

Board of Governors  
Open Session Minutes

Friday, December 8, 2023  
Council Chamber, 2-100 University Hall  
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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**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, Additional Member
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
Sett Policicchio	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
Lillian Zenari	Appointed Member, Additional Member

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	Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Juli Zinken	Board Secretary and Manager of Board Services

Regrets:

Kate Young	Appointed Member, Alumni
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Presenter(s):

John Geiger	CEO, The Royal Canadian Geographical Society & Canadian Geographic Enterprises
Melissa Padfield	Deputy Provost (Students and Enrolment)
Kim TallBear	Professor and Canada Research Chair, Faculty of Native Studies

Staff:

Erin Plume, Associate Board Secretary (University Governance)
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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 congratulated Stephen Raitz for receiving the 2023 Law Students' Association Award in recognition of his demonstrated involvement in extracurricular activities and contributions to student life in the Faculty of Law.

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. No conflicts were declared.

2. Research Learning Moment

*Presenter(s)*: Kim TallBear

*Discussion:*

At the Chair's invitation, Kim TallBear, Professor and Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Peoples, Technoscience, and Society in the Faculty of Native Studies, provided a learning moment on Indigenous Studies concepts, definitions, and UofA curriculum; and her work on genetics and its relationship with race and Indigeneity.

K TallBear responded to questions and comments from Board members, including: her research background; consideration of genetics from a clinical sense; what brought her to and keeps her at the University of Alberta; and potential resources for lab space in Pembina Hall.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### 3. Report of the President

- Update: 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 planning for the January 26, 2024 Board of Governors, General Faculties Council, and Senate Summit, including that the afternoon would focus on the development of the university's People Strategy and would also feature a presentation from Jeffrey Buller, senior partner in ATLAS: Academic Training, Leadership, and Assessment Services, on the diverse perspectives that support effective post-secondary governance.

### Report of the Finance and Property Committee

*Presenter(s):* Rakesh Saraf

### 4. Budget Update

*Presenter(s):* Todd Gilchrist

#### *Discussion:*

T Gilchrist provided a verbal update on the budget, including: the anticipated timeline for the provincial budget announcement; plans to align the budget process with Budget Model 2.0; and current financial reporting, noting that the university was forecasting a \$35.1M deficit for FY 2024, which was \$3.7M less than the budgeted deficit.

Melissa Padfield, Deputy Provost (Students and Enrolment), responded to a question from the board regarding the timing of Budget Model 2.0 related to the establishment of course-based programs and funding allocation.

### 4a) Tuition Briefing

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Verna Yiu

#### *Discussion:*

V Yiu briefed members on anticipated tuition proposals for domestic and international students, noting the provincially-legislated domestic tuition cap, potential alternate scenarios, an overview of student consultation to date, and national comparators.

### 5. Net Zero

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Andrew Sharman

#### *Discussion:*

A Sharman provided an overview of the possibility of achieving a net zero emissions operating environment, including risks and opportunities, current and planned emissions-reduction initiatives, decarbonisation scenarios, costs of both net zero and carbon taxes, and the importance of working with the university's partners.

A Sharman responded to comments from board members, including the importance of continued research, capital, and public consultation.

Report of the Learning, Research and Student Experience Committee

Presenter(s): Paul Whittaker

6. Development of a U of A Foundation Program

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Verna Yiu; Melissa Padfield

*Discussion:*

P Whittaker introduced the item and briefed the board on discussions at the Learning, Research and Student Experience Committee. President Flanagan then reviewed the proposal, noting that the initiative was a University of Alberta program intended to support the university's enrolment ambitions, to provide the foundation for students to thrive at the university. He clarified that students in this program would not displace domestic students and that the program might be used for domestic students in the future, and outlined how the proposed program differed from some at other institutions.

V Yiu and M Padfield provided details on the program and structure, including the proposed timeline, student experience, success rates for other similar programs, and the context of the Federal Government's recent announcement regarding international student study permits.

The Board engaged in a discussion, including: whether first year students would be registered as University of Alberta students and how students would be classified in their second year if unable to meet requirements; why the University of Alberta needed the program to attract international students; the national international student recruitment context; potential reputational risks should public perception be that the program displaces capable domestic students; whether students who complete the foundation program would be pre-admitted to a degree program; current limitations on domestic student enrolment and the future intent to expand this program to include domestic students; whether the program could be closed if it was not successful; current University of Alberta programs that offer similar opportunities for domestic students; the benefits of this program to current qualified international students who are missing one course requirement; differentiation for high demand programs; whether the program would increase administrative costs; how the program would affect students in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry; the program's impact on the university's broader reputation; and confirmation that the required student supports were in place.

Report of the Board Chair

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm

7. Presentation from University of Alberta Alumnus and 2023 Royal Canadian Academy of Arts Medalist

Presenter(s): John Geiger

*Discussion:*

At the invitation of the Board Chair, the board received a presentation from John Geiger, recent Royal Canadian Academy of Arts medalist, on his time studying at the University of Alberta and his work as Chief Executive Officer of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society and President and CEO of Canadian Geographic Enterprises.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

8. Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm

- 8a. Open Session Minutes of October 13, 2023
- 8b. Revised Enterprise Risk Management Policy
- 8c. Refreshed Integrated Asset Management Strategy
- 8d. Revised Terms of Reference for Board Standing Committees:
  - Audit and Risk Committee
  - Finance and Property Committee
  - Human Resources and Compensation Committee
- 8e. Revisions to Presidential Search and Review Procedures and Appendix A

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.

- 9a. Action Arising from Previous Meetings
  - i. Report of Moderate Standard of Living Working Group
  - ii. Metrics Associated with Academic Restructuring (UAT/College Metrics)
- 9b. Report of the Audit and Risk Committee
  - Health, Safety and Environment Quarterly Report
  - "Culture of Care" Quarterly Implementation Report
- 9c. Report of the Finance and Property Committee
  - Integrated Asset Management Strategy Dashboard
- 9d. Report of the Governance Committee
- 9e. Report of the Human Resources and Compensation Committee
- 9f. Report of the Learning, Research, and Student Experience Committee
- 9g. Report of the Reputation and Public Affairs Committee
- 9h. Chancellor's Report
- 9i. Alumni Association
- 9j. Students' Union
- 9k. Graduate Students' Association (including 2022-23 Financial Statements)
- 9l. Association of Academic Staff
- 9m. Non-Academic Staff Association
- 9n. General Faculties Council
- 9o. Board Chair Report

### **CLOSING SESSION**

10. Other Business

*Presenter(s):* Kate Chisholm

There was no other business.

11. *Adjournment*

*Presenter(s):* Kate Chisholm

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