

THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG TRUSTEED PENSION PLAN BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes of the Meeting of
Monday, June 09, 2025

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Lorne Hilton (Chair), Colin Morrison (Vice Chair), James Townsend, Jie Zhou, Jeff Babb, Tessa Pearen, Andrew Bendor-Samuel, Henry Hudek, Murray Wiegand, Bryan Ward, Debbie Mortimer, Ron Youngson, Trevor Day, Mary Anne Walls

Regrets: Navinder Basra (Treasurer), Carrie Homeniuk, Sheila Wilson-Kowal

1. Approval of Agenda

MOVED: (J.Townsend/A.Bendor-Samuel)

That the Agenda be adopted as presented.

...CARRIED.

2. Approval of Minutes

MOVED: (M. Wiegand/J.Townsend)

That the minutes for the June 10, 2024 meeting be adopted with the following changes:

- Update to #4 b. should state December 31st, 2023

...CARRIED.

MOVED: (T.Day/A.Bendor-Samuel)

That the minutes for the September 16, 2024 meeting be adopted

...CARRIED.

MOVED: (J.Townsend/D.Mortimer)

That the minutes for the March 10, 2025 meeting be adopted

...CARRIED.

3. Annual General Meeting

a. Election of Board Officers

L. Hilton was nominated (Unanimously) as Chair (acclaimed)

C. Morrison was nominated (Unanimously) to continue as Vice-Chair (acclaimed)

A. Bendor-Samuel was nominated (Unanimously) to continue as Secretary (acclaimed)

N. Basra was nominated (Unanimously) to continue as Treasurer (acclaimed)

b. Committee Membership

Board Committee membership for the period from July 1,2025 to June 30,2026 was determined as follows:

DB Committee:

L. Hilton, C. Morrison, J.Babb, R.Youngson, N. Basra, S.Wilson-Kowal, H. Hudek, A.Bendor-Samuel

DC Committee:

A.Bendor-Samuel, D. Mortimer, T.Pearen, J.Babb, C. Morrison, R.Youngson, B.Ward, L.Hilton, Trevor Day, Jie Zhou

Operations Committee:

M. Walls, N. Basra, C.Homeniuk, L. Hilton, A. Bendor-Samuel, B.Ward

c. Annual Conflict Report (completed by all Trustees)

C.Hince will follow up with the few outstanding Conflict Reports to ensure they are completed prior to the next meeting.

d. Trustee acceptance of Code of Conduct (informational)

C.Hince notes that this item is for information purposes and has been sent to all Trustees for review.

4. Report from DB Committee

L.Hilton presented the DB Committee Report on behalf of N.Basra

The DB Committee met on May 12,2025; Aon presented the performance of the fund.

- Total Fund results relative to long term (four-year) objectives
 - o Improve the DC Plan's funded status on a going-concern basis - Achieved
 - o Meet or exceed Total Fund Benchmark, net of fees – Not achieved
 - o Achieve value added objectives in each active mandate – Partially a
- As a March 31, cash in the portfolio was \$1.4 million, and above the reserve target of \$1.0 million
- Total Fund four-year return of 6.5% was in excess of the 6.0% hurdle rate for pension increases.

Strategy performance as of March 31,2025

- Beutel Canadian Equity continued to underperform, driven primarily by an underweight position in Materials, and sector underperformance in Consumers Disc. And Materials. Key detractors in the portfolio include BRP, Magna International, and RBC.
- BlackRock MSCI World Index Fund exceeded the +/-20 bps tracking range in the year, continuing to benefit from a more favorable dividend foreign withholding tax treatment versus the benchmark index provider (MSCI) methodology.
- CSSB confirmed Real Estate Fund Exposure to the HBC Bankruptcy as four properties have HBC as a tenant. The value attributed to the combined HBC lease exposure is quite small, at \$3.1 million of the \$1.3 billion Fund. The maximum impact to CSSB Fund performance is 24 bps. CSSB believes the overall impact on valuation and performance will be small as the landlords are already pursuing replacement tenants, that may sign at higher lease rates.

- DB Committee is planning on meeting with BG for a formal review of the portfolio and performance.
- a. DB Fund Performance for year ended Dec 31,2024
Eckler reported :
 - Fund return in 2024, market value rate of return net of expenses at 14.9%
 - Bond yields increased during the first half of the year then dropped in the second half
 - Long term yields ended the year around the same place they started the year
 - Short term yields are down.

The four- year geometric average rate of return, net of investment and administrative expenses, on the market value of the fund is 6.78%
 - b. Cola Update
Since the four-year geometric average rate of return exceeds 6%, a 0.78% COLA will be granted. The last time a COLA was provided was in July 2020.
Claire will send out notices and work with CIBC Mellon to update the payments effective July 01,2025
 - c. Pension Statements
Claire has received the Pension Statements, and they will be distributed to the DB Members.

5.Report from DC Committee

A.Bendor-Samuel reported that the DC Committee met on May 15,2025. The Q1 report from Desjardins was received, the reports continue to have incorrect amounts and errors. B. Ward does confirm that the amounts to match on the reports that are provided to HR on the Desjardins portal. The errors occur once the Desjardins team manually manipulates the reports, it appears that the data is not transferred correctly.

It has been an ongoing issue and Eckler (DC Consultant) has confirmed that it is a regular problem with Desjardins. The DC Committee has concluded that the Chair of the Board will write a letter expressing our concerns about the discrepancies.

Desjardins had an upper level management change, Nadia Darwish, who was our executive representative, has announced her retirement. She is replaced by Amy Ferguson.

The DC Committee will be performing an RFP for the DC Consultant, it has been five years since the last one, a sub-committee will be created to oversee the RFP.

ACTION: Review if Desjardins has a Satisfaction Guarantee, Sun Life had one and the DC Pension had received funds in the past because due to a service complaint.

The DC Committee continues to work on the CAPSA guidelines and is waiting to receive documentation from ONYX and Eckler.

The DC Risk assessment was reviewed, and no changes were made.

6. Report from Operations Committee

B.Ward reported that the Operations Committee met on June 2,2025. The Pension Financial Statements were audited by the external auditors, KPMG. No material issues to report and it came back as a clean audit.

a. Financial Statements

L.Hilton presented on behalf of N.Basra that nothing unusual

Net investment returns increased from \$14 898 665 to \$22 771 010 in 2024.

Experienced gains in the DB from a loss in 2023 of \$669,000 to a gain in 2024 of \$141,000.

The financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for Pension plan related to investment portfolio and pension obligations in 2024.

Equity markets benefited from a combination of factors, including a gradual decline in inflation.

MOVED: (H.Hudek/A.Bendor-Samuel)

That the financial statements be approved as presented with a change to p.26, note 2, date should be 2024 and not 2023

...CARRIED.

b. Annual Report to Members

The Annual Report included the financial statements, auditor's report, along with the reports from the Committee Chairs. The Annual Report was circulated in advance in the package and will be made available on the University website for members to read.

MOVED: (H.Hudek/A.Bendor-Samuel)

That the Annual Report be approved as presented with some small clerical changes that will be sent to Claire.

...CARRIED.

c. Audit Report

KPMG presented the Audit Findings Report; there were no concerns or issues raised. All matters have been reviewed with no audit misstatements or control deficiencies.

d. Terms of Reference

Each committee has reviewed the Terms of Reference along with the Board/Chair/Committee Chair/Secretary & Treasurer.

No changes to be made, Claire will update the review date to June 2025.

e. Education

A.Bendor-Samuel presented on his attendance at the DC Summit. He presented to the Board on one of the sessions about Gen Z's existential dread. The importance of understanding the modern mindset for engagement strategies. According to a study done by BMO:

-37% of Canadians are putting less money towards retirement savings

-38% of Gen Z respondents (ages 18-27) said they are putting off saving for retirement completely

-more members are relying on the default settings established by their employer

7. Other Business

8. Honoring of Exiting Trustees

L. Hilton thanked the following trustees for their time and expertise:

- Joan Duesterdiek was appointed as AESES in 2021 and has retired from the University.
- Murray Wiegand was appointed as UWFA from 2010-2019, UWRA from 2019 to present, expertise in reviewing documents
- James Townsend was appointed as UWFA-Collegiate in 2017

Date of Next Meeting

Monday, September 15th, 2025

9. Adjournment

As there was no other business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Chair

Secretary