



Board of Governors
Open Session Minutes

Friday, December 13, 2019
Council Chamber, 2-100 University Hall
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

Kate Chisholm, QC	Appointed Chair, General Public
Lynn Parish	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)
Guy Bridgeman	Member, General Public
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
Lynne Paradis	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
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:

Ray Muzyka 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 10:30 am. 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 Chair welcomed members and guests, and informed members of one change to the agenda: that Item 6, *Non-endowed Investment Pool - Income/Reserve Transfer*, would be considered prior to Item 5.

The motion was moved and seconded.

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

CARRIED

1bi Review of Consent Agenda

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm

The Chair invited members to inform her if there were any requests to remove an item from the Open Session Consent Agenda. There were no 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, Dr Guy Bridgeman, to his first Board of Governors' meeting, noting that Dr Bridgeman was appointed as a Public Member for a three-year term on November 26, 2019.

The Chair then provided an update on the Presidential search, noting that she was pleased with the committee's progress.

Finally, the Chair indicated that, earlier in the meeting, the Board of Governors had discussed and approved a motion endorsing administration's plans for the required in-year budget cuts for 2019-2020.

2. Report of the President

- Board / GFC / Senate Summit Update

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): David Turpin

Discussion:

In addition to his written report, Dr Turpin provided verbal remarks on plans for the January 24, 2020 Joint Summit of the Board of Governors, General Faculties Council, and the Senate, noting that the summit would focus on performance-based funding with guest speakers Alex Usher, President of Higher Education Strategy Associates, and Cheryl Poth, Professor, Measurement, Assessment and Evaluation in the Faculty of Education.

He also briefed members on the October 31, 2019 budget campus forum and administration's efforts to deal with budget reductions, including a change to the President's annual holiday party to partner with students and focus on student financial aid. He thanked the presidents of the Graduate Students' Association and Students' Union for their support of the event.

The President also briefed the Board on recent and forthcoming senior leadership changes, noting the resignation of Vice-President (Research and Innovation) Matthias Ruth. He spoke of Dr Ruth's accomplishments and thanked him for his time at the university. He then noted the appointments of Interim Vice-President (Research and Innovation) Walter Dixon, Interim Vice-President (University Relations) and Chief of Staff Catherine Swindlehurst, Vice-Provost and University Registrar Melissa Padfield, and Dean of Law Barbara Billingsley.

3. Report of the University Secretary

Presenter(s): Marion Haggarty-France

Discussion:

The University Secretary noted that this meeting was the last Board meeting of the decade, and reminded members of where the university was in 2009, with the H1N1 outbreak and discussions regarding streamlining. She emphasized the importance of governance and lessons to be learned from past governance decisions, including the budget cuts of the 1990s, noting that with its recent governance transformations, the University of Alberta was in good shape to handle difficult discussions and decisions going forward.

The University Secretary then encouraged members to find opportunities to reflect and continue their governance education, thanking those members who attended the Field Law Summit in November, and reminding members to take advantage of local sessions available through the Institute of Corporate Directors.

CONSENT AGENDA

4. Motion to Approve / Receive the Consent Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm

Action Items – to approve

- 4a. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of October 18, 2019
Report of the Audit and Risk Committee
- 4b. Minors in University Programs Policy Suite
Report of the Finance and Property Committee

- 4c. Rescission of Motion: Land disposition: Long-Term Lease (Utility Right-of-Way) – University of Alberta Botanic Garden (2018)
- 4d. Rescission of Motion: Land disposition: Long-Term Lease (Utility Right-of-Way) – Mattheis Ranch (2018)
- 4e. Rescission of Motion: Land Disposition: Right-of-Way - University of Alberta Mattheis Ranch (2019)

Report of the Learning, Research, and Student Experience Committee

- 4f. Student Financial Support Policy Suite

Information Reports - to receive

- 4g. Action Arising from Previous Meetings
- 4h. Report of the Audit and Risk Committee
- 4i. Report of the Finance and Property Committee
- 4j. Report of the Governance Committee
- 4k. Report of the Human Resources and Compensation Committee
- 4l. Report of the Investment Committee
- 4m. Report of the Learning, Research, and Student Experience Committee
- 4n. Report of the Reputation and Public Affairs Committee
 - Presidential Transition Committee

Regular Reports

- 4o. Chancellor's Report
- 4p. Alumni Association
- 4q. Students' Union (including 2018-19 Financial Statements)
- 4r. Graduate Students' Association
- 4s. Association of Academic Staff
- 4t. Non-Academic Staff Association
- 4u. General Faculties Council
- 4v. 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.

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

Report of the Finance and Property Committee

Presenter(s): Charlene Butler

- 6. Non-endowed Investment Pool - Income/Reserve Transfer

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Gitta Kulczycki

Purpose of the Proposal: To approve a transfer of \$15 million additional funds to the University of Alberta 2019-20 Operating Budget, sourced from non-endowed investment income and the non-endowed investment reserve.

Discussion:

Ms Kulczycki presented the proposal to transfer \$15 million in additional funds to the 2019-2020 operating budget from income investment funds. She explained that an investment income reserve fund, approved by the Board of Governors in December of 2018, currently held \$55 million, and that this transfer would delay seeding of the strategic initiatives fund, approved by the Board on the same date, by approximately one year.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Board Finance and Property Committee, approve the transfer of \$15 million additional funds to the University of Alberta 2019-20 Operating Budget, sourced from non-endowed investment income and the non-endowed investment reserve.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Report of the Finance and Property Committee

Presenter(s): Charlene Butler

5. Budget Briefing

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Steven Dew; Gitta Kulczycki

Purpose of the Proposal: To review the plan to absorb the provincial budget reduction in the current fiscal year.

Discussion:

Ms Kulczycki provided an overview of budget reductions to the Campus Alberta Grant and the elimination of Infrastructure Maintenance Program funding (IMP) for 2019-20. She briefed members on plans to deal with these reductions, noting that the funding reduction would be absorbed as much as possible at the institutional level, with the remainder distributed to faculties and support units as one-time cuts for 2019-20, and that infrastructure maintenance projects would be cancelled.

Dr Dew presented the university's plans for the 2020-21 budget, reminding members that the 2019-20 grant reduction would be incorporated into the 2020-21 budget as base cuts, in addition to any further reductions announced in the 2020-21 provincial budget. He informed members that the university was planning for a five percent reduction to grant for three years, with a small amount offset by tuition rate increases, and briefed members on the development of a budget tool to analyze the interaction of revenue generation and expenditure reduction levers.

Dr Dew then presented three high-level budget scenarios: cutting costs, which would have a negative impact on community, research, and teaching; growing revenue through expanding enrolment; and a combination of the cut and growth scenario, which would be less aggressive but mean longer recovery of revenues. He noted that, following consultation with the Finance and Property Committee, administration had decided to pursue the third scenario.

ACTION ITEMS

Report of the Human Resources and Compensation and Reputation and Public Affairs Committees

Presenter(s): Mary Pat Barry; Lynn Parish

7. Statement on Free Expression at the University of Alberta

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Steven Dew; Brad Hamdon; Wendy Rodgers

Purpose of the Proposal: The university is developing a statement on free expression. The Free Expression Advisory Group, established in May 2019, has developed a draft statement, based on extensive consultation with the university community. The purpose of this item is to approve the draft statement.

Discussion:

Ms Barry introduced the item, and Dr Rodgers provided an overview of the development of the statement, including the request from the provincial government to develop a statement, the university's extensive consultation process, and the importance of balancing freedom of expression with Canadian laws, charter rights, and the university's discrimination policies. She informed the Board that the draft statement had recently been accepted by the Minister of Advanced Education.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Board Human Resources and Compensation Committee, Board Reputation and Public Affairs Committee, and General Faculties Council, approve the Statement on Free Expression at the University of Alberta, as set forth in Attachment 1.

CARRIED

CLOSING SESSION

8. Adjournment

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm

The Chair adjourned the Open Session at 11:10 a.m.