

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY

APPROVED minutes of the open session of the 247th regular meeting of the Board of Governors of Athabasca University held virtually Friday, January 22, 2021.

Present: Nancy Laird (Chair), Neil Fassina, Bryan Berg, Lynn Hamilton, McDonald Madamombe, Tracey Maguire, Shannon Neighbour, Larry Spagnolo, Shawn Fraser, Derek Briton, Liam Connelly, Mary-Anne Parker, Stacey Hutchings and Natalia Iwanek

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

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

Absent with Regrets: Sharon Anderson, Sandip Lalli and Robert Balay

The Chair introduced the new student member Natalia Iwanek to the members and welcomed her to the Board.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:19 A.M.

1.0 Approval of Agenda

1.1 Approve Agenda for Meeting 247

247-01 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the open session agenda for meeting 247, and thereby approves the consent agenda including the open session minutes of meeting 246, held December 11, 2020, as presented.

Neighbour/Madamombe

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.

The following conflict of interest declarations were made in relation to agenda item 3.1 “Approve 2021-2022 Tuition and Fees”:

- Lynn Hamilton – student
- Shannon Neighbour – student
- Mary-Anne Parker – student and President, Athabasca University Graduate Students Association
- Stacey Hutchings – student, President, Athabasca University Students Union
- Natalia Iwanek – student, Vice President External and Student Affairs, Athabasca University Students Union

3.0 Action Items

3.1 Approve 2021-2022 Tuition and Fees

247-02 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the 2021-2022 Tuition and Fees, effective September 1, 2021.

Spagnolo/Maguire

The President presented this item noting that the proposal was recommended for approval by the Finance & Property Committee earlier in the day. He provided an overview of the current environment, the process undertaken by the university in development of the proposal, and the rationale for the proposed 2021-2022 tuition and fees. He also confirmed that meaningful and engaged consultations took place with student leaders throughout the process.

The student members each acknowledged and thanked the university for the improved and inclusive consultations, noting that it was beneficial to have an understanding of the thoroughness of the process.

Members discussed the proposal at length in terms of the assumptions used in the development process, student support, the work being undertaken in support of the lessening of existing barriers for students, the process by which the change in tuition and fees is being applied, and effective communication to the students.

CARRIED

**Members Hutchings and Iwanek opposed
Member Parker abstained**

The Chair thanked everyone for their thoughtful discussion.

4.0 Business Arising from the Consent Agenda - None

5.0 Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 A.M.