

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY

APPROVED minutes of the open session of the 248th regular meeting of the Board of Governors of Athabasca University held virtually on Friday, March 26, 2021.

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

Governance Staff: Carol Lund (University Secretary) and Barbara Kowalchuk (Recording Secretary)

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 A.M.

1.0 Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda

248-01 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the open session agenda for Meeting 248, and thereby approves the consent agenda including the open session minutes of meeting 247, held January 22, 2021, as presented.

Spagnolo/Parker

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 presented his report and provided an update on events that had transpired subsequent to the submission of the report.

3.2 Receive 3rd Quarter Variance & Year-End Forecast Report

The President presented this item providing an overview of the key drivers behind the 3rd quarter results and the year-end projections, as well as insights into the key risks that exist which could impact year-end results.

4.0 Action, Information/Discussion Items

4.1 Approve 2021-2022 Integrated Resource Plan

248-02 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the 2021-22 Athabasca University Integrated Resource Plan, as presented.

Lalli/Connelly

An overview of the draft 2021-2022 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) was presented including information pertaining to integrated resource planning process, financial context, financial plan, resource priorities, risk assessment, and the top priorities for 2021-22 contained within the draft Summary Capital and Infrastructure Plan. It was noted that the draft IRP represents a balanced budget while continuing to invest in IMAGINE.

The members reviewed and discussed the draft IRP, as well as the current PSI environment, assumptions used in the development of the IRP and key risks.

Appreciation was expressed for the work undertaken in the development of the IRP.

Carried

4.2 Approve Summary Capital and Infrastructure Plan

248-03 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the Summary Capital and Infrastructure Plan 2022-24, subject to non-substantive editorial revisions.

Neighbour/Parker

The President presented this item noting that a transition had been made to a three year plan instead of a five year plan as had been presented in the past, and further that the plan was being presented in a new format. Rationale was provided for the move from a five year to a three year plan.

Carried

4.3 Approve ERM Primary Risk Register (2021-22)

248-04 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the ERM Primary Risk Register (2021-22), subject to non-substantive editorial revisions.

Neighbour/Lalli

The Chair, Audit Committee deferred to the President to present this item. The President noted that the enterprise risk management environment had been further refined in the past year. He reviewed the primary risks identified and highlighted the key risk drivers.

Carried

4.4 Approve Disposition of Leased Space

- 248-05 MOVED** That the Board of Governors approves the reduction of the amount of space currently being leased by Athabasca University at its Edmonton and Calgary locations, along a timeline and in an amount that aligns with the implementation of Athabasca University's Near-Virtual strategy, as per the terms of the current Board approved lease agreements in these locations and, further;
That the Board of Governors authorizes the Vice President, Finance and Performance Services & Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to execute the reduction of leased space.

Spagnolo/Madamombe

The Chair, Finance and Property Committee presented this item noting that it is in keeping with the near-virtual strategy. It was further noted that spatial decisions will be entirely driven by the near-virtual strategy and program.

Carried

4.5 Approve Program Closures

4.5.1 Approve Termination of Master of Counselling: Career Counselling Specialization

- 248-06 MOVED** That the Board of Governors approves the termination of the Master of Counselling: Career Counselling Specialization, effective upon approval by Alberta Advanced Education.

Briton/Fassina

The Provost and Vice President Academic provided background and rationale for the proposed termination of the Career Counselling Specialization within the Master of Counselling Program.

Carried

4.5.2 Approve Termination of Master of Counselling: School Counselling Specialization

- 248-07 MOVED** That the Board of Governors approves the termination of the Master of Counselling: School Counselling Specialization effective upon approval by Alberta Advanced Education.

Fassina/Lalli

The Provost and Vice President Academic provided background and rationale for the proposed termination of the School Counselling Specialization within the Master of Counselling Program.

Carried

4.5.3 Approve Termination of Master of Counselling: Art Therapy Specialization

248-08 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the termination of the Master of Counselling: Art Therapy Specialization, effective upon approval by Alberta Advanced Education.

Lalli/Fassina

The Provost and Vice President Academic provided background and rationale for the proposed termination of the Art Therapy Specialization within the Master of Counselling Program.

Carried

4.6 Approve Board Goals & Objectives April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022

248-09 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the Board of Governors Goals and Objectives April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022.

Maguire/Lalli

The Chair, Governance Committee reviewed the proposed goals and objectives with the members.

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.

7.0 Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:08 A.M.