

Position Title: Member of The Governors of The University of Alberta (the “Board”)

Term: Appointed by the Government of Alberta for up to a three-year term and eligible for a second term upon conclusion of the first term¹.

1. Position Overview

The Board is legally required by Alberta's *Post-secondary Learning Act* (PSLA) to manage and operate the University of Alberta in line with its Mandate. The Board provides the University administration with the support, authority, and responsibility needed to successfully operate the institution. However, the Board retains ultimate authority over University governance, property, revenues, and budgets, except where the PSLA assigns final authority elsewhere.

The role of Governor requires active participation, astute strategic insight, and the capacity to contribute meaningfully to the management of relationships with diverse internal and external stakeholders.

Governors are expected to offer strategic guidance and support to the administration while being prepared to exercise ultimate authority and oversight when necessary, ensuring accountability and adherence to the University's Mandate.

2. Key Responsibilities

As mandated by the PSLA, Governors have a fiduciary responsibility and must act honestly, in good faith, and always in the University's best interests. This commitment must remain paramount in all Board activities, never aligning with the interests of any specific constituency. Governors must not act in self-interest or advance their constituent interests through their position. At all times, Governors must adhere to the Board's Bylaws, Code of Conduct, University policies, and applicable laws.

2.1. Strategic Oversight and Fiduciary Duty

Governors contribute to the oversight of the University's strategic direction and long-term sustainability. They help review and approve the strategic plan, budgets, and performance metrics, promoting continuous improvement in financial and operational performance.

2.2. Active Participation and Ethical Conduct

Governors are expected to come to meetings prepared for respectful, meaningful discussion. They must actively participate in deliberation, asking questions and expressing opinions to enable the Board to exercise its best judgment in decision-making. They must uphold the duty of confidence by keeping all confidential or proprietary information in the strictest confidence and foster a culture of integrity, transparency, and accountability on the Board.

¹University constituent groups may have internal regulations that affect nominees' terms of office and renewal.

2.3. Engagement and Risk

Governors serve as an ambassador for the University, fostering positive relationships with diverse stakeholders. They support transparent communication and advocate for the University's autonomy, while respecting the Board Chair as the official spokesperson. Finally, they contribute to the identification, assessment, and management of risks and must be prepared to act swiftly in a crisis.

3. Time Commitment

Serving as a Governor requires a significant and consistent time commitment to effectively fulfill the duties and responsibilities. The time commitment includes, but is not limited to:

- **Board Meetings:** The Board formally meets in plenary at least four times per year.
- **Committee Meetings:** Governors are expected to serve on at least one committee (often two), which meet prior to each Board meeting.
- **Preparation:** Significant time must be dedicated to thoroughly review meeting materials, including agendas, reports, and background documents, to ensure informed decision-making.
- **Governor Development:** Engagement in ongoing orientation and development activities is expected.
- **Presidential Processes:** Involvement in the Board's responsibilities related to the University President, such as annual performance assessments and formal reviews.
- **University and Community Engagement:** Attendance at numerous campus and community events is expected, as Governors serve as important ambassadors.
- **Ongoing Communication/On-Call:** Maintaining communication with the administration and being available as needed for urgent matters or consultations. The role has an "on-call" dimension, requiring responsiveness and flexibility in crisis situations.

4. Remuneration

Service as a Governor on the Board is a voluntary position. Governors will not be remunerated for their service. The University will, however, reimburse Governors for reasonable and necessary expenses incurred while performing their duties, in accordance with University policies. Note that such reimbursements are subject to public disclosure.

5. Guiding Documents

[Post-secondary Learning Act](#)

[Board of Governors Bylaws](#)

[The Board of Governors of The University of Alberta Mandate and Roles Document](#)

[Code of Conduct: Board Members' Obligations Respecting Conflicts of Interest](#)