



Board of Directors Meeting Open Session Agenda Package May 2, 2025

The Students' Union exists to represent, advocate for, and support the primary stakeholders, the students of Wilfrid Laurier University, and to provide them with a holistic university experience, and an enhanced student life. The costs of these benefits will be justified by the results.

Students will benefit from:

- An organization that advocates for an affordable, accessible, and high quality academic experience.
- A safe, sustainable, and empowering environment.
- Diverse and inclusive social interaction.
- Products and services that cater to the financial needs of students.

Board of Directors Agenda Package - May 2, 2025

Start	Duration	Agenda Item	Type	Presenter	Policy Reference
7:00pm	1 min	Call to Order	adm	Chair Habtemichael	
7:01pm	2 mins	Indigenous Land Acknowledgement	adm	Chair Habtemichael	
7:03pm	2 mins	Regrets	adm	Chair Habtemichael	GP #2c.8
7:05pm	1 min	Conflicts of Interest	adm	Chair Habtemichael	GP #2c.2
7:06pm	2 mins	Adoption of Agenda	D	Chair Habtemichael	
		MOTION that the Board of Directors adopt the agenda as presented			
7:08pm	2 mins	Meeting Minutes Approval: April 14, 2025	D	Chair Habtemichael	GP #2c
		MOTION that the board of Directors approve the April 14, 2025 meeting minutes			
7:10pm	3 mins	Comments from the Chair of the Board & CGO	fi	Chair Habtemichael	
7:13pm	4 mins	Comments from the President & CEO	fi	President Jobby	
7:17pm	4 mins	Comments from the Executive Director and COO	fi	ED Champagne	
7:21pm	2 mns	Governance Coordinator Update	fi	Chair Habtemichael	
7:23pm	10 mins	Summer Meeting Schedule	D	Chair Habtemichael	GP #2c
7:33pm	5 mins	Board Vacancies	D	DPRA Muller	
7:38pm	5 mins	In Camera Session	D	Chair Habtemichael	GP #2c
7:43pm	2 mins	Announcements	fi	Chair Habtemichael	
7:45pm	2 mins	Action Item Summary	adm	Chair Habtemichael	
7:47pm	1 min	Adjournment	adm	Chair Habtemichael	
		MOTION that the Board of Directors adjourn the meeting			
TOTAL	48 mins				

LEGEND

fi, For information

fd, For discussion

D, Decision required

adm, Administrative task



**Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union
Board of Directors**

DATE: April 14, 2025

**LOCATION: 2nd Floor, Fred Nichols Campus Centre
75 University Ave. W, Waterloo, N2L 3C5 and Online via Zoom
Board of Directors Meeting**

Board of Directors Present:

Chair of the Board & Chief Governance Officer: Gabrielle Russo;
Vice Chair of the Board: Lulia Habtemichael;
Directors: Aya Ijam, Nicole Lehecka, Devananda Nakshatra, Anya Russolo, Bilal Tariq,
Avinash Godse-Shah;

Staff Present:

Director, Policy, Research & Advocacy: Ian Muller;
Executive Director & COO: Phil Champagne

Gallery Present:

President & CEO: Ben Jesseau;
Board Secretary: Zhanna Latysheva

1. Call to Order, Chair Russo

The meeting was called to order via Zoom on April 14, 2025, at 7:01 PM. We acknowledge that the offices of the Wilfrid Laurier Students' Union are on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples.

2. Regrets, Chair Russo

- Director Bounket sent regrets.
- Directors Rubinoff, Espiritu and St. George were absent.

3. Conflicts of Interest, Chair Russo

- No conflicts of interest were reported.

4. Adoption of Agenda, Chair Russo

MOTION (Director Russolo/Director Ijam) that the Board of Directors adopt the agenda as presented. **CARRIED.**

5. Adoption of Consent Agenda, Chair Russo

- GP #2B - EL #2j – Hiring Practices – Unpaid Staff
- EL #2f – Asset Protection

MOTION (Director Godse-Shah/Director Nakshatra) that the Board of Directors approve the consent agenda as presented. **CARRIED.**

6. Adoption of Meeting Minutes — March 24 & April 7, 2025, Chair Russo

- Director Leheka had a conflict of interest regarding the operating budget on April 7, which was not reflected in the minutes.

MOTION (Director Russolo/Chair Tariq) that the Board of Directors approve the March 24 and

April 7, 2025, meeting minutes with the noted amendment. **CARRIED.**

7. Comments from the Chair of the Board & CGO, Chair Russo

- Final meeting of the year.
- Original live board training session cancelled due to scheduling issues; a recorded presentation will be distributed.

8. Comments from the President & CEO, President Jesseau

- President Jesseau expressed thanks to the Board for their work.
- Final Freedom to Learn working group meeting approaching.
- Ongoing work on the Freedom of Expression Task Force and CRM project.
- VP Student Affairs hiring is in progress; second-round interviews and visits underway.
- Attending campus partner events and working on institutional agreements.
- Transition planning with the incoming team is progressing well.

9. Comments from the Executive Director & COO, ED Champagne

- ED Champagne acknowledged the board's contributions, wished outgoing members well, and looks forward to working with returning members in May.

10. Leanne Holland Brown Donation Approval, President Jesseau

- The Leanne Holland Brown Emergency Fund assists students facing urgent financial challenges. This year, the executive team has focused on addressing the financial pressures affecting students, and this fund provides additional support beyond the regular resources available.

MOTION (Director Nakshatra/Director Ijam) that the Board of Directors approve a donation of up to \$15,000 to the Leanne Holland Brown Emergency Fund from remaining special projects and miscellaneous funds from the 2024/2025 fiscal year. **CARRIED.**

11. Annual Plans & Achievements End of Year Summary, President Jesseau

- In collaboration with the President's Operations Group, the Executive Team developed a comprehensive annual plan for the organization and its departments. The plan focused on three central priorities, guiding both organizational efforts and departmental projects:
 - Enhancing the Campus Community
 - Provide Opportunities to Learn & Grow
 - Improve Access to Programs, Resources, & Supports.

MOTION (Chair Tariq/Director Lehecka) that the Board of Directors, DPRA Muller and Secretary Latysheva move to the in-camera session at 7:11 PM. **CARRIED.**

The preceding reflects an accurate and complete record of the proceedings at the aforementioned meeting of the Students' Union Board of Directors.

Date Signed:

Gabrielle Russo

Chair of the Board & Chief Governance Officer
2024-2025 Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union

MAY 2, 2025

Overview

The 2025 Students' Union election did not produce a full slate of 12 directors, despite nominations being re-opened. In the event of director vacancies, the Board has several options when considering how to fill the opening(s).

Options

- a) Invite a runner-up: Article IV, Section 7, subsection "b, I" of the Students' Union constitution allows the Board to invite, in order of result, a subsequent runner-up candidate from the last Annual Meeting held to fill the vacant position(s).
- b) Special Meeting: Article IV, Section 7, subsection "b, II" of the Students' Union constitution allows the Board to call a Special Meeting of the members of the Corporation as soon as prudently possible in order to fill the vacant position(s).
- c) Board fills vacancy: Article IV, Section 7, subsection "b, III" of the Students' Union constitution allows a quorum of Directors to fill the vacancy;
 - o This process would involve calling for applications for an election amongst directors.

Considerations:

Article IV, Section 7 of the Students' Union constitution, "The Board of Directors, so long as it is comprised of no fewer than eight Directors, shall continue to have all the legal authority of a complete Board regardless of vacancies."

- Article IV, Section 7, subsection "a" of the Students' Union constitution allows the Board the option to leave a Director position vacant following a two-thirds majority vote.

One of the director vacancies must be occupied by a Brantford undergraduate student.

Article IV, Section 7, subsection "d" of the Students' Union constitution indicates that "any Director elected to fill a vacancy shall hold office for the remainder of the term of office of the Director who's Directorship was vacant."

Recommendation:

Given that there are no "runner up" candidate options, the operational recommendation is to proceed with 10 directors over the course of the summer, and then utilize option "d" to fill the spots in September.

- In September the Board can capitalize on the enthusiasm of a new term to garner interest.
- Option "d" has historically been the most efficient way to fill Board vacancies.