

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY

APPROVED minutes of the open session of the 253rd regular meeting of the Board of Governors of Athabasca University held virtually on Friday, December 10, 2021.

Present: Nancy Laird (Chair), Deborah Meyers, Sharon Anderson, Lynn Hamilton, McDonald Madamombe, Shannon Neighbour, Andrew Ko, Sandip Lalli, Shawn Fraser, Marti Cleveland-Innes, Liam Connelly, Stacey Hutchings, Natalia Iwanek, and Julia Cornester

Governance Staff: Sara Kunto (Chief Governance Officer and General Counsel) and Barb Kowalchuk (Recording Secretary)

Others Present: Matthew Prineas, David Head, Jennifer Schaeffer, Kristine Williamson, Gilbert Perras and Charlene Polege

Absent with Regrets: Bryan Berg, Larry Spagnolo and Tracey Maguire

The Chair referred those present to clause 8.14 of the Board of Governors General Bylaws regarding unauthorized recordings.

Prior to calling the meeting to order the Chair welcomed new public member Andrew Ko to the Board, and thanked members Shawn Fraser and Shannon Neighbour for their service, noting that it would be their last Board meeting.

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:39 A.M. having achieved quorum and delivered the AU land acknowledgement.

1.0 Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda

253-01 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the open session agenda for Meeting 253, and thereby approves the consent agenda including the open session minutes of meeting 252, held September 10, 2021, as presented.

Cornester/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 (Interim) reviewed the report with the members.

The President (Interim) noted that this would be her last meeting serving as President (Interim) and thanked the members for their support.

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

The President (Interim) reviewed this report with the members providing an overview of the key drivers behind the 2nd Quarter results and year-end projections.

Further to the report, clarification was provided in respect of enrolment projections and internationalization.

4.0 Action Items

4.1 Approve Master of Architecture program

253-02 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the Master of Architecture program effective September 1, 2022, or thereafter at the discretion of the Provost and Vice President Academic, pending approval by Alberta Advanced Education.

Cleveland-Innes/Ko

The Provost and Vice President Academic reviewed this item with the members.

The members discussed the proposal and expressed their appreciation for this innovative program and the work that had been undertaken in its development.

Carried

4.2 Approve University Certificate in Indigenous Community Economic Development & Planning program

253-03 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the University Certificate in Indigenous Community Economic Development & Planning program effective January 1, 2022, or thereafter at the discretion of the Provost and Vice President Academic, pending approval by Alberta Advanced Education.

Madamombe/Lalli

The Provost and Vice President Academic reviewed this item with the members.

The members discussed the proposal acknowledging the unique delivery model and expressed their appreciation for the work that had been undertaken in its development.

Carried

4.3 Approve Lease Extension – Near-Virtual Initiative – Edmonton Space Requirements

253-04 MOVED That the Board of Governors approve the execution of a lease extension at Trail Business Centre (AU North) for two-years, which lease extension shall be limited specifically to Suite 222 representing 3,764 sq.ft., and Suite 308 representing 2,289 sq.ft, and shall provide Athabasca University with the ability to terminate the two-year lease extension early,
and;
That the Board of Governors authorize the Vice-President, Finance and Performance Services & CFO to execute the above noted two-year lease extension solely related to Suite 222 and Suite 308 at Trail Business Centre (AU North) on behalf of the Board of Governors.

Neighbour/Madamombe

The President (Interim) reviewed this item with the members.

Carried

5.0 Business Arising from the Consent Agenda - None

6.0 Board Chair Report and Closing Comments

The Board Chair noted that this would be the last meeting that Deborah Meyers would be serving as President (Interim) as the president-designate would be arriving on January 4, 2022. She thanked Ms. Meyers for her leadership over the past nine months and presented her with a gift on behalf of the members.

The Board Chair further thanked the Board members for their generosity of time and expertise and expressed holiday wishes, noting that a small token of appreciation would be sent to each member.

7.0 Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 A.M.