UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

<u>Board of Governors</u>

Open Session Minutes

Oct 17, 2025
By Zoom Videoconference

ATTENDEES

<u>Members</u>: Guy Bridgeman (Vice-Chair), Aashish Kumar, Ange Kadima, Bill Flanagan, Christine Westerlund, Darren Durstling, Diane Wheatley, Dilini Vethanayagam, Jason Wong, Karina Banerji, Kevin Kane, Lillian Zenari, Miles Safranovich, Nizar Somji, Pedro Almeida, Rakesh Saraf, Rob Seidel, Ross Bricker, Ryan Hastman, Sett Policicchio, Tom Ross, Venkata Vemana, Zarina Bhambhani, David Bressler, Todd Gilchrist, John Lemieux, Elan MacDonald, Aminah Robinson Fayek, Verna Yiu

<u>Internal Resources</u>: David Bressler, Todd Gilchrist, John Lemieux, Elan MacDonald, Aminah Robinson Fayek, Verna Yiu

<u>Presenters</u>: Elder Dr. Francis Whiskeyjack, Florence Glanfield, Vice Provost (Indigenous Programming and Research), Melissa Padfield, Deputy Provost (Students & Enrolment); Miao Zhen, Director (Institutional Research)

<u>University Governance Staff</u>: Kate Peters, Juli Zinken, Ayzel Calder, Christian Fotang, Carley Roth

REGRETS: Kate Chisholm (Chair), Janice MacKinnon, Paul Whittaker, William Morrish

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The Vice-Chair called the meeting to order and the secretary confirmed that attendance constituted a quorum.

Ceremony

Presenter(s): Elder Dr. Francis Whiskeyjack

The Vice-Chair provided a land acknowledgement and introduced Elder Dr. Francis Whiskeyjack to begin the 2025/26 Board year in a good way.

***In Camera* Session**

Presenter(s): Guy Bridgeman, Appointed Vice-Chair, General Public

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

Conflict of Interest: Opportunity for Declaration

Presenter(s): Guy Bridgeman

The Vice-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. They invited members to declare conflicts of interest related to the open session meeting agenda, and, seeing none, declared the question asked and answered.

Open Session Agenda of Oct 17, 2025

Presenter(s): Guy Bridgeman

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the Board of Governors approve the open session agenda, as presented.	**CARRIED**

Opening Remarks

Presenter(s): Guy Bridgeman

The Vice-Chair welcomed Christine Westerlund and Jason Wong as new members. The Vice-Chair brought the Board's attention to the description of the Governor's role and responsibilities, provided at the end of the meeting package.

The Vice-Chair also spoke to the mentorship program, pairing new and experienced Board members.

Report of the President

Presenter(s): Bill Flanagan

B Flanagan recognized the passing of Bruce Saville and the contributions he provided to the university. B Flanagan additionally recognized the honourific renaming of Edmonton Clinic Health Academy (ECHA) to the "Dianne and Irving Kipnes Health Research Academy"; how the Mastercard Foundation will support Indigenous students and engagement through a five million dollar gift; and a two million dollar contribution by Cenovus Energy which will support engineering students. He noted the upcoming 2025 Alumni Award dinner.

The President also spoke to the Lougheed Schools initiative and the forthcoming certificates in Politics and Democracy. He shared that he had recently hosted the U15 presidents as well as the National Defence Minister David McGuinty and federal ministers during the Liberal caucus retreat in Edmonton. In addition, he noted the recent Connector Session, which showcased science and technology research. In all cases, he noted the interest in the University's research which is also reflected in national and international rankings of the University of Alberta.

He also announced the appointment of Chris Andersen, as the Vice-Provost and College Dean of Social Sciences and Humanities and recognised the appointment of Adam Gaudry as Acting Dean of the Faculty of Native Studies.

In closing, the President recognized the important act of raising the Treaty Six and Métis flags as part of the University's commitment to Reconciliation and in alignment with *Braiding Past, Present, and Future, our Indigenous Strategic Plan.*

Update on the Implementation of Braiding Past, Present and Future & TRC Report to Community Dashboard
Presenter(s): Florence Glanfield

F Glanfield gave a brief history of *Braiding Past, Present and Future*, the intention of the plan, and introduced the report requested by the Board when it was approved. F Glanfield noted the report covers the work done since the plan was implemented and is a halfway point of the expected implementation timeline. F Glanfield announced a Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action progress update will be provided in 2026.

Governors raised questions and comments, including:
- Congratulations to F Glanfield and team for the work they have done on the report;
- Whether there are strategies in place to move forward areas that have not progressed;
- A reflection on the disconnect between faculty, research, and rural areas in the report and a question about how to improve this; and
- If the report should focus on more the risks to the University.

Report of the Expert Panel on Post-Secondary Institution Funding and Alberta's Competitiveness ("Mintz Panel")
Presenter(s): Bill Flanagan, Elan MacDonald

B Flanagan announced the report was well-received by the post-secondary sector, and noted specifically that the funding formula within the report is expected to be the subject of ongoing discussion in the province. E Macdonald added the funding implementation timeline is anticipated to be expedited.

Governors raised questions and made comments, including:
- Expressions of support for the report's recommendations;
- If a University forecasting cycle will need to be developed in response to the report recommendation to remove the tuition freeze;
- Whether inflation considerations are incorporated into the report recommendations;
- How the tuition guarantee would be applied if degree completion is extended past the standard timeframe;
- The impact the report will have on the Post-Secondary institutions' ability to negotiate funding expectations with the province;
- How the report can support increasing the university's ranking against other U15 institutions;
- How to interpret the recommendations for research funding, especially the identification of priority areas;
- Whether the report considers clinical research and research infrastructure; and
- The importance of international recruitment and retention of faculty and staff.

The Vice-Chair thanked President Flanagan and his team for the work done to formulate submissions and engage with the Mintz Panel.

Organizational Values
Presenter(s): Verna Yiu, Todd Gilchrist

Discussion:
T Gilchrist introduced the need for the university to hold values and the impact they have on the direction, goals, and decision-making of the institution. V Yiu emphasized they exist to build trust with the university community. T Gilchrist provided a history of the work and consultation that has been done to develop the values statement thus far and the future steps.

V Yiu spoke to the individual pieces that create the values statement.

Governors raised questions and made comments, including:
- Thanks to T Gilchrist, V Yiu, and team for the work they have done in the development of the values statement;
- How the stewardship element would be enacted with feedback provided that this value was less clear than the others and might require refinement;
- How the Values can address emerging student and community perceptions that there are limitations on expression;
- Whether student perspectives were considered in the development and consultation of the statement; and
- A recommendation that the Values should be reflected in university policies going forward.

Summarizing the discussion, the Vice-Chair recommended Stewardship be rethought as a label for the University Values.

Report of the Finance and Property Committee
Presenter(s): Darren Durstling

D Durstling introduced the items coming forward and the importance for the Board to have an opportunity to discuss them.

Investment Management Agreements (IMAs)
Presenter(s): Todd Gilchrist, Verna Yiu, Melissa Padfield, Miao Zhen

Discussion:
T Gilchrist spoke to phase three of the IMAs and the Indigenous Student Enrollment transparency metric the university will be providing in addition to the five set metrics set by the Ministry. T Gilchrist noted the removal of the tolerance bands going into phase three, emphasizing the concerns and impact of these changes. He informed the Board about the feedback provided to Advanced Education and about expected further consultation with the Ministry.

Fiscal Update Fiscal Year 2025/26
Presenter(s): Todd Gilchrist

Budget Update Fiscal Year 2026/27
Presenter(s): Todd Gilchrist, Verna Yiu

Discussion:
T Gilchrist provided a Fiscal Update for 2025-26 and provisions for 2026-27. He noted the university was trending to meet targets in Q1 and the improved forecast since August. He spoke to specific variances in the budget and noted the discussions at BFPC and how their feedback will be implemented. He provided a high level overview of the budget plans for 2026-2027.

Governors raised questions and comments, including:

- If the University of Alberta Pension Plan (UAPP) non-cash variance is a point of concern and if it is impacting overall performance;
- What is driving the UAPP performance and why the funding ratio has now hit 100% for the first time in the history of the fund; and
- How performance, governance, and management decisions have impacted UAPP performance.

D Durstling highlighted the infrastructure report and the impact projects may have on the budget.

University of Alberta Students' Union (UASU) and Graduate Students Association (GSA) Goals
Presenter(s): Pedro Almeida, Aashish Kumar

Discussion:
A Kumar began by recognizing the positive impact of the minimum funding initiative implementation. A Kumar spoke to the GSA strategic plan, their key priorities, and the consultation done with students when developing the plan and priorities. A Kumar emphasized the main goals of the GSA: development of graduate funding policies, aligning grants with inflation, and building partnerships.

Governors raised questions about the current membership of the GSA and the deferral rate in light of international constraints.

P Almeida outlined a selection of priorities specifically tailored to the Board. He highlighted how the UASU operates within the university, emphasizing the role of faculty-level and residence students' associations; and the UASU's role in supporting student engagement in democratic processes. He outlined the importance of event approval processes for the UASU and ongoing efforts to improve access to campus buildings. Almeida additionally spoke to examples of high-impact, low-resource improvements on campus to enhance student life. P Almeida also detailed the UASU's academic priorities, specifically mentioning exam regulations, work placements, and work-integrated learning.

Governors questioned what is meant by the menstrual health goal and what is underway to implement the resources that the UASU is looking for. Members asked about mental health supports and V Yiu gave some background information regarding services the university has implemented.

The Vice-Chair congratulated A Kumar and P Almeida for their presentations.

Consent Agenda

Presenter(s): Guy Bridgeman

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**

Open Session Minutes of Jun 20, 2025

THAT the Board of Governors approve the open session minutes of its Jun 20, 2025 meeting.	**CARRIED**

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 revised Infrastructure Capital Expenditure Authorization Policy, in the form disseminated to the Board.	**CARRIED**

Information Items

There were no requests from members to discuss an information item.

Resolution approved via Electronic Vote of the Board of Governors held July 17-22, 2025

Resolution approved via Electronic Vote of the Board of Governors held August 26-29, 2025

Resolution approved via Electronic Vote of the Board of Governors held September 18-24, 2025

Report of the Audit and Risk Committee

Report of the Finance and Property Committee

Report of the Governance Committee

Report of the Human Resources & Compensation Committee

Report of the Investment Committee

Report of the Learning, Research and Student Experience Committee

Report of the Reputation and Public Affairs Committee

Chancellor's Report

Alumni Association

Students' Union

Graduate Students' Association

Non-Academic Staff Association

General Faculties Council

Board Chair Report

Adjournment of Open Session

The Vice-Chair concluded the open session and the committee moved into closed session.