

Board of Governors  
Open Session Minutes

Friday, June 14, 2024  
Council Chamber, 2-100 University Hall  
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

---

**ATTENDEES:**

Voting Members:

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Kate Chisholm       | Appointed Chair, General Public                                      |
| Guy Bridgeman       | Appointed Vice-Chair, General Public                                 |
| Haseeb Arshad       | Appointed Member, President, Graduate Students' Association          |
| Chris Ashdown       | Appointed Member, Alumni   |
| Zarina Bhambhani    | Appointed Member, General Public                                     |
| Ross Bricker        | Appointed Member, General Public                                     |
| Heather Bruce       | Appointed Member, Academic Staff Representative (AASUA Appointee)    |
| Stephanie Dickie    | Appointed Member, Non-Academic Staff Representative (NASA Appointee) |
| Darren Durstling    | Appointed Member, General Public                                     |
| Bill Flanagan       | Appointed Member, President and Vice-Chancellor                      |
| Peggy Garritty      | Appointed Member, Chancellor   |
| Lisa Glock          | Appointed Member, President (Students' Union)                        |
| Ryan Hastman        | Appointed Member, General Public                                     |
| Adrien Lam          | Appointed Member, Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative    |
| 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                                     |
| Miles Safranovich   | Appointed Member, General Public                                     |
| Robert Seidel       | Appointed Member, General Public                                     |
| Venkata Vemana      | Appointed Member, General Public                                     |
| Dilini Vethanayagam | Appointed Member, Academic Staff Representative (GFC Appointee)      |
| Diane Wheatley      | Appointed Member, General Public                                     |
| Paul Whittaker      | Appointed Member, General Public                                     |
| Kate Young          | Appointed Member, Alumni   |
| Lillian Zenari      | Appointed Member, General Public                                     |

Non-Voting Officials Appointed by the President:

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Todd Gilchrist        | Vice-President (University Services and Finance) |
| Brad Hamdon           | General Counsel                                  |
| John Lemieux          | University Secretary                             |
| Aminah Robinson Fayek | Vice-President (Research and Innovation)         |
| Verna Yiu             | Provost and Vice-President (Academic)            |
| Juli Zinken           | Board Secretary and Manager of Board Services    |

Regrets:

|                |                                     |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Elan MacDonald | Vice-President (External Relations) |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|

Presenter(s):

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Jessica Butts Scott | Associate Vice-President (Online and Continuing Education) |
| Florence Glanfield  | Vice-Provost (Indigenous Programming & Research)           |
| Giri Puligandla     | Chair, Learning, Research and Student Experience Committee |
| Carrie Smith        | Vice-Provost (Equity, Diversity & Inclusion)               |

Staff:

Erin Plume, Associate Board Secretary (University Governance)

---

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and welcomed members and guests.

She reminded members of the Board of Governors that June 21 was National Indigenous Peoples Day and 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 GOVERNORS ONLY**

Governors met *in camera* at the start of the meeting.

**WELCOME**

1a. Opening Remarks

*Presenter(s):* Kate Chisholm

The Chair welcomed a number of new members to their first Board of Governors' meeting, including Haseeb Arshad, Graduate Students' Association President, Lisa Glock, Students' Union President, and Adrien Lam, Undergraduate Representative. She welcomed new general public members: Venkata Vemana, appointed in March, as well as Ross Bricker, Darren Durstling, Ryan Hastman, Miles Safranovich, Robert Seidel, and Diane Wheatley, appointed earlier in June.

The Chair then informed members that this would be the final Board of Governors' meeting for Margot Ross-Graham as representative of the University Senate, thanking her for her service as Chair of the Board Human Resources and Compensation Committee, and noting that she would continue as a non-governor committee member on that committee. The Chair also recognized Peggy Garritty, who was also attending her final Board meeting, for her service to the Board and to the University as Chancellor, and asked her to say a few words. Chancellor Garritty noted that serving was a tremendous gift, even though the university went through difficult times during her tenure.

The Chair then welcomed Chancellor-Elect Nizar Somji, who would be joining the Board following his installation on June 21, and Ange Kadima, recently selected by the university's Senate to serve as their representative to the Board, both attending the meeting as observers.

Finally, the Chair thanked those Governors who would be representing the Board at upcoming spring 2024 convocation ceremonies.

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. Seeing no conflicts, the Chair declared the question asked and answered.

2. Update on the Implementation of Braiding Past Present and Future

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Florence Glanfield

*Discussion:*

F Glanfield provided an update on the implementation of *Braiding Past, Present and Future: University of Alberta Indigenous Strategic Plan*, including progress on the university's response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Calls to Action, alignment with other university strategic plans, Indigenous recruitment, and the importance of meaningful land acknowledgements.

F Glanfield responded to questions from Board members, including: which initiatives she is really proud of, and where the university has more work to do; how the Indigenous community views the University of Alberta's TRC response; whether having a stand-alone Faculty of Native Studies places the university ahead of others in its TRC response; whether the Board of Governors can do anything to help; and whether Board members could be invited to a planned flag-raising ceremony in September.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

3. Report of the President

- Strategic Opportunities for Internationalization

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Bill Flanagan

*Discussion:*

In addition to his written report, President Flanagan provided verbal updates on the removal of the encampment from the Quad on May 11, the Board's commitment to an independent review of the process and decisions that led to the removal of the encampment, and a motion from General Faculties Council proposing a similar investigation; and the university's advocacy work on the Provincial Priorities Act, 2024, (Bill 18). He responded to a question from a Board member regarding the possibility of the provincial government funding those projects where they see a need for research.

The President then presented a proposal to establish a Vice-President (International and Enterprise) (VPIE), including the strategic and financial context, revenue opportunities in international enrolment, competitive advantages, need for coordinated investment, and next steps.

He responded to questions from Board members, including: whether he anticipated the VPIE office requiring additional resources or positions; whether a communication plan was in place, given recent messaging from the federal government on international student limits; the importance of communications with the internal community regarding the purpose and benefit of the office; risks of the proposal; whether student recruitment and

partnership areas were being diversified to mitigate any geopolitical risks; and why the university has a 25 percent vacancy rate in Edmonton's competitive rental market.

## **DECISION ITEMS**

### Report of the Human Resources and Compensation Committee

Presenter(s): Margot Ross-Graham

#### 4. Proposed Creation of Vice-President (International and Enterprise)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file under Item 3b.

Presenter(s): Bill Flanagan

#### *Discussion:*

The proposal was introduced and discussed with Item 3: *Strategic Opportunities for Internationalization*.

The motion was moved and seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Board Human Resources and Compensation Committee, approve the creation of the Office of the Vice-President (International and Enterprise) position, such office to have those powers, duties and functions as more fully described in the position description attached as Attachment 1.

**CARRIED**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### 5. Transmission of General Faculties Council Motion for Third-Party Independent Investigation

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Bill Flanagan

#### *Discussion:*

The President transmitted a recommendation from General Faculties Council (GFC) that a thorough third-party independent investigation be held into the events and decisions made by administration, and any others as warranted, associated with the decision to remove the protest encampment in the Quad by police action, which occurred on May 11, 2024, and that a full report be released to the university community. The Board Chair confirmed that the Board of Governors was committed to conducting a review, that the review would be as transparent as possible, that the reviewer would be free from conflict of interest, and that any actions by police were out of scope and would be subject to a separate review by the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT). She indicated that selection of an independent reviewer and determination of terms of reference were still to be confirmed and noted that she'd met with staff, faculty, and student representatives to discuss potential reviewers.

The Board Chair responded to questions from Board members, including: the scope of the review, whether the Board would also receive ASIRT's review report, and whether endorsing GFC's motion meant also endorsing the preamble.

### Report of the Human Resources and Compensation Committee

Presenter(s): Margot Ross-Graham

#### 6. University of Alberta People Strategy Metrics

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Todd Gilchrist; Verna Yiu

*Discussion:*

V Yiu introduced the item, noting that in light of recent events on campus, the Steering Committee had suggested postponing the strategy's approval and launch to the fall. The Board received the consultation draft of the university's People Strategy, and T Gilchrist reviewed the proposed performance measures and corresponding targets, including qualitative and quantitative measures mapped against specific goals in the strategy, and overall health indicators to show workforce activity trends.

V Yiu, T Gilchrist, and C Smith responded to questions from Board members, including: whether the Council on Systemic Ableism was included in consultations; whether there will be a metric on internal communication improvements; whether collective bargaining would be completed prior to release of the People Strategy; reasons for pausing approval of the People Strategy; and whether a specific approval date was being contemplated.

*Report of the Human Resources and Compensation and Learning, Research and Student Experience Committee*

*Presenter(s):* Margot Ross-Graham; Giri Puligandla

7. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Verna Yiu; Carrie Smith

*Discussion:*

V Yiu introduced the item, and C Smith provided an update on the development of the Integrated Equity, Diversity and Inclusion ("EDI") Action Plan, including a recently released report on community consultation entitled "Continuing Our Stories" as well as development of major themes, target outcomes, actions, and corresponding metrics.

V Yiu and C Smith responded to questions from Board members, including: the validity of self-reported baseline numbers; consultations with the Government of Alberta (GoA) on the action plan, and communicating the value of EDI; the possibility of including positive stories in the strategy; whether the strategy would require additional resources; whether an environmental scan of EDI at the university was being undertaken; and next steps for the action plan.

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

*Presenter(s):* Giri Puligandla

8. Online and Continuing Education Update

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Verna Yiu; Jessica Butts Scott

*Discussion:*

J Butts Scott presented a report on the impact of online and continuing education, including highlights and current and planned initiatives, including mixed modality classes, collaboration with colleges to expand continuing education, a micro-credential marketing campaign, and an upgrade to the learning management system. She responded to questions from Board members, including: the percentage of hybrid undergraduate classes; whether revenue reflected continuing education numbers only; and how student performance compares between online and in-person classes.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### 9. Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm

- 9a. Open Session Minutes of March 22, 2024
- 9b. Open Session Minutes of May 27, 2024
- 9c. Investment Management Agreement (2022-25): Amended Targets (2024-25)
- 9d. Domestic and International Tuition Proposal: Master's in Management Analytics (MMA)
- 9e. International Tuition Proposal: Master's in Business Administration (MBA)
- 9f. Strategic Initiatives Fund Allocations
- 9g. Capital Plan 2024/25 - 2026/27 Revision to Biological Sciences Redevelopment Project Priority
- 9h. University of Alberta Properties Trust Inc.: Annual Shareholder Resolution
- 9i. Policy Development Policy and Board-level Policy Definition
- 9j. Reallocation of the Roles and Responsibilities of the Office of the Vice-President (Facilities & Operations) to the Office of the Vice-President (University Services & Finance)

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.

- 10a. Action Arising from Previous Meetings
- 10b. Report of the Audit and Risk Committee
  - Health, Safety and Environment Quarterly Report
  - "Culture of Care" Quarterly Implementation Report
- 10c. Report of the Finance and Property Committee
  - Integrated Asset Management Strategy Dashboard
  - Innovation Fund Report
- 10d. Report of the Governance Committee
- 10e. Report of the Human Resources and Compensation Committee
- 10f. Report of the Investment Committee
  - i. Investment Committee Annual Report
- 10g. Report of the Learning, Research, and Student Experience Committee
- 10h. Report of the Reputation and Public Affairs Committee
- 10i. Chancellor's Report
- 10j. Alumni Association
- 10k. Students' Union

- 10l. Graduate Students' Association
- 10m. Association of Academic Staff
- 10n. Non-Academic Staff Association
- 10o. General Faculties Council
- 10p. Board Chair Report

**CLOSING SESSION**

- 11. Other Business

*Presenter(s):* Kate Chisholm

There was no other business.

- 12. Adjournment

*Presenter(s):* Kate Chisholm

The Chair adjourned the Open Session at 9:50 a.m.