

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY

APPROVED minutes of the open session of the 263rd regular meeting of the Board of Governors of Athabasca University held virtually on Friday, May 26, 2023.

Present: Byron Nelson (Chair), Alex Clark, Larry Spagnolo, Leo de Bever, Don Gnatiuk, Dan Leckelt, Terry Lovelace, Mike Lovsin, Lori Van Rooijen, Wilfred Willier, Jacqueline Hobal, Roger Morrill, Martha Cleveland-Innes, Richard Huntrods, Liam Connelly, Karen Fletcher, Chris Edwards and Dur-E-Najaf Syed

Governance Staff: Melissa Sadownik (Acting for Chief Governance Officer and General Counsel) and Barbara Kowalchuk (Recording Secretary)

Others Present: Matthew Prineas, Jennifer Shaeffer, Kristine Williamson, Pauline Smeltz, Gilbert Perras, David Head, Priscilla Campeau, Shawn Fraser, Megan Hall, Manijeh Mannani, Alain May, Andrew Perrin, Bailey Sousa and Shauna Zenteno

Absent with Regrets: Elena Gould

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m. having achieved quorum followed by the delivery of the AU land acknowledgement.

1.0 Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda

263-01 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the open session agenda for meeting 263, and thereby approves the consent agenda including the open session minutes of meeting 262, held March 24, 2023, as presented.

Fletcher/Morrill

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.

The members discussed the planned use of AU house, as well as progress to date on the usage of workspaces in Athabasca.

4.0 Action, Information / Discussion Items

4.1 Receive Year-End Variance Report

The President and the Vice President Finance & Performance Services & Chief Financial Officer (VPFPS & CFO) presented this item providing an overview of the key drivers behind the year-end results.

4.2 Approve Transfer of Funds

263-02 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the following transfers (amounts in thousands) for the year ended March 31, 2023:

- Transfer from Unrestricted Surplus from Operations to Internally Restricted Future Student Awards Fund \$ 24
- Transfer from Internally Restricted Pension Plan Liability Fund to the Internally Restricted Risk Reserve Fund \$ 2,314
- Transfers to Unrestricted Surplus from Operations from Internally Restricted Risk Reserve Fund \$ 107
- Retention of Unrestricted Surplus from Operations to fund capital investment, including Capital Carryforward, in 2023-24 \$ 2,744

Spagnolo/de Bever

The Chair, Finance & Property Committee noted that the proposed transfers had been reviewed by the Finance & Property Committee and had been recommended for approval. It was further noted that the proposed transfers have been incorporated into the draft 2022-23 Financial Statements.

Carried

4.3 Approve 2022-23 Financial Statements

263-03 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the 2022-23 Financial Statements, as presented.

De Bever/Gnatiuk

The Chair confirmed that the Audit Committee had met with representatives of the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) and PricewaterhouseCoopers (the agent for the OAG) and reviewed the Audit Report. He further confirmed that following the discussion with the external auditors the Audit Committee had recommended approval of the draft 2022-23 Financial Statements.

Carried

4.4 Approve Land Development and Real Estate Plan

263-04 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the Land Development and Real Estate Plan, subject to non-substantive editorial revisions.

Spagnolo/Cleveland Innes

The Chair, Finance & Property Committee confirmed that the Finance & Property Committee had reviewed the draft Land Development and Real Estate Plan (LDRP) and had recommended approval of the plan. He further noted that this item will feed into strategic planning.

The President and the VPFPS & CFO presented this item noting that the Post-secondary Learning Act requires that the board of a comprehensive academic and research university must, in accordance with the regulations, provide to the minister a long-range land use and development plan relating to land owned by or leased to the board. It was further noted that the Post-secondary Learning Act, Land Use Regulation 54/2004 sets out the details for the long-range land use and development plans.

It was noted that the LDRP will enable Athabasca University to fulfill its legislative requirement to prepare a long-range plan for university land.

An overview of the development process as well as the multi-phase consultation and engagement sessions with faculty, staff, members of the local community and other stakeholders was provided. The ideas presented in the LDRP represent the key themes that have been heard through the consultation process and are brought forth as input to be taken into consideration as part of AU's strategic and operational planning processes and priority setting.

It was noted that this plan is a foundational piece that identifies ideas and opportunities (contains no recommendations) and prior to proceeding with any of the prospective ideas it will be important to carry out further engagement with key internal and external stakeholders, including the Board, indigenous community and local community members as appropriate, to ensure alignment with AU's strategic priorities, as well as to undertake further detailed analysis from a cost-benefit perspective.

The members discussed the proposed plan in the context of current and future learner needs as well as the university's physical presence in the community.

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 and noted that this would be the last Board meeting that Members Fletcher and Edwards would be attending. He thanked Members Fletcher and Edwards for their work on the board, and for their contributions to deliberations.

7.0 Adjournment

The open session of Meeting 263 was adjourned at 10:17 a.m.