BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY

APPROVED minutes of the open session of the 275th regular meeting of the Board of Governors of Athabasca University held virtually on Tuesday, March 24, 2026.

Present: Byron Nelson (Chair), Alex Clark, Terry Lovelace, Leo de Bever, Lori Van Rooijen, Jacqueline Hobal, Roger Morrill, Jim Rieder, Martha Cleveland-Innes, Anshuman Khare, Brenda Kuzio, Jan Lehmann, Dave Roy and Brittany Hollett

Governance Staff: Tyler Tollefson (Chief Governance Officer and General Counsel & Acting Vice President University Relations) and Barbara Kowalchuk (Recording Secretary)

Others Present: Catherine Swindlehurst, Stuart Johnston, Ray Welshman, Pauline Smeltz, Matt McCreary, Priscilla Campeau Steven Johnson, Richard Dixon, Simon Sigue, Ramses Ilarraza and Shauna Zenteno

Absent with Regrets: Elena Gould, Will Willier and Diana Ramirez

The Chair provided the AU land acknowledgement, and welcomed Mr. Jim Rieder, to his first meeting as a Public Member of the Board.

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:34 A.M. having achieved quorum.

1.0 Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda

275-01 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the open session agenda for meeting 275, and thereby approves the consent agenda, as presented.

Cleveland-Innes/Khare **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 Approval of Minutes

275-02 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the minutes of the open session of meeting 274 held December 16, 2025, as presented.

Kuzio/Lovelace **Carried**

4.0 President's Report to the Board

The President presented his report to the members.

5.0 Action, Information / Discussion Items

5.1 Review 2025-26 Third Quarter Variance Report

The President, Provost and Vice President Academic, and the Vice President Finance and Operations & CFO presented this item providing an overview of the key drivers behind the third quarter variance and year-end forecast.

5.2 Motion: Approve Institutional Budget 2026-2027

275-03 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the 2026-27 Institutional Budget, subject to non-substantive editorial revisions.

Van Rooijen/Cleveland-Innes

The Board Chair confirmed that the Finance & Property Committee reviewed this item on March 10, 2026 and recommended approval.

The President, Provost and Vice President Academic, and the Vice President Finance and Operations & CFO presented this item. Context regarding the current environment in the post-secondary sector, as well as an overview of the processes followed in the development of the draft Institutional Budget (Budget) was provided.

A presentation was undertaken including information pertaining to Athabasca University's current state as well as how the Budget will support strategies moving forward. The 2026-27 budget principles, underlying assumptions, and key budget drivers were reviewed with the members. Details of the Budget as well as projections for 2027-28 and 2028-29 were presented noting the projected elimination of the structural deficit. An overview of an institutional risk analysis was also provided.

Priority initiatives contained within the proposed Summary Capital and Infrastructure Plan 2027-2029 (*agenda item 5.3)* were reviewed with the members, noting that investment in these initiatives will be required from Athabasca University in addition to funding.

Carried

5.3 Motion: Approve 2027-2029 Athabasca University Summary Capital and Infrastructure Plan

275-04 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the Summary Capital and Infrastructure Plan 2027-2029, subject to non-substantive editorial revisions.

Khare/Lovelace

The Board Chair confirmed that the Finance & Property Committee reviewed this item on March 10, 2026, and recommended approval.

The President noted that this item had been presented as part of the presentation provided under agenda item 5.2.

Carried

5.4 Motion: Harmonization of Implementation of 2026-2027 Tuition and Fees

275-05 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves a single implementation date for the 2026–27 tuition and fees, as outlined in the updated 2026–27 Tuition and Fees Matrix, effective September 1, 2026, subject to non-substantive edits.

Cleveland-Innes/Van Rooijen

The Board Chair confirmed that the Finance & Property Committee reviewed this item on March 10, 2026 and recommended approval.

The President and the Provost and Vice President Academic presented this item noting that the 2026-2027 tuition and fees matrix had been approved in December 2025, however in consultation with the students it has been determined that the dates for the course materials fees should be aligned with the tuition and as such this was being brought back for revision to align both implementation dates on September 1, 2026.

Carried

6.0 Business Arising from the Consent Agenda - None

7.0 Board Chair Report and Closing Comments

The Board Chair noted that he looked forward to seeing everyone in Athabasca in June at convocation. He also welcomed back the 4 public members who had each been appointed to a 2nd term on the Board since the last Board meeting. He noted that one member had not been reappointed, and acknowledged that member's work during his time on the Board.

8.0 Adjournment

The open session of Meeting 275 was adjourned at 9:21 A.M.