Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Date of Next Review: June 2028

1. Purpose of the Committee

The purpose of the Learning, Research & Student Experience Committee (the "**Committee**") is to provide oversight and strategic guidance to ensure the University of Alberta's (the "**University**") Academic Programs, research activities, and student affairs align with the institution's mission, values, and long-term goals. The Committee advises the Board of Governors (the "**Board**") on matters related to Academic Programs, research innovation, student success, and overall quality of the learning environment.

2. Delegated Authority from the Board

In furtherance of the purpose of the Committee, the Board has delegated to the Committee the following powers, duties and functions:

2.1 *Oversight and Facilitation of Academic Mission*

(a) reviewing and, if deemed appropriate, making recommendations to the Board with respect to:

(i) the approval of Major initiatives related to the overall academic mission and related plans and policies of the University provided that any such policies constitute a Board-level Policy;

(ii) the establishment, termination, merger, or Major Reorganization of colleges, faculties, departments and schools;

(iii) the approval of the creation, modification, suspension and/or termination of Academic Programs, subject to Section 3 below;

(iv) sections of the Investment Management Agreement and/or any similar documents to the extent such sections align with the purpose of the Committee;

(b) reviewing and, if deemed appropriate, approving:

(i) substantive amendments to the appeal procedures and powers set out in, or promulgated pursuant to, the *Student Conduct Policy*, the *Student Academic Integrity Policy* and the *Practicum Intervention Policy*, subject to Section 3 below;

(ii) institutional enrolment strategic directions, and providing feedback on the same from time-to-time;

(iii) the progress towards achieving the enrolment targets and objectives set out in the Investment Management Agreement on an annual basis;

(c) receiving and discussing Quality Assurance Reports where, in the opinion of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic), any such Quality Assurance Reports merit consideration by the Committee because the same disclose an issue that could reasonably be expected to negatively impact the fulfillment of the University's mandate;

2.2 *Oversight and Facilitation of Research and Knowledge Mobilization*

(a) ensuring that research and innovation activities at the University are administered and supported in a manner consistent with the vision, mission, and strategic priorities of the University;

(b) receiving, discussing and providing feedback on research performance, including with respect to Academic Centres and Institutes;

(c) monitoring matters related to technology transfer and knowledge mobilization;

(d) reporting to the Board with respect to material updates to any of the foregoing; and

(e) considering and advising the Board with respect to the approval of new research policies and Major revisions to existing research policies.

2.3 *Oversight and Facilitation of Quality of Students' Experience*

(a) reviewing and providing feedback on:

(i) regular reports about student experience, wellness and success; and

(ii) programs, partnerships and strategies, including the promotion of access, community and belonging initiatives, related to student experience, wellness and success;

(b) reporting to the Board with respect to material updates to any of the foregoing; and

(c) monitoring University compliance with Student Wellness Instruments.

3. Limitations on Delegated Authority

3.1 *General*

The Committee has the authority to carry out its roles and responsibilities, subject to any specific conditions or restrictions that are imposed on it by the Board. The Committee does not have decision-making authority except where, and to the extent that, such authority has been expressly delegated or assigned by the Board in these Terms of Reference or by a resolution of the Board.

3.2 *Creation, Modification and Suspension and/or Termination of Academic Programs*

In addition to the foregoing, and with respect to subsection 2.1(a)(iii), the Committee shall only consider the approval of substantial proposals relating to the creation, modification and suspension and/or termination of Academic Programs.

3.3 *Appeal Procedures*

With respect to subsection 2.1(b)(i), as of the effective date of these Terms of Reference, the Board has delegated to the General Faculties Council the power to make substantive amendments to both the *Student Misconduct Appeal Procedure* and the *Student Academic Misconduct Appeal Procedure*.[1]

4. Reporting Obligation(s)

The Committee reports regularly to the Board with respect to its activities and decisions.

5. Composition of the Committee

The Committee functions in accordance with the Principles for Board Standing Committee Composition.

Members	
***Ex-officio* (3)**	
(a)	the Board Chair
(b)	the Chancellor
(c)	the President and Vice-Chancellor
***Appointed* (7)**	
(d)	where appropriate, no more than seven Governors or Non-Governor Committee Members, as appointed by the Board or its delegate
Internal Resources	
(e)	the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
(f)	the Vice-President (Research)
(g)	the Vice-President (International, Innovation and Enterprise)

[1] See the minutes of the meeting of the Board on March 22, 2024.

(h)	the University Secretary
(i)	the Committee Secretary
(j)	other resources, as determined by the President or the Committee
Chair / Vice-Chair	
(k)	the Committee Chair and Vice-Chair shall be selected from the Committee membership appointed pursuant to sub-section 5.(d) of these Terms of Reference[2]

6. Definitions

In these Terms of Reference, and in addition to terms otherwise defined herein, the following terms have the following meanings:

(a) "**Academic Centre or Institute**" means an academic centre or institute that exists at the University and is controlled by the University, and, for greater certainty:

(i) an academic centre or institute may exist solely within the University or may be created by one or more partnerships between the University and one or more entity or entities; and

(ii) such other entity or entities may include other universities, governments, public authorities (such as health authorities), and/or non-profit organizations;

(b) "**Academic Program**" means a group of credit courses that, on completion, leads to the granting of a degree, diploma or certificate;

(c) "**Board-level Policy**" has the meaning ascribed that term in the University's *Policy Development Policy*;

(d) "**College**" means any one of the (i) College of Health Sciences, (ii) the College of Natural and Applied Sciences, or (iii) the College of Social Sciences and Humanities;

(e) "**Department**" means an academic department established within a Faculty and which is empowered to determine such policy as may come within its purview by delegation of a faculty council subject to the policies and regulations of the University;

(f) "**Faculty**" means means a division of the University governed by a faculty council that is entitled, among other things, to determine the Academic Programs for which the faculty is established;

(g) "**Investment Management Agreement**" means an investment management agreement as that term is understood in the *Post-secondary Learning Act* (Alberta);

[2] The Vice-Chair undertakes and discharges all duties of the Chair of the Committee in the absence of the Chair.

(h) "**Major**" means "important", "serious", or "significant" and for the purposes of these Terms of Reference:

(i) "**Major Initiatives**" refers to initiatives, plans, or policies that have a substantial and long-term impact on the University's academic mission, operations, or strategic objectives. This includes initiatives that significantly affect resource allocation, the development of Academic Programs, research capacity, student experience, or external partnerships. "Major" initiatives are typically those that require significant financial investment, affect a broad range of stakeholders, or are critical to the institution's reputation and long-term sustainability; and

(ii) "**Major Reorganization**" refers to any significant restructuring of the internal organization of Colleges, Faculties, Departments, or Schools, including changes to their leadership, administrative structure, allocation of resources, or the redistribution of their academic responsibilities. This includes, but is not limited to, the consolidation of multiple units, the division of existing units into smaller ones, or changes that substantially affect the mission, operations, or governance of these academic bodies;

(i) "**material**" refers to any information, issue, or initiative that could have a significant effect on the University's academic mission, research agenda, student experience, reputation, or overall strategic direction. Material matters are those that, if omitted or misrepresented, would likely influence the decisions or deliberations of the Board, particularly regarding resource allocation, policy changes, or institutional priorities. The determination of materiality should consider both quantitative impacts (such as financial or operational scale) and qualitative impacts (such as reputational or strategic importance);

(j) "**Quality Assurance Reports**" means reports issued following cyclical reviews of Academic Programs administered in accordance with the guidelines set by the Campus Alberta Quality Council and by the Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

(k) "**School**" means: (i) a Faculty which, as a matter of common parlance at the University, is called a "school"; (ii) a Department that performs or is designed to perform the functions of a "school"; or (iii) an Academic Centre or Institute which holds the title of "school";

(l) "**Student Wellness Instruments**" include, but are not limited to:

(i) the *Alberta Human Rights Act*;

(ii) the *Alcohol Policy*;

(iii) the *Discrimination, Harassment and Duty to Accommodate Policy*;

(iv) the *Ethical Conduct and Safe Disclosure Policy*;

(v) the *Health Information Act* (Alberta);

(vi) the *Health, Safety, and Environment Policy*;

(vii) the *Helping Individuals at Risk Policy*;

(viii) the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* (Alberta);

(ix) the *Post-secondary Learning Act* (Alberta);

(x) the *Residence Community Standards Policy*;

(xi) the *Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy*;

(xii) the *Student Conduct Policy*; and

(xiii) the *Student Academic Integrity Policy*.

The foregoing include all regulations and procedures promulgated thereunder, and are as amended or replaced from time to time.

7. Interpretation

For the better understanding of section 2.1 of these Terms of Reference, a substantial proposal for the creation, modification, or suspension and/or termination of an Academic Program is one which:

(a) contemplates a significant financial investment in one or more facilities and/or technology; or

(b) requires an assessment of reputational or academic risks to the University.

8. Effective Date

These Terms of Reference will be effective on the date that they are approved by the Board. All prior or existing Terms of Reference of the Committee are repealed as of the effective date of these Terms of Reference.