



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

Board of Governors Open Session Minutes

Wednesday, July 29, 2015
3-07 South Academic Building
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

Shenaz Jeraj	Appointed Vice-Chair, General Public
Dick Wilson	Appointed Vice-Chair, General Public
Mike Belosevic	Member, Academic Staff Representative (General Faculties Council)
Jane Halford	Member, University of Alberta Alumni Association
James Heelan	Member, General Public
Barry James	Member, University of Alberta Senate
LeRoy Johnson	Member, General Public
Azhar Khan	Member, Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative
Navneet Khinda	Member, Students' Union
Steven LePoole	Member, General Public
Colin More	Member, Graduate Students' Association
Raymond Muzyka	Member, General Public
Robert Parks	Member, University of Alberta Alumni Association
Christopher Pu	Member, Non-Academic Staff Representative (NASA Appointee)
Nizar Somji	Member, General Public
Robert H. Teskey	Member, General Public
David Turpin	Member, President
Ralph Young	Member, Chancellor

Non-Voting Officials Appointed by the President:

Phyllis Clark	Vice-President (Finance and Administration)
Steven Dew	Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Marion Haggarty-France	University Secretary
Colm Renehan	Interim Vice-President (Advancement)
Catherine Swindlehurst	Chief of Staff (President's Office)

Regrets:

Douglas O. Goss	Appointed Chair, General Public
Lorne Babiuk	Vice-President (Research)
David Cooper	Member, Academic Staff Representative (AASUA Appointee)
Brad Hamdon	General Counsel
Don Hickey	Vice-President (Facilities and Operations)
Debra Pozega Osburn	Vice-President (University Relations)
Michael H. Ross	Member, General Public

Staff:

Juli Zinken, Acting Board Secretary and Manager of Board Services

OPENING SESSION

1. Chair's Session

1a. Call to Order and Confirmation of Quorum

Presenter(s): Shenaz Jeraj

The Acting Board Secretary confirmed that the attendance constituted quorum. The Acting Chair called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m., noting that the Board Chair was away in Jasper and had asked her to Chair the meeting on his behalf.

The Acting Chair welcomed Dr David Turpin, President and Vice-Chancellor, and Dr Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), to their first Board of Governors' meeting in their new roles.

1b. Approval of Open Session Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Shenaz Jeraj

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the Board of Governors approve the Open Session Agenda as presented.

CARRIED

1c. Conflict of Interest - Opportunity for Declaration

Presenter(s): Shenaz Jeraj

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

2. Report of the President

2a. Strategic Planning - update

Presenter(s): David Turpin

Discussion:

The President briefed the Board on his time on campus since being announced as the President-Select and thanked the University community for its welcome, support and engagement.

He provided an overview of his plans for the next institutional strategic plan, noting that this is an important opportunity to engage in the institutional planning process with a cohesive, strategic message. He mentioned that the first step would be a senior team retreat at the end of August with keynote speakers and workshops, followed by engagement of the Board and General Faculties Council, and indicated that he would report back to the Board in October.

ACTION ITEMS

3. University of Alberta 2015-16 Tuition Fees

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Phyllis Clark; Steven Dew

Purpose of the Proposal: To rescind the previously approved domestic tuition and fee increases, all market modifier fee increases for the 2015-16 academic year (scheduled to be implemented in September 2015), and to approve that the tuition and fees amounts be set at the amounts directed by the Government of Alberta for 2015-2016. To apply previously approved increases to fees for international students.

Discussion:

Dr Dew introduced the item, providing a brief overview of Bill 3, announced by the Minister of Innovation and Advanced Education on June 18, its directives, and its implications for the University of Alberta. He informed the Board that in order to be compliant, the University of Alberta now needs to undo previously-approved decisions regarding 2015-16 tuition and fees.

Ms Clark provided more detail regarding requirements to rescind previously approved domestic tuition and fee increases as well as all market modifier fee increases for the 2015-16 academic year, and to approve that the tuition and fees amounts be set at the amounts directed by the Government of Alberta for 2015-16. She noted that Administration was recommending the application of previously-approved increases to fees for international students.

Dr Dew, Ms Clark, and President Turpin responded to questions from Board members regarding: how these motions will affect the University budget, the extent of the restored base funding, the optics of market modifier fee rollbacks for professional faculties, the University's plans to work with government and students toward a long-term shared goal of financial support for students, whether separating domestic and international tuition is within the spirit of Bill 3, and concern related to the decision to single-out international students for a seemingly minimal impact.

With respect to Motion 4's proposed authorization to the President to implement, it was clarified that the President's delegation was limited to the implementation of action in motions 1, 2 and 3 with reporting back to the Board as necessary.

The motions were moved and seconded.

Motion 1: THAT the Board of Governors rescind tuition fees for 2015-16 as set forth in attachment 1.

CARRIED

James Heelan abstained.

Motion 2: THAT the Board of Governors approve that tuition that falls within the tuition fee regulation for 2015-16 be set at the 2014-15 rates, as directed by the Government of Alberta.

CARRIED

James Heelan abstained.

Motion 3: THAT the Board of Governors, approve the application of previously approved increases to the fees for international students, effective September 1, 2015 as set forth in attachment 2.

CARRIED

Azhar Khan and Navneet Khinda opposed.
Colin More abstained.

Motion 4: THAT the Board of Governors authorize the President and Vice-Chancellor, on behalf of The Governors of the University of Alberta, to take all necessary action to implement motions 1, 2 and 3.

CARRIED

James Heelan abstained.

Mr Dick Wilson left the meeting at this time.

4. Report of the Human Resources and Compensation Committee

4a. Acting Chair

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): Robert H. Teskey

Purpose of the Proposal: To appoint an Acting Chair to serve as Chair until a permanent appointment to the position is in place.

Discussion:

Mr Teskey introduced the item, reminding members that the Board of Governors' General Terms of Reference state that the Vice-Chair of the Board serves as Acting Chair in the absence of the Board Chair, or when the position of Chair is vacant. He noted that the Board currently has two Vice-Chairs and, as such, he acted on behalf of the Board to speak with each Vice-Chair regarding their availability and willingness to take on this role. Once a candidate had been identified, Mr Teskey then contacted each member of the Board to ascertain the Board's support for that decision.

Mr Teskey informed the Board that Mr Dick Wilson had offered to serve as Acting Chair and that Board members had unanimously supported this decision. The original motion was updated to include Dick Wilson's name.

The motion was moved and seconded as amended.

THAT the Board of Governors, approve the appointment of Mr Dick Wilson to serve as Acting Chair of the University of Alberta Board of Governors, effective September 1, 2015 and remain as Chair until a new Chair is appointed.

CARRIED unanimously

Mr Wilson returned to the meeting at this time, and members congratulated and thanked him for taking on this important new role.

INFORMATION REPORTS

4b Recruitment process for next Board Chair

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

Presenter(s): David Turpin; Marion Haggarty-France; Robert H. Teskey

Purpose of the Proposal: To engage in a discussion regarding the recruitment process for the next Board Chair.

Discussion:

Mr Teskey introduced the item, noting the important role the Board plays in preparing and providing material to support the Ministry in its recruitment of a new Board Chair. He reviewed the material provided and suggested that Board members contact the University Secretary with any suggestions for improvements.

Dr Turpin reminded members that Alberta is one of only two provinces where the government selects post-secondary Board Chairs and noted that the University has expressed a desire to be engaged in the recruitment process, as part of a cooperative and collaborative dialogue toward a successful outcome.

Dr Turpin and Ms Haggarty-France responded to questions from Board members regarding the inclusion of a statement of the time-commitment required for the Board Chair role, the search process's expected timeline, and how past Board Chair searches have been conducted.

ADJOURNMENT

The Acting Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:00 noon.