

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY

APPROVED minutes of the open session of the 264th regular meeting of the Board of Governors of Athabasca University held virtually on Friday, September 22, 2023.

Present: Byron Nelson (Chair), Alex Clark, Larry Spagnolo, Don Gnatiuk, Elena Gould, Dan Leckelt, Wilfred Willier, Jacqueline Hobal, Martha Cleveland-Innes, Richard Huntrods, Liam Connelly, and Karen Fletcher.

Guests: Russell Rupok, Chantel Bradley, Dur-E-Najaf Syed and Monica Arcilla

Governance Staff: Melissa Sadownik (Acting for Chief Governance Officer and General Counsel) and Barbara Kowalchuk (Recording Secretary)

Others Present: Matthew Prineas, David Head, Ray Welshman, Jennifer Pascoe, Matthew McCreary, Priscilla Campeau, Shawn Fraser, Megan Hall, Steven Johnson, Manijeh Mannani, Alain May, Bailey Sousa and Shauna Zenteno

Absent with Regrets: Leo de Bever, Terry Lovelace, Lori Van Rooijen, Roger Morrill and Chris Edwards

Prior to calling the meeting to order the Board Chair noted that the student nominees, and the non-academic member nominee, whose appointments to the Board were pending, were present at the meeting. He further noted that Member Mike Lovsin had resigned from the Board and thanked him for his service.

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m. having achieved quorum followed by the delivery of the AU land acknowledgement.

1.0 Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda

264-01 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the open session agenda for meeting 264, and thereby approves the consent agenda including the open session minutes of meeting 263, held May 26, 2023, as presented.

Clark/Leckelt

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 Report to the Board

The President presented his report and reviewed it with the members.

Updates were provided in relation to Senior Leadership Team appointments, ongoing community engagement, the upcoming Presidential Installation as well as initiatives in support of the upcoming strategic planning process.

4.0 Action, Information / Discussion Items

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

The President, the Provost and Vice President Academic and the Interim Vice President Finance and Performance Services & CFO presented this report, providing an overview of key drivers behind the first quarter results and year-end projections.

In response to inquiries, clarification was provided in relation to the changing post-secondary landscape, and enrolment projections.

4.2 Approve Athabasca University Annual Report to Alberta Advanced Education for the year ended March 31, 2023

264-02 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the Athabasca University Annual Report to Alberta Advanced Education for the year ended March 31, 2023, subject to non-substantive editorial revisions.

Cleveland-Innes/Gnatiuk

The Board Chair noted that the Audit Committee had met on September 12, 2023 and had recommended approval of this item.

The President presented this item noting that this is a standard report provided to the Government of Alberta every year which conveys the distinctive nature of the university and its contributions to the end of the fiscal year 2023.

Carried

4.3 Approve Amendment to Undergraduate Tuition and Fees for Out of Country Students

264-03 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves an amendment to the 2023-24 Tuition and Fee Matrix, reducing the undergraduate tuition and fees for out of country students to match the cost of foreign nationals, out of province, in Canada, effective October 1, 2023, subject to non-substantive edits.

Willier/Leckelt

Member Spagnolo confirmed that the Finance & Property Committee had met on September 12, 2023 and had recommended approval of this item.

The President presented this item and provided an overview of the strategy and rationale for the proposal.

Discussion ensued regarding the work being undertaken in respect of strategic enrolment initiatives within the institution, as well as the data and analysis that had been considered as part of this proposal.

Carried

5.0 Business Arising from the Consent Agenda - None

6.0 Board Chair Report and Closing Comments

The Board Chair thanked everyone for their participation and noted that he looked forward to seeing everyone at the Board Retreat being held in conjunction with the upcoming presidential installation ceremony.

7.0 Adjournment

The open session of Meeting 264 was adjourned at 9:42 a.m.