



BOARD OF GOVERNORS' MINUTES

Thursday February 12, 2026

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm MST

College of the Rockies, Cranbrook Boardroom

Public Session 5

Jared	Basil	Appointed member – Chair
Ryan	Watmough	Appointed Member – Vice Chair
Lainee	Eccleston	Appointed member
Elizabeth	Farthing	Appointed Member
Anne	Glassford	Appointed member
Megan	Lohmann	Appointed Member
Kris	Murray	Appointed Member
Faye	O’Neil	Appointed Member
Amber	Van Drielen	Appointed Member
Nathan	Dueck	Chair – EdCo
Jenn	Smith	Elected CUPE
Joan	Kaun	Elected Faculty
Aryan	Singla	Elected Student
Michael	Sewah	Elected Student
Michael	Crowe	President & CEO
Robin	Hicks	Vice President, Academic
Brian	Muscat	Vice President, Student Success
Ariane	Tennant	Executive Director, Employee Experience
Nathan	Skretting	Vice President, Strategy, Budget and Operations
Dana	Wesley	Executive Director, Indigenization, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
Susan	Woods	Executive Assistant, President and Board of Governors

*Highlighted indicates NOT in attendance

5.1 Welcome and Call to Order

a. Territorial Acknowledgement

Jared gave the territorial acknowledgement giving thanks for the opportunity to work, live and play on the traditional territory of the Ktunaxa which is also home to the Shuswap and Metis communities. He also wished to acknowledge and appreciate those that visit our region.

b. Welcome to Board Members and members of the Public

Jared welcomed members of the Board and public to the meeting

5.2 Order of Business

a. Additions and approval of the agenda

The following item was added to the agenda:

5.6 e Board Bylaw Approval – Bylaw 24, Appendix “A” – For Signing

MOTION to approve the agenda as amended

MOVED by Anne, seconded by Ryan, carried

b. Oath of Office – Aryan Singla

Aryan Singla read, signed and submitted his Oath of Office.

Jared welcomed Aryan to the table and reiterated the importance of the student voice at our table.

5.3 Consent Agenda

Chair

1:07 pm

All items on the consent agenda are approved by one motion unless a request is made at the beginning of the meeting that an item be withdrawn or transferred to the regular agenda. Any item on the regular agenda may be transferred to the consent agenda.

- a. Confirmation of Minutes: November 7, 2025
- b. Q3 Forecast
- c. Board Budget
- d. Cheque Register
- e. Status Report
- f. Media Releases

MOTION to approve the items on the Consent Agenda as presented

MOVED by Laine, seconded by Anne, carried

5.4 Monitoring Report:

- a. Winter Semester Stable Enrolment Report

Brian reviewed the supplied Headcount Summary as of January 2026. Our domestic fall headcount is down by 2.6% compared to fall of 2024 while our international headcount is down 34.5% from 339 to 222. Overall we are down 9.1% when compared to fall of 2024. Although our overall headcount is down we have seen increased enrolments in programs such as Dental Assisting, Bachelor of Science, Practical Nursing, Recreation Management and Office Administration. With our smaller student numbers percentage changes can be misleading. Brian will try to incorporate the number of students by program rather than just the percentages.

5.5 Unfinished General Business:

There was no unfinished general business for today's meeting

5.6 Business Arising and/or New Business:

- a. International Student Fees 2026 – 2027, 2027 - 2028 - Information

Education Quality Assurance (EQA) requirements from the British Columbia provincial government require public post-secondary institutions to post tuition fees for the standard duration of the student's study program. As a result of this, last year ELT approved the 2026-2027 International Tuition Fees and will be bringing the 2027 – 2028 fee recommendation to the March meeting of the Board for information once they have reviewed and approved.

- b. 2026 – 2027 Operating Budget Update

Nathan provided members with an update on our 2026 – 2027 Draft Operating Budget. For the past year the Executive Leadership Team and Budget Officers have worked diligently to address an estimated \$3.5M reduction in international revenue with minimum impact on employee status. Nathan requested that the Board approval of the budget be moved to the March meeting rather than the February meeting as he will be able to confirm some assumptions by that time and the budget will be much more accurate. Anticipate bringing forward a balanced budget to the March meeting.



MOTION to approve the deferral of the 2026 – 2027 Budget approval to the March meeting as recommended by the Finance Committee.

MOVED by Anne, seconded, Faye, carried

MOTION to adjust the future timing of the approval of the Operating Budget, to the March meeting (to be updated on the Board calendar).

MOVED by Liz, seconded by Anne, carried

c. Cybersecurity Operations Diploma – Approval

Robin Hicks and Ranjan Bhattacharya joined the Board members to review the program proposal for the Cybersecurity Operations Diploma. The Program Idea Profile was introduced to the Board at the June 2025 meeting and received Board support. Since that time Robin and Ranjan have been working on fully developing the proposal including delivery, costing, curriculum requirements, and receiving feedback from VPAC, EdCo and the Dean's Task Force. The Executive Leadership Team has reviewed the proposal and on behalf of ELT, President Michael Crowe has recommended the program for approval with a launch date of September 2027. We are now requesting Board approval of the Cybersecurity Operations Diploma Program.

MOTION to approve the Cybersecurity Operations Diploma as presented

MOVED by Liz, seconded by Megan, carried

d. Mechanical Engineering Technology Design and Automation

Robin Hicks and Ranjan Bhattacharya reviewed the program proposal for the Mechanical Engineering Technology – Design and Automation Diploma. The Program Idea Profile was brought to the Board in June 2025 meeting and received Board Support. This program has gone through the same rigors as the Cybersecurity Program but unlike that program would require some upfront capital investments and future hiring. We are seeking approval for this program so that we have something “shovel ready” but would delay the launch so that we are not launching two new large programs at the same time. This program aligns with other partnerships that we are pursuing (KORE) and would include a co-op component between semesters two and three. This program's CIP codes are eligible for the PGWP so it is anticipated that this will appeal to international students.

MOTION to approve the Mechanical Engineering Technology – Design and Automation Diploma as presented

MOVED by Michael, seconded by Laine, carried

e Board Bylaw Approval – Bylaw 24, Appendix “A” – For Signing

Changes to the Board Bylaw 24, Appendix “A” were approved by the Board at the September 2025 meeting. With work to update the tuition tables now complete the document has been updated and is ready for signing by the Board Chair. A 2% lift in tuition has been applied with exceptions where indicated.

MOTION to approve Board Chair signing of the Appendix “A”, By-Law 24 – 2026 – 2027 Tuition and Mandatory Fees (Domestic Students) on behalf of the Board

MOVED by Anne, seconded by Jenn, carried

5.7 Correspondence:

There was no correspondence for today's meeting

5.8 Officer Reports:

a. Board Chair's Report

Jared shared that the BC Board Chairs have been meeting regularly with the current hot topic being the Sector Sustainability Review currently underway. The Chairs have met with Minister Sunner to ask questions and gain direction. The Sector Sustainability Review is intended to be holistic in nature. The Ministry hoping to have the final report available by the end of March 2026.

Jared recently met with the Board Chair of Selkirk college to discuss potential collaborations with COTR and a possible meeting between himself and Michael with their President and Board Chair. Jared has had his name put forward to be a Board member for CBT. Though this position has not yet moved to an OIC due to tragedy in Tumbler Ridge he has been recommended by CBT.

There is a controversial rally happening today in Creston – the College does not support it and stands with their Indigenous partners. We need to value our partnerships with our communities – need this allyship to move forward together

b. President's Report

Michael congratulated Jared on his appointment to the CBT Board. There is a lot happening across the province right now with provincial announcements of the trades funding lift which will see a doubling of investment over a four-year period. This funding is both to increase per seat funding as well as to support additional offerings and ties to the "LookWest" Strategy. The Sector Sustainability Review is under way with consultant Don Avison with each institution able to submit an institutional response. Our response focused on the sustainable achievements of our enrolment targets. The Ministry is looking at potential shared service models, unique programming and possible institutional mergers as part of the review. The province is projecting an \$11.2B deficit this year.

CBT is investing in both Selkirk College and COTR with \$500,000 each to support student recruitment.

The Center for Economic and Workforce Development is in place with the addition of our new director, Chad Flinn. The focus of the Center is on upskilling and reskilling. We are also creating a Center of Excellence in Outdoor Recreation and Mountain Tourism and Hospitality and have been asked to partner to be one of two hubs in the province for the Mining Talent Accelerator. We have met with TECK and are meeting with EVR to create partnerships for delivery. If approved there will be 3 years of funding. Lastly, we have signed an MOU with Kootenay Outdoor Recreation Enterprises and look forward to our partnership with them.

c. EdCo Report

Nathan provided a briefing note in the package. Since November they have had some policy changes but no program changes come forward for review. Nathan has gone door to door with members to discuss any concerns they may have. We will have three faculty member representatives leaving the committee and are on the hunt for new members to get them trained and up to speed.



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5.9 Agenda Items for Next Meeting (March 19, 2026):

Note adjusted date from March 12 to the 19th to accommodate Michael's travel

Anyone have items for the agenda are asked to send them to Jared and Susan

5.10 Information and Good of the Institution:

Jenn shared that the COTR Career Fair is coming on March 4th with over 75 organizations registered

5.11 Questions from the Public regarding any Agenda item:

There were no questions from members of the public in attendance

5.12 Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn

MOVED by Megan

Distribution to Members:

Jared Basil, Lainece Eccelston, Elizabeth Farthing, Anne Glassford, Megan Lohmann, Michael Murphy, Kris Murray, Faye O'Neil, Amber van Drielen, Ryan Watmough, Jenn Smith, Joan Kaun, Nathan Dueck, Michael Sewah, Aryan Singla

College:

Michael Crowe, Robin Hicks, Brian Muscat, Nathan Skretting, Ariane Tennant, Dana Wesley