



Principles for Board of Governors Standing Committee Composition

Introduction

Governance at the University of Alberta relies upon a structure wherein the Board of Governors can delegate provincially-mandated authorities to its standing committees. As such, the composition of those standing committees is crucial to ensuring that decisions are made in an informed manner that takes into account the role of the Board and will consider the breadth of issues, fiduciary responsibilities, and perspectives of the Board. The following principles provide a framework to create committee compositions that are reflective of the membership of Board and appropriate to the role and mandates of those committees.

Principles

1. Wherever possible, committee composition will reflect a balance of public Governors and nominated Governors, with a commitment to diversity and broad representation.
2. All Governors are eligible to serve on Board standing committees except in those circumstances where a committee's mandate requires independence of its members, meaning that a Governor does not have a direct or indirect relationship arising from their status as a Nominated Governor or Public Governor that could, in the view of the Board, reasonably be expected to interfere with or influence the exercise of a Governor's independent judgment as outlined in the Code of Conduct, and/or where a Governor may have a conflict of interest.
3. The Chair of a standing committee will be recommended by the Board Chair for approval by the Board; the Vice-Chair of a standing committee will be elected by the committee from its appointed voting members of the committee.
4. Wherever possible, members of the Board will serve on at least one standing committee.
5. Where there is a requirement for additional expertise on a specific standing committee, non-governor committee members will be appointed to the standing committee.
6. Governors interested in observing a committee meeting may do so at the expressed consent of the Committee Chair.
7. The President or committee may choose to engage internal resources to provide advice to the Committee. When engaging internal resources to the standing committee, normally, the number of committee members will be greater than the number of internal resources.
8. Wherever possible, to better-facilitate quorum, the number of committee members (excluding ex-officio members) will not be an even number.
9. Wherever possible, members' terms on a committee will be staggered to aide in transition of new members and continued good governance.