

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY

APPROVED minutes of the open session of the 266th regular meeting of the Board of Governors of Athabasca University held virtually on Friday, January 19, 2024.

Present: Byron Nelson (Chair), Alex Clark, Larry Spagnolo, Leo de Bever, Don Gnatiuk, Elena Gould, Dan Leckelt, Terry Lovelace, Lori Van Rooijen, Wilfred Willier, Jacqueline Hobal, Martha Cleveland-Innes, Richard Huntrods, Liam Connelly, Russell Rupok, Chantel Bradley, Dur-E-Najaf Syed and Monica Arcilla

Governance Staff: Tyler Tollefson (Chief Governance Officer and General Counsel) and Barbara Kowalchuk (Recording Secretary)

Others Present: Matthew Prineas, Dale Mountain, Ray Welshman, Jennifer Pascoe, Pauline Smeltz, Matthew McCreary, Priscilla Campeau, Megan Hall, Manijeh Mannani, Alain May, Andrew Perrin, Bailey Sousa, Shauna Zenteno, Catherine Swindlehurst and Lisa Watson

Absent with Regrets: Roger Morrill

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:50 a.m. having achieved quorum followed by the delivery of the AU land acknowledgement.

1.0 Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda

266-01 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the open session agenda for meeting 266, and thereby approves the consent agenda including the open session minutes of meeting 265, held December 8, 2023, as presented.

Bradley/de Bever

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 Action, Information / Discussion Items

3.1 Motion: Approve 2024-25 Tuition and Fees

266-02 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the 2024-25 Tuition and Fees, as outlined in the 2024-25 Tuition and Fees Matrix, effective September 1, 2024 (unless otherwise noted in the matrix) subject to non-substantive edits.

Connelly/Leckelt

The Board Chair noted that the Board Finance & Property Committee (FPC) met earlier in the day to review the proposed tuition and fees and formulated a recommendation for approval with one amendment.

The Chair, FPC noted that FPC had put forward a recommendation to approve the 2024-25 tuition and fees, as outlined in the Tuition and Fees Matrix as amended to reflect a 10% tuition reduction for undergraduate Indigenous learners (2% more than the 8% reduction originally proposed).

The President presented the proposed 2024-25 tuition and fees to the members.

It was noted that this proposal differed from previous years in that it is a differential, data-driven approach, focused on aims to increase access and value for learners, financial sustainability, and alignment with the university's emerging approach to growth, prior to the launch of a new AU Strategic Plan.

An overview of the development process was provided, and it was noted that the process resulted in an increase to tuition and program fees by an average of 2% (tuition fees vary by area of study) which falls within the parameters of the *Post-secondary Learning Act* Tuition and Fees Regulation (TFR).

The proposed tuition and fees were reviewed in detail with the members. It was noted that tuition and fee increases will be reinvested into initiatives that support and enhance student learning.

Members were advised that the TFR requires a minimum of two consultation sessions per year with students. This year, five consultation sessions were held with student leaders, and further, student leaders were also added to Administrative Council which is the body that builds the integrated resource plan.

The members discussed the proposal in the context of fiscal sustainability, the student experience, revenue generation and reinvestment with a focus on value and quality, fiscal sustainability, and strategies for growth.

Further clarification was provided with respect to the rationale for the proposed reduction in undergraduate tuition fees for learners Indigenous to Canada. It was noted that a reduction for Indigenous learners was advocated for by the student leaders.

Support was expressed for the consideration of the recommendation coming from FPC regarding the undergraduate tuition fees for Indigenous learners.

266-03 MOVED That Motion 266-02 be amended to read as follows:
That the Board of Governors approves the 2024-25 Tuition and Fees, as outlined in the 2024-25 Tuition and Fees Matrix as amended to reflect a 10% "Tuition Reduction – Indigenous Learners", effective September 1, 2024 (unless otherwise noted in the matrix) subject to non-substantive edits.

Gould

CARRIED

Motion 266-02 was restated as amended:

That the Board of Governors approves the 2024-25 Tuition and Fees, as outlined in the 2024-25 Tuition and Fees Matrix as amended to reflect a 10% "Tuition Reduction – Indigenous Learners", effective September 1, 2024 (unless otherwise noted in the matrix) subject to non-substantive edits.

CARRIED

4.0 Business Arising from the Consent Agenda - None

5.0 Adjournment

The open session of Meeting 266 was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.