



Board of Governors
Open Session Minutes

Friday, May 14, 2021
By phone / video
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

Kate Chisholm	Appointed Chair, General Public
Guy Bridgeman	Appointed Vice-Chair, General Public
Zarina Bhambhani	Appointed Member, Additional Member
Ayaz Bhanji	Appointed Member, University of Alberta Alumni Association Representative
Charlene Butler	Appointed Member, General Public
Daniel Eggert	Appointed Member, General Public
Anas Fassih	Appointed Member, President, Graduate Students' Association
Bill Flanagan	Appointed Member, President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Alberta
Peggy Garritty	Appointed Member, Chancellor, University of Alberta
Mona Hale	Appointed Member, General Public
David Konrad	Appointed Member, Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative
Rowan Ley	Appointed Member, President, Students' Union
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
Andrei Tabirca	Appointed Member, Non-Academic Staff Representative (NASA Appointee)
Robert Ryan Thompson	Appointed Member, University of Alberta Alumni Association Representative
Dilini Vethanayagam	Appointed Member, Academic Staff Representative (GFC Appointee)
Paul Whittaker	Appointed Member, General Public
Donna Wilson	Appointed Member, Academic Staff Representative (AASUA Appointee)
Lillian Zenari	Appointed Member, Additional Member

Non-Voting Officials Appointed by the President:

Steven Dew	Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Walter Dixon	Interim Vice-President (Research and Innovation)
Todd Gilchrist	Vice-President (University Services and Finance)
Brad Hamdon	General Counsel and University Secretary
Elan MacDonald	Vice-President (External Relations)
Andrew Sharman	Vice-President (Facilities and Operations)
Catherine Swindlehurst	Chief Strategy Officer (Office of the President)
Juli Zinken	Board Secretary and Manager of Board Services (University Governance)

Regrets:

Janice MacKinnon	Appointed Member, General Public
------------------	----------------------------------

Presenter(s):

Alexis Ksiazkiewicz	Associate Vice-President (Government and Community Relations)
Wendy Rodgers	Deputy Provost
Martin Coutts	Associate Vice-President (Finance, Procurement and Planning)

Staff:

Erin Plume, Assistant Board Secretary (University Governance)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

IN CAMERA SESSION OF VOTING MEMBERS ONLY

Voting members met, *in camera*.

OPENING SESSION

1. Chair's Session

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm

The Chair welcomed members and guests, and reminded all in attendance that the open session of the meeting was being webcast to observers, per the May 2020 Board of Governors' motion.

The Chair read the following territorial acknowledgement:

The University of Alberta resides on Treaty 6 territory and the homeland of the Métis. This territory is a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples whose histories, languages and cultures continue to influence and enrich our community. To acknowledge the territory is to recognize the longer history of these lands. The acknowledgement signifies our commitment to working in Good Relations with First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples as we engage in our institutional work, uplifting the whole people, for the University for Tomorrow.

1a. Call to Order and Confirmation of Quorum

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm

The Chair called the open session to order and 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 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 noted that governance best practice requests that members declare at each meeting whether they may have a conflict related to the agenda and absent themselves from the discussion and voting on that item. She invited members to declare conflicts of interest related to the open session agenda of the meeting. There were no declarations.

1d. Chair's Remarks

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm

At the request of the Chair, the Chancellor provided an update on plans to honour the life of Derek Roy-Brenneis, former Director of the Office of the Chancellor and Senate, by establishing the Derek Roy-Brenneis Celebration Fund to acknowledge Derek's amazing contributions to the university by providing support for the Senate's U School program as well as the education of Indigenous students.

The Chair welcomed three new members who were attending their first Board of Governors' meeting: Andrei Tabirca, appointed as the Non-Academic Staff representative on the Board for a three-year term on March 30; and the two new student members, who were each appointed for a one-year term on May 1: Rowan Ley, President of the Students' Union, and Anas Fassih, President of the Graduate Students' Association. She congratulated Dave Konrad on his re-election as Undergraduate Student Representative for a second year.

The Chair then briefed members on the second meeting of the Board Governance Committee and the General Faculties Council (GFC) Executive Committee, held in response to a recommendation of the Committee of the Whole of GFC to ameliorate communications between the Board and GFC. She noted that discussions had been candid and constructive toward strengthening the relationship between the two governing bodies.

2. Report of the President

2a. COVID-19 Update

2b. Emergency Governance Protocols Decision Tracker

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Bill Flanagan

Purpose of the Proposal: For information / discussion.

Discussion:

In addition to his written report, President Flanagan provided verbal remarks on Fall 2021 planning given recent additional COVID-19 public health orders; the launch of the Alberta 2030 strategy and the deconsolidation of the university's financial statements from the Government of Alberta's public accounts, which will allow the university to drive economic growth for the province; recent rankings including that the University of Alberta was named a top 100 most sustainable post-secondary institution (Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Ranking) and had risen to #81 out of 19,788 on the Global 2000 List by the Center for World University Rankings; and the election of Rick Sutton, Professor, Computing Science, as a fellow to the Royal Society.

At President Flanagan's request, Andrew Sharman briefed the Board on the university's COVID-19 response, including a recent meeting with the Minister of Advanced Education, continued preparations for return to campus, and a campaign to encourage students, staff, and faculty to get vaccinated.

Mr Sharman and Brad Hamdon responded to questions from Board members regarding: the university's plans in the event of a fourth wave; whether the university would consider an incentive program for vaccinated students; the importance of advancing the Clean Air Strategy to help combat COVID-19 transmission; whether the university could mandate vaccinations for students, staff, and faculty or mandate reporting of vaccination status; how the university was ensuring that students and faculty felt safe to return to campus; and whether equity, diversity, and inclusivity was considered in development of a Clean Air Strategy, particularly related to Indigenous ceremonies.

Approval of the Minutes

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of March 12, 2021

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 Minutes of the meeting held on March 12, 2021.

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Report of the Reputation and Public Affairs Committee

Presenter(s): Paul Whittaker

4. Report of AB 2030 Post-Secondary System Review

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Elan MacDonald; Alexis Ksiazkiewicz

Purpose of the Proposal: To provide the Board of Governors with the strategy and summary of the Alberta 2030: Building Skills for Jobs post-secondary review, for information and to inform future discussion.

Discussion:

Mr Whittaker presented the key goals and objectives of the provincial government's Alberta 2030: Building Skills for Jobs strategy, and considerations and opportunities for the University of Alberta, including that deconsolidation had been secured to reduce red tape and strengthen innovation and entrepreneurialism.

The Board engaged in a discussion of the strategy, including: the significance of its emphasis on research; potential opportunities for improvements, including more support for a sexual violence coordinator as well as needs-based student financial aid; the importance of consistent international branding; and the risks and opportunities of incentivizing faculty to pursue entrepreneurial activities.

Report of the Finance and Property and Learning, Research, and Student Experience Committees

Presenter(s): Charlene Butler; Daniel Eggert

5. Metrics Associated with Academic Restructuring (UAT/College Metrics)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Steven Dew; Todd Gilchrist

Purpose of the Proposal: To provide an update on the work of General Faculties Council to provide a recommendation to the Board on College metrics.

Discussion:

Ms Butler and Mr Eggert introduced the item and briefed the Board on discussions on the development of college metrics at recent meetings of the Finance and Property and Learning, Research, and Student Experience Committees, including challenges associated with the development of a universal quantitative interdisciplinarity

metric given diverse contexts across campus, and the Board's reliance on General Faculties Council (GFC) to provide recommendations on that metric.

Dr Dew reviewed next steps for the proposal, including recommendations to the Board in June through the GFC Academic Planning Committee and GFC.

Report of the Learning, Research, and Student Experience Committee

Presenter(s): Daniel Eggert

6. Online Programming

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Steven Dew; Wendy Rodgers

Purpose of the Proposal: The proposal is before the Board to seek input to inform the university's approach to supporting and enhancing online programming going forward.

Discussion:

Mr Eggert introduced the item, and Dr Dew briefed the Board on the development of an online programming strategy as part of an overall enrolment growth strategy, noting that this strategy was different than the remote learning recently implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Drs Dew and Rodgers responded to questions from the Board regarding: how the university would be addressing concerns raised by students about equity challenges related to online exam proctoring; opportunities to increase access for lifelong learners, Indigenous communities, and high school students; whether the university's current expertise would support the strategy; ensuring professors have adequate training and support; how the university would attract students from other well-established distance learning institutions; the skillset and experience of the consultants; the risk of shifting rather than increasing enrolment; and a recommendation to start broad before narrowing the scope of the strategy.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

The Chair invited members to review the draft Board Bylaws attached to Item 10, Report of the Governance Committee, and submit any questions or suggested changes to Mr Hamdon or Ms Zinken.

There were no requests from members to discuss the information items listed below.

Information Reports

7. Action Arising from Previous Meetings
8. Report of the Audit and Risk Committee
9. Report of the Finance and Property Committee
 - Integrated Asset Management Strategy Dashboard
10. Report of the Governance Committee
 - Draft Board of Governors Bylaws
11. Report of the Human Resources and Compensation Committee
12. Report of the Learning, Research, and Student Experience Committee
13. Report of the Reputation and Public Affairs Committee

Regular Reports

14. Chancellor's Report
15. Alumni Association
16. Students' Union
17. Graduate Students' Association
18. Association of Academic Staff
19. Non-Academic Staff Association
20. General Faculties Council
21. Board Chair Report

CLOSING SESSION

22. *Adjournment*

The Chair adjourned the Open Session at 9:30 a.m.