

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

The Board of Governors met at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, 27 May 2025 in the Chancellor's Room of the Wu Conference Centre on the Fredericton campus and using the Zoom online meeting platform.

PRESENT

Dr. T. Alderson	Mr. B. Love
Ms. J. Begley	Dr. B. Lowry
Mr. W. Best	Mr. C. MacDonald
Mr. W. Carson	Dr. J. MacLauchlan
Ms. R. Connors-Losier	The Hon. H.W. MacLauchlan
Ms. B. Corey	Dr. D. MaGee
Ms. S. DeVarenne (Secretary)	Mr. T. Malley
Ms. J. Flanagan	Dr. P. Mazerolle
Dr. D. Ganong	Ms. M. McNeil
Mr. T. Gribbons (Chair)	Dr. J. Neville
Ms. C. Grogan	Dr. C. Passaris
Dr. P. Hauf	Dr. S. Pavey
Ms. J. Hoyt (Vice-Chair)	Dr. K. Scott-Storey
Ms. J. Jeffrey	Mr. P. Syroid
Ms. J. Jollineau	Ms. R. Tingley
Ms. J. Kidney-Hermelin	Ms. E. Watt
Ms. J. Knox	

being members of the Board

Ms. M.J. Adams, Associate Vice President (Capital Planning & Operations)
Ms. A. Ferris, Associate Vice-President (Finance) & Comptroller
Ms. D. Lynch, University Secretariat
Dr. H. MacDonald, Dean, Faculty of Arts (Saint John)
Dr. S. Magalhaes, DataNB
Ms. J. Morrison, University Treasurer
Ms. J. Redstone-Lewis, University Secretariat
Ms. K. White-Masry, DataNB

Regrets:

Mr. S. Abujayyab	Mr. D. O'Brien
Dr. R. Currie	Ms. H. Pabari
Ms. R. Fairweather	Dr. D. Perley
Mr. K. Hoyt	Mayor D. Reardon
Mr. P. Lagacy	Mayor K. Rogers
Dr. K. McCain	Dr. D. Stevenson

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OPEN SESSION

1. 1. **Announcements for 27 May 2025** (posted with agenda)

A) The Chair welcomed members to the meeting, referring them to the written announcements included with the agenda. The President acknowledged that the Saint John and Fredericton campuses of the University sit on unsundered and unceded traditional Wolastoqey land. The lands of the Wabanaki people were recognized in a series of Peace and Friendship Treaties to establish an ongoing relationship of peace, friendship, and mutual respect between equal nations.

B) T. Gribbons noted that K. Hoyt, P. Lagacy, D. O'Brien and Mayor Reardon had sent their regrets for the meeting.

C) The Chair extended congratulations to C. Grogan, noting that they, along with O. Abegunde, N. Ahmadi, S. LeBlanc and T. Majid, will all serve as Valedictorians honoured as part of this week's Encaenia and Convocation Ceremonies.

[APPLAUSE]

He noted that this would be the last regularly scheduled meeting in the current term for a several Board members: S. Abujayyab, C. Gorgan, H. Pabari and J. Jollineau. He thanked them for their service.

[APPLAUSE]

2 **Approval of the Meeting Agenda and Minutes of Previous Meeting**2.1 **Summary of Resolutions** (posted with agenda)2.2 **Minutes of 24 April 2025** (posted with agenda)

T. Gribbons referred members to the meeting agenda and noted that key items of business for the meeting were the President's update on the University's progress toward addressing the Truth and Reconciliation Recommendations for higher education, the Academic Plan for the Faculty of Arts (SJ), and the approval of the graduation and Prize Lists.

MOTION 2, 1: Connors-Losier/J. Hoyt "That the Board approve the agenda, as circulated, and the Minutes of 24 April 2025, as presented.

CARRIED

The Chair asked if members had any conflicts they wish to declare. No conflicts were identified.

A member expressed gratitude to the Secretary and her team for their skill and support.

[APPLAUSE]

3. **Business Arising from the Minutes (Open Session)**

There was none.

OPEN SESSION

12. **Senates' Business**12.1 **26 May 2025** (posted with agenda)**JOINT SENATES' ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**12.1.1 **President's Report to Senates**12.1.2 **Report of the Dean of Libraries**12.1.3 **UNB Office of the Registrar Initiative****FREDERICTON SENATE ITEM FOR INFORMATION**12.1.4 **Report of the Senate Review Committee****SAINT JOHN SENATE ITEM FOR INFORMATION**12.1.5 **Report of the Senate Curriculum Committee**12. **Senates' Business** (cont'd)12.1 **26 May 2025** (cont'd)**JOINT SENATES' ITEMS FOR APPROVAL**12.1.6 **Report of the Undergraduate Scholarships Committee**12.1.7 **Report of the School of Graduate Studies**12.1.8 **Report of the Academic Policy & Procedures Committee**12.1.9 **Report of the Teaching Awards Committee**12.1.10 **Report of the Joint Admissions Committee**12.1.11 **Correction to the Bed 10-month Academic Dates**12.1.12 **Report of the Senate Admissions Committee**12.1.13 **Report of the Academic Planning Committee****SAINT JOHN SENATE ITEMS FOR APPROVAL**12.1.14 **Report of the Academic Planning Committee**

P. Hauf presented Senates' Business for the 26 May meetings. The agendas of the May meetings of Senates included the Report of the Dean of Libraries, the Report of the Academic Policy and Procedures Committee, the Teaching Awards Committee Report and the Report of the School of Graduate Studies. The Senates also received an update on the UNB Office of the Registrar Initiative.

MOTION 12.1

Jollineau/Alderson "That the Board approve Senates' Business, items 12.1.6 to 12.1.14, inclusive, and receive items 12.1.1 to 12.1.5, inclusive, as presented."

CARRIED12.2 **New Programs**

P. Hauf spoke to the program development process, noting that the proposed graduate programs were in keeping with the University's Strategic Vision. She noted that the development of a new program can take some time, and that given the shift in context since beginning the process, such as the change in student visa and international student enrolment policies from the Federal Government, it may be necessary to revisit the market surveys for some of these programs and make adjustments to implementation plans to reflect new information.

12.2.1 Master of Public Health (linked on SharePoint)

P. Hauf noted that the proposed Master of Public Health will be offered on the Saint John campus. The program would be initially delivered in person and would have course-based and thesis-based options.

MOTION 12, 2: Grogan/Jollineau “That the Board approve the proposed Master of Public Health, as presented.”

CARRIED

12.2.2 Master of Applied Behaviour Analysis (linked on SharePoint)

P. Hauf drew members’ attention to the Master of Applied Behaviour Analysis proposal. She noted that the program would be fully online and provide a pathway to professional accreditation for graduates.

12.2 New Programs (cont’d)**12.2.2 Master of Applied Behaviour Analysis** (cont’d)

MOTION 12, 3: J. MacLaughlan/Flanagan “That the Board approve the proposed Master of Applied Behaviour Analysis, as presented.”

CARRIED

12.2.3 PhD in Kinesiology (linked on SharePoint)

P. Hauf drew members’ attention to the proposed PhD in Kinesiology, noting that it was the only program of its kind in the Atlantic region. She explained that there was already a strong demand for the program, but that Kinesiology students currently achieved a doctorate through the Interdisciplinary Studies program. She noted that there would be no new resources needed to offer the proposed program.

MOTION 12, 4: Neville/Jeffrey “That the Board approve the proposed PhD in Kinesiology, as presented.”

CARRIED

12.2.4 PhD and MScE in Biomedical Engineering (linked on SharePoint)

The Provost drew members’ attention to the Biomedical Engineering programs, noting that they were the first stand-alone biomedical engineering programs in New Brunswick. Both programs would be research-based. She noted that a survey of Mechanical Engineering graduate students indicated that 83% would like a specific credential to reflect their field of study. A member asked about any unintended effects outside of the Engineering. P. Hauf explained that the external effect would be international visibility and that there would be no change for internal departments. D. MaGee noted that the Faculty of Kinesiology could be affected as one of its faculty members is part of the Institute for Bio-Medical Engineering. He noted that the Dean of Kinesiology was supportive of the proposed programs. In response to a question about the effect of the program on physical space, P. Hauf indicated that students were already doing the work in existing facilities and that the program was a way to recognize their specialization.

MOTION 12, 5: Alderson/Scott-Storey “That the Board approve the proposed PhD and MScE in Biomedical Engineering, as presented.”

CARRIED

12.2.5 Graduate Certificate and Diploma in Advanced Methods of Construction (linked on SharePoint)

P. Hauf drew members attention to the proposal for the Graduate Certificate and Diploma in Advanced Methods of Construction. The programs are aimed at working professions and would be focused on in-person, evening classes with hybrid and online options to come. A member suggested that the University should be focusing on modular solutions to housing issues and suggested a change to the title of the program. It was suggested that the University use this program for stackable upscaling of credentials for those working in the field. P. Hauf noted that the program was for-credit and that it followed the framework suggested by the Maritime Degree Level Qualification Framework provided by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission. She noted that the Certificate and Diploma could, in future, stack into a master's degree. The President indicated that the University would consider changing the name of the program.

MOTION 12, 6: Carson/Jollineau “That the Board approve the proposed Graduate Certificate and Diploma in Advanced Methods of Construction, as presented.”

CARRIED

12.3 Faculty Academic Plans

12.3.1 Faculty of Arts (SJ) (posted with agenda)

The Chair welcomed Dr. Heidi MacDonald to introduce the strategic plan for the Faculty of Arts, 2024-2027. H. MacDonald highlighted both the current academic offerings and a forward-looking vision for growth and improvement. She described the faculty's core disciplines of history, political science, English, philosophy, French, and Spanish, and noted the current enrollment of approximately 600 students, with a goal to increase to 700. The faculty also includes interdisciplinary programs such as a five-year concurrent BA/BEd and a Bachelor of Social Work, which has already demonstrated strong practical outcomes and employer interest. A central theme of the Academic Plan is promoting the value of a liberal arts education in a working-class community, where students and their families may be more focused on immediate job prospects than on the long-term benefits of critical thinking and adaptability. H. MacDonald noted broader enrolment challenges faced by arts faculties globally.

To respond to these challenges, the Faculty identified thirteen key challenges, including marketing difficulties and regional competition from nearby universities. In response, six working groups were formed to address these issues, leading to the development of seven strategic objectives outlined below.

- Cultivating community for students
- Fostering a local and global anti-colonial lens in the Faculty of Arts
- Increasing the physical profile of the Faculty of Arts
- Provide quality programs

12.3.1 Faculty of Arts (SJ) (cont'd)

- Review and Revise general BA regulations
- Improve graduate success
- Cultivate an environment conducive to research

The action plan is already underway, with specific initiatives assigned to subcommittees and aligned with the university's broader "Toward 2030" strategy. H. MacDonald expressed the opinion that the plan was practical, actionable, and already in motion.

Members discussed initiatives to drive enrollment growth, how the faculty is addressing communication challenges, and how it is adapting to emerging issues like artificial intelligence (AI) in education.

Members discussed the Faculty's communication plan. H. MacDonald identified the Bachelor of Social Work and Education programs as the most promising areas for attracting new students. Social Work, though currently capped at 35 students due to accreditation standards, is expected to grow to 45 and potentially 50 students as full accreditation is achieved. In reference to communication, she spoke to the challenge of convincing working-class families of the value of liberal arts education. To address this, the faculty uses short, targeted videos featuring students, alumni, and professors to highlight career pathways and the real-world value of degrees in disciplines like history and political science.

Members discussed plagiarism and the use of AI tools. In relation to AI and its effect on teaching and learning, H. MacDonald suggested this was a pressing and already-present challenge. She noted that plagiarism rates have increased, particularly in writing-heavy courses, and that faculty are responding by designing more creative, non-traditional assignments that are harder to replicate using AI tools. While this shift increases grading demands, it also opens space for innovative pedagogy.

Members discussed teaching loads and the potential to streamline majors with more overlapping courses to free up faculty resources. A member spoke to the value of small class sizes for students. H. MacDonald highlighted the Faculty's community engagement through programs, such as those offered by the Lorenzo Society. In response to a question, H. MacDonald noted that retention rates are higher for students who live in residence during their studies. The President spoke to the high quality of programs and professors in the Faculty of Arts. T. Gribbons thanked H. MacDonald for her presentation.

[APPLAUSE]

MOTION 12, 7:

Grogan/Jollineau "That the Board support Senior Management in pursuing the Academic Plan for the Saint John campus, Faculty of Arts, as presented."

CARRIED

13. **Board Chair's Report**

T. Gribbons noted that he, J. Hoyt, J. Knox and S. DeVarenne were able to participate in the annual conference of the Canadian University Boards Association (CUBA), recently renamed the Canadian University Governance Association (CUGA), in Halifax earlier in May. He explained that the Annual conference is an opportunity to connect with Board Chairs and Board professionals from across the country, learn from each other and exchange information on the post-secondary context in other regions. The 2025 theme was "Disruption as Opportunity: Catching Waves of Change in Higher Education." He noted a panel discussion with Presidents from Waterloo, St. Mary's, Concordia, and Mount Saint Vincent Universities on current issues. T. Gribbons noted that the mood across the country continues to be one of deep concern with respect to finances. Most universities are projecting a future where resources continue to be scarce and many are facing deficit budgets and looking at significant cost reduction through program cuts and other measures.

The Chair noted that, currently, compared to colleagues across the country, UNB is doing well. The University continues to face the challenges of new lower international student numbers, the financial challenges facing New Brunswick, continuing political uncertainty to the South, etc. He reminded members that at the April meeting, the Board received a report from the Vice-President Administration and Finance indicating that to maintain UNB's current level of programs and services, the University will need an additional \$8 or \$9 million each year. He suggested that there would be challenging days ahead and tough decisions that will need to be made. In difficult times the role of the Board is crucial in providing both leadership and support. He expressed support for J. Hoyt and J. Knox as they move into their new roles as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, to help lead the Board.

14. **Other Business (Open Session)**

T. Gribbons reminded members that the opening of the Engineering Commons would take place at 4 pm in the Bill Cooper Atrium and encouraged members to attend.

16. **Adjournment**

The Chair thanked members for attending and encouraged them to participate in Encaenia and Convocation.

Members thanked T. Gribbons for his work as Chair.

[APPLAUSE]

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

17. **Additional Opportunity for In Camera Discussion (not minuted)**

There was no further discussion.

Sarah DeVarenne
Secretary