

Board of Governors September Meeting (Open Session) Agenda Package



Location: Louis Riel Room

September 20, 2025 08:30 AM

Agenda Topic	Presenter	Time	Page
1. OPENING PRAYER & SMUDGE	Elder Barb Blind	08:30 AM-08:45 AM	
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3.1 Approval of Agenda of September 20, 2025 (Open Session)		08:50 AM-08:52 AM	
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8.		MOTION(S) RAISED FROM CLOSED SESSION		
9.		ADJOURNMENT		

Report to Brandon University's Board of Governors Acting Provost & VP (Academic) – Mr. Greg Gatien (September 2025)

- The Brandon University Strategic Research Academic Planning Committee has remained engaged in the summer months to review the feedback received regarding the draft Plan and work on revisions.
- Dr. Campbell hosted the first Provost's Speaker Series in August. Dr. Jessica Riddell, founder of Hope Circuits Institute, Professor of Modern Literature in the English Department at Bishop's University, and the Stephen A. Jarislowsky Chair of Undergraduate Teaching Excellence, led four sessions on August 25th and August 26th with the President's Advisory Council (PAC), staff from service units, the Faculty of Arts, and the campus community. The focus of her talks included navigating complex challenges in the post-secondary world with "courage, creativity, and integrity", and understanding and creating an eco-system that involves engagement with diverse perspectives.
- The Deans' Council met in August for a one-day retreat to discuss preparations for the upcoming academic year, including workload/staffing, and initial conversations around recruitment, retention, and enrolment management.
- Please find below reports from members of Dean' Council on matters the Board may find of interest:

Faculty of Science:

- The Faculty of Science welcomed new term faculty members Dr. Krista Macpherson (Psychology) and Dr. Mark MacDougall (Biology). In addition, the Faculty wishes the best to Pauline Morton (Biology) recently retired after 35 years of service.
- On September 13th, the Faculty of Science co-hosted the Student Homecoming Showcase in Brodie Building. This event, lead by Nick Brown (office of VP Research and Graduate studies), Cora Dupuis (Co-op coordinator), and Chris LeMoine (Science), provided students with a great opportunity to present their Summer work, research, or creative output to the public.
- The Faculty of Science, in collaboration with Ellen Watson (Education), hosted a professional development workshop Indigenous ways of knowing and Science education workshop with Tracy Walker ([Canadian Light Source](#)) on September 18th-19th. This introductory workshop will be followed by online session on Indigenous Ways of Knowing for practicing scientists (October) and teaching Indigenous Ways of Knowing in Science (November) for faculty, graduate students, and student teachers.
- The Faculty of Science and the Indigenous Peoples' Centre hosted the Fall Equinox Feast on Friday September 19th.

Faculty of Education:

1. We are pleased to welcome the following faculty and staff to the Faculty of Education:
 - a. Dr. Dean Beaubier, Department of Leadership and
 - b. Educational Administration (3 year-term)
 - c. Ms. Sherry Baker, Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy
 - d. Ms. Roxanne Martin, Administrative Assistant, Field Experience
 - e. Dr. Gustavo Moura, Director of BU CARES (5-year term)
 - f. Dr. Velvet Maud, Department of Native Studies
 - g. Dr. Lorraine Mayer, Department of Native Studies
 - h. Ms. Karine St. Kitts, Athletic Therapist (1-year term)
2. Dr. Jessica Gannaway (University of Melbourne), Stanley Knowles Distinguished Visiting Scholar, is working with us and sharing insights from her research on “truth-telling, Indigenous education, and the transformative role of discomfort in the teaching profession. Drawing from two years of data with teacher candidates, her work highlights the challenges, strategies, and possibilities that emerge when educators confront difficult histories and contested perspectives in the classroom” (Moura, BU CARES).
3. We are nearing the completion of our After Degree Program changes. The changes have focused on:
 - a. Establishing 5 key priority questions that will guide our work with students
 - b. Moving from 3 streams to 2 streams (EY/MY and MY/SY)
 - c. Entrance requirements (driven by the provincial certification changes)
 - d. Proposals for new courses
4. The Faculty of Education learning retreat was held on August 28th. The aims of the retreat were to:
 - a. Reconnect and build community
 - b. Review and discuss the proposed changes to the After Degree Program (AD)
 - c. Explore the pedagogical, ethical, and professional dimensions of discomfort in teaching and learning

Student Services:

- Our residences have sold out with a total of 292 students. We have a waitlist for the first time in recent history. Thanks to the Residence and Physical Plant staff.
- Residence hosted 189 athletes this summer for the U17 Western Canadian Lacrosse Tournament.

- The Office of Recruitment and Retention hosted another great Orientation event on Tuesday, September 2nd. The Dean presented at new student athlete orientation on Saturday, September 6th.
- If Board members want to see what Student Services is offering, please add Brandon University Student Life – on Instagram and Facebook. Workshops are being offered by all services in the unit.
- Student Accessibility Services is offering a “Level Up Your Learning” Workshop Series – This gamified workshop series is designed to help students unlock skills for success.
- Student Services has launched an interactive EDIDR initiative using wall space to engage the campus community in conversations about equity, diversity, and inclusion. Centered around the metaphor of shoes, the display invites students to select the shoe that best represents them, symbolizing the start of their personal journey on campus. Clear, accessible definitions of key concepts such as equity, equality, belonging, and respect are included— for example: *“Diversity is everyone having different kinds of shoes, Equity is everyone getting shoes that fit.”* The initiative aims to promote awareness, reflection, and dialogue among students and staff through visual storytelling and participation.



**Report: Overview of Activities from 21 June 2025
Vice-President (Research & Graduate Studies)
Submitted to:
The Brandon University Board of Governors
September 2025**

26 June. Trans-Atlantic Dialogue on Health Research and Innovation in Changing Geopolitical Times.

A collaborative initiative organized by Research Canada, focusing on strengthening international health cooperation amidst geopolitical shifts and other global challenges. The dialogue addressed climate change, health equity, and the ethical implications of advancing technologies like AI. The webinar provided a platform for experts, researchers, and health professionals to share knowledge and discuss challenges.

3 July. Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) University Delegates Meeting.

A Senior Policy Analyst from the Office of the Secretariat on Responsible Conduct of Research (SRCR) presented two policies that will be updated. Both the Tri Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (TCPS) and Tri-Agency Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR Framework) are being updated as they relate to research involving First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples and communities.

9 July. Responsible Conduct of Research Forum Meeting.

The Secretariat on Responsible Conduct of Research established the Responsible Conduct of Research Forum Meetings. These offer an opportunity to engage with the research ethics community across the country on current and emerging research ethics topics or challenges. These meetings are open to researchers, members and administrators of responsible conduct of research policies.

10 July. Appointment to the Committee on Discovery Research.

The VPRGS was appointed to the Committee on Discovery Research. This is a significant achievement, reflecting both personal distinction and institutional advancement. This appointment affirms the Vice-President's standing as a respected leader in Canada's research ecosystem. It acknowledges their proven commitment to advancing discovery-based research and recognizes Brandon University's growing contributions to the national research landscape. As a member of the Committee, the Vice-President will help shape national strategies and funding priorities for foundational, curiosity-driven research. This role provides a platform to advocate for the needs of smaller institutions and ensure that inclusive, equitable approaches to research funding are embedded in policy decisions. The appointment enhances Brandon University's visibility and credibility within Canada's academic community. It signals that the institution is a valued voice in shaping the future of discovery research, strengthening opportunities for institutional partnerships, funding, and research leadership. The Vice-President brings a unique perspective rooted in serving students and researchers in a regional, student-centered university. Their involvement helps ensure that the Committee's work reflects diverse institutional contexts and supports equity, Indigenous research, and early-career scholars. Through this role, the Vice-President will help influence the long-term vision for Canadian research—supporting innovation, academic freedom, and the foundational sciences that drive new knowledge and discovery.



18 July. Team Manitoba Research Security Meeting.

Two main topics were discussed. (1) Travel Security: the nexus of research security, personal safety, and IT security were discussed. This included individuals who are doing risky research (e.g., EDI focus, Transgender researchers, etc. travelling to unwelcoming countries) and how this might contribute to security issues. Universities need to aid researchers to help them track and deal with trolls, negative comments, and harassment. We plan to continue discussions of the human/individual-centric, intersectional approach to research security. (2) All federally funded institutions are required to develop policies and comply with agency requirements (e.g., STRAC) however, colleges and small universities do not have access to the federal funding needed to develop robust research security programs. Small institutions like Brandon University are continually burdened and forced to operate “off the side of the desk”, else risk falling further behind.

21 July. 2025 Tri-Agency Meeting

The three federal granting agencies (CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC) organized information meetings for institutions to provide a brief presentation of tri-agency updates and reminders, then focused on clarifications and answers to questions about the new Canada Research Training Awards Suite (CRTAS) programs. As announced in Budget 2024, the scholarship and fellowship programs administered by the three federal research funding agencies – the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) – have been streamlined into a new harmonized talent program called the (CRTAS) that opened for applications in summer 2025. With the new CRTAS program, the annual number of scholarships and fellowships available to graduate students and postdoctoral researchers will increase by 1,720 awards. This increase will include 300 additional awards at the master’s level, 1,200 at the doctoral level, and 220 at the postdoctoral level. The annual value for these awards will be \$27,000 at the master’s level, \$40,000 at the doctoral level and \$70,000 at the postdoctoral level. The CRTAS aims to support the next generation of innovators by providing funding and high-quality research training, cultivating research skills, fostering creativity, and empowering awardees to make significant contributions to the Canadian research ecosystem, economy, and prosperity. The design of CRTAS has been shaped by the Tri-agency Research Training Strategy (2024) which focuses on modernizing the research training approach of the granting agencies with the aim to deliver an equitable, inclusive, accessible and effective suite of scholarships and fellowships to support enhanced research and professional skills acquisition for graduate students and postdoctoral researchers as well as facilitate their transition to careers requiring strong research skills in all sectors of society.

22 July. Navigating Horizon Europe: Accessing European Union Research Funding.

The Vice-President attended an informative webinar sponsored by Manitoba Agriculture's Industry Development Branch on accessing the Horizon Europe funding program—the world’s largest research and innovation funding initiative. Horizon Europe offers Canadian researchers and innovators exciting opportunities to advance their work through global collaboration. A specialist from Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED) Canada provided essential information about the program and how Canadian participants can engage with it. The session particularly focused on Cluster 6, which supports projects related to food systems, the bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture, and the environment.

23 July. Launch meeting for the Brandon University Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) Group.

The under-representation of women in the various fields of science and engineering has long been recognized as an important issue for the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada



BRANDON UNIVERSITY | Office of the Vice-President
(Research & Graduate Studies)

(NSERC). Women in Science and Engineering (WiSE) empowers young women to transition from undergraduate education to thriving careers in science and engineering, offering essential preparation and mentorship for sustained success in these fields. Almost every university in Canada hosts a WiSE program, typically a student-run organization. The VPRGS worked with a group of science students to establish WiSE at Brandon University. The organization’s mandate will be to promote diversity and equality in the science and engineering disciplines.

28 July. Indigenous Innovation and Leadership in Research Network Grant Webinar.

As announced in Budget 2024, the federal government committed \$30 million to support and increase Indigenous participation in research. In response, and following extensive engagement with Indigenous research partners, the Tri-Agencies have introduced a suite of new programs to strengthen Indigenous leadership and capacity in the research ecosystem. For First Nations and Métis as well as Indigenous post-secondary institutions and not-for-profit research organizations serving more than one distinction, these include: Indigenous Capacity and Leadership in Research Connection Grants and Indigenous Innovation and Leadership in Research Network Grants.

19 August. Faculty of Education Graduate Student Orientation.

The VPRGS attended the 2025 New Graduate Student Orientation for new incoming M.Ed. students (both Domestic & International) that are scheduled to commence their M.Ed. programs at Brandon University in Fall (September) 2025.

2 September. NSERC Discovery Grant Information Session.

The DG program supports ongoing programs of research with long-term goals rather than a single short-term project or collection of projects. These grants recognize the creativity and innovation that are at the heart of all research advances. DGs are typically five years in duration and are considered “grants in aid” of research, as they provide long-term operating funds and can facilitate access to funding from other programs but are not meant to support the full costs of a research program. The information session covered eligibility requirements and how to write a competitive grant. The session was open to current and future applicants.

4 September. 2025 CIHR University Delegates Network Meeting.

CIHR provided updates to recent grant programs and answered questions concerning the new narrative style curriculum vitae that is being launched.

5 September. New Researcher Orientation Session.

The Office of the VPRGS provided insights to new researchers into the work that we do to support research and graduate studies.

Submitted by:

Bernadette Ardelli

Bernadette Ardelli, Ph.D.
Vice-President (Research & Graduate Studies)
Professor (Cell Biology & Infectious Disease)
006-5 McKenzie Building

**Report of the Vice-President (Administration and Finance)
For the Board of Governors
September 20, 2025**

NOTABLE UPDATES

FINANCE

➤ ***Estimates for Budget 2026/27***

- As of Sept 11, 2025, the province has not yet released details pertaining to 2026/27 estimates – required inclusions or timelines. It is expected that this information will be released by the province shortly with estimates for fiscal 2026/27 due back to them in early fall.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

➤ ***Security Audit***

- Following a Request for Proposal process for a comprehensive security audit, the successful vendor, Stantec, commenced work on the initiative in February 2025. The project is approximately 35 percent complete, with initial site visits conducted to assess campus buildings and document existing security infrastructure.
- Progress has been slower than anticipated due to documentation gaps and resource challenges. Engagement sessions with various campus groups are scheduled to begin shortly, with completion targeted for early November and final report delivery by late December. These sessions will inform the development of the Threat Risk Assessment. Brandon University and Stantec are working closely together to improve coordination and communication to help mitigate any further project delays.

➤ ***First Aid & Naloxone Training***

Launched by Health & Safety in 2025 to address:

- **Equity:** Residence Assistants were self-funding mandatory first aid certification.
- **Safety Gaps:** Insufficient number of first aid certified staff across campus.
- **Provincial Guidance:** ADM for Advanced Education and Training encouraged enhanced first aid certification and opioid poisoning prevention, including Naloxone access.

Progress to Date:

- **May:** 17 staff certified
- **August:** 39 staff certified
- **October & November:** Both sessions full (18 staff each); waitlists in place
- All participants received Nasal Naloxone kits.

Additional sessions added due to high demand. Some departments held separate training due to scheduling conflicts.

➤ **BU Safety App**

In response to safety concerns—including a violent incident near residence, outdated emergency infrastructure, and slow alert times—Health & Safety re-implemented the **BU Safety App (App Armor)** on September 3, 2025.

Key Features: Emergency alerts, Friend Walk, Safe Walk, Working Alone, Social Escape, one-tap emergency contacts, safety resources, and incident reporting.

Impact to Date:

- 317 subscribers
- 34 Friend Walks registered

Ongoing promotion is underway in collaboration with the Student Union, Student Services, and PAC members to encourage broader adoption.

Submitted by:

Peter Hickey
Vice-President, Administration & Finance
Brandon University



**Transactions of \$100,000 or More
June 1 – August 31, 2025**

Payables

Date	Amount	Recipient
July 4, 2025	\$ 432,450.11	Westpoint Construction – Gym Floor Replacement
July 18, 2025	\$ 111,034.89	Manitoba Blue Cross – Extended Health & Health Spending Account
August 15, 2025	\$ 154,218.74	Westpoint Construction – Gym Floor Replacement
August 15, 2025	\$ 113,564.42	Manitoba Blue Cross – Extended Health & Health Spending Account

Net Payroll

Net payroll disbursements, issued on a bi-weekly basis, are always greater than \$1 million.

Short-term Investments

Redeemed:

None

Purchased:

None

Receipts

Date	Amount	Recipient
June 26, 2025	\$ 101,554.56	Knowles Douglas Centre – Balance on Account up to May 31, 2025
August 26, 2025	\$ 143,062.19	RBC Online Payment – Payments to Various Student Accounts
August 28, 2025	\$ 126,735.24	RBC Online Payment – Payments to Various Student Accounts

**Brandon University (BU) Foundation Report
For the Board of Governors
September 2025**

The Foundation Management Committee met on September 10, 2025.

During the meeting, the committee received update reports from:

- ***BU's Acting President and Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Kofi Campbell, on:***
 - Update on the provincial funding announcement made for Brodie renovations

- ***Advancement and Alumni Affairs Director, Ms. Carla Eisler, on:***
 - Homecoming activities currently underway
 - Recent and upcoming events
 - Highlights of Gifts and Awards
 - IPC Expansion

- ***BU Vice President, Administration & Finance (VPAF), Peter Hickey, on:***
 - BU Foundation Q2 financials as of June 30, 2025
 - Review of amounts payable to Brandon University from the Foundation
 - Connor, Clark, & Lunn (CC&L) Q2 Investment Performance Report
 - Latest investment performance as of August 31, 2025
 - VPAF Recommended Endowment Distribution Rate

- ***BU Foundation Past Board President, Tilda Fortier, on:***
 - Nomination of two new members for recommendation to the BU Foundation Board were put forth.

Additional Discussions:

- **Brandon University Foundation Semi-Annual General Meeting Agenda**
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025
Location: Brandon University

- **Brandon University Foundation & Management Committee Meeting Schedule for 2025-26**

Submitted by: Peter Hickey
Vice-President (Administration and Finance)

Report to the Board of Governors from Senate – September 20, 2025

Senate has not met since the last Board of Governors meeting on June 21st. Senate will meet next Tuesday on September 16th. The details of the September 16th meeting will be included in the next Board of Governors package. Hopefully by the time you read this we will have our second Senate representative on the Board of Governors.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan Hill

Senate Representative to the Board of Governors

Brandon University Students' Union
Report to Board Of Governors
SEPTEMBER 2025

Submitted by: Charles Adamu, BUSU President

- **Successful Orientation Week** – BUSU successfully contributed towards the 2025 Orientation, encouraging student engagement across academic and social events.
- **Upcoming Student Programs** – September events include Services Day, Community Day, Karaoke Socials, and our Bonfire/Observatory Night (hosting students and alumni). These initiatives are designed to foster student belonging and community connection.
- **Enhancing Services For Students** – BUSU is focusing on improving supports for students, including promoting the Campus Cupboard, expanding awareness of the health and dental plan, and ensuring students are connected to mental health and academic resources on campus.
- **Teaching Enhancement Conversation (TEC)** – BUSU representatives attended the TEC held on August 27th. The theme, “*Start Well to Go Well*”, was an excellent one, and I would like to thank Curt for once again inviting students into these important conversations.
- **Student Representation** – BUSU representatives continue to sit on various university committees to ensure the student voice is actively represented in decision-making across campus.

Kofi Campbell, Acting President and Vice-Chancellor

Report to the Board of Governors

September 2025

Safety Review

The safety review continues. Stantec will begin meeting with the designated consultation groups shortly.

Brodie Renovations:

As you will all know at this point, the government has committed \$52m towards the required updates of the Brodie building. \$2m will come in this year's budget cycle, with the remainder to be dispersed in next year's budget. With the intention of keeping the work moving forward until Dr. Cnossen is fully in the chair, I called a group of those involved in the project together to determine where we currently stand, and to identify shorter-term goals we can accomplish in the meantime. We are confident that we don't need to restart this process from the beginning, as a great deal of consultation was undertaken within the Faculty as part of our already-accomplished work. We also estimated that with the removal of the Research and Innovation Commons from the scoping of the project, the total cost to renovate Brodie is likely to be in the \$100m-\$120m range. In order to keep the work moving forward, we agreed on four urgent action items:

- Re-engage the architects, provide them with the updated project scope, and present them with the list of needs and wants previously identified by the faculty in Science; this will allow them to begin planning their re-engagement with the Faculty (Peter and Nolan)
- Hire a project manager: learning from the recommendations of the ERP review, we recognize that this project cannot be lead off the side of someone's desk – it will need direct and dedicated leadership by a person who has access both to the oversight committee, and to any relevant area of the University with which they may need to engage. This person will also be our liaison with the architects once we have agreed on scoping and costs. We will also ask this project manager to develop a broader set of management processes and pathway documents that can be applied more broadly in future projects we undertake (Kofi and Peter)

- Form an oversight committee to lead this work internally and to monitor progress. Dr. Clossen will lead this committee, and she and I will work in the meantime to identify those who should compose the committee (Kofi and Christine)
- Chris LeMoine, our Dean of Science, will continue to engage the faculty members in Science regarding the project, so that they are ready to speak with the architects and project manager as soon as they are ready to re-engage

Gulliver Observatory:

Peter, myself, and the Chair of the BU Foundation, Chris Hunt, have all recently been asked question by government re the progress on the upgrades to the observatory. What this means we are not quite sure, but Chris certainly feels that they are interested in helping us fund the work. Unfortunately, we are not in a position to give them much information re costing right now, but I will both update the Ministry and ask Peter to work with Nolan to begin the process of getting some estimates. In the meantime, Christine has agreed to continue engaging with government on this matter.

Visiting Delegation:

A delegation from the Brazilian Ministry of Indigenous Peoples will be visiting BU for 2-3 days towards the end of the month, including a federal vice-minister who will be travelling to meet the PM in Ottawa directly after leaving BU. As per Dr. Wilder Robles' description of the nature of the visit: "The purpose of Dr. Terena visit to BU is to explore potential research partnerships between BU and the MPI. Dr. Terena suggested that any future research and development project funded by SSHRC or Brazil's CAPES and FAPESP should be channeled through the RDI. This issue will be discussed further with Dr. Wayne Kelly. Dr. Terena will also explore the possibility of BU hosting Brazilian Indigenous doctoral students through the special ELAP program that he is working with Ottawa. He believes the small size university offers better conditions for Brazilian Indigenous students to conduct their work efficiently. He is keen to visit BU IPC and would like to know how this centre provides support to Indigenous students."

Town Hall:

On August 28th I addressed our community at the Fall Address. As was the case with the budget town hall, there were a lot of good questions, but absolutely no mean-spiritedness or anger directed towards the administration. The energy was good, and the atmosphere

was one of excitement at the start of a new term and a new presidency, and a general happiness to be back together. This bodes well for the future.

Alumni and Advancement

Gifts & Awards

- \$94,721.84 estate gift towards the Class of 1955 Scholarship
- \$43,769 estate gift (in addition to the \$1,480,333) towards the anonymous scholarship
- \$5,000 towards the Patricia Fraser Scholarship-Bursary in Science
- \$5,000 towards the Hilton Stewart Bursary in Education
- \$4,500 gift of securities towards the Campus Master Plan Initiatives
- \$4,000 towards the Robert & Vest Daniels Entrance Scholarship
- \$3,000 towards the Tire Stewardship Manitoba Scholarship-Bursary in Environmental Science
- \$2,500 towards the J. Harvey Tolton Bursary
- \$2,400 towards the BU Hedge Fund
- \$2,000 towards the WUSC Student Refugee Program
- \$2,000 Janine Gerencser Memorial Scholarship in Music Theory
- \$2,000 towards Bobcat BIRT Cup Athletic Award

Events

- Homecoming September 11 – 14, 2025. Along with several events throughout the weekend, three outstanding alumni will be recognized for their contributions at the Homecoming Dinner & Awards evening.
- Plans for this year's Annual Fund have begun.

University Registrar's Admission Report – September 1

- Summary:
 - We are seeing relatively significant variations from one report to the next this registration cycle.
 - Overall head count is **slightly higher** compared to the same point last year (**0.7%**), showing variability across demographic groups tracked: domestic, non-Indigenous (**2.6%**), Indigenous (**14%**), and international (**-23.8%**).

- The significant decrease in international students is largely attributable to the significant decrease in the incoming international cohort that has resulted from BU's implementation of a mandatory deposit and the significant study permit and related changes made by IRCC in the 18 months.
- At August 1, overall credit hours registered were up 2.0%, and they are now **up 3.8%** compared to the same point last year.
 - Credit hours for domestic non-Indigenous students are up compared to last year (**4.8%**), up for Indigenous students (**12.6%**) and down relatively significantly for international (**-13.9%**) students.
 - Compared to the same point last year, credit hours are somewhat variable across faculties: Arts (**7.5%**), Education (**7.5%**), Health Studies (**-24%**), Music (**-1.8%**), Science (**2.9%**).
- First-time* students:
 - First-time student head count is **up** compared to the same point last year (**3.1%**).
 - Domestic non-Indigenous students are **up slightly (0.7%)** compared to the same point last year, but there is a very significant increase in Indigenous students (**23.9%**); there is a significant decrease in international student headcount (**-18.2%**).
 - First time student credit hours registered are **up (7.6%)** over the same point last year
 - Domestic non-Indigenous students credit hours are **up (5.4%)** and Indigenous students up very significantly (**19.9%**); first-time international student credit hours are only slightly lower than at the same point last year (**-0.8%**).

Brandon University 'names in the news'

Summer 2025

Politics & Public Affairs

Kelly Saunders: Key Political Voice in Manitoba

Political Science professor **Kelly Saunders** provided frequent analysis of provincial politics, especially the **Spruce Woods byelection**. She was quoted on party strategies, voter sentiment, and the close result that narrowed a traditionally safe Conservative seat.

Saunders was also a panelist in the pivotal Spruce Woods debate, which was co-hosted and organized by Brandon University, with WCGtv and the Brandon Sun.

- [Global – PCs retain Spruce Woods seat](#)
- [Winnipeg Free Press – Razor-thin byelection should have been slam-dunk for Tories](#)

Saunders also commented on broader political issues including separatist leanings in Manitoba and Premier Wab Kinew’s approach to Indigenous consultation.

- [Winnipeg Free Press – Separatism strong among majority of Tory backers in Manitoba](#)
- [CBC – Manitoba’s approach to major projects](#)

Christopher J. Schneider: Policing, Safety & Social Media

Sociology professor **Christopher Schneider** was widely quoted on policing issues, resource officers in schools, and digital culture. He cautioned against overreliance on school resource officers, discussed the RCMP’s TikTok “foot pursuit” trend, and provided expert commentary on Winnipeg’s AI policing pilot.

- [Brandon Sun – SROs won’t make our schools safer](#)
- [CBC – Winnipeg police expand AI agent pilot](#)
- [CTV – TikTok trend sees Canadians challenging RCMP officers to fake police chases](#)
- [Winnipeg Free Press – The RCMP and TikTok](#)

Hockey Culture

Schneider was also sought for comment following the verdict of the closely-followed Hockey Canada sexual assault trial, and penned an op-ed about it.

- [Globe and Mail — We must expand our understanding of what fear can look like for sexual-assault victims](#)

Fellow faculty member **Tim Skuce**, himself a former junior hockey player, was extensively quoted in a *Globe and Mail* feature, describing himself as a “hopeful pessimist” about changing the sport’s culture.

- [Globe and Mail — The Hockey Canada sexual-assault trial is over, but conversations about the sport’s culture continue](#)

Science & Research

Bryan Cassone: “Plastivore” Caterpillar Research

A Brandon University biology team led by **Dr. Bryan Cassone** received another round of extensive global coverage for research about waxworm caterpillars digesting plastic. The findings sparked stories in outlets ranging from *PhysOrg* to *Wired*.

- [PhysOrg – Meet the plastivore caterpillars](#)
- [Interesting Engineering – Fat from trash](#)
- [Wired — Hungry Worms Could Help Solve Plastic Pollution](#)
- [Science Daily – Researchers make stunning discovery](#)

Scott Forbes: Creatine & Health Research

Scott Forbes, sports scientist and professor, was featured in *Business Insider*, *Bloomberg News*, and *The Globe and Mail* (among others) discussing his research on creatine supplements for muscle health, brain health, and aging.

- [Business Insider — It’s not just for gym bros](#)
- [Globe and Mail – Should your athletic teen take creatine?](#)
- [Bloomberg – Women and older adults drive sales of creatine](#)

Arts, Culture & History

Music at BU: Hitting The Right Notes

Brandon University’s **School of Music** was prominent in summer media. Student initiatives like the **Beginning Band Composition Competition** highlight emerging talent. Assistant professor **Marika Galea** earned recognition as a “Rising Star Electric Bassist” in *DownBeat Magazine*.

- [Brandon University – National composition competition](#)
- [Classic 107 – Jazz with a Brazilian twist](#)
- [DownBeat — Rising Stars](#)

Rhonda Hincer: Putting Her Stamp on History

History professor **Rhonda Hincer** helped Canada Post design a stamp on civilian internment in wartime.

- [CBC Radio – Canada Post’s New Stamp Highlights Civilian Internment History](#)

Community & Recognition

Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Award

Aloysius Anyichie, an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Education, was named one of the *Top 25 Canadian Immigrants*. He was celebrated for both his scholarship and his community-building work.

- [Toronto.com – Top 25 Immigrant Award recipients](#)
- [Brandon Sun – BU prof earns national recognition](#)

Aloy was the first person from Brandon to receive the award — but he wasn't the only person with a BU link! Fellow winner **Lenya Wilks** is a BU vocal jazz graduate who later impressed judges and wowed audiences on *Canada's Got Talent*. Today, she leads a non-profit outside of Vancouver.

- [Canadian Immigrant — Lenya Wilks](#)
- [Surrey Now-Leader — Surrey singer, non-profit director among 25 'immigrant success stories'](#)

Tour de France Ride

Brandon University staff member and cycling advocate **Grant Hamilton** successfully completed the Tour 21, riding the full 3,500-kilometre route of the 2025 Tour de France just one week ahead of the professionals. The endurance challenge was completed with a small international team of riders and Hamilton raised \$60,000 for leukaemia challenge, with the team topping \$1 million in donations.

- [Global News — Brandon man competes in gruelling amateur version of Tour de France](#)
- [Brandon Sun — Hamilton complete grand Tour](#)
- [Discover Westman — Brandon cyclist conquers Tour 21](#)

BU Institutional Success

The Manitoba government announced **\$52 million in renovations** for the Brodie Science Centre. Acting President **Kofi Campbell** praised the investment as transformative for BU's future.

- [Brandon Sun – Brodie Centre reno worth \\$52 million](#)

Brandon University is regularly featured on lists of **most affordable universities in Canada**. Often, these are little more than blog posts, but not this summer, when BU was featured by *MSN* and mentioned in the *US News and World Report*.

- [MSN — 10 Canadian universities with the best value for money](#)
- [US News — Checklist for earning a degree abroad](#)

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

069 Sep25

MEETING: Board of Governors

DATE: September 20, 2025

AGENDA: Open Session

PROPOSED BY: Board Secretariat

SUBJECT: 2026 Board of Governors Meeting Schedule

FOR: Approval Discussion Notice of Motion

RECOMMENDATION:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Governors approve the 2026 meeting schedule as follows:

Board of Governors - Meeting Dates

Saturday, January 24, 2026

Saturday, March 21, 2026

Saturday, May 9, 2026

Saturday, June 20, 2026

Saturday, September 26, 2026

Saturday, November 28, 2026

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

As per the General By-Laws of the Board of Governors, the annual meeting schedule is to be determined by the Board in September of each year. The Board of Governors will meet six times per year typically on the fourth Saturday of each month, unless otherwise determined. Board of Governors meetings will commence at 8:30 a.m.

PASSED _____

Committee meetings will continue to be scheduled based on availability of Committee members.



Brandon University Board of Governors

**Acknowledgement and Undertaking
of Fiduciary Duty and Avoidance of Conflict of Interest**

I fully understand, acknowledge and agree that, as a member of the Board of Governors of Brandon University, I am a fiduciary with respect to the business and affairs of the University.

As a fiduciary, I must adhere to the highest level of conduct in carrying out my duties and responsibilities as a Governor, which includes, without limitation, the obligation to act honestly, in good faith and in the best interests of the University in furtherance of the requirements and intentions of *The Brandon University Act*. I have a responsibility when carrying out my duties as a Governor, to exercise the care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent person would exercise.

As a fiduciary, I recognize that I must avoid any conflict of interest and understand that I owe the University a duty of confidence and undertake to keep all confidential or proprietary information communicated or disclosed to me as a member of the Board of Governors in strictest confidence. I also acknowledge and agree that my duty of confidentiality extends beyond my term on the Board of Governors into perpetuity.

I acknowledge that I have read the [Conflict of Interest By-law](#) (By-law No. 10).

Board Member Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Board Member Name: _____

This acknowledgement and undertaking is completed annually by all Board of Governors members and submitted to board@brandonu.ca.

**BRANDON UNIVERSITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS
DISCLOSURE OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Members shall disclose the existence of an actual or potential conflict of interest or conflict of commitment in accordance with [Conflict of Interest By-law](#) (By-law No. 10). I recognize that conflicts may include not only financial or personal interests, but also external commitments, roles, or relationships that may impair or be perceived to impair my ability to act in the best interests of the University.

In order to satisfy the requirements of accountability and transparency, the following information is required of each Board member:

- 1. Are you an employee of the University? Yes No
- 2. Are members of your immediate family employees of the University? Yes No
- 3. Are you a student of the University? Yes No
- 4. Are members of your immediate family students of the University? Yes No
- 5. To the best of your knowledge, do you, or a member of your immediate family, have a personal interest in an entity(s) that does business with the University? Yes No

If yes, please name the entity(s) and relationship:

- 6. To the best of your knowledge, do you, or a member of your family, engage in any other activity or have a personal interest that could be regarded as a conflict of interest for you in your role with the University? Yes No

If yes, please indicate activity and personal interest:

I understand that I have a continuing obligation to promptly disclose any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest or commitment that may arise during my term on the Board.

Declaration and Certification

I declare that the information provided in this form is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that if my circumstances change during my term, I will update the information in this declaration and notify the Board Secretariat at board@brandonu.ca as soon as reasonably possible.

Board Member Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Board Member Name: _____

Completed forms are reviewed by the Chair of the Board in conjunction with the Board Secretariat to determine mitigation as needed. Refusal to complete this form may result in a member being asked to resign.

Board Chair Signature: _____ **Date:** _____
Board Secretariat Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Governance Workshop 2025

Governance workshop for UNIVERSITY BOARD MEMBERS

Navigate the most pressing challenges
in university governance

Attend the **3rd Annual
University Board Governance
Workshop**



Wednesday, Nov. 19th, 2025

- 9:00 to 1:00 PDT
- 11:00 to 3:00 CDT
- 12:00 to 4:00 EDT
- 1:00 to 5:00 ADT

CHERYL A. FOY

Founder & President
Strategic Governance Consulting Services Ltd.

