



Board of Governors
Open Session Minutes

Jun 19, 2026
Council Chamber, 2-100 University Hall

ATTENDEES

Members: Brad Ferguson (Chair), Nizar Somji (Vice-Chair), Zarina Bhambhani, Ross Bricker, Darren Durstling, Bill Flanagan, Ryan Hastman, Ange Kadima, Kevin Kane, Amaan Khan, Saad Iqbal, Ishaan Sachdeva, Joseph Sesek, Sett Policicchio, Miles Safranovich, Rob Seidel, Venkata Vemana, Dilini Vethanayagam, Christine Westerlund, Diane Wheatley, Jason Wong, Lillian Zenari

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

Presenters: Rebecca Hull-Meichle, Professor (Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry); Carrie Smith Vice-Provost (Access, Community & Belonging)

University Governance Staff: Kate Peters, Ayzel Calder, Christian Fotang, Caroline Kubicki

REGRETS: N/A

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

The Chair began with some remarks, speaking to this being their first meeting, how they will approach Chairing the Board during their tenure, and their history with the university and campus.

The Chair highlighted the absence of the open session *in camera* and progressed into the open session agenda.

Conflict of Interest: Opportunity for Declaration

Presenter(s): Brad Ferguson

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. 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 Jun 19, 2026

Presenter(s): Brad Ferguson

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the Board of Governors approve the open session agenda, as presented.	CARRIED -
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Opening Remarks

Presenter(s): Brad Ferguson

The Chair welcomed Governors, internal resources, and guests and delivered a land acknowledgement.

The Chair thanked the Vice-Chair and the University Governance team for the support they provided during his transition into the Chair role, welcomed the new members to the Board and shared remarks on the Board Recognition dinner that was held to honour the Governors that have recently retired from the Board, and provided thanks to the Governors who participated in convocation as the Board Representative.

The Chair concluded by recognizing Elan MacDonald ahead of her departure from the university and outgoing Governors who are attending their last Board meeting.

Research Learning Moment: Research and Impact on Diabetes at U of A

Presenter(s): Rebecca Hull-Meichle

At the request of the Chair, Rebecca Hull-Meichle provided a learning moment on her research into diabetes. R Hull-Meichle highlighted the economic and human costs of experiencing and treating diabetes, the complexity of developing a cure, and spoke to how the University of Alberta has made groundbreaking contributions to the research community. R Hull-Meichle provided the Board with an overview of the research award successes that her research has brought to the university, the partnerships that have been made, the education and skill building for students and staff the research enables, and spoke to the work she has done to put the university and her research on a national and international stage.

R Hull-Meichle responded to questions and comments from Board members, including:

- If the National Institutes of Health (NIH) will continue to be a pipeline for diabetes research given the impact how the use of certain terms have impacted funding allocations; and
- The therapeutic implications of the research.

Report of the President

Presenter(s): Bill Flanagan

Discussion:

B Flanagan provided an overview of the report distributed to the members of the Board, highlighting the successful year of funding including a record breaking gift to the university and the recent and anticipated partnerships that have been developed.

B Flanagan thanked Elan MacDonald for all the work done in her tenure as Vice-President (External Relations), informed the Board of recent appointments, spoke to the success of June 2026 convocation, and noted the opening of First Peoples' House.

Governors commented on the impacts of geopolitical pressures on the University and asked whether there were plans to adapt strategic plans, including *Shape* and *Braiding Past, Present and Future*.

Shape: A Strategic Plan of Impact (2023-2033)

Presenter(s): Bill Flanagan, Verna Yiu

B Flanagan introduced the item and spoke to the main goals of *Shape*.

V Yiu emphasized that the report is a reflection of the collaboration and contribution of the university community, noting that the initiatives remain on schedule, and provided comments and key indicators that show the successes of the university against its own targets and against counterparts.

V Yiu shared the following outputs are examples of the success of implementation: *Integrated Enrollment Growth Plan*; *Igniting Purpose: The Student Experience Action Plan*; *A Strategic Plan for Research and Innovation (2023-2028)*; and *Changing the Story: An Integrated Action Plan for transforming our vibrant and interconnected university community*. V Yiu highlighted the successes that the strategic documents have had on student enrollment, completion rates, and overall satisfaction.

Report on Implementation

Governors raised questions and comments, including:

- The relevancy of benchmarking against U15s when considering the variations of economic and geographical differences;
- The level of objectivity in the assessment of goals and whether an external review should be considered;
- The contributions of international enrollment to the student enrollment goals of the university;
- Approaches undertaken to increase national and international brand recognition for the University of Alberta;
- Clarity on metrics regarding supports for international students;
- Risks to the successful completion of the strategic plan and the required shifts that would be required to meet adapting goals; and
- Whether the projected impact of enrolment numbers for Ontario post-secondary education are a risk or an opportunity.

Renewal of Three-Year Implementation Plan

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT The Governors of the University of Alberta (the "Board"), on the recommendation of General Faculties Council, approve <i>Shape: A Strategic Plan of Impact - Implementation Plan (2026-2029)</i> , in the form disseminated to the Board.	CARRIED ✓
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Report of the Human Resources and Compensation & Learning, Research and Student Experience Committees

Presenter(s): Diane Wheatley, Giri Puligandla

D Wheatley informed the Board of the feedback from Human Resources and Compensation Committee regarding the item being brought forward, noting how the materials show the gains made to equity, diversity,

and inclusion and expressing the level of consultation conducted elucidates excellence.

G Puligandla shared comments that were raised at the Learning, Research and Student Experience Committee, speaking to how plan reflects a point of departure in a new trajectory for the university and expressed a belief that the plan reflects the work done to build trust between students, staff, and the Board.

Changing the Story: Interim Report

Presenter(s): Verna Yiu, Carrie Smith

C Smith provided a brief introduction of the report, speaking to how the consultation and implementation thus far exemplify institutional responsibility, the commitment units and leaders are making, and the pursuit of excellence.

C Smith informed the Board that while the metrics that the success of implementation will be measured against have been approved, they are not included in the interim report as it intends to set a baseline and that the subsequent report will include them.

No questions or comments were raised by the Governors.

Report of the Audit and Risk & Reputation and Public Affairs Committees

Presenter(s): Lillian Zenari, Ryan Hastman

R Hastman drew the Board's attention to comments raised at the Reputation and Public Affairs Committee, speaking to the funding received for the Integrated Health Sciences Innovation Complex and the positive feedback from the committee regarding the Clinical Sciences Building renewal project.

L Zenari shared that the Audit and Risk Committee unanimously passed the item for recommendation to the Board.

University of Alberta Annual Report

Presenter(s): Elan MacDonald

No questions or comments were raised.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT The Governors of the University of Alberta, on the recommendation of the Audit and Risk and Reputation and Public Affairs Committees: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) approve and adopt the draft 2025-26 PSI Annual Report ("Annual Report") as set forth in Attachment 1; and2) authorize the Vice-President (External Relations) to amend the Annual Report without need for further approval from the Board of Governors if such amendment is (a) solely for the purpose of clarification or is of an inconsequential, editorial, or formatting nature, and (b) does not change the substance of the Annual Report.	CARRIED ✓
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Consent Agenda

Presenter(s): Brad Ferguson

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 ▾
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Open Session Minutes of March 27, 2026

THAT the Board of Governors approve the open session minutes of its March 27, 2026 meeting.	CARRIED ▾
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Open Session Minutes of June 1, 2026

THAT the Board of Governors approve the open session minutes of its June 1, 2026 meeting.	CARRIED ▾
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Archives Policy

THAT The Governors of the University of Alberta (the "Board") approve the Archives Policy in the form disseminated to the Board.	CARRIED ▾
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New Program Tuition - Bachelor of Health Sciences

MOTION 1: THAT The Governors of the University of Alberta (the "Board"), on the recommendation of the Finance and Property Committee, approve the domestic tuition rate for the Bachelor of Health Sciences at a rate equivalent to that approved by the Governors for programs in the Faculty of Science for Fall 2027.	CARRIED ▾
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MOTION 2: THAT the Board, on the recommendation of the Finance and Property Committee, approve the international tuition rate for the Bachelor of Health Sciences at a program total of \$167,918.40 (Annual rate of \$41,979.60), equivalent to the established rate for programs in the Faculty of Science for Fall 2027.	CARRIED ▾
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Standing Committee Terms of Reference

MOTION 1: THAT The Governors of the University of Alberta (the "Board"), on the recommendation of the Governance Committee, approve proposed changes to the Human Resources and Compensation Committee Terms of Reference, as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect July 1, 2026.	CARRIED ▾
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MOTION 2: THAT the Board, on the recommendation of the Governance Committee, approve proposed changes to the Board Reputation and Public Affairs Committee Terms of Reference, as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect July 1, 2026.	CARRIED ▾
MOTION 3: THAT the Board, on the recommendation of the Governance Committee, approve proposed changes to the Board Learning, Research and Student Experience Committee Terms of Reference, as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect July 1, 2026.	CARRIED ▾
MOTION 4: THAT the Board, on the recommendation of the Governance Committee, approve proposed changes to the Board Governance Committee Terms of Reference, as set forth in Attachment 1, to take effect July 1, 2026.	CARRIED ▾

Information Items

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

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

Developing a Partnerships Strategy for the University of Alberta

Report of the Reputation and Public Affairs Committee

Chancellor's Report

Alumni Association

Students' Union (+ Annual Financial Statements)

Graduate Students' Association

Non-Academic Staff Association

General Faculties Council

Board Chair Report

Resolution Approved via Electronic Vote of the Board of Governors held May 13-15, 2026

Resolution Approved via Electronic Vote of the Board of Governors held June 3-5, 2026

Adjournment of Open Session

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