

**THE GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY**

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES**

**October 15, 2025  
VIA MS TEAMS  
4:00 P.M.**

**Present:** Roger Grochmal, Chair    Saiedeh Fard    Ibrahim Hatia    Karen Pastakia  
Patrice Barnes    Gervan Fearon    Arjun Jasuja    Jimi Rockley  
Jon Callegher    Rob Gilmour    Lachlan MacQuarrie    Ryan Sargent  
Bhavna Duggal    Julia Hanigsberg    Millan Multraine

**Regrets:** Regan Stewart

**Guests:** Paul Armstrong    Krista Holmes    Mona Modaresi    Patricia Chorney Rubin  
Janene Christiansen    Laura Jamer    Leslie Quinlan    Andrew Smee  
Kelly Ann Fenney    Dave Mazzone    Nerys Rau    Ian Wigglesworth  
Michael Herrera

**Board Secretariat:** Elaine Lam, Board Secretary    Julia Hendrik Bowers, Board Administrator

**Minutes:** Julia Hendrik Bowers

**1.0 Approval of the Agenda and Consent Agenda (including Past Minutes)**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first Board of Governors meeting of the new year and provided a Land Acknowledgement. The governors reviewed the private agenda and Consent Agenda. No issues arose.

**MOTION BG-PUB-2025-10-01**

**THAT** the Board of Governors approves the agenda for the private meeting held on October 15, 2025; and

**THAT** the Board of Governors approves the Consent Agenda for the meeting held October 15, 2025, which includes the following items:

**For Approval:**

1.3 Minutes of the Board of Governors (Public) Meeting on June 4, 2025

1.4 ASA recommendation to approve four new programs:

- A. Bachelor of Business Administration (three year) degree
- B. Bachelor of Computer Science (three year) degree
- C. Honours Bachelor of Emergency Management degree
- D. Therapeutic Recreation Graduate Certificate

- 1.5 Protocol for Approval of Academic Policies
- 1.6 Faculty Development Policy
- 1.7 Revised Meeting Calendar for the GBC Board of Governors and Standing Committees of the Board

**For Information**

- 1.8 Substantive revisions to the Accessible Learning Services Policy
- 1.9 Substantive revisions to the Statement of Investment Policy and Guidelines
- 1.10 Board of Governors Committee Assignments
- 1.11 Post Election Report – Administrative Representative
- 1.12 Freedom of Speech Annual Report
- 1.13 Draft Finance and Property Committee (Public) Minutes of October 8, 2025

**Moved:** M. Mulraine

**Seconded:** S. Fard

**CARRIED**

## **2.0 Reports by Standing Committees**

### **Governance and Nomination Committee**

The Chair of the Governance and Nomination Committee, Saeideh Fard, presented the various Board Committee assignments for 2025-2026 and noted that there may need to be additional members added to some of these Committees. The Chair also provided an update on the updated Terms of Reference for each Committee.

Discussion ensued on the appointment of the Interim Board Chair and Board Vice Chair for 2025-26. During this time, R. Grochmal and S. Fard excused themselves from the meeting and were not present while the motions passed.

#### **MOTION BG-PUB-2025-10-02**

**THAT** the Board of Governors appoints Roger Grochmal as Board Chair for 2025-2026.

**Moved:** B. Duggal

**Seconded:** J. Callegher

**CARRIED**

#### **MOTION BG-PUB-2025-10-03**

**THAT** the Board of Governors appoints Saeideh Fard as the Board Vice Chair for 2025-2026.

**Moved:** J. Rockley

**Seconded:** J. Hanigsberg

**CARRIED**

#### **MOTION BG-PUB-2025-10-04**

*The following motions were approved as an omnibus:*

**THAT** the Board of Governors appoints Julia Hanigsberg as the Chair of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee for 2025-2026;

**THAT** the Board of Governors appoints Roger Grochmal as Acting Chair for the Academic and Student Affairs Committee for the period of September 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025;

**THAT** the Board of Governors approves the Committee Membership for Lachlan MacQuarrie for 2025-26: Governance and Nomination Committee;

**THAT** the Board of Governors approves the Protocol for the Standing Committees of the Board;

**THAT** the Board of Governors approves the Terms of Reference for the following Standing Committees of the Board:

- Executive
- Governance and Nomination
- Academic and Student Affairs
- People and Technology;

**THAT** the Board of Governors approves the Protocol for the Selection of Board Chair, Board Vice Chair and Committee Chairs.

**Moved:** A. Jasuja

**Seconded:** P. Barnes

**CARRIED**

### **Finance and Property Committee**

The Chair of the Finance and Property Committee, Bhavna Duggal, provided an update on the annual work plan for the Committee. In addition, she highlighted several approvals coming to the Board for ratification, including: decisions around the functioning of the Subsidiary Corporations of the College; a redirection of capital athletic fees within the College; and changes to the list of officers of the College with signing authority.

### **MOTION BG-PUB-2025-10-05**

*The following motions were approved as an omnibus:*

**THAT** the Finance and Property Committee of the College is hereby authorized and empowered to conduct the following annual business of the Subsidiary Corporations on behalf of the College, as shareholder of the Subsidiary Corporations, without the need for further approval of the governors of the College, provided that a summary of all actions taken in this regard is reported to the Executive Committee of the College on an annual basis:

- A. Election of directors of the Subsidiary Corporations;
- B. Consideration of the audited financial statements of the Subsidiary Corporations; and
- C. Appointment of the auditor of the Subsidiary Corporations;

**THAT** that all other decisions of the College, as shareholder of the Subsidiary Corporations, shall be made by the Board of Governors of the College, including, without limitation:

- A. Removal of directors of the Subsidiary Corporations before the conclusion of their term;
- B. Amendments to the articles or by-laws of the Subsidiary Corporations;
- C. Any sale, lease or exchange of all or substantially all of the property of the Subsidiary Corporations;

- D. An amalgamation involving the Subsidiary Corporations; and
- E. The dissolution of the Subsidiary Corporations.

**THAT** the Board of Governors redirect \$350K funding sourced from Student Capital Athletic Fees from the Outdoor Sports Field capital project (\$2.0M funding approved by GBC Board of Governors in 2021) to St. James Fitness Studio project

**THAT** the Board of Governors appoint the following as officers of the College with signing authority with immediate effect:

- President
- Senior Vice President, Institutional Planning & Chief Financial Officer
- Senior Vice President, People Enablement and Experience
- Vice President, Academic
- Vice-President, Digital Transformation and Chief Information Officer
- Vice-President, People and Culture
- Executive Director, Facilities & Sustainability

and

**THAT** this authority remains in effect until the June 2029 meeting of the Board of Governors unless otherwise determined by the Board.

**THAT** the Board of Governors appoint the following as authorized signing officers for the College's bank accounts with immediate effect:

- President
- Senior Vice President, Institutional Planning & Chief Financial Officer
- Executive Director, Finance
- Senior Manager, Finance Services

and

**THAT** this authority remains in effect until the June 2029 meeting of the Board of Governors unless otherwise determined by the Board.

**Moved:** S. Fard

**Seconded:** J. Callegher

**CARRIED**

### **Academic and Student Affairs Committee**

The Chair of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Roger Grochmal, provided an overview of the last meeting, welcoming new Committee members appointed to the Board. He gave an update on the approval processes both for new academic policies and new programs being proposed to the Committee, highlighting the four new programs that were brought forward to the Board and approved as part of the Consent Agenda:

1. Bachelor of Business Administration (three year) degree
2. Bachelor of Computer Science (three year) degree
3. Honours Bachelor of Emergency Medicine degree
4. Therapeutic Recreation Graduate Certificate

### **People and Technology Committee**

The Chair of the People and Technology Committee, Millan Mulraine, gave an overview of the last meeting, noting the fulsome discussions that had taken place with the addition of several new Committee members. He highlighted the work that had been done by the team on the IT Strategic Plan, which will be presented to the full Board.

### **3.0 IT Strategic Plan**

Vice President, Digital Transformation & CIO, Steve Camacho provided a presentation on the Information and Technology Strategic Plan built around digital unification in line with the College's values, vision, strategy and goals. These pillars include building a unified student support experience, a unified employee experience and a unified data foundation; enabling the growth of teaching and learning; accelerating AI leadership; and optimizing IT operations and security. He outlined the next steps in the implementation of the plan.

The Board commended the team on the extensive work that has been done while noting that currently, this is more of a vision than a plan. Further context was provided in response to governor inquiries on whether there is opportunity for additional research partnerships both within and outside the organization, and whether there is alignment between sustainability goals and AI goals.

#### **MOTION BG-PUB-2025-10-06**

**THAT** the Board of Governors approves the Information and Technology Strategic Plan as presented.\*

**Moved:** J. Callegher

**Seconded:** M. Mulraine

**CARRIED\***

*\*J. Rockley chose to abstain from this vote.*

### **4.0 President's Update**

President Fearon noted that his written report contains an extensive overview of the updates from around the college. He shared that the Full-Time Support Staff strike had reached an agreement earlier in the day and would be returning to work this week, emphasizing that the College would be welcoming back to work all colleagues affected by the strike process.

He gave an update on the Business Plan priorities for 2025-26 linked to Strategy 2026, and noted that these would be refreshed through the course of the 2025-26 year. In addition, President Fearon shared updates on the search for the new Provost; the Efficiency and Accountability Fund review report; and Senate hearings around international student programs and study permits. He also provided an update on the Ontario Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security's consultation process that will take place in November and December looking at the funding framework for post-secondary education.

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**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned to the private session.**

**The public meeting ended at 5:07 p.m.**