

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY

APPROVED minutes of the open session of the 245th regular meeting of the Board of Governors of Athabasca University held virtually Friday, September 11, 2020.

Present: Nancy Laird (Chair), Neil Fassina, Robert Balay, Sharon Anderson, Tracey Maguire, Larry Spagnolo, Shannon Neighbour, Lynn Hamilton, Sandip Lalli, Shawn Fraser, Derek Briton, Liam Connelly, MaryAnne Parker, Natasha Donahue and Monique Durette

Governance Staff: Carol Lund, University Secretary, and Barb Kowalchuk, Recording Secretary

Others Present: Matthew Prineas, Jennifer Schaeffer, Kristine Williamson, Gilbert Perras, Charlene Polege, David Head

Absent with Regrets: McDonald Madamombe and Bryan Berg

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:04 A.M.

It was noted that pursuant to the Board of Governors General Bylaws (8.14.1) “No person is allowed to use a recording or broadcasting device in a Board Meeting. The expression “recording or broadcasting device” includes any equipment that can be used to record or broadcast either through photography, videotaping, or audio recording, an image, sound, or a conversation, including cameras, cellular telephones, smart phones, or any similar device.”

1.0 Approval of Agenda

1.1 Approve Agenda for Meeting 245

245-01 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the open session agenda for meeting 245, and thereby approves the consent agenda including the open session minutes of meeting 244, held May 22, 2020, as presented.

Balay/Neighbour

Carried

2.0 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 item noting that the report was being presented in a new format and further that he welcomed any feedback on the new format from the members.

Further to the report, the President noted that the executive team had undertaken its annual review of progress towards IMAGINE, and further that an environmental scan was completed to assess whether emergent risks or opportunities would lead management to recommend any changes to the overall vision or course of IMAGINE. He confirmed that no changes in direction are recommended at this time.

The President also highlighted the rapid cloud migration project noting that Athabasca University is the 1st Canadian university to have academic and operational space entirely in a singular well protected cloud (owned by the university and supported by Amazon Web Services).

3.2 Receive 1st Quarter Variance & Year-End Forecast Report

The President presented this item noting that it was being presented in a new format and feedback on the new format was being sought. He reviewed the report with the members providing an overview of the key drivers behind the current operating surplus and the projected year-end forecast. Members expressed their appreciation of the new format.

4.0 Action Items

4.1 Approve Annual Report to Alberta Advanced Education for the Year Ended March 31, 2020

245-02 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the Athabasca University Annual Report to Alberta Advanced Education for the Year Ended March 31, 2020, subject to non-substantive editorial revisions.

Fraser/Maguire

The President presented this item noting that it is a reporting document for the Government of Alberta. He further noted that the report had been reviewed by the Audit Committee and recommended for approval with some non-substantive editorial changes including strengthened sections regarding PowerEd and Research. He reviewed the editorial changes recommended by the Audit Committee with the members.

Carried

4.2 Approve Revised Investment Advisory Committee Terms of Reference & Membership

245-03 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the revised Investment Advisory Committee Terms of Reference & Membership, effective September 11, 2020.

Balay/Spagnolo

The Chair, Finance & Property Committee presented this item and reviewed the proposed revisions with the members.

Carried

4.3 Approve Revised MBA Specialization in Hockey Management Tuition Fees

245-04 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the reduction of tuition fees for the MBA specialization in Hockey Management to align with regular MBA tuition fees, effective upon the signing of the IP Agreement between Athabasca University and the Business of Hockey Institute, as follows:

Application and Admission		
	Regular MBA	MBA with hockey specialization
MBA application fee due with application	\$205.00	\$205.00
BHI application fee due with application		\$800.00
MBA admission fee	\$856.00	\$856.00
BHI admission fee		\$4200.00
MBA courses		
6 MBA phase one required courses	\$18,817.00 (\$3136.00 per course)	\$18,817.00 (\$3136.00 per course)
4 MBA phase two required courses	\$12,544.00 (\$3136.00 per course)	\$12,544.00 (\$3136.00 per course)
Elective phase		
5 online elective courses	\$15,680.00 (\$3136.00 per course)	\$34,155.00 (\$6831.00 per course)
1 blended course	\$4180.00 (on-line with 1 week in-residence)	\$9,900.00 (on-line with 1 week in-residence)
Total fees for program	\$52,282.00	\$81,476.00

Fassina/Spagnolo

The Chair, FPC presented this item and provided a brief historical overview of the development of the MBA Specialization in Hockey Management, noting that the demand for the program has been substantially less than was originally anticipated, partially due to the cost of tuition being out of market. He noted the proposal would bring the tuition in line with the regular MBA program.

Carried

5.0 Business Arising from the Consent Agenda - None

6.0 Board Chair Report and Closing Comments

Board Chair thanked the members for their participation and respectful conversation. She also took this opportunity to welcome the new Alumnus Member, Sandip Lalli to the Board of Governors.

7.0 Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:03 P.M.