

MEETING MINUTES

BCIT BOARD OF GOVERNORS - OPEN

Tuesday May 26, 2026, 1:06 to 2:00 p.m.

Board:

Mike Bonshor, Chair
 Don Matthew, Vice Chair
 Corry Anderson-Fennel (*virtual*)
 Cora Bell
 Catherine Boivie
 Bobby Davidson
 Annabelle Donovan
 Noor Esmail (*virtual*)
 Zahra Esmail
 Brooks Patterson
 Carla Reid
 Stepan Vdovine
 Claire Wang

Ex Officio:

Jeff Zabudsky, President
 Shawna Waberi, Education Council Chair

In Attendance:

Raimonda De Zen, Dir. Enterprise Risk & Internal Audit
 Jennifer Figner, Provost & VP, Academic
 Cynthia Petrie, VP, External
 Navida Suleman, CFO & VP, Administration
 Barbara Kader, EA, Governance

Regrets:

Colin Jones, Board Member

A quorum was present.

1.0 Call to Order and Introductory Remarks

The Chair acknowledged that BCIT campuses are located on unceded Indigenous land belonging to the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the xʷməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) and Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nations.

2.0 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Distributed material: Information Note

No disclosures were reported.

3.0 Approval of Agenda/Consent Agenda

No discussion took place.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED THAT the Agenda/Consent Agenda for the Open Board of Governors meeting held on May 26, 2026, be approved.

3.1 Adopt Agenda

Distributed material: Agenda

3.2 Minutes March 31, 2026

Distributed material: Meeting Minutes

3.3 Education Council Report

Distributed material: Information Note

3.4 Institute Report

Distributed material: Information Note

3.5 Correspondence

Distributed material: Letter

4.0 Board Chair's Comments

Mr. Bonshor thanked the Board, reflected on his longstanding connection to BCIT, and acknowledged the leadership of the President and Executive. His term concludes July 31, 2026, and he will not be reappointed.

4.1 Governor Appointments

Distributed material: Information Note

The Board Chair expressed his thanks to the two student representatives, Bobby Davidson and Cora Bell for their terms on the Board of Governors and welcomed Joseph Yuruk who begins his term on June 1, 2026.

5.0 President's Comments

The President reported on recent external engagements and sector developments relevant to BCIT.

Feedback from a recent gathering hosted by the Consul General of Switzerland highlighted BCIT's strong institutional commitment and mission-driven culture, as observed during a campus visit by Swiss post-secondary representatives.

The President also reported that bargaining with the Faculty and Staff Association had concluded successfully and publicly, noting the significant efforts of both union and management teams. Updates were provided on recent engagement with Mayor Hurley, national post-secondary sector meetings, and discussions with federal ministers regarding investments in skilled trades, applied research, and training capacity. It was noted that recent federal and provincial funding announcements are expected to support increased demand, infrastructure, and operating capacity at BCIT.

Management noted that the provincial funding will flow in the current fiscal year and has been incorporated into institutional planning which has been built into BCIT's financial forecast.

Management noted that international enrolment has not yet been significantly affected due to existing students in the pipeline; however, a future shortfall is anticipated. Recent federal and provincial funding announcements may partially offset this impact. Management also reported that BCIT is pursuing transnational education and partnership opportunities to diversify international revenue while continuing efforts to attract international students to Canada.

Management noted that the post-secondary review is now with government. Jessie Sunner, the Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills confirmed receipt of the report, and no update is expected before the fall. It was further noted that the minister intends to continue leading the file upon her return.

Management noted that, on an interim basis, oversight will be provided by Lisa Beare, Minister of Education and Child Care. No update on the report is anticipated before the fall.

5.1 President's Activities

Distributed material: Information Note

Received.

6.0 Academic

6.1 Program Cancellation – Certificate in Software Systems Developer

Distributed material: Decision Note

The Chair of Education Council referred to the material previously circulated.

Management noted that enrolment in the Certificate in Software Systems Developer has declined significantly over time, with only one student accepted for Fall 2026, supporting the recommendation to cancel the program.

It was noted that approximately 20 current students are expected to complete the program this term. If all requirements are met, no teach-out will be required. The student accepted for Fall 2026 will be advised of the cancellation and supported in exploring alternative program pathways.

It was further noted that affected students would be eligible for refunds, where applicable. Admissions communications will be coordinated through the Registrar's Office in collaboration with school leadership and supports will be provided to assist students in considering other program options.

It was noted that affected faculty may continue teaching in other programs during the transition, with any workforce reductions managed through Human Resources in accordance with applicable collective agreements. It further noted that broader changes in the sector, including the impact of artificial intelligence on program demand and curriculum planning.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED THAT the cancellation of the Certificate in Software Systems Developer program, be approved.

6.2 School of Construction and the Environment – Natural Resources Canada Mass Timber Grant Application Request

Distributed material: Decision Note

Management noted that Board approval is required because the proposed Natural Resources Canada grant exceeds the current delegated signing authority threshold. The application seeks \$1.6M to expand BCIT's mass timber education work nationally. BCIT's contribution, estimated at approximately \$150K, would be provided

in kind through faculty time, space, and equipment, with no net impact on the financial statements.

Management reported that there is a strong demand for mass timber education, particularly among those seeking reskilling and upskilling opportunities. It was further noted that the proposed initiative would support delivery beyond British Columbia and expand national reach.

BCIT has established a strong reputation in mass timber education and is expanding its national profile through partnerships, including with Selkirk College, and the development of a mobile training facility to support delivery in other regions.

A discussion included the integration of student learning supports into broader peer tutoring and academic support services, rather than maintaining a separate standalone service. The discussion also addressed the impact of artificial intelligence across programs and industries. Management noted that while direct exposure is currently limited in computing-related offerings, BCIT is monitoring implications across all program areas and is incorporating artificial intelligence considerations into academic and operational planning.

It was further noted that artificial intelligence is affecting all program areas, not only computing. Management advised that BCIT is considering these implications across programs and operations through institute-wide planning and ongoing curriculum updates.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED THAT the development of a funding application to Natural Resources Canada to support the expansion of the Mass Timber Network project, be approved.

7.0 Finance

7.1 Delegated Signing Authority of Revenue Related Contracts

Distributed material: Decision Note

The discussion reiterated that the proposed amendments apply to revenue-related contracts and standard provincial grant agreements only, not expenditures. It was noted that increasing delegated signing authority from \$1M to \$3M would align with existing construction contract thresholds and provide greater flexibility for timely execution. Management has also agreed to provide the Audit and Finance Committee with periodic summaries of approvals made under the revised parameters for the next twelve months.

It was noted that revenue-related contracts are not typically budgeted in advance, generate additional revenue upon delivery, and do not require cash outlays or affect operating expense lines.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED THAT the following amendments to the Signing Authority – Policy #2502, Schedule A, be approved:

- increase delegated signing authority for revenue-related contracts from \$1M to \$3M; and
- delegate to the CFO signing authority for standard provincial grant agreements

8.0 2025-2030 Strategic Plan Update – Y1 Year End Report

Distributed material: Information Note, Reports

Management highlighted key points from the material previously circulated. Received without questions or comments.

9.0 Next Meeting and Conclusion

The next Board of Governors meeting will be held on June 30, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. The open meeting concluded at 1:53 p.m.

Signed

Mike Bonshor, Chair

—
EDUCATION
FOR A COMPLEX WORLD.

