

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY

APPROVED minutes of the 227th regular meeting of the Board of Governors of Athabasca University held Friday, May 26, 2017, Room 1222, AU-Edmonton, Edmonton, AB.

Present: Neil Fassina, Rai Batra, Robert Balay, Debby Kronewitt Martin, McDonald Madamombe, Douglas Schindel, Derek Briton, Shawna Wasylyshyn and via teleconference Vivian Manasc (Chair), Marg Mrazek, Michal Mauws and Jamie Czerwinski

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

Others Present: Cindy Ives, Estelle Lo, John Latremouille, Alain May, Gordon Handke, Dave Liddell, Carolyn Pidzarko and via teleconference David Head

Absent with Regrets: Heather Kennedy, Peter Thiveos, Cheryl Hunter Loewen, Chief Charles Weaselhead, Lynn Hamilton, Paulette Patry, Grant Grams and Julian Teterenko

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 P.M.

1.0 Approval of Agenda

1.1 Approve Agenda for Meeting 227

227-01 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the agenda for Meeting 227 as presented.

Kronewitt Martin/Madamombe

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.

No conflicts were declared.

3.0 Approval of Minutes

227-02 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the minutes of meeting 225, held March 30, 2017, as presented.

Mrazek/Balay

Carried

4.0 Action Items

4.1 Review Year-End Variance Report

The President presented this item noting a positive financial position at year-end (surplus of in excess of \$3.7M). He further noted that the surplus was achieved through financial constraints and processes as well as a number of one-time opportunities; however he acknowledged that we do not expect to see the one-time instances year over year, and as such we need to continue stringent financial management to continue to address the overall sustainability of the university.

4.2 Approve Transfer of Funds

227-03 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the following transfers from Unrestricted Surplus from Operations to Internally Restricted Funds:

Transfer from Unrestricted Surplus from Operations to Internally Restricted Future Student Awards Fund	14,941.
Transfer from Unrestricted Surplus from Operations to Internally Restricted Pension Plan Liability Fund	\$1,408,000.
Transfer from Unrestricted Surplus from Operations to Internally Restricted Strategic Investment Fund	\$4,400,736.

Wasylyshyn/Kronewitt Martin

The President provided an overview of the proposed transfers noting that the student award transfer represents the difference between interest earned and expenses paid out for student awards, the transfer to the pension plan liability fund is an actuarial number provided to the university representing the decrease in the pension plan liability, and the balance of the surplus is transferred to the Strategic Investment Fund.

Carried

4.3 Approve 2016-2017 Financial Statements

227-04 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the 2016-2017 Financial Statements as presented.

Schindel/Madamombe

The President presented this item and deferred to the Director, Financial Services to provide a power point presentation on the draft financial statements.

A power point presentation was provided which highlighted the following:

- Statement of Financial Position presentation change
- Highlights of 2016-2017
- Year to year comparison – 2016-2017 to 2015-2016
- Revenue and expense – 10 year trend

The President noted that the swing of 4% from the projected deficit to the year-end surplus is a combination of a number of pieces including financial constraints and one-time opportunities.

Members commended the staff for their work in achieving the surplus.

Carried

4.4 Approve Renewal of Existing Authorization for VPFA to Approve and Pay Financial Obligations

227-05 MOVED That the Board approves the renewal of the existing authorization for 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 until July 31, 2017.

Mrazek/Kronewitt Martin

The President noted that this is a renewal of the authorization granted by the Board in March 2017 with an end date of July 31, 2017.

Carried

5.0 Information and Discussion Items

4.1 Legislative Compliance Reporting for period April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017

The President presented this item noting that the report is a result of an initiative requested by Office of Auditor General in 2013 noting management is required to report to the Board annually to confirm the university is operating within the legislative framework that we are bound by.

Members expressed their appreciation for the report. It was noted that the report was scheduled to be presented to General Faculties Council on June 14th.

5.0 Other Business

6.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:52 P.M.