

Board of Governors
Open Session Minutes

Friday, March 22, 2024
Council Chamber, 2-100 University Hall
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

Kate Chisholm	Appointed Chair, General Public
Guy Bridgeman	Appointed Vice-Chair, General Public
Chris Ashdown	Appointed Member, Alumni
Bishoi Aziz	Appointed Member, President, Graduate Students' Association
Zarina Bhambhani	Appointed Member, General Public
Heather Bruce	Appointed Member, Academic Staff Representative (AASUA Appointee)
Stephanie Dickie	Appointed Member, Non-Academic Staff Representative (NASA Appointee)
Bill Flanagan	Appointed Member, President and Vice-Chancellor
Christian Fotang	Appointed Member, President (Students' Union)
Peggy Garritty	Appointed Member, Chancellor
Janice MacKinnon	Appointed Member, General Public
Stephen Raitz	Appointed Member, Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative
Thomas (Tom) Ross	Appointed Member, General Public
Margot Ross-Graham	Appointed Member, University of Alberta Senate Representative
Rakesh Saraf	Appointed Member, General Public
Dilini Vethanayagam	Appointed Member, Academic Staff Representative (GFC Appointee)
Paul Whittaker	Appointed Member, General Public
Kate Young	Appointed Member, Alumni
Lillian Zenari	Appointed Member, General Public

Non-Voting Officials Appointed by the President:

Todd Gilchrist	Vice-President (University Services and Finance)
Brad Hamdon	General Counsel
John Lemieux	University Secretary
Elan MacDonald	Vice-President (External Relations)
Aminah Robinson Fayek	Vice-President (Research and Innovation)
Andrew Sharman	Vice-President (Facilities and Operations)
Verna Yiu	Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Juli Zinken	Board Secretary and Manager of Board Services

Regrets:

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Presenter(s):

Yasmeen Abu-Laban	Professor & Canada Research Chair in the Politics of Citizenship and Human Rights, Department of Political Science
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Staff:

Erin Plume, Associate Board Secretary (University Governance)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and welcomed members and guests.

She delivered a land acknowledgement, noting the University's strong commitment to working in good relations with First Nations, Metis, and Inuit peoples.

IN CAMERA SESSION OF VOTING MEMBERS ONLY

Members met *in camera* at the start of the meeting.

WELCOME

1a. Opening Remarks

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm

The Chair informed members that this would be the final Board of Governors' meeting for Bishoi Aziz, Graduate Students' Association (GSA) President, Christian Fotang, Students' Union President, and Stephen Raitz, Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative. Members joined the Chair in recognizing B Aziz, C Fotang, and S Raitz for their service and valuable contributions to the board over the past year.

The Chair then welcomed Haseeb Arshad and Adrien Lam, recently-elected GSA President and Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative, respectively, who were attending the meeting as observers, and who, along with the Students' Union President-Elect, will be appointed to the board effective May 1, pending Ministerial appointment.

She provided an update on the Presidential Review process, including that the review committee would hold its first meeting the following week and that information would be shared with the community through the review website, which would include information about the committee's membership, the review process, and next steps.

The Chair acknowledged the observers attending the open session, noting that she had received over 900 emails from students asking the Board of Governors to reject proposed tuition increases, and thanked the students for their engagement.

1b. Approval of Open Session Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm

The motion was moved and seconded.

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

1c. Conflict of Interest - Opportunity for Declaration

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm

The Chair invited members to declare any conflicts of interest related to the open session agenda. She noted that although Items 3a and 5d on the agenda were related to tuition, the Board's Code of Conduct and Bylaws include provisions to manage any conflict for student Governors related to tuition and fee matters as an allowed conflict, and on that basis indicated that student input was welcomed in the discussion and vote for those items. Seeing no other conflicts, the Chair declared the question asked and answered.

2. Research Learning Moment: "Immigration and Citizenship in the 21st Century: Pushing the Boundaries of Research and Knowledge"

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Yasmeeen Abu-Laban

Discussion:

The Chair introduced the item, and thanked Y Abu-Laban for agreeing to share her research with the Board of Governors. A Robinson Fayek introduced Y Abu-Laban, who provided a learning moment on her research, entitled *Immigration and Citizenship in the 21st Century: Pushing the Boundaries of Research and Knowledge*.

Y Abu-Laban responded to questions from Board members, including: who is best able to lobby government on the accuracy of the data that is used in decision-making, and whether the rise in populism could be attributed to social media.

DECISION ITEMS

Report of the Finance and Property Committee

Presenter(s): Rakesh Saraf

3. Presentation on the University of Alberta's 2024-2025 Consolidated Budget

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file under Item 3b.

Presenter(s): Verna Yiu; Todd Gilchrist; Andrew Sharman

Discussion:

The Chair outlined the process for the decision items in front of the board. R Saraf introduced the item, briefed the board on the Finance and Property Committee's discussion and subsequent recommendation of the tuition proposals and consolidated budget.

V Yiu, T Gilchrist, and A Sharman presented the University of Alberta's 2024-25 Consolidated Budget and its component operating, ancillary, research, capital and special purpose budgets, including revenues and expenses, historical and current provincial grant amounts, enrolment growth, the opportunity to access operating reserves ("carryforward" funds), and an overview of maintenance, repair, and capital projects.

V Yiu then outlined the tuition and fee proposals, including an overview of tuition consultations, proposed domestic and international tuition increases, the effects of increases on students, a series of proposals put forward by the Students' Union to mitigate those effects, and the impact to the institution if tuition was not increased.

V Yiu, T Gilchrist, and Melissa Padfield, Deputy Provost (Students and Enrolment), responded to questions from the board including: the possibility of increasing international student financial support in the current year instead of in 2025; whether there are financial supports for international students facing geopolitical stressors; whether the board would consider delaying the tuition proposal decision to investigate the Students' Union's financial support proposals; how tuition increases are communicated to students; whether the university has revenue generating plans in addition to increasing enrolment; the financial implications to the university of the two percent tuition cap; the impact to the institution if tuition was not increased at all; how revenue is split between faculties and other areas of the university; whether a portion of the student financial support should be directed to the Campus Food Bank; and why one tuition amount is still to be determined.

Members spoke to: improvements in transparency and student consultation; the difficulty of increased costs for students, including increased Campus Food Bank use; the effects of decreased numbers of faculty and staff on teaching quality; and the difficulty of making budget and tuition decisions soon after the provincial budget is released.

Following the discussion, administration committed to exploring the Students' Union student financial support proposals over the following year.

3a. Tuition Proposals

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Verna Yiu; Todd Gilchrist

Discussion:

This item was discussed with Item 3: *Presentation on the University of Alberta's 2024-2025 Consolidated Budget.*

The motions were moved and seconded.

MOTION 1: THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Board Finance and Property Committee and the General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee, approve a 2% increase to domestic tuition for undergraduate and graduate students for Fall 2024, and that 15% of tuition revenue from this tuition increase be set aside for student financial support.

CARRIED

MOTION 2: THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Board Finance and Property Committee and the General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee, approve tuition fees for new international students for all programs to take effect for the Fall 2025 intake, as set forth in attachment 1.

CARRIED

MOTION 3: THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Board Finance and Property Committee and the General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee, approve an increase to the student financial offset for international students from 7.55% to 8.55% of total international tuition revenue, beginning in Fall 2025.

CARRIED

MOTION 4: THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Board Finance and Property Committee and the General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee, approve an increase to the current \$4000 price adjustment for international graduate students in thesis-based programs to \$5000, understanding that this amount will continue to be offset by an equal amount of financial support and will continue to be revenue and cost neutral, effective Fall Term, 2025.

CARRIED

3b. University of Alberta 2024-2025 Consolidated Budget

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Verna Yiu; Todd Gilchrist; Andrew Sharman; Aminah Robinson Fayek

Discussion:

This item was discussed with Item 3: *Presentation on the University of Alberta's 2024-2025 Consolidated Budget.*

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Board Finance and Property Committee and the General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee, approve the University of Alberta 2024-25 Consolidated Budget, as set forth in Attachment 1.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Report of the President
 - Debrief: 2024 Board-GFC-Senate Summit

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Bill Flanagan

Discussion:

President Flanagan provided verbal updates on the January 26, 2024 Joint Summit of the Board of Governors, General Faculties Council, and Senate, with keynote speaker Jeffrey Buller, President and CEO of ALPHA Leadership Programs, on the cultures of higher education and working together as governance bodies; discussion on the People Strategy “What We Heard” document; and a showcase from Lisa Mayes, an intermedia graduate student in Art and Design. President Flanagan also highlighted the recent launch of the Student Experience Action Plan, a first-of-its-kind initiative for the university, which affirms a commitment to delivering a positive student experience.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm

- 5a. Open Session Minutes of December 8, 2023
- 5b. Open Session Minutes of January 30, 2024
- 5c. Capital Plan 2024-25 – 2026-27
- 5d. Athletics and Recreation Mandatory Non-Instructional Fee (MNIF) New Fee Allocation Structure
- 5e. University of Alberta Properties Trust Inc.: Amendments to Articles and Changes to Terms of Office for Directors
- 5f. School of Business Master of Management Analytics (MMA)
- 5g. Student Academic Misconduct Appeal Procedure: Delegation of Authority
- 5h. Revised University Funds Investment Policy
- 5i. Revised University Endowment Pool Spending Policy

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the Board of Governors approve the Open Session Consent Agenda, as presented.

CARRIED

INFORMATION ITEMS

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

There were no requests from members to discuss the information items listed below.

- 6a. Action Arising from Previous Meetings
- 6b. 2024-2025 Board of Governors' Calendar
- 6c. Report of the Audit and Risk Committee
 - Health, Safety and Environment Quarterly Report
 - "Culture of Care" Quarterly Implementation Report
- 6d. Report of the Finance and Property Committee
 - Integrated Asset Management Strategy Dashboard
- 6e. Report of the Governance Committee
- 6f. Report of the Human Resources and Compensation Committee
- 6g. Report of the Investment Committee
- 6h. Report of the Learning, Research, and Student Experience Committee
- 6i. Report of the Reputation and Public Affairs Committee
- 6j. Chancellor's Report
- 6k. Alumni Association
- 6l. Students' Union (including 2022-23 Financial Statements)
- 6m. Graduate Students' Association
- 6n. Association of Academic Staff
- 6o. Non-Academic Staff Association
- 6p. General Faculties Council
- 6q. Board Chair Report

CLOSING SESSION

7. Other Business

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm

There was no other business.

8. Adjournment

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm

The Chair adjourned the Open Session at 10:05 a.m.