



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

Board of Governors Open Session Minutes

Thursday, December 09, 2021
By Zoom videoconference
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

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| Kate Chisholm | Appointed Chair, General Public |
| Guy Bridgeman | Appointed Vice-Chair, General Public |
| Zarina Bhambhani | Appointed Member, Additional Member |
| Ayaz Bhanji | Appointed Member, University of Alberta Alumni Association Representative |
| Heather Bruce | Appointed Member, Academic Staff Representative (AASUA Appointee) |
| Charlene Butler | Appointed Member, General Public |
| Daniel Eggert | Appointed Member, General Public |
| Anas Fassih | Appointed Member, President, Graduate Students' Association |
| Bill Flanagan | Appointed Member, President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Alberta |
| Peggy Garritty | Appointed Member, Chancellor |
| David Konrad | Appointed Member, Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative |
| Rowan Ley | Appointed Member, President, Students' Union |
| Janice MacKinnon | Appointed Member, General Public |
| Sett Policicchio | Appointed Member, General Public |
| Thomas (Tom) Ross | Appointed Member, General Public |
| Margot Ross-Graham | Appointed Member, University of Alberta Senate Representative |
| Rakesh Saraf | Appointed Member, General Public |
| Andrei Tabirca | Appointed Member, Non-Academic Staff Representative (NASA Appointee) |
| Robert Ryan Thompson | Appointed Member, University of Alberta Alumni Association Representative |
| Dilini Vethanayagam | Appointed Member, Academic Staff Representative (GFC Appointee) |
| Paul Whittaker | Appointed Member, General Public |
| Lillian Zenari | Appointed Member, Additional Member |

Non-Voting Officials Appointed by the President:

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| Steven Dew | Provost and Vice-President (Academic) |
| Todd Gilchrist | Vice-President (University Services and Finance) |
| Brad Hamdon | General Counsel and University Secretary |
| Elan MacDonald | Vice-President (External Relations) |
| Aminah Robinson Fayek | Vice-President (Research and Innovation) |
| Andrew Sharman | Vice-President (Facilities and Operations) |
| Catherine Swindlehurst | Chief Strategy Officer (President's Office) |
| Juli Zinken | Board Secretary and Manager of Board Services (University Governance) |

Regrets:

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| Mona Hale | Appointed Member, General Public |
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Presenter(s):

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| Greta Cummings | College Dean (Interim), College of Health Sciences |
| Joseph Doucet | College Dean (Interim), College of Social Sciences and Humanities |
| Florence Glanfield | Vice-Provost (Indigenous Programming & Research) |
| Matina Kalcounis-Rueppell | College Dean (Interim), College of Natural and Applied Sciences |

Staff:

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| Erin Plume, Assistant Board Secretary (University Governance) |
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The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. She welcomed members and guests, and reminded all in attendance that the open session of the meeting was being webcast to observers.

IN CAMERA SESSION OF VOTING MEMBERS ONLY

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

OPENING SESSION

1. Chair's Session

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm

The Chair read the following territorial acknowledgement:

The University of Alberta resides on Treaty 6 territory and the homeland of the Métis. This territory is a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples whose histories, languages and cultures continue to influence and enrich our community. To acknowledge the territory is to recognize the longer history of these lands. The acknowledgement signifies our commitment to working in Good Relations with First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples as we engage in our institutional work, uplifting the whole people, for the University for Tomorrow.

1a. Call to Order and Confirmation of Quorum

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm

The Chair called the Open Session to order and the Board Secretary confirmed that the attendance constituted quorum.

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.

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.

Heather Bruce, Academic Staff Representative on the Board of Governors, declared a potential conflict with Item 4f, *Long Range Development Plan Amendment 2021 (South Campus Sector 14)*, noting that she is Chair of the Department of Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science and some of the lands being discussed are under her purview. The Chair acknowledged H Bruce's disclosure and indicated that her input and perspective on that matter was important, but that she would reserve the right to restrict H Bruce's ability to vote if needed.

No other conflicts were declared.

1d. Chair's Remarks

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm

The Chair welcomed Heather Bruce, newly appointed Academic Staff Representative on the Board of Governors, to her first Board meeting, noting that H Bruce had been appointed for a three-year term.

2. Report of the Chancellor

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Peggy Garritty

Purpose of the Proposal: For information / discussion.

Discussion:

Chancellor Peggy Garritty briefed the committee on the Senate's recently approved strategic plan and its three priorities: supporting the University of Alberta for Tomorrow initiative; helping the university be a place where students can realize their potential; and contributing to the university's commitments to Indigenous initiatives, equity, diversity and inclusivity.

She responded to questions from the Board regarding: how the Senate planned to track the success of its plan; and how the university could make the most of the common goals of the Board of Governors, Senate, Alumni Council, and other stakeholder groups.

3. Report of the President

3a. COVID-19 Update

3b. Emergency Governance Protocols Decision Tracker

3c. Board / GFC / Senate Summit Update

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Bill Flanagan

Purpose of the Proposal: For information / discussion.

Discussion:

In addition to his written report, President Flanagan provided verbal updates on COVID-19 activities, including the success of the university's mandatory vaccine policy; a recent funding announcement from the Government of Alberta for vaccine development and manufacturing research, one of the largest research grants in the University of Alberta's history; progress on the University Commons renovations, including preservation of some of the building's original features; and planning for the January 21, 2022 Board of Governors, General Faculties Council, and Senate Summit.

President Flanagan then acknowledged the ongoing concern of students with regard to sexual violence on campus, as communicated in a recent open letter. He expressed the university's commitment to addressing their concerns, and reviewed steps being taken, including: training on sexual violence awareness, prevention, and consent for faculty, staff, and students; working with the Sexual Assault Centre to expand consent and sexual violence training in residences; and the appointment of a Sexual Violence Response Coordinator.

The Chair stated that in response to the seriousness of student concerns, the Board of Governors, during its *in camera* session, had asked that an audit be conducted of: the policies and procedures used by the university when it receives a complaint of sexual violence or harassment, and the systems and resources used by the university to prevent sexual violence and harassment.

CONSENT AGENDA

4. Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm

At the request of a member, the Chair removed Item 4f, *Long Range Development Plan Amendment 2021 (South Campus Sector 14)*, from the Consent Agenda.

- 4a. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of October 15, 2021
Report of the Finance and Property Committee
- 4b. Non-Credit International Support Fee
- 4c. Disposition of Land, Mattheis Ranch (Nova Gas Cathodic ROW)
- 4d. Disposition of Land, Mattheis Ranch (TX Energy ROW)
- 4e. Disposition of Land - Belcourt-Brosseau House
- 4f. Long Range Development Plan Amendment 2021 (South Campus Sector 14) - *item removed*
Report of the Governance Committee
- 4g. Amendment of Board Code of Conduct and Bylaws to Address Allowed Conflicts

The motion was moved and seconded.

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| THAT the Board of Governors approve the Open Session Consent Agenda, as amended. |
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CARRIED

The Chair informed members that Item 4f, *Long Range Development Plan Amendment 2021 (South Campus Sector 14)*, would be discussed and considered at the end of the Open Session agenda.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Report of the Finance and Property Committee and the Learning, Research and Student Experience Committee

Presenter(s): Charlene Butler; Paul Whittaker

5. Academic Restructuring Implementation

- a) Colleges Strategic Plan

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Steven Dew; Greta Cummings; Joseph Doucet; Matina Kalcounis-Rueppell

Purpose of the Proposal: To share the draft Colleges Strategic Plans, including metrics, with the committee for input and feedback.

Discussion:

C Butler and P Whittaker introduced the item, and the Provost and College Deans reviewed the draft plan, including: its background, high-level goals and a five-year 'road map' aligned to major outcomes, the quality of the metrics, collaboration with the stand-alone faculties (Augustana, Campus Saint-Jean, and Native Studies), and how the colleges might improve innovation and enrolment growth.

S Dew, G Cummings, J Doucet, and M Kalcounis-Rueppell responded to questions from the Board regarding: how the colleges planned to respond to the adapting needs of the province; how the university could be more explicit about increasing its response and input into Alberta's labour market; whether the colleges were considering expanding health economics, to respond to demand; the status of Priority 3, *mean support cost and top-quartile service performance*, and whether the university was already within the top quartile; how the colleges measured savings; and the status of interdisciplinarity metrics.

Report of the Learning, Research and Student Experience Committee and the Reputation and Public Affairs Committee

Presenter(s): Paul Whittaker

6. Indigenous Institutional Strategic Plan

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Steven Dew; Florence Glanfield

Purpose of the Proposal: To conduct early consultation on the current draft of the IISP and to solicit feedback.

Discussion:

P Whittaker and S Dew provided introductory comments, and F Glanfield briefed members on the development of an Indigenous Institutional Strategic Plan (IISP), including an expectation that the university take up its role in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, current Indigenous initiatives, national and local Indigenous demographics, and alignment with *For the Public Good*. She reviewed the plan's objectives and strategies and requested the Board's support in endorsing an institutional charter that would highlight the institutional commitment to embedding indigenization into the academic and administrative structures that have the power to make change.

The Chair expressed support for the plan, acknowledging the university's progress and work still to be done.

F Glanfield responded to questions from Board members regarding: costs associated with new infrastructure; proposed timeline for release of the strategy; a suggestion to include benchmarks for the creation of new administrative positions; recruitment of Indigenous employees and support for them upon hire; whether metrics would be included in the final plan; and how an Indigenous student's experience at the university would be different in five years, under the IISP.

ACTION ITEMS

Report of the Finance and Property Committee

Presenter(s): Charlene Butler

4g. Long Range Development Plan Amendment 2021 (South Campus Sector 14)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Andrew Sharman

Purpose of the Proposal: To amend the university's Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) by removing Sector 14, located on South Campus.

Discussion:

Board members and administration engaged in a discussion regarding the proposal, including: the projected monetary value and research value of the land; why the proposal didn't include a letter of support from the Faculty

of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences; how the proposal would advance the university's mission; potential risks to future research grants should the land be sold; the land's value related to the City of Edmonton's sustainability plan; the value of an unfettered source of revenue; requests for the proposal's financial projections; potential alternate uses for the land; the decision's potential impact on the university's relationship with government and the community; and the risks of deferring the decision in order to request revenue projections.

Although it was noted that the current motion was only required to implement a decision already made by the Board of Governors in 2015, the Chair acknowledged that the Board would not be fulfilling its fiduciary duty if it did not revisit the original decision in light of the new information it possesses in 2021 that the Board of Governors had not possessed in 2015. The Chair observed the requirement for the land trust to act independently and, conversely, the Board's authority to identify lands to transfer to the trust. She confirmed with A Sharman that the land trust's strategic plan would come to a future Board of Governors' meeting.

The Chair acknowledged H Bruce's conflict and asked her to refrain from voting on the item.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Board Finance and Property Committee, the GFC Academic Planning Committee and the GFC Facilities Development Committee, approve the removal of South Campus – Sector 14 (Section 6.3) from the Long Range Development Plan 2002.

CARRIED

H Bruce abstained.

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.

Information Reports

7. Action Arising from Previous Meetings
 - i. Metrics Associated with Academic Restructuring (UAT/College Metrics)
8. Report of the Audit and Risk Committee
9. Report of the Finance and Property Committee
 - ii. Integrated Asset Management Strategy Dashboard
10. Report of the Governance Committee
 - i. Implementation of Recommendations Arising from Joint meetings of the Board Governance Committee and GFC Executive Committee
11. Report of the Human Resources and Compensation Committee
12. Report of the Investment Committee
13. Report of the Learning, Research, and Student Experience Committee
14. Report of the Reputation and Public Affairs Committee

Regular Reports

15. Alumni Association
16. Students' Union
17. Graduate Students' Association
18. Association of Academic Staff
19. Non-Academic Staff Association
20. General Faculties Council
21. Board Chair Report

CLOSING SESSION

22. Adjournment

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