

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY

APPROVED minutes of the open session of the 244th meeting of the Board of Governors of Athabasca University held virtually, Friday, May 22, 2020.

Present: Bryan Berg (Vice-Chair), Neil Fassina, Robert Balay, Tracey Maguire, Larry Spagnolo, Shannon Neighbour, Lynn Hamilton, McDonald Madamombe, Liam Connelly, Derek Briton, Shawn Fraser, Mary-Anne Parker, Natasha Donahue and Monique Durette

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

Others Present: Matthew Prineas, Deborah Meyers, Jennifer Schaeffer, Kristine Williamson, Charlene Polege, Gilbert Perras and Priscilla Campeau

Absent with Regrets: Nancy Laird and Sharon Anderson

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:33 A.M. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair Bryan Berg chaired the meeting. The Chair introduced new Graduate Student Member Mary-Anne Parker and new Student Member Monique Durette to the members.

1.0 Approval of Agenda

1.1 Approve Agenda for Meeting 244

244-01 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the open session agenda for Meeting 244, and thereby approves the consent agenda including the open session minutes of meeting 243, held April 24, 2020 as presented.

Balay/Parker

Carried

2.0 Conflict of Interest

2.1 Conflict of Interest Declaration

Subject to the Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Guidelines for the Board of Governors, 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 President's Discussion and Analysis

3.1 Discussion and Analysis

The President presented this report to the members, and further to his report the President advised that the implementation of the Investment Management Agreement with the Government of Alberta has been postponed to June 30th. He also noted that advocacy continues in respect of the Expenditure Reduction Target.

3.2 Receive Year-End Variance Report

The President presented this item and provided an overview of the key drivers behind the year-end operating surplus.

Clarification was provided in respect of undergraduate and graduate registration growth and the capital variance, and it was further noted that a Capital Carryforward process had been implemented in recognition that capital projects do not necessarily get completed within one fiscal year.

4.0 Action Items

4.1 Approve Transfer of Funds

- 244-02 MOVED** That the Board of Governors approves the following transfers from Unrestricted Surplus from Operations for the year ended March 31, 2020:
- Transfer from Internally Restricted Strategic Investment Fund to Internally Restricted Pension Liability Fund to reflect policy change \$11,758,000
 - Transfer from Internally Restricted Strategic Investment Fund to Internally Restricted Risk Reserve Fund to reflect policy change \$16,883,356
 - Transfer from Unrestricted Surplus from Operations to Internally Restricted Future Student Awards Fund (current year provision) \$27,536
 - Transfer from Unrestricted Surplus from Operations to Internally Restricted Pension Plan Liability Fund (current year provision) \$349,000
 - Transfer from Unrestricted Surplus from Operations to Internally Restricted Risk Reserve Fund (current year provision) \$3,016,551
 - Retention of Unrestricted Surplus (Deficit) from Operations related to Capital Carryforward for application to 2020-21 \$900,000

Connelly/Briton

The President presented this item noting that transfers from unrestricted to restricted funds come forward every year at this time. He noted that the first two transfers were one-time transfers in order to reposition accounts in alignment with the revised Net Assets Policy, the next three transfers were “business as usual” and happen every year, and the last transfer in recognition of the creation of the Capital Carryforward would become a “business as usual” transfer happening each year from this point forward.

Carried

4.2 Approve 2019-2020 Audited Financial Statements

- 244-03 MOVED** That the Board of Governors approves the 2019-20 Financial Statements, as presented.

Spagnolo/Balay

The Audit Committee Chair provided an overview of the discussion held with the External Auditors earlier in the day.

Carried

4.3 Approve Intellectual Property Policy

244-04 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the Intellectual Property Policy, as presented, effective May 22, 2020.

Briton/Neighbour

The President presented this item noting that the development of the Intellectual Property Policy was identified as a priority with the policy renewal process, and had been noted in a letter of understanding between the Athabasca University Faculty Association and management during the last round of bargaining. He further noted that the policy reflects the current and future business model of AU while simultaneously trying to create an environment that supports the commercialization of intellectual property.

An overview of the policy, including the 4 categories of intellectual property defined in the policy, was provided for the members. A brief overview of feedback received from the academy in relation to the draft policy was also provided.

The members discussed the proposed policy.

244-05 MOVED Move the previous question. (Call the question on Motion 244-04)

Briton

Carried

The vote on Motion 244-04 proceeded.

Motion 244-04 Carried

4.4 Nukskahtowin Plan

Priscilla Campeau presented the Nukskahtowin Plan to the members noting that this plan is the first of its kind in the history of Athabasca University. She acknowledged the work of Elder Maria Campbell in the development of the plan and noted that the plan is an amalgamation of indigenous and non-indigenous voices.

An overview of Nukskahtowin (Meeting Place) was provided, and the 4 goals identified within the plan were reviewed with the members; cultural framework, ethical space, naturalization of indigenous knowledge, and indigenous research.

The members expressed their support for the plan noting that it is inspirational, highlighting the values of indigenous peoples through the affirmation of their culture as well as knowledge.

An inquiry was made in relation to a communications plan and the Vice President University Relations noted that her department will work side-by-side with Nukskahtowin- ensuring that the plan is directed by them and to maximize exposure.

Ms. Campeau thanked the members for their comments and noted that Nukskahtowin will be issuing invitations for people to take part in the creation of the action plans.

The Chair exited the meeting, and Member Spagnolo assumed the Chair.

The Chair thanked Ms. Campeau and Elder Maria Campbell for their hard work on the plan, and their assistance in helping the university in its journey along the pathway of Kwayskahsatsowin (conciliation).

5.0 Business Arising from the Consent Agenda - None

6.0 Board Chair Report and Closing Comments

The Chair expressed his appreciation to the university for navigating through unprecedented times.

7.0 Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:09 P.M.