

**Brandon University Board of Governors
(Open Session)**

Saturday, March 21, 2026

Louis Riel Room & Zoom

8:30 a.m.

Present: Christine Bovis-Crossen; Ravikiran Dwivedula; Sunday Frangi (Zoom); Bryan Hill; Katheryne Lumgair; Molly MacPherson-Blair; Chukwuanugo Okudo (Zoom); Quintin Pearce; Joseph Pelletier; Kevan Sumner (Chair); Steven Soder

Resources: Bernadette Ardelli; Barb Blind; Greg Gatien; Peter Hickey; Meghan Lamontagne (Recorder)

Regrets: Charles Adamu; Dean Hammond; Mary Jane McCallum; Emmanuelle Shakotko; Michelle Williams-Joel

1. OPENING PRAYER & SMUDGE

2. CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m.

The meeting began with a land acknowledgement, recognizing that Brandon University has campuses on both Treaty 1 and Treaty 2 lands and is a gathering place for people from many backgrounds around the world. In this way, we carry on the Indigenous customs of our home in Brandon. It was further acknowledged that Brandon is on shared territory between the Dakota Oyate, the Anishinaabeg, and the National Homeland of the Red River Métis. Today, many other Indigenous people call Brandon their home, including the Inineew, Anisininewuk, Denesuline, and Inuit.

The Chair acknowledged C. Adamu and M. Williams-Joel on the occasion of their final meeting on the Board and noted that appreciation would be conveyed on behalf of the Board, as they were unable to be in attendance.

3. AGENDA & MINUTES

3.1 Approval of Agenda of March 21, 2026

Motion: Moved and seconded (S. Soder/K Lumgair)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda of the March 21, 2026, Board of Governors meeting (Open Session) be approved.

**022Mar26
CARRIED**

3.2 Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion: Moved and seconded (B. Hill/J. Pelletier)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the consent agenda of the March 21, 2026, Board of Governors (Open Session) meeting be approved as follows:

- 3.2.1 Minutes of January 24, 2026 (Open Session)**
- 3.2.2 Report from the Vice-President (Research & Graduate Studies)**
- 3.2.3 Report from the Acting Provost & Vice-President (Academic)**
- 3.2.4 Report – Final List of February Graduates**
- 3.2.5 Reports from Representatives on Committees Reporting to the Board**
 - 3.2.5.1 BU Foundation**
 - 3.2.5.2 BU Retirement Plan Board of Trustees**
 - 3.2.5.2 BU Senate**

**023Mar26
CARRIED**

3.3 Amendment of Approved Minutes of November 22, 2025

Motion: Moved and seconded (Q. Pearce/B. Hill)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Governors approve the amendment to the minutes of November 22, 2025, to include the approved motion under Item 5.3 - Borrowing Resolution, as follows:

“BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Governors approve the attached borrowing resolution.”

**037Mar26
CARRIED**

4. REPORTS

4.1 Report from the President – Dr. Christine Bovis-Crossen

A written report from the President was included in the meeting package. The President provided brief verbal highlights, noting that the listening tour is continuing, with consultations remaining in a few areas. A second round of meetings with various groups is now underway. The President noted that the process has been helpful in identifying both challenges and opportunities and expressed appreciation to those who have participated.

The President also reported ongoing engagement with government officials, including a regularly scheduled meeting with the Minister of Advanced Education & Training. Additional highlights included the Department of Business sponsoring the Brandon Chamber Luncheon featuring a keynote address by Carolyn Rogers, Senior Deputy Governor of the Bank of Canada and BU alumna. BU students also had the opportunity for a student engagement session with C. Rogers on campus after the luncheon.

The President also highlighted the variety and excellence of faculty research underway at the University.

The Chair invited questions or comments, and none were raised.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Motion: Research Centres and Institutes Policy and Procedures

Motion: Moved and seconded (C. Bovis-Crossen/K. Lumgair)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Governors approve the Research Centres and Institutes Policy and Procedures, effective the date of Board approval;

AND THAT the Board affirms that this Policy is the governing authority for Research Centres and Institutes, and requests that Senate retire its existing policy to ensure alignment within the University's bicameral governance framework.

024Mar26

A motion sheet outlining the background and rationale, along with both a tracked-changes version and a clean copy of the policy, was provided in advance in the meeting package. The materials noted that the policy revisions were reviewed by the Governance and Nominating Committee and recommended to the Board for approval.

B. Ardelli, Vice-President (Research and Graduate Studies), and President Bovis-Crossen provided an overview of the policy revisions and rationale for the change from a Senate to a Board policy. It was noted that revisions were brought forward to Senate two years ago but were not approved, as progress stalled during Senate consideration. It was further noted that having this policy under the purview of Senate is not consistent with sector norms, and that the policy more appropriately falls under the Board purview, as it relates to resource allocation, including financial and naming considerations. Proceeding with the revisions as presented is necessary to ensure the policy is current and supports researchers in their work.

The Chair invited questions or discussion, and none were raised.

CARRIED

5.2 Motion: Revisions to Accessibility Policies

Motion: Moved and seconded (S. Soder/M. McPherson-Blair)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Governors approve the revisions to the Accessibility Policy, Assistive Devices Policy, Service Animal Policy, and Support Person Policy, as presented.

025Mar26

A motion sheet outlining the background and rationale, along with tracked-changes versions and clean copies of the policies, was provided in advance in the meeting package.

K. Fisher, Associate Vice-President (People and Talent), provided an overview of the policy revisions, which were required following a public sector accessibility audit conducted by the Accessibility Compliance Secretariat (ACS) in relation to the customer service standard. It was noted that the review was completed in December and January through work carried out by the Human Resources office in collaboration with the ACS. Revisions were incorporated based on the ACS review and primarily related to communication and notice requirements. It was confirmed that, with adoption of the revised policies, the university will be fully compliant and has received preliminary approval from the ACS.

It was noted that the revisions were previously reviewed by the Governance and Nominating Committee and recommended to the Board for approval. The Board briefly considered whether the revised policies were reflected in a policy review schedule. It was noted that the Governance and Nominating Committee will address the review schedule for Board related policies.

CARRIED5.3 Motion: Senate Award Policies

Motion: Moved and seconded (B. Hill/C. Bovis-Crossen)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Governors approve the Senate Awards for Excellence in Teaching for Contract Academic Staff and the Senate Awards for Excellence in Service Policy, as presented, and as recommended by Senate.

026Mar26

A motion sheet, including background information as well as tracked changes and clean copies of the policies, was included in the agenda package. The materials noted that, while these are Senate policies and academic in nature, Board approval is required due to the monetary award amounts.

G. Gatien, Acting Provost & Vice-President (Academic), provided an overview of revisions to two policies: the Senate Awards for Excellence in Teaching for Contract Academic Staff and the Senate Awards for Excellence in Service Policy. It was noted that the revisions resulted from a comprehensive review of the policies.

The Chair invited questions or discussion, and none were raised.

CARRIED5.4 Motion: Program & Curriculum Changes – Applied Disaster and Emergency Studies (ADES)

Motion: Moved and seconded (Q. Pearce/K. Lumgair)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Governors approve the revisions for the 3-Year Applied Disaster and Emergency Studies (ADES) Major B.SC. and BA Degree program proposal, as presented, and as recommended by Senate.

027Mar26

A motion sheet with background and rationale of the program and curriculum changes, along with supporting documentation was provided in the meeting package.

G. Gatien, Acting Provost & Vice-President (Academic), provided an overview of the proposed revisions and the associated rationale. It was noted that the

changes are intended to expand opportunities for students and enhance the university's attractiveness within the region. It was further noted that the initiative supports enrolment management, does not require additional resources, and can be delivered within existing faculty and departmental structures.

The Board asked about the expected turnaround time for government approval once change requests are submitted. It was noted that timelines are not confirmed; however, as no additional resources are being requested, approval is expected to proceed in a timely manner.

CARRIED

5.5 Canadian University Governance Association Conference

The Chair provided information regarding attendance at the Canadian University Governance Association (CUGA) annual conference, to be held in Waterloo from April 30 to May 2. It was noted that the conference had been discussed by the Governance and Nominating Committee and that, while a committee motion supported Board member attendance, a formal Board motion was not required. It was further noted that funding is available to support Board participation and that attendance at the conference would support Board governance development, particularly for members returning next year or considering future leadership roles, and that attendees would be expected to report back to the Board following the conference.

Q. Pearce volunteered to attend on behalf of the Board, and K. Lumgair volunteered as an alternate, if required.

The Board also noted the importance of taking a more strategic approach to governance development and succession planning for Board Officers, including encouraging newer members to participate in governance professional development opportunities, especially if interested in future Board Officer role opportunities.

In related discussion, it was noted that the President's Report referenced the establishment of a subcommittee of the President's Advisory Council to support development of a policy register and a future framework for university policies. It was further noted that policy oversight within the Board's purview falls to the Board Secretariat, recognizing the volume of work currently underway. It was also noted that Board Secretariat staff regularly participate in governance conferences, including CUGA and the Council of Western Canadian University Board Secretaries, although Board Secretariat representation at CUGA will not be possible this year.

6. MOVE TO CLOSED SESSION

Motion: Moved and seconded (C. Bovis-Crossen/S. Soder)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the meeting move to Closed Session.

CARRIED

Open Session resumed.

7. RAISE MOTION(S) FROM CLOSED SESSION

The following motions were raised from Closed Session:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Governors approve Megumi Masaki as the 2026 recipient of the Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Community Service, as recommended by the Human Resources Committee.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Collective Agreement with the Public Services Alliance of Canada (PSAC) Local 55601, as negotiated and recommended by the University Bargaining Committee for the period of September 1, 2024 to September 30, 2028, be approved by the Board of Governors; AND THAT, upon ratification by PSAC, the motion move to Open Session.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

CARRIED

Chair, Board of Governors

Board Secretariat