

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY

APPROVED minutes of the open session of the 246th regular meeting of the Board of Governors of Athabasca University held virtually Friday, December 11, 2020.

Present: Nancy Laird (Chair), Neil Fassina, Sharon Anderson, Robert Balay, Bryan Berg, Lynn Hamilton, McDonald Madamombe, Tracey Maguire, Shannon Neighbour, Larry Spagnolo, Sandip Lalli, Shawn Fraser, Derek Briton, Liam Connelly, Monique Durette and Stacey Hutchings

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

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

Absent with Regrets: Mary-Anne Parker

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 A.M.

1.0 Approval of Agenda

1.1 Approve Agenda for Meeting 246

246-01 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the open session agenda for meeting 246, and thereby approves the consent agenda including the open session minutes of meeting 245, held September 11, 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 welcomed Stacey Hutchings, the new Student Member to the Board.

The President presented this item noting the report was being presented in a new format. He drew the attention of the members to a strategic question contained within the report. Discussion ensued and members provided insights and feedback.

3.2 Receive 2nd Quarter Variance & Year-End Forecast Report

The President presented this report providing an overview of the key drivers behind the 2nd quarter results, and the year-end projections, as well as insights into the key risks that exist with could impact year-end results.

Further to the report, members discussed enrolment trends and their impact on the operations of the university. Additional information was also provided with respect to PowerEd.

4.0 Action Items

4.1 Approve Athabasca University Students' Union Lease Extension

246-02 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves Athabasca University Students' Union's decision to undertake a lease extension to March 31, 2021 of the office space at 301 Energy Square, 10109 – 106 Street, Edmonton, AB.

Spagnolo/Balay

The President presented this item noting that the student unions are independent entities with no formal relationship to the university except for the area of real estate. The provincial government, through the *Post-secondary Learning Act* has empowered the Board to have oversight over the lease agreement that a student union engages in to support their business.

It was noted that due to the term of the lease, the motion should reflect the retroactive nature of the approval. This was presented as a friendly amendment and was accepted by the mover and seconder.

Motion 246-02 was restated as follows:

That the Board of Governors retroactively approves Athabasca University Students' Union's decision to undertake a lease extension to March 31, 2021 of the office space at 301 Energy Square, 10109 – 106 Street, Edmonton, AB.

Carried

5.0 Business Arising from the Consent Agenda - None

6.0 Board Chair Report and Closing Comments

The Board Chair thanked the members for their participation in the day's discussion. She also welcomed the new Student Member, Stacey Hutchings to the Board and advised that members Anderson, Maguire and Connelly had each been appointed to a second term.

7.0 Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:51 A.M.