



# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

### Board of Governors Open Session Minutes

Friday, March 13, 2020  
2-31 South Academic Building (SAB)  
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

---

#### **ATTENDEES:**

##### Voting Members:

Kate Chisholm, QC	Appointed Chair, General Public
Guy Bridgeman	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
Rowan Ley	Appointed Member, Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative
Raymond Muzyka	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
Paul Whittaker	Appointed Member, General Public
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)
Catherine Swindlehurst	Interim Vice-President (University Relations) & Chief of Staff (President's Office)
Juli Zinken	Board Secretary and Manager of Board Services (University Governance)

##### Staff:

Erin Plume, Assistant Board Secretary (University Governance)

##### Regrets:

Janice MacKinnon                      Appointed Member, General Public

## **OPENING SESSION**

### 1. Chair's Session

*Presenter(s):* Kate Chisholm

#### 1a. Call to Order and Confirmation of Quorum

*Presenter(s):* Kate Chisholm

The Chair called the Open Session to order at 11:25 am. The Board Secretary confirmed that the attendance constituted quorum.

The Chair welcomed members, guests, and observers. She reminded observers that livestreaming and recording of Board meetings was not permitted, but noted that Undergraduate Representative on the Board, Rowan Ley, was working with the Board Governance Committee on a proposal to livestream future open session board meetings.

#### 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**

#### 1bi Review of Consent Agenda

*Presenter(s):* Kate Chisholm

The Chair noted that she had received a request from the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) to remove Item 3c - "University Mandate Statement" from the consent agenda, and invited members to inform her if there were any other requests to remove an item from the Open Session Consent Agenda. There were no further requests.

#### 1c. Conflict of Interest - Opportunity for Declaration

*Presenter(s):* Kate Chisholm

The Chair invited members to declare any conflicts of interest. No conflicts were declared.

#### 1d. Chair's Remarks

*Presenter(s):* Kate Chisholm

The Chair welcomed new Board member, Mr Paul Whittaker, to his first Board of Governors' meeting, noting that Mr Whittaker was appointed as a Public Member for a three-year term on March 7, 2020. She noted that Dr Janice MacKinnon was also appointed on March 7 for the same term but was unable to attend the meeting due to a prior commitment.

The Chair welcomed the recently-elected student members who were attending the meeting as observers: Joel Agarwal, Students' Union President-Elect; Dave Konrad, incoming Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative; and Marc Waddingham, Graduate Students' Association President-Elect, all appointed to the Board effective May 1, pending Ministerial Orders.

The Chair shared with members that on the previous Friday, the University of Alberta Senate had elected Peggy Garrity as the university's 22nd Chancellor, to succeed Chancellor Stollery in June. Chancellor Stollery provided remarks regarding the Chancellor-elect, indicating that Ms Garrity had extensive experience in communications and would be a strong addition to the university community, Senate, and Board of Governors.

The Chair reminded members that the University of Alberta's 2020-2021 budget proposal would normally have been considered at this meeting and that the Finance and Property Committee had recommended a budget at their meeting on February 27, 2020. She then explained that shortly after the Finance and Property Committee meeting, the Government of Alberta had tabled its 2020 Budget, including a larger-than-expected cut to the University of Alberta's base budget, which then necessitated preparation of a revised university budget. She noted that this revised budget would be returning through the governance cycle for proper review and approval, prior to the end of the month, including a special Board of Governors' meeting on March 26, 2020 where the Board would also consider the previously-recommended tuition and ancillary items.

Finally, the Chair thanked members Ray Muzyka and Daniel Eggert for their generous donations of dinner last night and breakfast this morning.

## 2. Report of the President

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* David Turpin

### *Discussion:*

The President provided a written report on his activities since December 13, 2019, including updates on the five strategic goals of *For the Public Good*: build; experience; excel; engage; and sustain. In addition to his written report, Dr Turpin, with Andrew Sharman, provided an update on the university's response to the COVID-19 crisis, noting that work was currently underway to transition classes to remote delivery, that all decisions would be made based on the advice from federal and provincial governments and health agencies, and that the health and safety of the campus community was of the utmost priority.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### 3. Motion to Approve / Receive the Consent Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Kate Chisholm, QC

#### **Action Items – to approve**

- 3a. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of December 13, 2019

#### Report of the Governance Committee

- 3b. Governors of the University of Alberta Mandate and Roles Document

#### Report of the Learning, Research, and Student Experience Committee

- 3c. University Mandate Statement - *item removed*

#### **Information Reports - to receive**

#### Report of the University Secretary

- 3d. 2020-2021 Board of Governors' Calendar

- 3e. Action Arising from Previous Meetings – *completed / no action arising from December 13*

- 3f. Report of the Audit and Risk Committee
- 3g. Report of the Finance and Property Committee
- 3h. Report of the Governance Committee
- 3i. Report of the Human Resources and Compensation Committee
- 3j. Report of the Investment Committee
- 3k. Report of the Learning, Research, and Student Experience Committee
- 3l. Report of the Reputation and Public Affairs Committee

Regular Reports

- 3m. Chancellor's Report
- 3n. Alumni Association
- 3o. Students' Union
- 3p. Graduate Students' Association
- 3q. Association of Academic Staff
- 3r. Non-Academic Staff Association
- 3s. General Faculties Council
- 3t. Board Chair 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, as revised.

**CARRIED**

**ACTION ITEMS**

Report of the Learning, Research, and Student Experience Committee

*Presenter(s):* Mary Pat Barry

3c University Mandate Statement

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Steven Dew

*Purpose of the Proposal:* The proposal is before the Board because the Ministry of Advanced Education has asked all institutions to review their mandates and revise them according to a provided template. The approved mandate will be a component of the new Investment Management Agreement.

*Discussion:*

Dr Dew briefed the Board on an amendment to page three of the proposed Mandate Statement, to change "Aboriginal communities" to "Indigenous communities".

The motions were moved and seconded.

**Motion 1:** THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Board Learning, Research and Student Experience Committee and General Faculties Council approve the reformatted University Mandate Statement, as set out in Attachment 2, as revised, for submission to the Minister of Advanced Education for final approval.

**CARRIED**

**Motion 2:** THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Board Learning, Research and Student Experience Committee and General Faculties Council rescind the previous University Mandate Statement, approved by the Minister of Advanced Education and Technology on July 17, 2009, following ministerial approval of the new statement.

**CARRIED**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### Report of the Finance and Property Committee

*Presenter(s):* Charlene Butler

#### 4. Update: University of Alberta 2020-2021 Budget

*Presenter(s):* David Turpin; Steven Dew; Gitta Kulczycki; Andrew Sharman

*Purpose of the Proposal:* For information / discussion

#### *Discussion:*

Ms Butler introduced the item, reminding members that the Finance and Property Committee had originally considered a University of Alberta 2020-2021 budget, as well as tuition, mandatory non-instructional fees, meal plan rates, and residence fees, at its meeting on February 27, 2020, but would now be considering a revised budget at a special committee meeting on March 25, due to larger-than-anticipated cuts to the university's provincial funding in the Government of Alberta's 2020 budget.

Dr Dew briefed the Board on the changes between the anticipated and actual provincial budget, noting that the net effect of the reductions was \$110M less provincial grant funding, or a reduction of 16.73 percent. He reviewed components of the provincial budget, noting that some university capital projects had received funding in addition to the reinstatement of the Infrastructure Maintenance Program. Dr Dew then provided an overview of the components of the university's consolidated budget, and briefed members on the changes to the proposed consolidated budget before and after the provincial budget announcement, noting the challenge of rebalancing with the new numbers.

Ms Kulczycki informed the Board of administration's immediate approaches to dealing with the bigger cut, including 8.3 percent budget cut to faculties and 12.8 percent cut to academic support units. She then provided an overview of near term strategies, including a hiring freeze, reductions in administrative staff, restrictions in travel and hosting costs, and vacating leased spaces, among others; and longer term strategies, including an acceleration of the Service Excellence Transformation (SET) administrative process restructuring, and major academic restructuring. Ms Kulczycki then briefed the Board on budget implications for job numbers, indicating that the university was currently speaking to government about the possibility of seeking exclusion of severance costs from the requirement for a balanced budget, and that such an arrangement would save 265 jobs, rather than the total expected 635 job losses without it.

Dr Dew, Ms Kulczycki and Mr Sharman responded to questions from the Board regarding: whether the tuition proposals originally recommended by the Finance and Property Committee would be revisited; why the university must balance its budget and whether that requirement could be withdrawn; what academic efficiencies were being considered and what low-enrolment programs were anticipated; clarification that the increased cut was due to the

removal of the targeted enrolment expansion grant and that these reductions had to come out of the operating budget; how much a seven percent tuition increase would mitigate the cuts, and whether there were other revenue opportunities; whether job loss numbers reflected people or positions, and how retirements might affect these numbers; how these cuts would affect quality of education; whether student supports would be maintained; clarification of maintenance repair items in operational and capital budgets and how these would be addressed; what impact the declining stock market would have on the budget; the importance of considering the adaptation of staff to the new working conditions and managing personal expectations accordingly; and whether or not faculty carry-forwards could be used.

Following the discussion, Mr Elian noted that at a town hall meeting of the five university student and staff associations the day prior, students had questioned the Board's support for them as well as its transparency and objectivity. The Chair indicated that the Board and administration were focused on students and the best interests of the university, and expressed that her fiduciary responsibility to the university was absolute.

### **CLOSING SESSION**

#### 6. *Adjournment*

*Presenter(s):* Kate Chisholm, QC

The Chair adjourned the Open Session at 12:20 p.m.