

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Executive Committee

DATE: December 2, 2024

SUBJECT: In Person Board Meetings in 2025

☒ For Decision

☐ For Information

☐ Monitoring Report

Purpose:

To reach a consensus on the number of in person board meetings in 2025.

Background:

During the Reflection Period that followed the September board meeting, board members were asked to provide feedback on how many board meetings should be held in person in 2025.

Board members were also asked to respond to a survey after the meeting to provide feedback on this question.

For Consideration:

The survey results are attached for the Board's review. 11 out of 13 board members responded to the survey. Of the 11 responses, 7 (63.64%) prefer to have 2 in person meetings in 2025 versus 4 (36.36%) who prefer all 4 meetings in person.

Comments noted the following rationales for fewer in person meetings

- Cost
- Challenges of travelling in the winter
- Challenges of balancing in person meetings with business/work and family responsibilities.

Comments noted the following rationales for more in person meetings:

- Better opportunity for meaningful engagement and relationship building

The Executive Committee reviewed the survey results at their recent meeting and determined to recommend to the board that there be 2 in person meetings in 2025. The committee cited the following reasons for their recommendation:

- This would keep costs under control in 2025, particularly in light of the additional expenses being incurred as a result of strategic planning and the external board review.
- The board will be attending an in person strategic planning session in April which will provide an additional opportunity for face to face engagement and relationship building

- A majority of board members were in favour of 2 in person meetings.

Public Interest Considerations:

In light of budgetary constraints in 2025, it is in the public interest for sufficient funds to be allocated to core functions that ensure the College can carry out its mandate.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Considerations:

Several board members flagged in the survey that in person meetings put strain on work and family obligations, and indicated a preference that the number of in person board meetings be capped at 2 per year.

Risk Management Considerations:

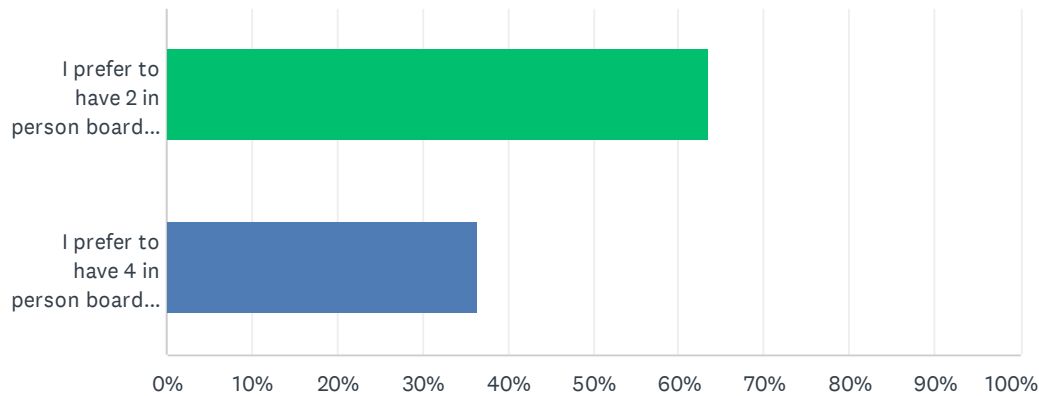
The board is charged with managing the College's financial risk through prudent budget allocations.

Recommendation/Action Required:

That the Board reach a consensus on the number of in person board meetings in 2025, having regard to the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

Q1 Please choose one of the following options

Answered: 11 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I prefer to have 2 in person board meetings	63.64%	7
I prefer to have 4 in person board meetings	36.36%	4
TOTAL		11

Q2 Please share any other feedback.

Answered: 8 Skipped: 3

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	this keeps it cheaper for board	10/17/2024 10:06 AM
2	Virtual zoom meetings with tile screen, please.	9/30/2024 12:33 AM
3	Travel is hard and unpredictable in the winters. I would prefer the in-person sessions be in the warmer weather time frames.	9/27/2024 4:51 PM
4	2 and 2 works best and it saves college money	9/27/2024 3:03 PM
5	It is difficult to manage 4 in person meetings as it requires more time off from my job and time away from family. I think the balance of 2 meetings in person will also help to keep costs down as in person meetings can become costly (to the College).	9/27/2024 2:27 PM
6	I feel this is a balanced approach to sometimes accommodate those for whom travel is more difficult while respecting the observations stated that connection to and understanding of each other is increased by being in the same room. It also has the added benefit of decreasing costs which must be covered by fees, without going as far as having no in-person meetings just to save money.	9/27/2024 1:49 PM
7	In as much I can see some benefits in virtual meetings that can help stay connected, there are even more benefits for in person meetings. Example, in person meetings allow for a deeper sense of meaningful engagement and relationships growth. According to a survey by Harvard Business Review, 95% of people say face-to-face meetings are key to successful long-term relationships in the workplace .	9/27/2024 12:15 PM
8	As a business owner, it's difficult to take time away from our business. When you add the drive time to Toronto of 1.5 hours each way plus time to find parking and get to the meeting. The two meetings is already a push for me in person, if we move to 4, I personally would think twice about running for board again.	9/27/2024 10:07 AM