



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

Board of Governors Open Session Minutes

Friday, October 18, 2019
Council Chambers, 2-1 University Hall
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

Kate Chisholm, QC	Appointed Chair, General Public
Lynn Parish	Appointed Vice-Chair, General Public
Matthew Barnett	Appointed Member, Non-Academic Staff Representative (NASA Appointee)
Mary Pat Barry	Appointed Member, University of Alberta Alumni Association Representative
Akanksha Bhatnagar	Appointed Member, President, Students' Union
Katherine Binhammer	Appointed Member, Academic Staff Representative (GFC Appointee)
Charlene Butler	Appointed Member, University of Alberta Senate Representative
Daniel Eggert	Appointed Member, General Public
Fahed Elian	Appointed Member, President, Graduate Students' Association
Dominique Grégoire	Appointed Member, General Public
Larry Kaumeyer	Appointed Member, General Public
Rowan Ley	Appointed Member, Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative
Lynne Paradis	Appointed Member, General Public
James Rajotte	Appointed Member, General Public
Thomas (Tom) Ross	Appointed Member, General Public
Rakesh Saraf	Appointed Member, General Public
Douglas Stollery	Appointed Member, Chancellor, University of Alberta
Robert Ryan Thompson	Appointed Member, University of Alberta Alumni Association Representative
David Turpin	Appointed Member, President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Alberta
Donna Wilson	Appointed Member, Academic Staff Representative (AASUA Appointee)

Non-Voting Officials Appointed by the President:

Steven Dew	Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Marion Haggarty-France	University Secretary (University Governance)
Brad Hamdon	General Counsel
Gitta Kulczycki	Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
Matthias Ruth	Vice-President (Research and Innovation)
Andrew Sharman	Vice-President (Facilities and Operations)
Kelly Spencer	Interim Vice-President (Advancement)
Juli Zinken	Board Secretary and Manager of Board Services (University Governance)

Regrets:

Ray Muzyka	Appointed Member, General Public
Wendy Rodgers	Deputy Provost
Catherine Swindlehurst	Chief of Staff (President's Office)

Presenter(s):

Francis Whiskeyjack	Elder
Martha White	Assistant Professor, Department of Computing Sciences

Staff:

Erin Plume, Assistant Board Secretary (University Governance)

OPENING SESSION

The Chair welcomed members and guests and acknowledged all Indigenous peoples and the traditional lands on which the Board was gathered.

1. Indigenous Welcome

Presenter(s): Francis Whiskeyjack

The Chair welcomed Elder Francis Whiskeyjack to the meeting, and Dr Whiskeyjack led the Board in a traditional opening prayer. Following the prayer, the Chair thanked Dr Whiskeyjack for bringing his teachings to the Board.

IN CAMERA SESSION OF VOTING MEMBERS ONLY

Voting members met, *In Camera*.

OPENING SESSION

2. Chair's Session

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm

2a. Call to Order and Confirmation of Quorum

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm

The Chair called the meeting to order, and the Board Secretary confirmed that the attendance constituted quorum.

2b. Approval of Open Session Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm

The Chair informed members of two changes to the agenda: the addition of a presentation from Dr Martha White, Assistant Professor in Department of Computing Science, regarding her research in artificial intelligence; and a change to numbering for the "Report of the President" from Item 2 to Item 2e, due to accidental duplication of numbering on the agenda.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the Board of Governors approve the Open Session agenda, as revised.
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CARRIED

2bi Review of Consent Agenda

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm

The Chair invited members to inform her if there were any requests to remove an item from the Open Session Consent Agenda. There were no requests.

2c. Conflict of Interest - Opportunity for Declaration

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm

The Chair made note of the following:

- The University of Alberta has a Code of Conduct in place regarding Board members' obligations respecting conflict of interest, and Board and Board Committee members make annual disclosures in this regard.
- In addition, Board members must declare any conflict related to the Board Agenda of each meeting and, in the event of such conflict, absent themselves from the discussion and voting on the item.
- The *Post-secondary Learning Act*, Section 16(5) states that: The members of the board must act in the best interests of the university.

The Chair invited members to declare conflicts of interest related to the Open Session Agenda of the meeting. Seeing none, she declared the question asked and answered.

2d. Chair's Remarks

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm

The Chair led members of the Board in acknowledging Board Chair Emeritus Michael Phair for his work with the Board of Governors and the Presidential Search Committee.

She offered a warm welcome to the five new public Board members who were appointed for three-year terms on August 15: Daniel Eggert, Larry Kaumeyer, James Rajotte, Tom Ross, and Rakesh Saraf, as well as new Alumni Association Representative, Ryan Thompson, who was appointed for a three-year term on September 17.

The Chair briefed members on recent research showcase events at the university and recommended that Board members attend when possible. She noted the number of campus events the Board is invited to and encouraged Board participation at these events, informing members that a list of annual (non-Board-hosted) campus events and engagement opportunities was attached to the Board Governance Committee report.

2di. Learning Moment by Martha White – Artificial Intelligence

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Martha White

Discussion:

Dr White provided a learning moment on her research in artificial intelligence, including machine learning, reinforcement learning, and a practical example of its use in a water treatment plant.

Dr White and Dr Dew responded to questions from the Board regarding: whether Dr White considers climate change and its impact on her research on water treatment; Dr White's interaction with utilities and smart buildings; whether Dr White's laboratory works with administration to support student completion; collaboration with other Canadian institutions; next steps for artificial intelligence; projects involving artificial intelligence in agriculture; the status of government funding for artificial intelligence research and industry partnerships; and what keeps Dr White up at night.

The Chair thanked Dr White for her presentation, noting that the Board looked forward to hearing more about her research in the future.

2e. Report of the President

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): David Turpin

Discussion:

The President led members in welcoming the Board Chair to her first Board meeting. He provided an update on plans for the January 24, 2020 Joint Summit of the Board, General Faculties Council, and the Senate, informing members that the theme would be performance-based funding. He also briefed the Board on his recent travel to China to maintain connections with key alumni and academic institutions.

Finally, the President provided an update on university administration's preparations for the forthcoming provincial budget, noting the university's new budget model, use of multi-year budget planning, incoming UniForum results, enrolment demand, and a fast-growing youth population. He reminded members that the March 2020 university budget would be for the 2020-21 budget year, whereas the incoming provincial budget would impact the 2019-20 university budget previously approved by the Board in March 2019. The President informed the Board that administration would use one-time budget allocations to address the 2019-20 budget year and spoke to communication strategies once the provincial budget was known.

3. Report of the Chancellor

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Douglas Stollery

Discussion:

In addition to his written report, the Chancellor briefed members on the Senate's 2018-2019 Annual Report; the university's November convocation ceremonies and honorary degree recipients; and the university's 2019 United Way Campaign. He reminded the Board that his term as Chancellor ends in June and spoke to the Chancellor search process, informing members that the selection will take place in March 2020. He invited Board members to solicit nominations, noting that the nomination deadline is December 6, 2019.

4. Report of the University Secretary

Presenter(s): Marion Haggarty-France

Discussion:

The University Secretary congratulated Board members on the completion of the first governance cycle of 2019-2020 and the first cycle under new Terms of Reference for the Board standing committees. She provided a brief overview of the governance transformation of both the Board of Governors and General Faculties Council, in alignment with Objective 21 of *For the Public Good*, and thanked Board members and administration for their work in support of these initiatives.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Motion to Approve / Receive the Consent Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm

Action Items – to approve

- 5a. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of June 14, 2019
Report of the Finance and Property Committee
- 5b. Land Disposition: Right-of-Way - University of Alberta Mattheis Ranch
- 5c. Land Disposition: Transfer of Fort Assiniboine Property to Royal Canadian Legion

Information Reports - to receive

- 5d. Report of the Audit and Risk Committee
- 5e. Report of the Finance and Property Committee
- 5f. Report of the Governance Committee
- 5g. Report of the Human Resources and Compensation Committee
- 5h. Report of the Investment Committee
- 5i. Report of the Learning, Research, and Student Experience Committee

Regular Reports

- 5j. Alumni Association
- 5k. Students' Union
- 5l. Graduate Students' Association
- 5m. Association of Academic Staff
- 5n. Non-Academic Staff Association
- 5o. General Faculties Council
- 5p. Board Chair and Board Members Activity Report

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the Board of Governors approve the action items and receive the information reports on the Open Session Consent Agenda.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Joint report of the Human Resources and Compensation and Learning, Research, and Student Experience Committees

Presenter(s): Lynn Parish; Lynne Paradis

6. Draft Principles on Free Expression at the University of Alberta

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Steven Dew; Brad Hamdon

Purpose of the Proposal: The university is developing a statement on free expression. The Free Expression Advisory Group, established in May 2019, has developed draft principles to serve as the basis for such a statement. These draft principles are presented for discussion.

Discussion:

Ms Parish introduced the item and briefed the Board on discussions at the Human Resources and Compensation Committee.

Dr Dew and Mr Hamdon briefed the Board on the university's development of a statement on free expression, including: the establishment of an initial working group to develop draft principles of free expression based on indications that the provincial government would potentially require one; letters from the Minister of Advanced Education over the summer requesting post-secondary institutions develop a statement to be submitted by November 15, 2019 and posted publicly by December 15, 2019; the university's extensive consultation process on the statement; and the importance of balancing free expression with human rights and academic freedom. Mr Hamdon reviewed the university's planned approval process and timeline, noting that the Ministry was aware that the draft statement would be submitted prior to receiving Board approval, and that the final draft would be shared with Board members for review and feedback in early November.

Mr Hamdon responded to a question from the Board regarding the extent of anticipated changes between the current draft and the final statement.

ACTION ITEMS

Report of the Finance and Property Committee

Presenter(s): Katherine Binhammer

7. International Tuition Fees

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Steven Dew

Purpose of the Proposal: To propose tuition fees for the Fall 2020 intake of new international students, compliant with the requirements imposed by An Act to Improve the Affordability and Accessibility of Post-secondary Education (Bill 19) and associated Alberta Tuition Framework and Guidelines. Note that the international tuition rates for the majority of programs were approved by the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of APC, in June 2019.

Discussion:

Dr Binhammer introduced the item, briefing the Board on discussions that took place at the Finance and Property Committee's June and September meetings. She reminded members that the majority of international tuition fees had been previously approved by the Board in June 2019, and that this proposal covered the remainder.

Ms Bhatnagar and Mr Elian expressed appreciation for the extent of student consultation and the predictability of the new model.

Dr Dew responded to questions from the Board regarding: the risk of exceptional tuition increases for these programs going forward; potential for the incoming cohort of students to be affected later in their program; the percentage of the real cost of education that would be covered by these tuition fees; whether there is a required guarantee from students that they won't switch programs after a year; whether students will receive a new

admission letter if they transfer between faculties; and whether there is data from the U15 group of Canadian Research Universities for the cost of tuition.

The Board requested that the Finance and Property Committee and the Board of Governors receive data regarding the underlying cost of education for international students at their respective February and March meetings. The Board also asked to see U15 data for the cost of tuition, faculty by faculty.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Board Finance and Property Committee and the GFC Academic Planning Committee, approve tuition fees as set forth in Attachment 1 to take effect for the Fall 2020 intake of new international students.

CARRIED

CLOSING SESSION

8. *Adjournment*

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm

The Chair adjourned the Open Session at 9:20 a.m.