UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Board of Governors
Open Session Minutes

Jun 20, 2025
Via Zoom Videoconference
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

ATTENDEES:

Members: Kate Chisholm (Chair); Guy Bridgeman (Vice-Chair); Pedro Almeida; Chris Ashdown; Karina Banerji; Zarina Bhambhani; Ross Bricker; Darren Durstling; Bill Flanagan; Ryan Hastman; Ange Kadima; Kevin Kane; Aashish Kumar; Janice MacKinnon; Sett Policicchio; Tom Ross; Rakesh Saraf; Nizar Somji; Venkata Vemana; Dilini Vethanayagam; Diane Wheatley; Paul Whittaker; Kate Young; Lillian Zenari.

Internal Resources: Todd Gilchrist; Brad Hamdon; Elan MacDonald; Aminah Robinson Fayek; Verna Yiu.

Presenters: Shari Baraniuk, Associate Vice-President (Information Systems and Technology) and Chief Information Officer; Ashley Bhatia, Associate Vice-President (Infrastructure Planning, Development and Partnerships); Robin Hamilton, Chief Technology Officer, Dark Matter Materials; David Scott, Chief Operating Officer, Applied Quantum Materials; Jonathan Veinot, Associate Dean of the College of Natural and Applied Sciences and Professor of Chemistry.

University Governance Staff: John Lemieux, University Secretary; Juli Zinken, Board Secretary and Manager of Board Services; Sithara Naidoo, Governance Officer; Kate Peters, General Faculties Council Secretary and Manager of GFC Services; Carley Roth, Governance Coordinator.

REGRETS:

Members: William Morrish; Miles Safranovich; Rob Seidel.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and the Board Secretary confirmed that attendance constituted a quorum.

1. *In Camera* Session

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm

Voting members, including the President, met separately, in camera, at the start of the meeting.

2. Opening Remarks

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm, Appointed Chair

The Chair delivered a land acknowledgement, noting the university's strong commitment to working in Good Relations with First Nations, Metis, and Inuit peoples, and acknowledged National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21, 2025.

The Chair thanked and acknowledged retiring Governors, including Chris Ashdown, Rakesh Saraf, Tom Ross, and Kate Young, and welcomed incoming members Christine Westerlund and Jason Wong. She acknowledged Brad Hamdon, who was retiring as General Counsel, and briefed the Board on changes in the offices of University Governance and General Counsel, including John Lemieux's transition to the role of General Counsel and Kate Peters' incoming role as University Secretary.

The Chair also provided the Board with an update on a recent meeting with The Expert Panel on Post-Secondary Institution Funding and Alberta's Competitiveness ("the Mintz Panel"), and acknowledged a conflict declared by Janice MacKinnon related to Dr MacKinnon's connection with a panelist, agreeing that the conflict would be managed by Dr MacKinnon recusing herself from the Board meeting for discussions related to the Mintz Panel, as needed.

3. Approval of Open Session Agenda

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the Board of Governors approve the Open Session agenda, as presented.	**CARRIED**

4. Conflict of Interest - Opportunity for Declaration

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm

The Chair noted that the Board of Governors Bylaws and Code of Conduct require that members declare at each meeting whether they may have a conflict related to the agenda and, if necessary, absent themselves from the discussion and voting on that item. She invited members to declare conflicts of interest related to the open session meeting agenda, and, seeing none, declared the question asked and answered.

5. Research Learning Moment

Presenter(s): Jonathan Veinot; Robin Hamilton; David Scott

Discussion:
At the invitation of the Chair, J Veinot, D Scott, and R Hamilton provided a learning moment on their research, "Just In Time Hydrogen", focused on using thermal energy and a catalyst to produce on demand hydrogen at lower temperatures.

Engagement from Board members included: questions about the chemical process, environmental impacts, economic considerations and research funding, Alberta's role in hydrogen research, patents and intellectual property, as well as general support for the presentation.

6. Report of the President

Presenter(s): Bill Flanagan

Discussion:
In addition to the written report, President Flanagan provided a verbal update on activities and events at the university, including fundraising records and donations, space renovations in the Telus Building, the Alfred Sorenson Community Hall launch, international collaborations, and the university's recent international rankings for the Times Higher Education Impact and QS World University Rankings.

Governors raised questions including the nature of the change in methodology for the QS World University Rankings and how the university leveraged those changes to advance 15 ranks within the top 100 universities.

6.1. Report on Implementation of Shape: The University Strategic Plan (2023-2033)

Presenter(s): Bill Flanagan; Verna Yiu

Discussion:
V Yiu provided an interim report on progress against the three-year implementation plan for *Shape: A Strategic Plan of Impact*, including an overview of top priorities, key performance indicators, targets, and priority deliverables.

Governors raised questions and comments, including: what administration would consider the biggest risk areas to implementation; the status of enrollment targets for the next year; whether partnerships with other post secondary institutions could attract international students; and general support for Shape's implementation to date.

7. Report of the Audit and Risk Committee

Presenter(s): Lillian Zenari

7.1. IT Security Policy Draft

Presenter(s): Todd Gilchrist; Shari Baraniuk

Discussion:
T Gilchrist and S Baraniuk presented a IT Security Policy draft for comment and feedback from Governors. They shared an overview of consultations and a What We Heard report, and the governance pathway, noting generally mixed reactions to the policy with the following underlying themes: balancing security controls and intensity, emphasizing partnership with Information Services and Technology (IST), and balancing appropriate risk mitigation with flexibility for users.

Governors raised questions and comments including: the status of responses to concerns raised by members of General Faculties Council regarding the revised IT policy; how to balance the flexibility or rigidity of protocols in a university environment, considering industry standards; and training for researchers on risks and Multi-Factor Authentication; and change management.

8. Report of the Finance and Property Committee and Learning, Research and Student Experience Committee

Presenter(s): Rakesh Saraf; Paul Whittaker

8.1. Space Management Policy Draft

Presenter(s): Todd Gilchrist; Ashley Bhatia

Discussion:
R Saraf and P Whittaker introduced the Space Management Policy Draft, reviewing committee input and noting that the policy would return for Board consideration in the Fall.

T Gilchrist and A Bhatia presented the revised Space Management Policy for feedback. The provided an overview of consultation to date and noted that the drafted policy was a streamlined and updated version of the 2019 policy intended to optimize the university's large footprint.

A Governor expressed support for the inclusion that the university is private property, and Brad Hamdon acknowledged the office of University Services, Operations and Finance for its leadership in consolidating university policies this year.

CONSENT AGENDA

9. Approval of Consent Items

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm

The motion to approve items on the consent agenda was moved and seconded.

THAT the Board of Governors hereby approves the consent agenda, as presented and as detailed in the meeting materials distributed to members, and that the actions and recommendations contained therein are hereby adopted.	**CARRIED**

9.1. Open Session Minutes of Mar 28, 2025

THAT the Board of Governors approve the Open Session minutes of its Mar 28, 2025 meeting.	**CARRIED**

9.2. Open Session Minutes of May 27, 2025

THAT the Board of Governors approve the Open Session minutes of its May 27, 2025 meeting.	**CARRIED**

9.3. Accommodation Policy

THAT The Governors of The University of Alberta (the “Board”), on the recommendation of the Board Human Resources and Compensation Committee and the Board Learning, Research and Student Experience Committee, approve the Accommodation Policy in the form disseminated to the Board.	**CARRIED**

9.4. Discrimination and Harassment Policy

THAT The Governors of The University of Alberta (the “Board”), on the recommendation of the Board Human Resources and Compensation Committee and the Board Learning, Research and Student Experience Committee, approve the Discrimination and Harassment Policy in the form disseminated to the Board.	**CARRIED**

9.5. Long Range Development Plan Amendment

THAT The Governors of The University of Alberta (the “Board”), on the recommendation of the Board Finance and Property Committee, approve the amended Long Range Development Plan, in the form disseminated to the Board.	**CARRIED**

9.6. Strategic Initiative Fund Allocations

THAT The Governors of The University of Alberta (the “Board”), on the recommendation of the Board Finance and Property Committee, approve the allocations from the Strategic Initiatives Fund, as presented to the Board.	**CARRIED**

9.7. Infrastructure Capital Expenditure Authorization Policy

THAT The Governors of The University of Alberta (the “Board”), on the recommendation of the Board Finance and Property Committee, approve the Infrastructure Capital Expenditure Authorization (ICEA) Policy, in the form disseminated to the Board.	**CARRIED**

9.8. 2024-25 Triennial Review: Board Committee Terms of Reference

THAT The Governors of The University of Alberta (the “Board”): (a) on the recommendation of the Board Governance Committee and the other Board standing committees, approve revised Terms of Reference for the Board standing committees substantially in the forms disseminated to the Board; (b) on the recommendation of the Board Finance and Property Committee, approve a delegation by the Board of the power, duty and function to establish fees respecting the parking of vehicles on University campuses and provide for the collection of those fees, in the form disseminated to the Board; and	**CARRIED**

(c) on the recommendation of the Board Human Resources and Compensation Committee ("BHRCC"), approve a delegation by the Board of the power, duty and function to appoint, extend, reappoint and dismiss academic Deans (and matters ancillary thereto) in the form disseminated to the Board, and direct that the language comprising sub-section 2.(a) of the delegation be added to the BHRCC Terms of Reference, with such grammatical changes as are required.	

9.9. Proposed Changes to Executive Roles and Responsibilities in Finance

THAT The Governors of the University of Alberta (the "Board"), on the recommendation of the Board Human Resources and Compensation Committee, approve that the position description for the office of the Vice-President (University Services, Operations and Finance) be amended as shown in the form of revised position description circulated to the Board for its review.	**CARRIED**

9.10. Statement of Investment Principles and Beliefs

THAT The Governors of The University of Alberta (the "Board"), on the recommendation of the Board Investment Committee, approve the revised Statement of Investment Principles and Beliefs, in the form disseminated to the Board, with changes to take effect upon final approval.	**CARRIED**

9.11. University Funds Investment Policy

THAT The Governors of The University of Alberta (the "Board"), on the recommendation of the Board Investment Committee, approve the revised University Funds Investment Policy, in the form disseminated to the Board, with changes to take effect upon final approval.	**CARRIED**

10. Information Items

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm

At the request of a member, the Chair pulled Item 10.14 *Report of General Faculties Council*, from the Information Items listing so it could be discussed. D Vethanayagam spoke to the report, noting the size of the university's General Faculties Council (GFC), the degree of engagement among GFC members, and her desire to improve faculty engagement on GFC going forward.

10.1. Report of the Audit and Risk Committee
10.2. Report of the Finance and Property Committee
10.3. Report of the Governance Committee
10.4. Report of the Human Resources & Compensation Committee

10.5. Report of the Investment Committee
10.6. Report of the Learning, Research and Student Experience Committee
10.7. Report of the Reputation and Public Affairs Committee
10.8. Chancellor's Report
10.9. Alumni Association
10.10. Students' Union
10.11. Graduate Students' Association
10.12. Association of Academic Staff
10.13. Non-Academic Staff Association
10.14. General Faculties Council
10.15. Board Chair Report

11. Other Business

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm

G Bridgeman acknowledged the upcoming end of K Chisholm's term as Board Chair and led members in recognizing her service to the university over the past six years.

12. Adjournment of Open Session

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm

The Chair concluded the open session at 9:25 a.m. and the Board moved into closed session.