# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## **BOARD LEARNING, RESEARCH, & STUDENT EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE**

Terms of Reference

1. Mandate and Role of the Committee - The Board Learning, Research, and Student Experience Committee assists the Board of Governors in fulfilling its governance responsibilities by providing strategic oversight, insight, and foresight with respect to University academic, teaching, and research affairs, student wellness, and future educational expectations and challenges, all while respecting the academic governance role of the General Faculties Council.

# 2. Areas of Responsibility

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Committee:

# Oversight and Facilitation of Academic Mission

- a) reviews and recommends approval of major initiatives related to the overall academic mission and related plans and policies of the University.
- b) monitors academic quality at the university, including quality assurance reports, and reports material updates to the Board.
- c) reviews and recommends on the establishment, termination, merger, or major reorganization of colleges, faculties, departments, and schools
- d) reviews and recommends program approvals involving the creation or suspension of a degree program
- e) reviews and approves the creation or suspension of specializations of an existing degree.
- f) reviews and recommends sections of the Investment Management Agreement and / or a similar document that align with the committee's mandate and role
- g) reviews, provides feedback on and approves institutional enrolment strategic directions and annually reviews enrolment plans and outcomes
- h) reviews and approves substantive amendments to the appeal procedures and powers of the Code of Student Behaviour, the Code of Applicant Behaviour and the Practicum Intervention Policy.
- i) monitors the quality of the educational experience at the university.
- j) receives for information proposals approved by GFC respecting Shared Credential Programs.

## Oversight and Facilitation of Research and Knowledge Mobilization

- k) ensures that research and innovation activities at the University are administered and supported in a manner consistent with the vision, mission, and strategic priorities of the University, and reports material updates to the Board.
- l) reviews and provides feedback on regular reports on research and innovation, including the activities of centres and institutes, and reports material updates to the Board..
- m) monitors matters related to technology transfer and knowledge mobilization, and reports material updates to the Board..

#### Oversight and Facilitation of Quality of Students' Experience

- n) reviews and provides feedback on:
  - i. regular reports about student experience, wellness and success; and
  - ii. related campus programs, partnerships and strategies, including promotion of diversity and inclusion, and reports material updates to the Board..
- o) monitors University compliance with student wellness legislation, regulations and University policies and procedures.

#### Policy and Other Matters

p) reviews and approves changes to existing University policies relating to the Committee's mandate, subject to the Limitations on Delegation as set out in paragraph 3.

- q) reviews and recommends new University policies relating to the Committee's mandate, as set out in the University's Policy Development Framework.
- r) considers enterprise risk and opportunities associated with all items before the Committee and communicates those as needed to the Board Audit and Risk Committee.
- s) reviews the performance of the University in its areas of responsibility against appropriate performance measures and reports on this to the Board
- t) considers other matters at the request of the Board.

## 3. Limitation on Delegation by the Board of Governors

The Committee functions in accordance with the Principles for Board of Governors Delegation of Authority. The general delegation of authority by the Board to the Committee is limited as set out in this paragraph. Notwithstanding the general delegation of authority to the Committee as set out in paragraph 2, the Board approves:

- a) the establishment, termination, merger, or major reorganization of colleges, faculties, schools and departments
- b) program approvals involving the creation or suspension of a degree program (but not specializations of an existing degree)
- c) the Investment Management Agreement and / or a similar document
- d) proposals that deal with the academic transformation of the institution.
- e) policy changes with significant institutional impact.
- f) new policies relating to the Committee's mandate, as set out in the University's Policy Development Framework.
- g) recommendations, and considers information and reports, on matters that in the opinion of the Committee may pose significant risk to the University.

#### 4. Composition

The Committee functions in accordance with the Principles for Board of Governors Standing Committee Composition.

#### **Members**

#### Ex-officio (3)

- a) The Board Chair, by virtue of office
- b) The Chancellor, by virtue of office
- c) The President and Vice-Chancellor, by virtue of office

# Appointed (7)

d) Where appropriate, no more than seven Governors or Non-Governor Committee Members, as appointed by the Board or its delegate

## **Internal Resources**

- e) Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
- f) Vice-President (Research and Innovation)
- g) General Counsel and University Secretary
- h) Committee Secretary
- i) Other resources, as determined by the President or the Committee

#### Chair/Vice-Chair

j) The Committee Chair and Vice-Chair shall be selected from Committee membership Section 4(d) of these Terms of Reference.

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k) The Vice-Chair undertakes and discharges all duties of the Chair in the absence of the Chair.

## 5. Committee Process and Procedures

#### The Committee:

- a) functions in accordance with the Board of Governors Bylaws.
- b) develops and follows an annual work plan including topics of strategic importance, identified in conjunction with the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and the Vice-President (Research and Innovation).
- c) annually reviews the terms of reference for the committee and recommends to the Board any required changes.

# 6. Reporting to the Board of Governors

The Committee reports regularly to the Board of Governors with respect to its activities and decisions.

#### **Decision History:**

DATE	DECISION-MAKER	DECISION
2019-05-31	Board Learning and Discovery Committee	Recommended
2019-06-14	Board of Governors	Approved
2022-03-11	Board Learning, Research and Student Experience Committee	Recommended
2022-04-27	Board Governance Committee	Recommended
2022-05-13	Board of Governors	Approved