



# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

## UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

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### Board of Governors Open Session Minutes

Friday, March 15, 2013  
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

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#### **ATTENDEES:**

##### Voting Members:

Miodrag (Mike) Belosevic	Board Member (General Faculties Council)
Ashlyn Bernier	President, Graduate Students' Association
Douglas Goss	Chair, Board of Governors
Jim Hole	Board Member (Alumni Association)
Agnes Hoveland	Board Member (Public Member)
Shenaz Jeraj	Board Member (Public Member)
Brent Kelly	Undergraduate Representative to the Board of Governors
Don Matthew	Board Member (Public Member)
Ove Minsos	Board Member (Public Member)
Jerry Naqvi	Board Member (Public Member)
Christopher Pu	Board Member (Non-Academic Staff Association)
Wayne Renke	Board Member (Academic Staff)
Bernd Reuscher	Board Member (Senate)
Indira Samarasekera	President
Robert Teskey	Board Member (Public Member)
Richard Wilson	Board Member (Public Member)
Colten Yamagishi	President, Students' Union
Ralph Young	Chancellor

##### Non-Voting Officials Approved by the President:

Lorne Babiuk	Vice-President (Research)
Phyllis Clark	Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
Martin Ferguson-Pell	Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Marion Haggarty-France	University Secretary
Brad Hamdon	University Counsel
Don Hickey	Vice-President (Facilities and Operations)
O'Neil Outar	Vice-President (Advancement)
Debra Pozega Osburn	Vice-President (University Relations)

##### Regrets:

Don Fleming	Board Member (Alumni Association)
Marcia Lang	Chief of Staff and University Relations
Colleen Skidmore	Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (Academic)

##### Presenters:

David Hik	Professor and President, International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), Department of Biological Sciences
Bob Kamp	Chair, Board Investment Committee
Gerry Kendal	Vice-Provost and University Registrar

##### Staff:

Deborah Holloway	Board Secretary and Manager of Board Services
Juli Zinken	Assistant Board Secretary

## **OPENING SESSION**

### 1. Chair's Session

#### 1.1 Call to Order and Confirmation of Quorum

Ms Holloway confirmed that the attendance constituted quorum. The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

#### 1.2 Approval of Open Session Agenda

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the Board of Governors approve the Open Session Agenda, as circulated.
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**CARRIED**

#### 1.3 Conflict of Interest – Opportunity for Declaration related to Agenda

The Chair made note of the following:

- The University of Alberta has policy and procedure in place for Conflict of Interest and Conflict of Commitment, and Board members make annual disclosures.
- In addition, Board members must declare any conflict related to the Board Agenda of each meeting and, in the event of such conflict, absent themselves from the discussion and voting on the item.
- The *Post-Secondary Learning Act*, Section 16(5) states that: *The members of the board must act in the best interests of the university.*

The Chair invited members to declare conflicts of interest related to the Open Session Agenda of the meeting. The Chair observed no declarations and declared that the question was duly asked and answered.

#### 1.4 Chair's Remarks

The Chair noted that this was the final meeting of the Board of Governors for Ashlyn Bernier, President, Graduate Students' Association, and for Colten Yamagishi, President, Students' Union. He thanked them for their service and for their valuable contributions to the Board over the past year. He welcomed Brent Epperson, Incoming GSA President, and Petros Kusmu, Incoming SU President as observers and congratulated them on their elections. The Chair also congratulated Brent Kelly who was re-elected for another term as Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative.

### Presentation on Arctic and Alpine Ecology

*Presenter:* David Hik, Professor and President, International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), Department of Biological Sciences

#### *Discussion:*

The Chair introduced Professor Hik who, with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, provided an overview of research on Arctic and Alpine Ecology, as well as Polar and Mountain Research, the Canadian Circumpolar Institute, the Campus-Wide Data Summit, and the Thinking Mountain 2012 Conference.

## 2. Report of the President

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

In addition to her written report, the President provided comments on the following matters:

- the University's first institution-wide Pride Week, launched on Wednesday, March 13 and led by the Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services;
- recent University of Alberta awards and achievements, including:
  - a team of University of Alberta law students who won the 2013 top school prize in the prestigious Laskin Memorial Moot competition—Canada's only bilingual moot. This victory is the first win for a Western Canadian law school since the competition began in 1986;
  - Graduate student Megan Engel, Rhodes Scholarship winner, who was also awarded the \$10,000 Natural Sciences Engineering Research Council of Canada Andre Hamer Prize recognizing outstanding postgraduate work in the sciences;
  - three prestigious communications awards for the University of Alberta's case for philanthropic support campaign, *Together We Can*, by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District VIII Conference. The campaign won the gold award in the category of fundraising and alumni relations videos, and the accompanying document won two awards—silver in the fundraising brochure category and bronze for development writing;
  - a Google RISE (Roots in Science and Engineering) Award to DiscoverE, a youth outreach group in the Faculty of Engineering, for their achievements in increasing access and interest in engineering, technology and science. Discover E is the first Canadian organization to win the Google RISE award and were recognized due to their overall impact, as well as their accomplishments in empowering girls and under-represented communities. The Award is worth \$20,000 in funding, which will be used to support technology camps at the Alexis First Nation, in Grand Prairie and in Yellowknife; and
- the Provincial Budget, noting that she was shocked and surprised by the news, having had no advance indication that the cut would be so deep. She reviewed former conversations and consultation with the Government, the reasons provided to the University for the cut, the extended deadline for the CIP to May 31 which will allow for the revision of the 2013-2014 budget, the significance of the cut, and the need to move the conversation forward to making the evidence-based case regarding the value of investment in the Post-Secondary Education sector and specifically in the University of Alberta, as well as the economic impact of the University on the economy. She also outlined steps taken to date including: a recently held meeting with the Deans; the launch of the Change@UAlberta website that contains details regarding the budget situation and serves as an open and transparent communication to the community and a venue for the community to ask questions and to provide input and ideas; and a Campus Forum held on March 13, 2013.

The President responded to comments and questions from members regarding the following matters: what are the key messages members should be sharing; that the student-voice will be crucial in the coming weeks and into the future, especially regarding fees; that the quality of programs and the student experience cannot be diminished; that in a high-functioning post-secondary education system a one-size-fits-all approach to managing the cuts is not feasible; that Members of the Legislative Assembly have commented favourably on the University's relative tuition as it contributes to wider accessibility; and that the role this institution plays as a high-functioning public university is rooted in the breadth and depth of research conducted.

3. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of February 8, 2013

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the Board of Governors adopt the Open Session Minutes of its meeting on February 8, 2013.

**CARRIED**

**ACTION ITEMS**

4. Report of the Investment Committee

4.1 Unitized Endowment Pool (UEP) Spending Policy

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter:* Bob Kamp, Chair, Board Investment Committee

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To implement a revised Unitized Endowment Pool (UEP) Spending Policy that will enable an increased level of budgetary support for advancement initiatives that seek to develop an endowment comparable to the best public research universities in the world.

*Discussion:*

Mr Kamp presented the item, noting that his policy would replace the UEP Spending Policy that was approved by the Board of Governors on February 10, 2012. The proposed changes to the Policy contain two components of a three-part funding strategy for advancement initiatives. The first component is a proposed reallocation of the first 12 months of spending allocation associated with any new endowment contributions to the administrative assessment. The second component is a proposed reduction in the spending rate that funds endowed programs from 4.25% to 3.90%. It is proposed that this 0.35% decrease be added to the 0.50% administrative assessment bringing that rate to 0.85%.

Mr Kamp responded to comments and questions from members regarding the following matters: whether the amount of funding directed toward advancement activities fluctuates and, if so, whether efforts are being made to identify a steady stream of funding; whether the funding would be directed toward the Faculties; and that return on investment takes time.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Board Investment Committee, approve the revised Unitized Endowment Pool Spending Policy, as set forth in Attachment 1 to the agenda documentation.

**CARRIED**

5. Joint Report of the Finance and Property Committee and Learning and Discovery Committee

5.1 Comprehensive Institutional Plan (CIP)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenters:* Debra Pozega Osburn, Vice-President (University Relations); Lorne Babiuk, Vice-President (Research); Phyllis Clark, Vice-President (Finance and Administration); Martin Ferguson-Pell, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Don Hickey, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations);

*Purpose of the Proposal:* The CIP is written in support of the University's vision and mission as outlined in Dare to Discover and its Academic Plan, Dare to Deliver. The CIP outlines the University's academic and research priorities as articulated in the Academic Chapter, which in turn drives the University's capital and resource allocation priorities.

*Discussion:*

Mr Wilson, Chair of the Board Finance and Property Committee (BFPC) and Mr Minsos, Chair of the Board Learning and Discovery Committee (BLDC) requested that the motion be withdrawn.

The President noted that due to the recently announced Provincial budget, the University's proposed budget was no longer valid. The remainder of the document would remain largely unchanged.

The Chair noted that the revised CIP would return to the Board for approval following recommendation from BLDC and BFPC. Seeing no objection, the Chair withdrew the motion.

6. Report of the Finance and Property Committee

6.1 Proposed Changes to Existing Mandatory Student Instructional Support Fees, Proposed New Mandatory Student Instructional Support Fees, Proposed New Non-Instructional Fees, and Proposed Changes to Existing Non-Instructional Fees

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenters:* Martin Ferguson-Pell, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic); Gerry Kendal, Vice-Provost and University Registrar

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To establish new Mandatory Student Instructional Support Fees, to change existing Mandatory Student Instructional Support fees, to establish new Non-Instructional Fees, and to change existing Non-Instructional Fees.

*Discussion:*

Mr Kendal introduced the item noting that these fees are course-specific. He added that the proposal had been recommended for approval by both the General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee and the Board Finance and Property Committee. Mr Yamagishi expressed concern regarding the timeline of the proposed Admissions Confirmation Fee for the Post-Professional Doctor of Pharmacy degree (PharmD) program.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Board Finance and Property Committee and the GFC Academic Planning Committee, approve the proposed changes to existing Mandatory Student Instructional Support Fees (set forth in Attachment 1), proposed new Mandatory Student Instructional Support Fees (set forth in Attachment 2), proposed new Non-Instructional Fees (set forth in Attachment 3), and proposed changes to existing Non-Instructional Fees (set forth in Attachment 4), as submitted on behalf of the relevant Faculties/Departments by the Registrar's Advisory Committee on Fees (RACF), to take effect as noted in each respective attachment.

**CARRIED**

Mr Yamagishi and Mr Kelly opposed

## 6.2 Spring/Summer Universal Transit Pass (U-Pass) Fees for Undergraduate Students

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenters:* Phyllis Clark, Vice-President (Finance and Administration); Colten Yamagishi, Students' Union (SU) President

*Purpose of the Proposal:* To recommend approval of the new 2013 Spring/Summer Universal Transit Pass (U-Pass) Fee for Undergraduate Students, subject to the finalization and execution of the contracts between the parties. Administration will assess and collect the fees on behalf of the Students' Union and remit to the City of Edmonton, City of St. Albert and County of Strathcona.

*Discussion:*

Ms Clark introduced the item, noting the proposal is for the addition of a Spring/Summer U-Pass. She added that funding comes through the Travel Demand Management program.

Mr Yamagishi reviewed the history of the Spring/Summer U-Pass proposal and indicated that 83 percent of students voted in favour of the proposal during a March 2012 referendum. He described the circumstances where options exist to allow for opting-out of the program.

The presenters responded to questions and comments from members regarding the following matters: whether the University is subsidizing the completion, given parking facilities are not fully utilized; and the societal benefits of the U-Pass.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Board Finance and Property Committee, approve the 2013 Spring/Summer Universal Transit Pass (U-Pass) Fee for Undergraduate Students, as set forth in Attachment 1 of the agenda documentation, subject to the finalization and execution of the contracts between the parties, and to take effect May 1, 2013.

**CARRIED**

## **INFORMATION REPORTS**

### 7 Report of the Audit Committee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Mr Don Matthew, Chair of the Audit Committee, presented the Committee's Report to the Board of Governors. He highlighted the point in item 1 that employee benefits continue to be a major budget pressure.

### 8 Report of the Finance and Property Committee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Mr Dick Wilson, Chair of the Finance and Property Committee, presented the Committee's Report to the Board of Governors.

9 Report of the Learning and Discovery Committee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Mr Ove Minsos, Chair of the Learning and Discovery Committee, presented the Committee's Report to the Board of Governors.

10 Report of the Safety, Health and Environment Committee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Mr Jim Hole, Chair of the Safety, Health and Environment Committee, presented the Committee's Report to the Board of Governors.

11 Report of the University Relations Committee

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Ms Agnes Hoveland, Chair of the University Relations Committee, presented the Committee's Report to the Board of Governors. She highlighted the Community Connection Awards and the Lift 2013 event.

**REGULAR REPORTS**

12.1 Report of the Chancellor

Mr Ralph Young, Chancellor, presented a verbal report to the Board of Governors. He introduced Mr Morley Blanch, Vice-Chair of the Senate, who was observing the meeting. The Chancellor reported that the recent Senate Plenary had been very successful, with presentations from the Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Dr Martin Ferguson-Pell, the Vice-President (University Relations), Dr Debra Pozega Osburn, and Dr Connie Varnhagen, Professor of Psychology. He also reported that the USchool Convocation is scheduled for April 22, and that Spring Convocation would take place June 5 – 15, 2013. He noted that the Senate has embarked on the process of identifying a topic for its next Task Force and also remarked on outreach and engagement activities across the Province.

The Chancellor responded to a question regarding whether USchool graduates are engaged with the Senate following completion of the program.

12.2 Report of the Alumni Association

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Mr Jim Hole, Alumni Representative, presented the Alumni Association Report to the Board of Governors. He highlighted the Alumni Association's new branding, the increased focus on alumni located in the Calgary area, and strong relationship with the Vice-President (Advancement).

Mr Hole responded to questions and comments from members regarding the following matters: clarity regarding term "net promoters" and whether progress had been made toward obtaining permanent University of Alberta email addresses for alumni.

### 12.3 Report of the Students' Union

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Mr Colten Yamagishi, President, Students' Union, presented the Students' Union Report to the Board of Governors. He highlighted the results of the recent Executive election, the status of the proposed Fall Reading Week, the SUB renovation project, the Campus Musical, the Alcohol Policy, and the IGNITE conference. Mr Yamagishi thanked members for their collegiality during his term as President.

He responded to questions from members regarding the percentage of students who voted in the recent election and the major issues raised by candidates.

### 12.4 Report of the Graduate Students' Association

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Dr Ashlyn Bernier, President, Graduate Students' Association, presented the Graduate Students' Association Report to the Board of Governors. She reported that the GSA is working through the Alberta Graduate Student Council to address issues arising from the recent Provincial budget and described steps taken to date. She also highlighted the results of the recent Executive election, the status of the Strategic Work Plan, the balanced budget for 2013-14, the status of the collective bargaining in process, and the proposed graduate initiative involving the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research. Dr Bernier acknowledged the support she had received from the Senior Administration during her term as President, adding it had been an honour to serve on the Board of Governors.

She responded to questions from members regarding the GSA's priorities and the major issues raised by candidates during the recent elections.

### 12.5 Report of the Association of Academic Staff of the University of Alberta (AASUA)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Mr Wayne Renke, AASUA Representative, presented the AASUA Report to the Board of Governors. He described the reaction by AASUA members to the recent Provincial budget, noting that there was a lack of evidential support for the reasons provided by the Government regarding the cut, particularly regarding the issues of transferability and innovation. He stressed that there was fear and anger among the members, adding that AASUA believes that all stakeholders must work together and present a united position.

### 12.6 Report of Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA)

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Mr Christopher Pu, NASA Representative, presented the NASA Report to the Board of Governors, highlighting the Bylaws project. He also reported that, regarding the impact of the Provincial budget, NASA believes that the transformative change that will be needed will require a strong coalition.

### 12.7 Report of the General Faculties Council (GFC)

Mr Miodrag (Mike) Belosevic presented verbal remarks regarding the meeting of the General Faculties Council held the day before the meeting of the Board of Governors. Highlights from the meeting included the approach to the impact of the Provincial budget, the Educational Experience report, and the proposed Fall Reading Week.



13 Board Chair and Board Member Activity Report

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Mr Douglas Goss, Chair, Board of Governors, presented the Board Chair and Board Member Activity Report. He noted that Provincial budget placed even more importance on the results arising from the upcoming Board Strategic Retreat, adding that members must be passionate advocates of a high-functioning post-secondary education system that competes at the highest levels in the world, noting there is no reason to settle for anything less than excellence

14 Other Business

There was no other business.

**CLOSING SESSION**

15 Reminder of Board Events

- Board of Governors Strategic Planning Session: April 16 - 18, 2013
- Board of Governors Recognition Dinner: May 9, 2013

16 Conclusion of Open Session

The Chair concluded the Open Session at 10:15 a.m.