

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY

APPROVED minutes of the open session of the 267th regular meeting of the Board of Governors of Athabasca University held virtually on Friday, March 22, 2024.

Present: Byron Nelson (Chair), Alex Clark, Larry Spagnolo, Dan Leckelt, Terry Lovelace, Leo de Bever, Don Gnatiuk, Elena Gould, Jacqueline Hobal, Martha Cleveland-Innes, Richard Huntrods, Brenda Kuzio, 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, Jennifer Pascoe, Ray Welshman, Pauline Smeltz, Matthew McCreary, Priscilla Campeau, Megan Hall, Manijeh Mannani, Alain May, Andrew Perrin, Bailey Sousa, Shauna Zenteno, and Catherine Swindlehurst

Absent with Regrets: Roger Morrill, Lori Van Rooijen, Wilfred Willier

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. having achieved quorum followed by the delivery of the AU land acknowledgement.

1.0 Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda

267-01 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the open session agenda for meeting 267, and thereby approves the consent agenda including the open session minutes of meeting 266, held January 19, 2024, as presented.

Clark/Lovelace

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.

4.0 Action, Information / Discussion Items

4.1 3rd Quarter Variance & Year-End Forecast Report

The President and the Vice President Finance and Operations & CFO presented this item providing an overview of the key drivers behind the third quarter variance and year-end projections.

4.2 Approve 2024-25 Integrated Resource Plan

267-02 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the 2024-25 Athabasca University Integrated Resource Plan.

Lovelace/Gnatiuk

The Chair, Finance and Property Committee confirmed that the draft Integrated Resource Plan 2024-25 was reviewed by the Finance and Property Committee on March 12, 2024, and was recommended for approval.

The President, Provost and Vice President Academic, and the Vice President Finance and Operations & CFO presented this item. An overview of the processes followed in the development of the draft 2024-25 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) was provided, after which the IRP was presented including an overview of changes in revenues and expenses from last year, core principles, priority initiatives, details of the balanced budget, financial risk analysis, and priority initiatives contained within the draft Summary Capital and Infrastructure Plan 2025-27.

In response to inquiries, further clarification was provided in respect of long-term sustainability, marketing strategies, and recruitment and retention of learners.

Carried

4.3 Approve Summary Capital and Infrastructure Plan 2025-27

267-03 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the Summary Capital and Infrastructure Plan 2025-27, subject to non-substantive editorial revisions.

Gnatiuk/Lovelace

The Chair, Finance and Property Committee confirmed that the draft Summary Capital and Infrastructure Plan 2025-27 was reviewed by the Finance and Property Committee on March 12, 2024, and was recommended for approval.

The President and the Vice President Finance and Operations & CFO presented this item. It was noted that elements of the proposed Summary Capital and Infrastructure Plan 2025-27 were presented as part of agenda item 4.2. It was further noted that the plan aligns with and is responsive to university priorities.

Carried

4.4 Approve Enterprise Risk Management Risk Register (2024-25)

267-04 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the Enterprise Risk Management Risk Register (2024-25), subject to non-substantive editorial revisions.

Lovelace/Gnatiuk

The Chair, Audit Committee confirmed that the draft Enterprise Risk Management Risk Register (2024-25) was reviewed by the Audit Committee on March 12, 2024, and was recommended for approval.

The President and the Vice President Finance and Operations & CFO presented this item noting that the Enterprise Risk Management Risk Register is brought forward to the Board for approval on an annual basis pursuant to the Enterprise Risk Management Policy and Procedure.

An overview of the development process was provided noting that a comprehensive review of enterprise risk was undertaken through the lens of strategic priorities, and the enterprise risks identified in the risk register were reviewed with the members.

Carried

4.5 Approve Closure of Graduate Diploma in Leadership and Management

267-05 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the suspension of new admissions to the Graduate Diploma in Leadership and Management, effective March 22, 2024, followed by the termination of the Graduate Diploma in Leadership and Management, effective July 1, 2026, or thereafter at the discretion of the Provost and Vice President Academic, subject to the approval of Alberta Advanced Education.

Bradley/Gould

The President and the Provost and Vice President Academic presented this item providing the rationale for the proposed closure of the Graduate Diploma in Leadership and Management. It was further noted that extensive consultation had been undertaken with stakeholders, and that the proposed closure has the support of the General Faculties Council.

Carried

5.0 Business Arising from the Consent Agenda - None

6.0 Board Chair Report and Closing Comments

The Chair thanked everyone for their participation in the meeting.

7.0 Adjournment

The open session of Meeting 267 was adjourned at 9:43 AM.