

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY

APPROVED minutes of the open session of the 276th regular meeting of the Board of Governors of Athabasca University held virtually on Friday, May 29, 2026.

Present: Byron Nelson (Chair), Alex Clark, Terry Lovelace, Leo de Bever, Elena Gould, Roger Morrill, Jim Rieder, Lori Van Rooijen, Brittany Hollett, Martha Cleveland-Innes, Anshuman Khare, Brenda Kuzio, Jan Lehmann, Diana Ramirez, and Gelareh Keshavarz

Governance Staff: Tyler Tollefson (Vice President Governance and University Relations, and General Counsel) and Barbara Kowalchuk (Recording Secretary)

Others Present: Catherine Swindlehurst, Stuart Johnston, Pauline Smeltz, Matt McCreary, Priscilla Campeau, Richard Dixon, Steven Johnson, Manijeh Mannani, Simon Sigue, Ramses Ilarraza, Shauna Zenteno and Nickkisha Farrell-Myles

Absent with Regrets: Will Willier and Jackie Hobal

The Chair provided the AU land acknowledgement.

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

276-01 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the open session agenda for meeting 276, and thereby approves the consent agenda, as presented.

Khare/Rieder

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

276-02 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the minutes of the open session of meeting 275 held March 24, 2026, as presented.

Lovelace/Kuzio

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 Fourth 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 fourth quarter variance report.

5.2 Motion: Approve Transfer of Funds

276-03 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the following transfers (amounts in thousands) for the year ended March 31, 2026:

- Transfer from Unrestricted Surplus from Operations to Internally Restricted Future Student Awards Fund \$ 21
- Transfer from Internally Restricted Pension Plan Liability Fund to the Internally Restricted Risk Reserve Fund \$ 4,084
- Transfers from Unrestricted Surplus from Operations to Internally Restricted Risk Reserve Fund \$ 9,070
- Retention of Unrestricted Surplus from Operations to fund capital investment, including Capital Carry forward, in 2026-27 \$ 5,532

Cleveland-Innes/Van Rooijen

The Chair, Finance & Property Committee confirmed that the Finance & Property Committee reviewed this item on May 21, 2026 and recommended approval.

The President, and the Vice President Finance and Operations & CFO presented this item and reviewed the proposed transfers with the members.

Carried

5.3 Motion: Approve 2025-26 Financial Statements

276-04 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the 2025-26 Financial Statements, as presented.

Cleveland-Innes/Khare

The Chair, Audit & Risk Committee advised the members that the Audit & Risk Committee had met with representatives of the Office of the Auditor General and the agent KPMG on May 21, 2026 at which time they were advised that the Auditor General was prepared to issue an opinion without reservation on the Financial Statements. He

further confirmed that following the discussion with the auditors, the Audit & Risk Committee recommended approval of this item.

The President, the Provost and Vice President Academic, and the Vice President Finance and Operations & CFO presented this item and reviewed the draft financial statements with the members.

Carried

5.4 Motion: Approve Doctor of Philosophy – Computing and Information Systems (PhD CIS)

276-05 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the Doctor of Philosophy – Computing and Information Systems, effective July 1st, 2027, or thereafter at the discretion of the Provost and Vice President Academic, subject to approval by the Ministry of Advanced Education.

Hollett/Rieder

The Chair, Finance & Property Committee confirmed that the Finance & Property Committee reviewed this item on May 21, 2026 and recommended approval.

The President and the Provost and Vice President Academic presented this item noting that this will be Athabasca University's first PhD program, and the first online PhD CIS program in Canada. It was further noted that this proposal is the result of extensive work and development within the Faculty of Science and Technology, and across the institution over a number of years.

The members reviewed and discussed the proposal.

Carried

5.5 Motion: Approve Master in Management (MiM)

276-06 MOVED That the Board of Governors approves the Master in Management program effective July 1, 2027, or thereafter at the discretion of the Provost and Vice President Academic, subject to approval by the Ministry of Advanced Education.

Khare/Morrill

The Chair, Finance & Property Committee confirmed that the Finance & Property Committee reviewed this item on May 21, 2026 and recommended approval.

The President and the Provost and Vice President Academic presented this item noting that this will be Athabasca University's first Master in Management program. It was further noted that this program is flexible and accessible, being suitable for professionals from all sectors and fields with multiple entry pathways.

Carried

5.6 Motion: Approve Termination of Master of Business Administration Digital Business Transformation and Strategic Leadership and Change Specializations

- 276-07 MOVED** That the Board of Governors approves the termination of the Master of Business Administration Digital Business Transformation and Strategic Leadership and Change Specializations effective July 1, 2026, or thereafter at the discretion of the Provost and Vice-President Academic, subject to approval by the Ministry of Advanced Education.

Khare/Lehmann

The Chair, Finance & Property Committee, confirmed that the Finance & Property Committee reviewed this item on May 21, 2026 and recommended approval.

The President and the Provost and Vice President Academic presented this item noting that this item represents the termination of program streams that were approved but not implemented due to the ongoing Master of Business Administration renewal process.

Carried

5.7 Motion: Approve Annual Fighting Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains Act Report

- 276-08 MOVED** That the Board of Governors approves the Athabasca University Canadian Modern Slavery Report for the period April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025.

Kuzio/Rieder

The Chair, Audit & Risk Committee confirmed that the Audit & Risk Committee reviewed this item on May 21, 2026 and recommended approval.

The President and the Vice President Finance and Operations & CFO presented this item noting that pursuant to the Fighting Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains Act, this report is presented for approval annually and is shared publicly.

Carried

5.8 Motion: Approve Required Changes resulting from new Access and Privacy Legislation

- 276-09 MOVED** That the President be designated as head of the public body for the purposes of the *Access to Information Act*, S.A. 2024 c. A-1.4 (ATIA) and *Protection of Privacy Act*, S.A. 2024, c. P-28.5 (POPA), pursuant to section 98(a) of ATIA.
And further,
That the "Designation of Head for the Purposes of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act Policy" be rescinded, effective May 29, 2026.

Lehmann/Van Rooijen

The Chair, Audit & Risk Committee confirmed that the Audit & Risk Committee reviewed this item on May 21, 2026 and recommended approval.

The President and the Vice President Governance and University Relations, and General Counsel presented this item noting that this item was being presented as a result of new legislation governing access to information and protection of privacy rights and obligations.

276-10 MOVED That the “Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act Delegation of Authority Policy” be rescinded, effective May 29, 2026.

Gould/Rieder

The Chair, Audit & Risk Committee confirmed that the Audit & Risk Committee reviewed this item on May 21, 2026 and recommended approval.

The President and the Vice President Governance and University Relations, and General Counsel presented this item noting that this item was also being presented as a result of new legislation governing access to information and protection of privacy rights and obligations.

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 for convocation.

The Board Chair further noted that this would likely be the last meeting for student members Lehmann and Ramirez and thanked them for their contributions and work on the Board.

8.0 Adjournment

The open session of Meeting 276 was adjourned at 9:41A.M.