MacEwan UNIVERSITY | BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Board of Governors
Open Session Minutes
March 26, 2026
2:04 – 2:35 pm
Microsoft TEAMs

ATTENDANCE

Members	Scott Kashuba (Chair); Annette Trimbee; Andrei Santiago; Brittany Baltimore; Carly Tomlinson; Cynthia Onyegbula; Gary Mar; John Stelter *(arr. 2:14 pm)*; Julian Martin; Linda Banister; Martin Kennedy; Murli Muralidharan; Nathan Poon; Rafat Alam; Reg Joseph; Sandra Haskins; Tim Barker; Tracy Sopkow;
Resources	Craig Monk; Maureen Powers; Lara McClelland; Jason Fung
Secretariat	Sumiko Yip; Christian Zukowski; Angela Miao; Cameron McCubbing; Austin Hohlbein
Guests	Meagan Auer
Regrets	Cynthia Onyegbula; Linda Banister; Rafat Alam

MINUTES

0.0 Welcome

1.0 Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm, noting that quorum was present.

1.1 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest and Commitment (Real, Potential or Perceived)

No conflicts were declared.

1.2 Open and Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda included the adoption of the following motions:

- That the Board of Governors approve the minutes from the Open Session on December 18, 2025, as presented.
- That the Board of Governors approve the attached Threat Risk Assessment Policy with an effective date of September 1, 2026.
- That the Board of Governors endorse the Biomedical Sciences Major Letter of Intent.
- That the Board of Governors approve the 2026/27 Board of Governors Meeting Schedule, as presented.
- That the Board of Governors approve the Campus Planning Committee 2025/26 Workplan, as presented.

The Consent Agenda included the following items for information:

- Board Correspondence Report

Discussion regarding the Threat Risk Assessment Policy included:

- The Policy introduces a framework to help identify community members who may require support, using behavioural indicators and risk factors to assess the potential for violence.
- The Policy is not intended to limit the right to protest and remains focused on assessing the likelihood of violence, regardless of the nature of the activity.

MOTION#BOG-01-03-26-2025/26:
Moved by J. Martin and seconded that the Board of Governors approve the open and consent agenda as presented.
Motion Carried.

2.0 Reports

2.1 Board Chair's Report

The Chair reported on the following:

- Victor Cui recently completed his term on the Board, contributing valuable insights through his service on the Governance and Human Resources, Strategy and Stakeholder Relations, and Chancellor Joint Committees.
- Recent events included the installation of Brent Hershey as the 39th Allard Chair in Business, as well as a pop-up market in partnership with the Italian Centre to support access to affordable, nutritious food for students.
- During a recent budget day call, the Minister noted modest increases to the base operating grant tied to bargaining commitments, along with capital funding for the School of Business building, and targeted enrolment funding.

2.2 President and Vice-Chancellor's Report

A. Trimbee reported on the following:

- MacEwan is on track to reach 30,000 students and 20,000 full-load equivalents by 2030, supported by strategic enrolment management and favourable high school graduate demographics. Growth in applications has been linked to increased engagement through MacEwan's awareness campaign and promoting of its programs.
- Funding for a science building was not included in the 2026 provincial budget; however, the Minister has expressed enthusiasm for the project.
- As noted at the Board dinner, MacEwan is taking a measured approach to artificial intelligence, positioning itself in line with the broader sector.
- Recent campus events included popup food markets, Mental Health Week, the installation of the Allard Chair in Business, Leadership Unplugged with Darcy Walker, and Backstage Pass with the Canadian Country Music Awards.

2.3 General Faculties Council Report

A. Trimbee reported on the following:

- New and innovative programs are being developed, including a finance stream for Economics majors and a Finance major within the Bachelor of Commerce. GFC also recently approved a Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Accounting to expand access to the profession for degree-holders.
- Work is underway to better communicate MacEwan's research impact, particularly as the province considers relevance, impact, and base costs in its funding approach.
- The Occupational Health Nursing certificate program was suspended due to declining enrolment.

- GFC reviewed draft revisions to the student course feedback survey, with final approval anticipated later this year.

3.0 Regular Business

3.1 2026/27 Annual Budget

S. Haskins presented the item. Highlights included:

- While financial pressures are beginning to emerge, continued growth remains a strategic priority for MacEwan. In response to operating constraints and limited expectations for future surpluses, scholarships, awards, and bursaries (SAB) funding has been reduced.
- The budget includes measures to improve operational efficiency while minimizing impacts on core activities.
- Concern was raised about relying on students as a primary lever for balancing the budget, noting that costs combined with broader cost of living pressures, may affect access, retention and student wellbeing.
- Provincial funding is targeted at 42% of post-secondary budgets. MacEwan is distinct in funding SABs through operating funds and maintaining lower mandatory non-instructional fees compared to peers. Enhanced forecasting has also enabled the University to redirect mid-year surpluses to SABs.

MOTION#BOG-02-03-26-2025/26:

Moved by J. Martin and seconded that the Board of Governors approve the proposed 2026/27 Budget.

Motion Carried.

N. Poon and A. Santiago opposed.

4.0 Other Business

No other business was discussed.

5.0 Adjournment of Open Session

The Chair adjourned the Open Session at 2:35 pm.