ENTERPRISE RESOURCES PLANNING PROJECT (ERP)

WHEREAS in July the Quebec Government approved a funding in the amount of \$998,000 to support the implementation of Bishop's University Enterprise Resources Planning (ERP) project, including the modernization of existing information systems;

WHEREAS subsequent to the initial approval, the funding allocation has been increased to \$1,798,000 to support the completion of the project;

WHEREAS this funding allocation must be formalized through a Funding Agreement (Convention d'aide financière) with the Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur (MES), which requires approval by the Board of Governors under section 12.2 of the University's Statutes;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Governors approve the Funding Agreement (Convention d'aide financière) with the Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur (MES) for the Enterprise Resources Planning (ERP) project as presented;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT any two of the University's Signing Officers (the Principal and Vice-Chancellor, any Vice-Principal, and the Secretary General) are authorized jointly to sign the Funding Agreement (Convention d'aide financière) with the Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur (MES) for the Enterprise Resources Planning (ERP) project.

**RESOLUTION 2025-06-02
FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE FUNDING AGREEMENT FOR THE
RESEARCH PROJECT “HOW WE GO HOME: A STUDY OF
SECTION 84 INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION MODELS”**

WHEREAS Bishop’s University intends to enter into a funding agreement with the Government of Canada under the Aboriginal Community Safety Development Contribution Program for the research project “How We Go Home: A Study of Section 84 Indigenous Community Reintegration Models”;

WHEREAS the maximum funding under the Agreement is \$1,449,862;

AND WHEREAS pursuant to the University’s Signing Authority Policy, any grant or funding contract of a value of \$1,000,000 or more requires approval of the Board of Governors;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Governors hereby approves the funding agreement with the Government of Canada for the research project “How We Go Home: A Study of Section 84 Indigenous Community Reintegration Models”;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT any two of the University’s Signing Officers (the Principal and Vice-Chancellor, any Vice-Principal, and the Secretary General) are authorized jointly to sign the Funding Agreement with the Government of Canada for the research project “How We Go Home: A Study of Section 84 Indigenous Community Reintegration Models”.

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, the items 2 to 5 were adopted en bloc with one (1) abstention for Item 5.

6 BUSINESS ARISING

No items were discussed.

7 PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Government Relations

Bill 1

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier provided an update on *Bill 1 – Quebec Constitutional Act*, noting that the Parliamentary Commission’s study remains ongoing. It was mentioned that prorogation of the National Assembly could occur should a new leader be nominated, which could affect the progress of bills currently under consideration. The University continues to monitor the situation.

Bill 9

An update was also provided on *Bill 9- Act respecting the reinforcement of Laicity in Quebec*, noting that an amendment granting Bishop’s University an exemption for the St-Mark’s Chapel had been proposed and adopted by the Parliamentary Commission, thereby alleviating potential impacts on the University. As result, the St-Mark’s Chapel may continue to operate as it currently does. Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier indicated that the Parliamentary study remains ongoing and that significant impacts could arise from potential changes to the criteria governing accommodations on religious grounds, which could limit the University’s ability to accommodate students.

Quebec Liberal Party Leadership

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier informed Board members that Charles Millard has been confirmed as the new leader of the *Quebec Liberal Party*. As a result, Mr. Millard has resigned from his Limited-Term Appointment position and from his Executive-in-Residence role at the *Williams School of Business*.

Upcoming Provincial Budget

The upcoming provincial budget is expected to be one of austerity, with no new initiatives or additional funding for universities anticipated, and no indexation currently expected. The University will continue to monitor developments.

Ad Hoc Committee on Athletics Operations Sustainability

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier reported that the work of the Committee is progressing well. The planning phase has been completed, and the consultation process has advanced, with a very positive response rate to surveys from both alumni and internal stakeholders. The next phase will focus on assessment and strategy development, with the objective of formulating recommendations. An update will be provided at the next Board meeting.

Varsity Sports

Updates were shared regarding upcoming championships for various varsity teams, including the men's basketball team, which will compete in the National Championships in Calgary as the top-seeded team. The women's hockey and women's basketball teams are also in strong standing and are well positioned to qualify for their respective finals.

Winterfest

Winterfest was reported to be a success. An operational debrief was conducted and collaboration among the teams involved was noted as positive. Adjustments implemented this year achieved their intended effect, and potential improvements for future editions were identified. While no decision has yet been made regarding the continuation of the event, the outlook is positive. A report from operations teams will be issued in the coming weeks.

8 REPORT OF THE STUDENT'S REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Student Elections 2026

Student Representative Council President Anthony Dumas-Stephenson reported that the 2026 student elections have concluded. Eight (8) candidates presented themselves and were acclaimed in accordance with the new by-laws. Training sessions were held in December and January for candidates and will be offered again in future years. A meet-and-greet with students is to be held on February 24, 2026. The new members' term will begin on May 1, 2026.

Winterfest

Winterfest saw strong engagement, with approximately 1,400 tickets issued and steady attendance throughout the event. Overall, the event proceeded smoothly with no major incident reported. The rail jam and the DJ'S events were highlighted as key features of the weekend. Appreciation was expressed to all units and groups involved in the event.

Advocacy Efforts

A letter outlining students' concerns regarding Bill 9 and its potential impacts was sent to the Government, Minister Roberge, and Christine Labrie, Member of the National Assembly (MNA). Information was also shared with the student body. The Students' Representative Council will continue to support students and to advocate on its behalf.

9 VICE-PRINCIPAL ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH REPORT

Interim Vice-Principal Academic and Research Dr. Kerry Hull presented on academic planning. It was noted that, following the March Senate meeting, information will also be shared with the Board of Governors. Ongoing discussions are taking place regarding revisions to degree regulations, including considerations related to depth and breadth of learning. A first draft will be presented at the March 13, 2026, Senate meeting that will be brought back to the April 10, 2026, Senate meeting.

Work on a competency framework is underway to support program mapping and the assessment of student progress. Program mapping is expected to begin next year. Department-led changes, including program suspensions, mergers, and adjustments to program size or orientation, were noted. A resources and viability report, including recommendations for program revisions and staffing adjustments, will be presented at the March 13 Senate meeting. Further information will be shared with the Board of Governors on April 24, 2026.

Efforts are being made to align academic quality and relevance with resource allocation in light of financial constraints. Dr. Kerry Hull expressed appreciation to the Institutional Data and Planning team, as well as to the Chairs and Deans, for their contributions.

A question was raised regarding the cost exercise conducted to assess potential savings and revenue impacts. Interim Vice-Principal Academic and Research Dr. Kerry noted that proposed academic changes are intended to increase program relevance and thus enhance recruitment.

10 FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee Kent Carson reported that at the meeting held on February 12, 2026, the Committee reviewed and approved the auditors' mandate, including the development of standards and requirements, the timetable, and considerations related to risk and materiality. He noted that as the current auditor's contract is to expire this year, a call for proposals will be issued in the coming months.

11 GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee Junior Sirivar reported on the Committee's meeting of February 10, at which the Board Competency Matrix, Board term limits, and the Code of Ethics were examined.

The Committee noted that the Competency Matrix reflects a strong range of expertise and will continue to inform recruitment. Further refinement of competency definitions will be undertaken.

On the review of Board term limits, including continuity and staggered renewals, the Committee reaffirmed the nine (9) year maximum term, whether consecutive or non-consecutive, with partial terms counting toward this limit.

12 AD HOC OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE FOR THE PATERSON EXTENSION

An update was provided on the expansion project. Despite delays due to soil contamination, the project remains on track for November 2026 and within budget. Additional costs related to winter work and minor scope adjustments were noted.

13 2025-2029 STRATEGIC PLAN

Principal Sébastien Lebel-Grenier provided an update on progress related to the Strategic Plan, reporting that implementation is on track, with the majority of initiatives underway or well advanced. An update on the action plan, including progress on key initiatives, was also provided. It was further noted that this progress reflects the efforts of the executive team and units across the University in advancing the Plan's implementation. Further discussion is scheduled for the June Board of Governors retreat.

14 RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE CAPITAL PLAN

Chair of the Sustainable Development and Built Environment Committee Alexandre Demers noted that oversight of the Research Infrastructure Capital Plan will fall under the Committee. An update was provided on the 10-year research-focused plan submitted in December. The Plan includes two proposed projects: the management of an observation platform and the renovation of an academic space into research laboratory facilities. It was noted that projects are included regardless of secured funding and that any project exceeding approval thresholds will be brought forward to the Board. The Plan requires retroactive approval. It was also clarified that the Research Infrastructure Capital Plan will be tracked separately from the broader capital plan and will be reviewed annually. The importance of aligning future research infrastructure planning with the University's strategic priorities was also noted.

**RESOLUTION 2025-06-03
FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE 2026-36 RESEARCH CAPITAL PLAN**

WHEREAS the *Ministère de l'Économie, de l'Innovation et de l'Énergie* (MEIE) requires approval by the Board of Governors of a Research Capital Plan covering ten years (2026-2036);

WHEREAS the University submitted the 2026-36 Research Capital Plan before the end of December 2025 as required by the MEIE;

WHEREAS the inclusion of a project into the 2026-36 Research Capital Plan does not commit the University to carrying out the project if sufficient research funding is not identified;

AND WHEREAS all contracts exceeding \$500,000 will be submitted to the Board of Governors for approval even if the Board has approved them in the Research Capital Plan, as per the Signing Authority outlined in the University's statutes;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Governors retroactively approves the 2026-36 Research Capital Plan sent to the MEIE on December 19, 2025, as presented in Document 2025-06-14i;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board of Governors approves the French version of this resolution in which will be submitted to the Ministère de l'Économie, de l'Innovation et de l'Énergie.

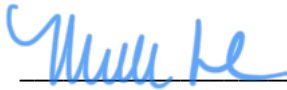
On a motion duly proposed and seconded, the resolution was adopted as presented.

15 2026-2027 BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING DATES

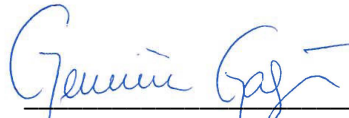
Secretary General Geneviève Gagné presented the meeting dates for the 2026–2027 academic year. Calendar invitations will follow in the coming weeks.

The open session adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

The meeting ended at 5:07 p.m.



Murielle Lortie, Chair



Geneviève Gagné, Secretary General