

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY

APPROVED minutes of the 225th regular meeting of the Board of Governors of Athabasca University held Thursday, March 30, 2017, Room 1222, AU-Edmonton, Edmonton, AB.

Present: Vivian Manasc (Chair), Neil Fassina, Margaret Mrazek, Heather Kennedy, Rai Batra, Robert Balay, McDonald Madamombe, Lynn Hamilton, Cheryl Hunter Loewen, Debby Kronewitt Martin, Doug Schindel, Derek Briton, Paulette Patry, Shawna Wasylshyn, Julian Teterenko and via teleconference Michael Mauws and Teagan Gahler

Governance Staff: Carol Lund (University Secretary) and Barbara Kowalchuk (Recording Secretary)

Others Present: Cindy Ives, Estelle Lo, Rick Harland, John Latremouille, Alain May, Donna Romyn Gordon Handke, David Head and via teleconference David Liddell

Absent with Regrets: Chief Charles Weaselhead, Grant Grams, and Peter Thiveos

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 A.M. The Chair thanked Vice Chair Mrazek for her work as Interim Chair during the vacancy in the Chair position.

1.0 Approval of Agenda

1.1 Approve Agenda for Meeting 225

225-01 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the agenda for Meeting 225, and thereby approves the consent agenda including the minutes of meeting 221, held January 12, 2017, as presented.

Wasylshyn/Kronewitt Martin

Carried

2.0 Conflict of Interest

2.1 Conflict of Interest Statement

Subject to the Conflict of Interest Guidelines set out in the Code of Conduct and Ethics for Members of the Board of Governors of Athabasca University, and the Board of Governors of Athabasca University General By-laws, members were asked to declare any conflict they may have with respect to particular agenda items contained within the meeting agenda.

The following members noted conflict as follows:

- Member Balay – noted conflict with Agenda Item 7.6 *Approve Amendment to Existing Multiplex Lease*
- Members Wasylshyn and Teterenko – noted conflict with Agenda Item 7.7 *Athabasca University Students' Union Lease Approval*
- Member Kronewitt Martin – noted that her husband is currently working with AUSU on a contract basis
- Member Mauws – noted conflict with Agenda Item 11.4 *Approve Addition of Hockey Management Specialization within the Master of Business Administration (MBA)* prior to its presentation to the Board

3.0 Business Arising from the Consent Agenda

4.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

4.1 Key Performance Indicators – Athabasca University Accountability Dashboard

The President presented this item and expressed his gratitude to Members Kennedy and Mauws for their input. He noted that the dashboard has been developed consistent with the Government of Alberta's Adult Learning System Principles and focuses on the accountability of the University to the Government of Alberta.

Members reviewed the dashboard and expressed their appreciation for the work that had been undertaken. It was noted that the dashboard will serve as a stewardship document with a direct line of sight to the University's mandate. Suggestions were made for consideration of additional metrics in future iterations. The members also noted the importance of a process for regular review of the document.

Members noted that the dashboard will assist in identifying key messages and further, the importance of how those messages will be communicated.

4.2 Ad Hoc Board Governance Review Committee Progress Report

The Chair of the Ad Hoc Board Governance Review Committee presented a report on progress to date with respect to the Board Governance Review highlighting the following:

- Committee is undertaking a fulsome discussion of the by-laws (using google docs)
- Advised of future dates for committee meetings

5.0 Reports

5.1 Report of the Chair

The Board Chair provided a verbal report noting that she looked forward to working closely with everyone in this time of revitalization and renewal at the University.

5.2 Report of the President

The President presented this item noting that the report aligns to deliverables that were focused on during the first six (6) months of his role as President.

In response to inquiries the President provided an update on the Post-secondary Learning Act (PSLA) discussion. He also noted that as the strategic discussion (development of the AU Master Plan) moves forward, metrics may be developed that will complement the accountability dashboard.

5.3 Athabasca University Students' Union (AUSU) Report

Member Wasylyshyn presented this report and advised the members that AUSU Voice Magazine is published online and is funded by AUSU. She encouraged members to subscribe to the magazine noting that the link to the magazine is on the AUSU website.

A request was made for further information on concerns noted in the report regarding tutor response times. The President noted service standards are in place with associated response times which are regularly assessed, however further detailed information would be beneficial.

Member Wasylyshyn provided clarification noting that she had been in contact with the Associate Vice President, Student and Academic Services and had been made aware of challenges in tracking tutor response times, and further that new initiatives that are underway to work towards addressing this issue.

The members noted the importance of a plan of action with timelines to address the issue.

5.4 Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association (AUGSA) Report

This report was accepted as information.

6.0 Executive Committee

6.1 Report of the Chair – Executive Committee

The Board Chair presented this report highlighting activities of the Executive Committee since the last meeting of the Board of Governors.

7.0 Finance & Property Committee

7.1 Report of the Chair – Finance & Property Committee

The Chair of the Finance & Property Committee presented this report highlighting activities of the Finance & Property Committee since the last meeting of the Board of Governors and further acknowledged the work undertaken by the President and the Finance staff in the last few months.

7.2 Review Third Quarter Variance & Year-end Forecast Report

The President presented this report highlighting the following:

- Continue to move towards a balanced end point for 2017 fiscal year
- Includes both ongoing and one-time monies
- Structural challenges still exist – continue to work towards a balanced future

7.3 Approve Transfer from Internally Restricted Future Student Awards Fund

225-02 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves of the transfer of \$1,346,082.29 from Internally Restricted Future Student Awards Fund to:

- Endowments \$116,545.00
- Deferred Revenue (expendable endowments student awards) \$54,963.84
- Deferred Revenue (expendable non-endowment student awards) \$721,366.37
- Internally Restricted Strategic Initiative Fund \$453,207.08

Mrazek/Madamombe

Carried

7.4 Authorize Continuation of Business Operations

225-03 MOVED That the Board authorizes the Vice President, Finance and Administration to approve and pay financial obligations incurred or arising in the normal course of the University's business and operations after expiration of the current budget on March 31, 2017 and until June 30, 2017.

Hunter Loewen/Schindel

Carried

7.5 Approve Summary Capital and ICT Infrastructure Plan 2017-2022

225-04 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the Summary Capital and ICT Infrastructure Plan 2017-2022 to be revisited in light of recommendations stemming from the third party review report prior to June 30, 2017.

Wasylyshyn/Balay

Carried

7.6 Approve Amendment to Existing Multiplex Lease

225-05 MOVED That the Board of Governors:

1. Approves in principle amendments to the Lease between the Governors of Athabasca University, the Town of Athabasca and the County of Athabasca, dated August 1, 2006, as amended by an Amending Agreement dated effective the 1st day of November, 2011, to allow for the Town and County's construction of an aquatic and fitness centre and to update the legal description of the Lands under the Lease; and
2. Delegates authority to the President to negotiate and execute on behalf of the University a form of amending agreement in respect of the Lease with the Town and the County, on substantially the same terms as in the attached draft form of amending agreement, subject to reasonably negotiated changes between the parties.

Hunter Loewen/Kennedy

The President presented this item.

In response to inquiries, it was noted that the request for an order in council in this regard is outstanding, however it is anticipated that this will be in place within the next fiscal year; construction will not commence until the approval for the lease amendment is in place; the development is in line with the master plan developed 10 years ago; and further, in exchange a real estate benefit will be derived as the University takes over the current Edwin Parr Composite School site.

Discussion ensued regarding what if any input the Board may have with respect to the design of the project. It was noted that a design review provision is included in the existing lease (Clause 2.1).

Carried

Members Kennedy and Batra opposed.

7.7 Approve Athabasca University Students' Union (AUSU) Lease

225-06 MOVED That the Board approves Athabasca University Students' Union's decision to undertake a three-year lease of office space at 301 Energy Square, 10109 106 St, Edmonton, AB.

Kennedy/Balay

It was noted there is not currently sufficient space to accommodate the needs of AUSU within the Edmonton based locations. The President, AUSU advised that an offer of space in Athabasca has been extended to AUSU; however this would not be suitable to their needs. She further noted that the proposed lease aligns with the expiry of the AU leases in Edmonton and it is their hope that there will be an opportunity for space in Edmonton at that time.

Carried
Members Wasylyshyn & Teterenko abstained.

8.0 Audit Committee

8.1 Report of the Chair – Audit Committee

The Chair of the Audit Committee presented this report highlighting activities of the Audit Committee since the last meeting of the Board of Governors.

The members discussed the two (2) outstanding IT Auditor General recommendations and it was noted that a number of steps have been taken to resolve the outstanding recommendations with respect to IT security and IT resumption (disaster recovery) capabilities.

8.2 Enterprise Risk Management Summary Report

The President presented this report including an overview of the Status of AU's Primary Risk Exposures.

9.0 Human Resources Committee

9.1 Report of the Chair – Human Resources Committee

The Chair of the Human Resources Committee presented this report highlighting the activities of the Human Resources Committee since the last meeting of the Board of Governors.

10.0 Institutional Advancement Committee

10.1 Report of the Chair – Institutional Advancement Committee

The Chair of the Institutional Advancement Committee presented this report highlighting the activities of the Institutional Advancement Committee since the last meeting of the Board of Governors.

It was noted that a recent announcement had been made by the federal government regarding a plan for providing support for people transitioning out of the military (including education), and the President noted that the necessary connections are being made in this regard.

11.0 Academic Affairs Committee

11.1 Report of the Chair – Academic Affairs Committee

The Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee presented this report highlighting activities of the Academic Affairs Committee since the last meeting of the Board of Governors.

11.2 Strategic Enrolment Plan Indicators

The President presented this item.

Inquiries were made and clarification provided on the following indicators:

- Credentials awarded (increased enrolments in recent years, retention activities)
- Undergraduate student satisfaction (student services plan is addressing specific comments from student surveys as well as systemic issues)
- Undergraduate and graduate applications (seasonality of applications, increased engagement activities, new marketing campaign)
- Percentage of program students becoming inactive (noted this is currently being investigated)

11.3 Approve Faculty of Business Revised Organizational Structure

225-07 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the Faculty of Business revised organizational structure as follows, effective March 30, 2017:

From:

Faculty of Business
Centre for Innovative Management
Centre for Organizational Behaviour and Marketing
Centre for Accounting and Taxation
Centre for Finance, Economics, E-Commerce and Decision Sciences

To:

Faculty of Business
Department, Accounting & Taxation
Department, Organizational Analysis
Department, Marketing, Entrepreneurship & Information Systems
Department, Economics, Finance & Operations Management

Kennedy/Teterenko

The President noted that the recommendation from the Academic Affairs Committee was pending the review of this item by General Faculties Council, and further, General Faculties Council had supported this motion at a meeting held March 22, 2017.

Carried

11.4 Approve Addition of Hockey Management Specialization within the Master of Business Administration (MBA)

225-08 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the addition of a hockey management specialization within the Master of Business Administration (MBA), effective January 1, 2017.

Mrazek/Batra

The President noted that the recommendation from the Academic Affairs Committee was pending the review of this item by General Faculties Council, and further, General Faculties Council had supported this motion at a meeting held March 22, 2017.

Carried

Member Mauws abstained.

12.0 Honorary Awards Committee

12.1 Report of the Chair – Honorary Awards Committee

The President (Chair, Honorary Awards Committee) presented this item and reviewed the report with the members highlighting this year's honorary award recipients.

13.0 Other Business

13.1 Board & Standing Committee Meeting Schedule

The Board & Standing Committee Meeting Schedule was accepted as information.

14.0 Schedule of Pending Items

14.1 Schedule of Pending Items

It was noted there are currently no pending items.

15.0 In Camera Session

15.1 Motion to Move In Camera

225-09 MOVED That the Board of Governors moves to an In Camera session.

Balay/Mrazek

The University Secretary was asked to remain in the session.

Carried

15.2 Motion to Exit In Camera

225-10 MOVED That the Board of Governors exits the In Camera session.

Mrazek/Batra

Carried

16.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 P.M.