

Board of Governors May Meeting (Open Session) Agenda Package



Location: Louis Riel Room

May 09, 2026 08:30 AM

Agenda Topic	Presenter	Time	Page
1. CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT		08:30 AM-08:35 AM	
2. AGENDA & MINUTES			3
2.1 Approval of Agenda of May 9, 2026 (Open Session)		08:35 AM-08:37 AM	
2.2 Approval of Consent Agenda		08:37 AM-08:40 AM	3
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3.3	Report from Vice-Chair - Canadian University Governance Association Conference *To be provided	Q. Pearce	08:55 AM-09:00 AM	
4.	NEW BUSINESS			33
4.1	Motion: 2026 Report Against Forced Labour and Child Labour Supply Chains	P. Hickey	09:00 AM-09:05 AM	33
4.2	Motion: Scholarship & Research Funds	P. Hickey	09:05 AM-09:10 AM	39
5.	MOVE TO CLOSED SESSION			
6.	MOTION(S) RAISED FROM CLOSED SESSION			
7.	ADJOURNMENT			

Report: Overview of Activities from 21 March 2026
Vice-President (Research & Graduate Studies)
Submitted to:
The Brandon University Board of Governors
May 2026

Knowledge Mobilization, Innovation & Community Partnerships

Stolen Science: The Need for a New History: Stolen Science, hosted by Dr. Darrell Racine, reveals the hidden Indigenous knowledge behind two centuries of Western European scientific discovery. Aimed at both Indigenous youth and academic researchers, the podcast offers a new framework for understanding Indigenous history and for conducting research that treats Indigenous peoples as equals rather than footnotes. The series also addresses the ongoing consequences of this erasure, including the persistence of racist narratives in mainstream academic and public discourse. The series is now available on YouTube and major podcast platforms. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j5UvIBw5RX4>

Illumination: Brandon University (BU) has launched Illumination, a new research podcast hosted by Dr. Bernadette Ardelli, Vice-President (Research & Graduate Studies). The podcast brings together Brandon University researchers from across disciplines for open, roundtable-style conversations on a single shared topic each episode, creating a space where different ways of knowing intersect, challenge one another, and raise new questions. Illumination is built around a simple idea: that some of the most important questions we face don't belong to any one field. They sit at the edges, between disciplines, between communities, between the work we do in the lab or the field and the world that work is meant to serve. The first episode, found here: <https://youtu.be/t5w5Zu-iRzk>, focuses on generative artificial intelligence, what it is, what it can and cannot do, and what it means for the way we work, learn, and create. Note that Illumination was highlighted in Academica Group's "Today's Top Ten in Higher Education" for 27 April 2026. Future episodes will explore topics such as Democratic and Community Resilience, Food and Water Security, and Environment, Climate Resilience and the Arctic. Illumination is available on the @BrandonUResearch YouTube channel.

Vice-President (Research & Graduate Studies) Activities

Western Manitoba Science Fair (WMSF) and the STEMinist Convention: On Tuesday, April 14th, Brandon University welcomed several hundred participants to the WMSF. As part of the WMSF, the Vice-President (Research & Graduate Studies) has been hosting and organizing the STEMinist Convention. The mandate of the Convention is all about supporting and inspiring young girls attending the WMSF to explore and succeed in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). It's about showing young girls that they belong in STEM, no matter their background or experience. The Convention creates opportunities for the delegates to meet role models and connect with other students who share their curiosity and passion. We have spent the past several years working to break down barriers and stereotypes, so more of these young girls feel confident pursuing their ideas, asking big questions, and imagining futures in STEM fields. At its heart, the STEMinist Convention is about empowering girls to see what's possible and helping them to get there.



Manitoba Medical Service Foundation: The Manitoba Medical Service Foundation (MMSF) hosted their annual Award Recipient Reception on Thursday, April 23, 2026. The purpose of the reception is to recognize and celebrate the successful research grant and career award recipients for contributions they are making to health in Manitoba. The Vice-President (Research & Graduate Studies) was asked to speak at the reception on behalf of Brandon University. Honored at the event were Dr. Kathryn Chachula for their project, “Effectiveness of a Psychological Body Armour™ Course in Building Resilience Among Nurses in Manitoba,” and Dr. Candice Waddell-Henowich for “Envisioning Recovery from Sexual Violence in Rural, Remote and Northern Areas of Manitoba: A Photo Exploration”. This was Brandon University’s first-time partnering with the MMSF since their inception in 1971.

Submitted by:

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



To: Board of Governors
From: Peter Hickey, VP Finance & Administration
Date: May 9, 2026
Subject: Vice-President (Administration & Finance) Report

BACKGROUND

This memorandum provides the Vice-President (Administration & Finance) Report to the Board of Governors for the Open Session. It highlights key financial, audit, and staffing matters intended to support Board awareness and ongoing oversight.

REPORT / OVERVIEW

➤ **Provincial Grant**

- The Provincial Grant for the 2026-27 fiscal year was received on March 24, 2026.

Highlights:

- 2% base operating grant increase of \$991k
- \$51.4M overall operating grant
- \$1.25M deferred maintenance project funding for fiscal 2026/27
- No funding for Campus Manitoba (CMB) due to announced winding up of CMB operations. Prior year operating grant included \$955k for CMB.
- Provincial recommendation to adopt a 4% tuition increase for 2026/27 academic year

➤ **2025-26 Year-end and Audit**

- Unaudited preliminary financial estimates for the 2025/26 fiscal year demonstrate anticipated slight favourability for Brandon University (BU), which will aid towards an in-year reduction of the outstanding structural deficit at year-end.
- The annual financial audit is currently underway with our auditors, BDO. Management is and will continue to collaborate closely with BDO throughout the next weeks to ensure we are well-prepared for all required reporting requirements.

➤ **Staffing**

- **Strategic Advisor.** A Strategic Advisor position was added within the VPAF portfolio in February to strengthen budget and planning processes and to support transparent, collaborative, and informed decision-making across the institution. The role further offers strategic guidance to improve operational efficiency and effectiveness.
- **Controller.** As part of the restructuring of the Financial & Registration Services portfolio, the University welcomed a new Controller in March. This position strengthens the portfolio's capacity to focus more closely on core accounting and financial reporting responsibilities.

- **Director of Business Operations.** After a comprehensive recruitment process, the University successfully filled the Director of Business Operations position, with the successful candidate accepting an offer to commence on May 19, 2026. This appointment addresses the retirement vacancy and strengthens leadership within the Business Operations portfolio.
- **Director, Physical Plant.** Recruitment for this position is ongoing. In the meantime, physical plant operations continue to operate effectively under the leadership of an Interim Director who brings deep experience and institutional knowledge of the campus.

ATTACHMENTS

N/A



Transactions of \$100,000 or More January 1 to March 31, 2026

Payables

Remitted to:	Date	Amount	Details
CONNOR, CLARK & LUNN CANADA LTD	09-Jan-26	\$ 305,473.32	Investment Manager Fees - BU Retirement Plan
CONNOR, CLARK & LUNN CANADA LTD	16-Jan-26	\$ 115,390.95	Investment Manager Fees - BU Foundation
MANITOBA BLUE CROSS	16-Jan-26	\$ 114,638.85	Employee Health Benefits
US BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION	13-Feb-26	\$ 100,236.54	Monthly Payment - University Credit Cards
MANITOBA BLUE CROSS	06-Mar-26	\$ 107,707.80	Employee Health Benefits
MANITOBA BLUE CROSS	20-Mar-26	\$ 105,182.61	Employee Health Benefits

Net Payroll

January 9, 2026	\$	2,097,003.77
January 23, 2026	\$	2,455,377.41
February 6, 2026	\$	2,313,926.89
February 20, 2026	\$	2,487,986.24
March 6, 2026	\$	2,381,194.90
March 20, 2026	\$	2,506,099.30

Short-Term Investments

Redeemed:	Due	Amount	Details
VERSABANK	24-Mar-26	100,000.00	Guaranteed Investment Certificate 3.24%
LAURENTIAN BANK OF CANADA	24-Mar-26	100,000.00	Guaranteed Investment Certificate 3.24%
HAVENTREE BANK	24-Mar-26	100,000.00	Guaranteed Investment Certificate 3.23%
GENERAL BANK OF CANADA	24-Mar-26	100,000.00	Guaranteed Investment Certificate 3.20%
COMMUNITY TRUST COMPANY	24-Mar-26	100,000.00	Guaranteed Investment Certificate 3.23%
CIBC FULL SERVICE	24-Mar-26	500,000.00	Guaranteed Investment Certificate 2.95%
		1,000,000.00	

Purchased:	Due	Amount	Details
EFFORT TRUST COMPANY	01-Apr-27	100,000.00	Guaranteed Investment Certificate 3.20%
HAVENTREE BANK	01-Apr-27	100,000.00	Guaranteed Investment Certificate 3.33%
LAURENTIAN BANK OF CANADA	01-Apr-27	500,000.00	Guaranteed Investment Certificate 3.21%
VERSABANK	01-Apr-27	100,000.00	Guaranteed Investment Certificate 3.21%
MERIDIAN CREDIT UNION	01-Apr-27	200,000.00	Guaranteed Investment Certificate 3.19%
		1,000,000.00	

Receipts

Received from:	Date	Amount	Details
BRANDON UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION	18-Mar-26	1,997,387.01	2025 Q4 Remittance



To: Board of Governors
From: Peter Hickey, VP Finance & Administration
Date: May 9, 2026
Subject: Brandon University (BU) Retirement Plan Trustees Report

BACKGROUND

The Brandon University Retirement Plan Pension Trustees met on April 22, 2026. The meeting focused on routine governance, policy matters, and administrative oversight of the Plan.

REPORT / OVERVIEW

Governance and Administration

The Trustees approved routine agenda and meeting items and appointed an additional signing officer in accordance with established controls.

The Trustees also held an initial discussion related to succession planning for the Chair position, with further consideration to take place at a future meeting.

Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures (SIPP)

The Trustees reviewed and approved minor updates to the Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures. These changes incorporated investment asset mix and rebalancing provisions previously discussed by the Trustees, along with a clarification within the Investment Beliefs section recognizing Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) considerations as part of investment decision-making. The updated SIPP was formally adopted.

Pension Transfer Policy – Preliminary Review

The Trustees discussed a request related to the transfer of pension assets from an external registered pension plan. Given the absence of a reciprocal transfer agreement and the need to ensure ongoing compliance with applicable regulatory requirements, the Trustees requested additional information from plan advisors. Further analysis and options will be brought forward for consideration at a future meeting. No changes were made at this time.

Custodial and Administrative Matters

Routine custodial fee invoices were reviewed and approved. Other administrative matters were addressed as part of the Trustees' regular oversight responsibilities.

Upcoming Meetings

The next scheduled meetings of the Pension Trustees are June 9 and November 18, 2026.

Report to the Board of Governors from Senate: March 17, 2026

Senate Meeting: March 17, 2026

- The Senate discussed several new business items and committee reports.
- The Senate approved the revisions to suspend the “two senator” requirement for the 2026 Bylaw Review submitted by Bylaws Review Committee as an exception for the year 2026.
- The Senate approved the introduction of new course 20:120/DRAM 1004 Theatre Production I and revisions to the course 20:204 Shakespeare I (cross-listing) submitted by the Department of English, Drama & Creative Writing, Faculty of Arts through an omnibus motion.
- The Senate approved the revisions to the course 07.754 Practicum in Education submitted by Faculty of Education-Graduate Studies Program
- The Senate approved the meeting dates for the 59th Senate (2026-27)
- The Senate approved the revisions to John E. Robbins Library Collections Policy submitted by Library Council and Senate Library Committee.
- The Senate received report from the Ad-Hoc Artificial Intelligence Committee, and Ad-Hoc External Review of Programs & University Policy Review Committee. A survey was sent to the university community through Brandon University CTLT and the next update will be provided in May 2026.
- The Senate received written reports from Faculty of Health Studies, School of Music, Dean of Students, Chief Information Officer, and University Registrar.

Prepared by
Dr. Bryan Hill
Dr. Ravi Dwivedula

Senate Representatives to the Board of Governors

Report to the Board of Governors Audit & Risk Committee

Open Session Report

The Audit & Risk Committee met on March 25, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams.

The Brandon University Audit Plan for the year ending March 31, 2026 was presented to the Committee by a representative of BDO Canada LLP, BU's Audit firm.

The presentation provided planning communication to highlight and explain the key issues relevant to the audit of BU's consolidated financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2026. It included BDO's approach to the audit, risk identification, and BDO's terms of engagement.

The audit will take place over the coming weeks, and the report will be presented to the Audit & Risk Committee in mid-June and to the June Board meeting for approval.

As quorum was not achieved, the meeting was conducted on an informal basis. Committee members in attendance received the presentation for information purposes only, as no motions or decisions were required. Any outstanding business items, including the approval of minutes from the previous meeting, were deferred to the next meeting.

Submitted by:
Quintin Pearce
Chair, Audit & Risk Committee



BRANDON UNIVERSITY Board of Governors
Report from the Board Chair

Overview of activities since January 24, 2026

Meeting with Past President

While in Toronto on March 2nd for other matters, I took the opportunity to meet for breakfast with former BU President, Dr. David Docherty. Dr. Docherty's contract included a professional development allowance that accrued during his time as President, that he is permitted to access after consultation with the Board Chair. I gave my approval to using it to hire a BU student as a Research Assistant to assist in his ongoing projects including updating his book *Legislatures* and research on Canadian elections and regional universities. We also discussed a variety of matters relating both to Brandon University and current events, and I passed on the best wishes of the Board for his post-presidential academic career. In return, he wished us all the best as we continue to tackle the opportunities and challenges before us.

Vigil in Support of Alexis Bukarz

I would like to thank all of the Board members and BU administrators and staff who attended the March 20th vigil in support of Alexis Bukarz, who was assaulted in a student parking lot outside of the university earlier that month. It was incredible to see the campus community rally behind this young woman, as well as the support from the broader community and even Minister Cable, who traveled from Winnipeg to show her support.

Letter from Minister of Advanced Education and Training

I've attached a letter that was sent to myself and Dr. Bovis-Crossen from the Minister on March 24th. I invite you to read the letter in its entirety, which includes information about funding for the upcoming year. I do want to draw attention to the Minister's request that we focus on advancing the following priorities:

- Ensure that education is accessible for students, with clear navigation pathways, welcoming spaces, and that there is a place for everyone in our institutions.
- Focus on supporting students to successfully complete their programs.
- Develop and nurture partnerships across institutions to benefit students.
- Provide opportunities for work-integrated learning and help students connect to employers in their fields of study.
- Align programs to Manitoba's needs, responding to shifts in the evolving workforce and society, ensuring that students are equipped with relevant skills for the future.
- Promote excellence in teaching and learning, research, and innovation.

Presentation of Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Community Service

Board members will remember that Professor Megumi Masaki was selected as the winner of this year's Award, which is normally presented during Convocation ceremonies. Unfortunately Professor Masaki is unavailable to attend Convocation due to previously planned research activities in Japan, so I met with her on April 16th to formally present the award.

Retiree Recognition Reception & Dinner

It was my pleasure to bring greetings from the Board to this year's retiree recognition event, held on April 16th. This year we honoured nine employees with a combined 189 years of service at BU. It was heart-warming to hear the personal stories and reminiscences of the retirees. Of particular note was our longest-serving retiree, Eric Raine who oversaw multiple generations of computer technology implementation at BU during his 43 years in Information Technology Services.



**MINISTER
OF ADVANCED EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

Room 317
Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8
CANADA

March 24, 2026

Kevan Sumner
Chair, Board of Governors
Brandon University
kevansumner@gmail.com

Dr. Christine Bovis-Crossen
President and Vice-Chancellor
Brandon University
Bovis-CrossenC@brandonu.ca

Dear Kevan Sumner and Dr. Christine Bovis-Crossen:

I would like to thank you and your organization for your commitment to delivering top quality higher education in Manitoba. Post-secondary education is critical to position our province for future prosperity. Your efforts are ensuring we can capitalize on economic development opportunities and that Manitobans have the skills and education needed to connect to rewarding careers and great lives right here at home.

As a publicly funded institution, please focus on advancing the following priorities for Manitoba's post-secondary sector:

- Ensure that education is accessible for students, with clear navigation pathways, welcoming spaces and that there is a place for everyone in our institutions.
- Focus on supporting students to successfully complete their programs.
- Develop and nurture partnerships across institutions to benefit students.
- Provide opportunities for work-integrated learning and help students connect to employers in their fields of study.
- Align programs to Manitoba's needs, responding to shifts in the evolving workforce and society, ensuring that students are equipped with relevant skills for the future.
- Promote excellence in teaching and learning, research and innovation.

Our universities and colleges in Manitoba are second to none. We need to work together to build greater awareness of the fantastic education our institutions offer, and ensure our systems are responsive to domestic learners so that we retain our talented young people here in the province.

As noted, partnerships are critical to student advancement and success, and our institutions must work together as a system. We have some excellent examples of collaboration, and your efforts to ensure that programs compliment rather than duplicate options across the sector will help to ensure the long-term success of the system.

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As the sole university serving the Westman region, Brandon University plays a critical role in providing high-quality, accessible post-secondary education that reflects regional priorities. The University is expected to continue its strong regional and inclusive focus, ensuring programs remain affordable and responsive to the needs of Westman communities.

Brandon University should continue to pursue opportunities for collaboration with other post-secondary institutions where this supports regional service delivery and learner success. Please continue to grow your successful work-integrated learning approach, helping students transition to employment and encouraging graduates to live and work in the region.

Please work closely with Campus Manitoba to wind down operations in a manner that minimizes impacts to users. This work should be efficient and well-managed, with consideration given to transitioning key products and online services to other institutions to support students.

Our government is committed to stable, predictable funding, and I am pleased to advise you of funding levels for post-secondary education included in Budget 2026. The overall post-secondary envelope for 2026/27 is \$882.6 million, a 2.9% increase over 2025/26. The capital grants envelope for 2026/27 will be maintained at \$11.6 million for major capital, renovations and equipment across the system.

All public colleges and universities will receive an operating grant increase of 2.0% in 2026/27.

The operating and capital grant allocation available to Brandon University is \$51,382,600.

This grant of \$51,382,600 includes: the 2.0% operating grant increase of \$991,000 and an adjustment of (\$955,000) to reflect the closure of Campus Manitoba.

In addition, the Part D capital support for Brandon University for the fiscal year 2026/27 will include: \$2,000,000 for the Brodie Science Centre Renewal project; and \$1,250,000 to support deferred maintenance projects.

We are committed to accessible and affordable high-quality post-secondary education. We request that your institution adopt 4.0% as the maximum allowable tuition increase for university programs for the 2026/27 academic year.

We have a collective responsibility for efficient and effective financial management at our institutions, ensuring the long-term sustainability of Manitoba's post-secondary system. Provincial funding to institutions is significant, and it is critical that public colleges and universities are good stewards of these public dollars while taking a student-focused approach. As an Other Reporting Entity, please be mindful that your financial decisions have an impact on the summary budget of government.

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If you have any questions, please contact Carlos Matias, Assistant Deputy Minister and Executive Financial Officer at carlos.matias@gov.mb.ca or 431-323-2632, and he will be pleased to respond. I look forward to working collaboratively to advance our shared priorities and build on the good work you do every day to support high-quality post-secondary education in Manitoba.

Sincerely,



Honourable Renée Cable
Minister of Advanced Education and
Training

- c. Jan Forster, Deputy Minister of Advanced Education and Training
Carlos Matias, Assistant Deputy Minister and Executive Financial Officer
Colleen Kachulak, Assistant Deputy Minister, Advanced Education

Report to Board

Dr. Christine Bovis-Crossen, President & Vice-Chancellor

May 2026

Internal Engagement and Collaboration Updates

Listening Tour

The Listening Tour is slowly approaching completion. The last faculty meeting took place on April 14, 2026: The Arts Faculty Council meeting. The goal to gain a deep understanding of our university community and the important work happening across campus has been accomplished. I've met with a wide range of groups, including the President's Advisory Council, deans, faculty councils, the BU Students' Union, General Faculty Council, Research and Graduate Studies, and key administrative areas. Several conversations have already taken place, and additional meetings and tours are still scheduled in the remaining weeks. These discussions provide valuable insights into the initiatives shaping our campus culture and the contributions of colleagues across the university.

Stand in Solidarity

A two-minute stand in solidarity against violence was held on Friday, March 20, 2026, in the Kavanagh Court. The event was planned with the support of Alexis Bukarz and her family. The event was open to all students, faculty, and staff as well as the wider community. Campus-wide communication, as well as specific invitations to various community organizations, were sent out. Those in attendance, or anyone who wished to show their support from afar, were invited to wear purple, the colour associated with awareness of intimate partner violence. "Standing in solidarity has incredible healing power"

Dean of Music Search

Currently the Dean of Music Search Committee is working hard. A meet & greet had been planned for each candidate in addition to campus presentations, from April 6-8th. I had the opportunity to briefly meet each of the shortlisted candidates and I look forward to the committee's recommendation.

Provost & Vice-President (Academic) Search

The final stages of establishing a Search Committee are underway. KBRS has been engaged as the search firm supporting the committee and will be working closely with BU throughout the process.

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Campus MB

Campus Manitoba will be closing its doors in June following changes to provincial funding. For 35 years, it has played an important role in expanding access to education across our province. This is a significant loss, and I know it has been difficult news for many, especially for our amazing colleagues who run Campus Manitoba. We will continue to work closely with partners as next steps unfold.

IPC Graduands

Upon invitation from the Indigenous Peoples Centre, I attended a sharing session with 2026 Indigenous graduands on April 7, 2026. The students shared their experiences, insights, achievements, hard work, resilience and dedication. The event celebrated success, showed solidarity and enriched the community's understanding of diverse education paths.

President's Honour Society

The President's Honour Society Reception took place on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, in Harvest Hall. Students were recognized for their extraordinary academic excellence, achieving a GPA of 4.0 or higher, a milestone that reflects remarkable dedication, resilience, and talent.

Retiree Recognition Reception and Dinner

The evening honoured colleagues whose combined decades of service have shaped this university in lasting ways. From 10 years to more than 40, these careers represent commitment, care, and deep institutional knowledge.

Vancouver Alumni Reception

A reception for Alumni & Friends was held at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club on Wednesday, April 22, 2026. This special event is organized by the wonderful staff of Alumni & Advancement. The evening presented a wonderful opportunity for introductions as a new president, networking and to enjoy the entertainment by BU School of Music's Greg Gatién and Diogo Peixoto

Upcoming Events

Chamber Luncheon – State of the Province, Premier Wab Kinew

Convocation: The pinnacle of the academic year, May 28 & 29, 2026 at the Healthy Living Centre.

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Government and Post-Secondary Relations

Since my last report I have had the opportunity to engage with several Government and Post-secondary contacts and institutions.

- March 19, 2026 – Minister Cable, Minister of Advanced Education and Training:
 - o Roundtable discussion; explore opportunities to deepen and expand our shared commitments to reconciliation, advance Indigenous self-determination, and ensure Indigenous young people have access to education and training.
- March 24, 2026 – Budget announcement – Manitoba Legislature, Winnipeg, MB
- March 24, 2026 – Deputy Minister and Assistant Deputy Minister, Campus MB
- April 7, 2026 – Dr. M. Benarroch (UM) & F. Meier (RRC) – Education, Training and Workforce Development Subcommittee
- April 9, 2026 – Chamber Government Relations Committee
- April 17, 2026 – Post-Secondary President’s Council meeting
- April 21-23, 2026 – Universities Canada – Spring Membership Meeting, Vancouver, BC
- April 28-29, 2026 – University College of the North – UCN Linkages: Roadmapping the Future.
 - o collaboration and shared vision are essential to forging new pathways, aligning priorities, and creating meaningful opportunities for communities across the North. This year's conference will centre on the following key themes: innovation, people and partnerships, and language and culture. I joined the panel for the fire side chat, “The Role of Post Secondary in Economic Growth”

An engagement session is planned for the PAC meeting on May 8, 2026, in collaboration with the Office of the Commissioner for Lobbying. The session will be delivered as a professional development refresher on the requirements and obligations applicable to universities under the Lobbying Act.

Community Engagement

I have continued to actively engage with members of our community through various initiatives. Recently, I had the opportunity to meet and visit the Chief of Police, Mr. Tyler Bates. I was also had to the opportunity virtually meet with Mr. Gabriel Miller, President and CEO of Universities Canada.

Chamber of Commerce Luncheon

The President’s Office lent support to the Chamber of Commerce Luncheon for the State of the City address on April 16, 2026. His Worship Mayor Jeff Fawcett delivered his annual

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address on the current state and future vision of Brandon with an update on key priorities, ongoing initiatives, and the opportunities and challenges shaping the community.

Royal Manitoba Winter Fair

Upon invitation, together with Dr. Mousumi Majumder, I attended the Royal Manitoba Fair VIP dinner on March 30, 2026. It was an excellent opportunity to network and take in the 119th Royal Manitoba Winter Fair.

Waves of Hope's Day of Hope & Education.

Community members came together not only to support one another, but to invest in life-changing breast cancer research happening right here at BU. The event was hosted by the Waves of Hope Dragon Boat Team at Harvest Hall on April 11, 2026, with Dr. Majumder as the keynote speaker. At the event it was announced that the campaign recipient this year was the Breast Cancer Research Lab at BU. This is what community-driven impact looks like.

The Women of Distinction

The Women of Distinction Awards celebrate the unwavering dedication and remarkable achievements of women who have profoundly shaped our society. This important program serves to highlight the importance of female leadership within our communities, and how women have shaped the path forward in every category. At the event on April 15, 2026 the following members of our community were honoured: Emma Varley, Emily Holland, alumna Beatrice Gatien, and Nancy McPherson, congratulations to you, and to all nominees. We are proud of your connection to Brandon University

Western Manitoba Science Fair

We welcomed young learners to campus for the Western Manitoba Science Fair at the HLC on April 16, 2026. For many, it will be an early step in a lifelong journey of curiosity and discovery, and a reminder of the importance of encouraging that spark wherever we find it. I was honoured to present the Brandon University award for the best overall individual project in Grades 10-12. The student received a cash award of \$200 plus a tuition credit of one term of undergraduate level courses at Brandon University, excluding student fees.

Advancement & Alumni Affairs

In addition, I'd like to share the following update from our Director of Advancement & Alumni, which outlines recent progress and initiatives across the portfolio. This report highlights key developments that continue to strengthen alumni engagement and advance institutional goals.

Advancement

- We are pleased to announce that we have hired Melissa Rogers for the Advancement Officer position for a one-year term. Melissa will support the Alumni Board and alumni-related events such as Homecoming. She will also be supporting the development team with award updates and revisions as well as development-related events such as the annual donor luncheon and President's Circle events.
- We are also hiring a Development Officer for a one-year term position which will support overall institutional fundraising.
- Indigenous Peoples' Centre Case for Support is complete, and naming opportunities are available.

Gifts & Awards

- Received \$5,000 towards the Harvey Young Memorial Award.
- A Planned Gift has been established for future support of Psychiatric Nursing Students and students majoring in Canadian Studies.

Events

- A Vancouver Alumni & Friends Reception is being held on Wednesday, April 22 which will include an introduction and update from Dr. Christine Bovis-Crossen and entertainment by Greg Gatien and Diogo Piexoto.
- The School of Music is hosting a James Ehnes Concert on May 7 at 7:30pm, followed by a fundraising reception with proceeds going towards BU's Ehnes Scholarships.
- Annual Foundation AGM and Donor Luncheon is being held on Wednesday, May 13 at the Victoria Inn.
- A Winnipeg Alumni & Friends Reception is being planned for June at St. Charles Golf and Country Club.
- Convocation will be held May 28 & 29. We will hand out BU pins to new graduates and sell degree frames on the upper track. We will need volunteers for this.
- School of Music is hosting a music reunion July 3 & 4, 2026
- Homecoming is scheduled for September 11 – 13.

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BU in the News

Waves of Hope paddles toward \$150K goal for BU breast cancer research

Westman and Parkland's breast cancer survivor dragon boat team, Waves of Hope, is turning shared experience into action—bringing southwestern Manitoba together for learning, connection and a major new investment in local research. On Saturday, April 11, more than 120 people gathered at Brandon University for *A Day of Hope & Education*. The event included the official launch of a multi-year fundraising campaign with a goal of raising \$150,000 by 2029 in support of the breast cancer research happening at BU. Waves of Hope contributed the first \$25,000 to kickstart the campaign.

[CBC](#) | [CBC \(Text\)](#) | [Brandon U](#)

Srivastava appointed to board of Research Manitoba

A Brandon University professor has been appointed to help expand research in Manitoba. Gautam Srivastava was among five new appointees to the board of Research Manitoba, which helps promote, support and co-ordinate funding for research projects. "I'm excited to join the board and excited to contribute to something like this," Srivastava said in an interview on Thursday. As the rest of the new appointments to the board are based in Winnipeg, Srivastava said it's good to have a Westman voice involved.

[Brandon Sun](#)

Book club discussion focuses on rise of AI

The rapid rise of artificial intelligence is outpacing the policies needed to guide its use, Brandon University professor Gautam Srivastava said during an event Thursday evening at the Brandon Public Library. The Mayor's Book Club discussion, centred on "Empire of AI: Dreams and Nightmares in Sam Altman's OpenAI" by Karen Hao, expanded into a broader look at how governments, schools and communities are struggling to keep pace with AI's growth. Srivastava said the lack of clear policy frameworks is becoming increasingly evident as tools like ChatGPT and other large language models become widely accessible.

[Brandon Sun](#)

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Attracting AI to Manitoba would need strict rules, BU prof says

Manitoba's push to attract artificial intelligence data centres will depend less on its cold-weather advantage but on strong environmental and Indigenous involvement, Brandon University assistant professor Jennifer Mateer told the Sun. Mateer said Manitoba does have a "potential advantage" in cold-climate cooling, but cautioned against overstating it as a decisive edge for AI-driven data centre growth.

[Brandon Sun](#)

BU researcher brings police body camera expertise to Boston city council hearing and HBO television program

Following the publication of his co-authored book, *Police Body-Worn Cameras: Media and the New Discourse of Police Reform*, earlier this year, Brandon University Professor of Sociology Dr. Christopher J. Schneider has solidified his position as a leading sought-after voice on police body-worn cameras. Professor Schneider recently provided his research expertise to two major venues: a public hearing of the Boston City Council and a segment on HBO's Emmy Award-winning program Last Week Tonight with John Oliver.

[Brandon U](#)

BU welcomes back distinguished alumna Carolyn Rogers for inspiring student visit

Brandon University students had a unique opportunity to connect with one of Canada's leading economic voices when alumna Carolyn Rogers, Senior Deputy Governor of the Bank of Canada, returned to campus. While in Brandon to speak at the Brandon Chamber of Commerce Economic Outlook Luncheon, sponsored by BU's Department of Administration, Rogers generously made time to meet directly with students in an intimate, interactive session. The visit highlighted both her commitment to supporting the next generation and the strength of a Brandon University education.

[Brandon U](#)

Conference at Brandon University aims to tackle rural stigma of reaching out for help

Gerry Friesen, a "recovering farmer," knows farming is tough. The job isn't only physically exhausting — external pressures such as volatile weather and tariffs can be mentally daunting. Friesen farmed in southwestern Manitoba for decades, and the pressures eventually took a toll. He is part of the upcoming [Mental Health on the Prairies conference](#),

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which is happening at Brandon University this Wednesday to Friday. Friesen will be sharing his journey of navigating a diagnosis of anxiety and depression 22 years ago.

[CBC](#)

Longstanding e-learning hub to close after provincial funding dries up

The Manitoba government is closing an e-learning hub that creates, curates and promotes free textbooks while helping students with career planning. Campus Manitoba, a publicly funded consortium of local universities and colleges, will cease to exist at the end of June. "I don't like seeing resources being taken away from students without a plan," said Gautam Srivasta, president of the Brandon University Faculty Association.

The hub has long been housed out of the BU campus. University spokesperson Grant Hamilton said it was a point of pride for BU and administration is now focused on supporting affected staff members.

[Winnipeg Free Press](#)

James Ehnes Way will honour violinist

Internationally renowned violinist James Ehnes is set to be recognized in Brandon with an honorary road in his name. The Brandon-born musician has won two Grammys, 12 Junos, is a member of the Order of Canada and tours around the world — and will now have two blocks of 20th Street next to Brandon University named after him.

The naming will be in place for five years, after which the applicant — Mayor Jeff Fawcett — can reapply. Fawcett said Ehnes, 50, is one of the most decorated Brandonites and is very deserving of the street naming. Fawcett said Brandon University's music program is recognized across the country, and the naming just down the street makes sense for someone connected to the facility.

[Brandon Sun](#)

Young vocalists shine at national competition

Aemilia Moser has won the 49th Eckhardt-Gramatté National Music Competition, held April 17-18 at Brandon University's School of Music. The Toronto-based soprano took first place in the prestigious competition, which carries a total prize package valued at \$11,000, including a \$6,000 cash award and a Cross-Canada Winner's Tour scheduled for October and November 2026.

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[Brandon Sun](#) | [Classic 107](#)

Golden era Bobcats headed for hall

A dominant era in Brandon University men's basketball history is set to be celebrated, as the 1980, 1982, 1983 and 1984 Bobcat teams are being inducted into the Manitoba Basketball Hall of Fame after a remarkable run that produced two national silver medals and two bronze. The Class of 2026 will be inducted on September 26 in Winnipeg.

[CBC Radio Noon](#) | [Brandon Sun](#) | [BU Bobcats](#)

Bonhomme joins Sea Bears coaching staff

Ilarion Bonhomme is taking another step in his coaching career. The Brandon University women's basketball head coach has joined the Winnipeg Sea Bears as an assistant for the 2026 Canadian Elite Basketball League season, which runs from May to August. The staff, led by former Bobcat men's basketball player and coach Mike Raimbault— now the University of Winnipeg men's head coach — includes former BU men's assistant Jeremy Wielenga.

[Brandon Sun](#) | [Winnipeg Sea Bears](#)

Bobcats hand out year-end hardware

The 2025-26 season officially wrapped up at the Healthy Living Centre as the Bobcats celebrated by handing out year-end awards. Two-time all-Canadian Sultan Haider Bhatti was honoured as BU's Male Athlete of the Year while Carly Thomson and Piper Ingalls shared Female Athlete of the Year honours.

[Brandon Sun](#) | [BU Bobcats](#)

Helping Hands partnership brings food to BU students

A new partnership is helping feed students at Brandon University. Helping Hands Centre of Brandon has partnered with BU Student Services to make regular deliveries of food that is distributed free to students. The deliveries will arrive every two weeks during the academic year and once per month during the spring and summer. The the first round of food was handed out within a day of its arrival.

[Winnipeg Sun](#) | [Brandon Sun](#) | [Brandon U](#)

13 'Women of Distinction' honoured

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YWCA Westman awarded 13 recipients at an annual event recognizing strong, resilient and hard-working women across southwestern Manitoba. The 2026 recipients of the Women of Distinction Awards included:

- Nancy McPherson, who won the Lifetime Achievement Award. She currently teaches in the nursing program at Brandon University.
- Emma Varley won the Education Mentorship Award for her work as an associate professor of anthropology at Brandon University.
- Emily Holland is the recipient of the Social Action Award for her contributions as an anthropology professor at Brandon University and as a professional forensic anthropologist working to recover human remains.
- Beatrice Gatien won the Young Woman of Distinction Award for women between the ages of 18 and 30. She graduated from Brandon University in May 2025 and is now a medical student at the University of Manitoba.

[Brandon Sun](#)

BU signs partnership in Japan with Tokyo's Juntendo University

Brandon University is expanding its global reach with the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding with Juntendo University in Tokyo, Japan — marking the first formal institutional partnership in the country for BU's Office of International Activities. The agreement establishes a framework for collaboration between the two institutions, including opportunities for student and faculty exchange, joint research initiatives, and the sharing of academic resources and expertise.

[Brandon Sun](#) | [Brandon U](#)

Students 'far from optimistic' about tuition hike

The Brandon University Students' Union is raising concerns after the province allowed post-secondary institutions to increase tuition by up to four per cent, the highest jump in nearly a decade. The university and Assiniboine College have not finalized decisions for 2026-27, but the union said the potential hike is already causing student anxiety. BUSU vice-president of operations Michelle Williams Joel said feedback from students is still coming in, but the mood is far from optimistic.

[Brandon Sun](#)

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

044May26

MEETING: Board of Governors

DATE: May 9, 2026

AGENDA: Open Session

PROPOSED BY: Peter Hickey, Vice-President (Administration & Finance)

SUBJECT: 2026 Report Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains

FOR: Approval Discussion Notice of Motion

RECOMMENDATION:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Governors approve the 2026 Report Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The 2026 Report Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply chains is attached.

Bill S-211, the *Fighting Against Forced Labour in Supply Chains Act*, requires certain entities to report annually on measures taken to prevent and reduce the risk of forced labour and child labour in their operations and supply chains. Based on guidance provided by Public Safety Canada, BU has taken the position it meets the definition of an “entity” under the Act. As such, BU is required to submit an annual report outlining the steps taken during the previous fiscal year to address risks related to forced and child labour. The report must be approved by the Board of Governors and submitted by May 31 each year and must be made publicly available on BU’s website as well as posted to a central catalogue maintained by Public Safety Canada.

Attachments:

- Bill S-211 Annual Report for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026

Fighting Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains

Annual Report for the Fiscal Year ending March 31, 2026





1. INTRODUCTION

Brandon University (the University) is a small regional university located in Brandon, Manitoba with a student population of approximately 3,200 and more than 400 faculty and staff.

The University is committed to fostering an environment of social responsibility, acting ethically, identifying risks, and improving its practices to prevent forced labour or child labour in its supply chains.

This statement is made in pursuant to section 11 of Bill S-211, *An Act to enact the Fighting Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains Act and to amend the Customs Tariff*, which is commonly referred to as Canada's *Modern Slavery Act* (the Act).

2. REPORTING ENTITY

Brandon University's view is that it qualifies as an "entity" under the Act based on the following:

- Canadian business presence
 - Has a place of business in Canada
 - Does business in Canada
 - Has assets in Canada

The University meets the following size related thresholds for an entity as defined by the Act:

- Has at least \$20 million in assets for at least one of its two most recent financial years
- Employs an average of at least 250 employees for at least one of its two most recent financial years

3. BRANDON UNIVERSITY'S STRUCTURE, ACTIVITIES AND SUPPLY CHAINS

Structure

Brandon University is a not-for-profit registered charitable organization that is a creation of the Legislature of Manitoba under *The Brandon University Act*. The University's objectives include the advancement of learning and the creation, preservation and dissemination of knowledge, along with the intellectual, social, ethical, and physical development and improvement of its students, employees and society.



The Brandon University Foundation (the Foundation) is a not-for-profit registered charitable organization that was created by the Legislature of Manitoba under *The Brandon University Foundation Incorporation Act*. The Foundation promotes the advancement of higher education at the University and aims to improve the quality of its facilities and activities.

The University is governed by its Board of Governors, which is responsible for ensuring the financial stability of the institution and ensuring consistency of institutional plans with its philosophy, goals and financial resources.

Activities & Supply Chains

The University sources goods and services from a variety of suppliers to support the education of its students and ensure adequate support for faculty and staff to conduct University operations. The majority of the University's suppliers are based in Canada, with a small number of purchases sourced from the United States and Europe annually.

4. BRANDON UNIVERSITY'S POLICIES AND DUE DILIGENCE PROCESSES IN RELATION TO FORCED LABOUR AND CHILD LABOUR

Brandon University faculty and staff involved in the purchasing of goods and services on behalf of the University are required to adhere to Supply Chain Canada's Code of Ethics, which speaks to social responsibilities and includes the conventions of the International Labour Organization with respect to labour standards.

Brandon University does not have any additional policies or processes in place with respect to forced labour and/or child labour. However, the University is currently reviewing its purchasing policy and processes, with policy updates in 2026/27 expected to include addressing ethical and sustainable procurement practices. Additionally, updates are planned for the University's purchase order terms and conditions and service contracts for suppliers to self-certify that they, and their direct suppliers, comply with human and labour rights standards including the payment of legal wages to the service provider's employees performing the service(s) requested.



5. PARTS OF BRANDON UNIVERSITY'S BUSINESS AND SUPPLY CHAINS THAT CARRY A RISK OF FORCED LABOUR OR CHILD LABOUR BEING USED AND THE STEPS IT HAS TAKEN TO ASSESS AND MANAGE THAT RISK

Brandon University has identified clothing and footwear as an area of its supply chains that carries risk of forced labour or child labour being used. The University has not started the process to identify any other areas of its supply chains that carry increased risk of forced labour and/or child labour as of the end of its fiscal year for 2025/26. However, given the diversity of the University's supply chain, the University understands that because no additional areas have been identified does not mean there is no risk at all. Brandon University is committed to gaining better visibility into its supply chains and identifying areas of potential risk going forward.

6. MEASURES TAKEN TO REMEDIATE ANY FORCED LABOUR OR CHILD LABOUR

Brandon University has not identified any particular instances of forced labour or child labour in its supply chains. As a result, no remediation measures were taken with respect to forced labour or child labour in the fiscal year this report covers.

7. MEASURES TAKEN TO REMEDIATE THE LOSS OF INCOME TO THE MOST VULNERABLE FAMILIES THAT RESULTS FROM ANY MEASURE TAKEN TO ELIMINATE THE USE OF FORCED LABOUR OR CHILD LABOUR IN ITS ACTIVITIES AND SUPPLYCHAIN

As noted previously, since no instances of forced labour or child labour have been identified in the University's activities or supply chains, remediation measures regarding the loss of income to the most vulnerable families have not been required.

8. TRAINING PROVIDED TO EMPLOYEES ON FORCED LABOUR AND CHILD LABOUR

Currently, training is not provided to employees regarding forced labour and child labour. Brandon University recognizes the risks that come with this lack of training and endeavors to improve in this area. Future initiatives include procurement onboarding for all new faculty and staff and learning sessions for existing employees that include information on ethical procurement and sustainable purchasing activities.



9. HOW THE ENTITY ASSESSES ITS EFFECTIVENESS IN ENSURING THAT FORCED LABOUR AND CHILD LABOUR ARE NOT BEING USED IN ITS BUSINESS AND SUPPLY CHAINS

The University does not have any formal metrics in place at the time of this report to assess its effectiveness in ensuring that forced labour and child labour are not being used in its business and supply chains. However, the University is committed to improving its practices to gain better visibility into its supply base and monitoring for

activities that carry risk of forced labour and child labour, starting with improvements in policies and procedures. The University will begin incorporating criteria in all RFX documents requiring proponents/bidders to self-declare that their company is not engaged in practices involving forced labour or child labour.

10. ATTESTATION

This report has been approved by Brandon University's Board of Governors.

In accordance with the requirements of the Act, and in particular section 11 thereof, I attest that I have reviewed the information contained in the report for the entity or entities listed above. Based on my knowledge, and having exercised reasonable diligence, I attest that the information in the report is true, accurate and complete in all material respects for the purposes of the Act, for the reporting year listed above.

Signed by:

Kevan Sumner
Chair – Brandon University Board of Governors
May 9, 2026
I have the authority to bind Brandon University.

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

045May26

MEETING: Board of Governors

DATE: May 9, 2026

AGENDA: Closed Open

PROPOSED BY: Peter Hickey, Vice-President (Administration & Finance)

SUBJECT: Scholarship & Research Funds

FOR: Approval Discussion Notice of Motion

RECOMMENDATION:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Governors approve the allocation of unrestricted endowment funds for the 2026/2027 fiscal year as follows:

Faculty Research (BURC)		\$75,609
Entrance Scholarships:		
Tier I	Average greater than or equal to 95%	2000.00
Tier II	Average greater than or equal to 92.5%	1700.00
Tier III	Average greater than or equal to 90%	1400.00
Tier IV	Average greater than or equal to 87.5	1100.00
Tier V	Average greater than or equal to 85%	800.00
Total available from endowment funds for Entrance Scholarships		\$64,332
TOTAL		\$139,942

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

These funds provide entrance scholarships for those students who meet the high school grade requirements. They are awarded on the basis of a five-tier structure and entering students need not apply for them. The operating budget of the University provides the balance of funds necessary to fulfill these scholarships (in addition to the endowment funds that are allocated by way of this motion).

Please see the attached Schedule of Amounts for further information.

BRANDON UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

Schedule of Amounts Available From Endowment Funds
 For General Scholarships & Research
 For the Fiscal Year 2026/27

<u>Endowment Fund</u>	<u>Account #</u>	<u>Distribution In 2025 (4.1%)</u>	<u>+</u>	<u>Other Commitments</u>	<u>=</u>	<u>Total Available In 2026/27</u>	<u>Research Only</u>	<u>Research or Scholarships</u>
Bass, W.K. Estate	7902	757				757		757
B.U. Association Fund	7905	900				900		900
B.U. Development Fund	7904	803				803		803
Class of 1930 Gift	7907	378				378		378
Class of 1931 Gift	7908	225				225		225
Class of 1934 Gift	7910	91				91		91
Fenwick, T.F. Estate	7909	1,085				1,085		1,085
Gainer, P.E. Estate	7901	2,273				2,273		2,273
MacDowell, G.F. Estate	6019	23,737		10,059		13,678	13,678	
McKenzie, A.E. Foundation	7201	61,095				61,095	61,095	
Research Endowment Fund	7202	837				837	837	
Sanders, C.J. Estate	7903	67,395		9,650		57,745		57,745
Woodhull, L.K. Estate	7911	76				76		76
Totals		159,651		19,709		139,942	75,609	64,332

<u>Historical Allocations:</u>	<u>2026/27</u>	<u>2025/26</u>	<u>2024/25</u>	<u>2023/24</u>	<u>2022/23</u>
Research	75,609	60,607	54,244	55,743	55,572
Scholarships					
Board of Governors	64,332	57,277	50,895	47,325	51,864
Totals	139,942	117,884	105,139	103,068	107,436