



Board of Governors
Open Session Minutes

Mar 28, 2025
Via Zoom Videoconference
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Members: Kate Chisholm (Chair); Guy Bridgeman (Vice-Chair); Haseeb Arshad; Chris Ashdown; Zarina Bhambhani; Ross Bricker; Darren Durstling; Bill Flanagan; Lisa Glock; Ryan Hastman; Ange Kadima; Kevin Kane; Adrien Lam; Janice MacKinnon; William Morrish; Sett Policicchio; Tom Ross; Rakesh Saraf; Miles Safranovich; Rob Seidel; Nizar Somji; Venkata Vemana; Dilini Vethanayagam; Diane Wheatley; Paul Whittaker; Kate Young; Lillian Zenari.

Internal Resources: Todd Gilchrist; Brad Hamdon; Elan MacDonald; Aminah Robinson Fayek; Verna Yiu.

Presenters: Ashley Bhatia, AVP (Infrastructure Planning, Development and Partnerships); Marcie Chisholm, AVP (Human Resources, Health, Safety and Environment); Jax Oltean, Associate General Counsel; Giri Puligandla, Chair, Board Learning, Research and Student Experience Committee; Ravina Sanghera, Vice-Provost and Dean of Students; Carrie Smith, Vice-Provost (Access, Community and Belonging); Marvin Washington, Vice-Provost and College Dean (Social Sciences & Humanities).

University Governance Staff: John Lemieux, University Secretary; Juli Zinken, Board Secretary and Manager of Board Services; Sithara Naidoo, Governance Officer; Carley Roth, Governance Coordinator.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and the Board Secretary confirmed that attendance constituted a quorum.

1. In Camera Session

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm ▾

Governors met *in camera* at the start of the meeting.

2. Opening Remarks

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm ▾

The Chair welcomed members and guests and delivered a land acknowledgement, noting the university's strong commitment to working in Good Relations with First Nations, Metis, and Inuit peoples.

The Chair thanked outgoing student Governors for their service and valuable contributions to the Board over the past year, and welcomed the student Governors-elect who were attending the meeting as observers, and who would be appointed to the Board effective May 1, pending Ministerial appointment.

The Chair commented on a recent meeting of the Board of Governors with the Alberta Minister of Advanced Education, the university’s research exemptions from the *Provincial Priorities Act* (Bill 18), and possible exemptions for the *Provincial Priorities Act* (Bill 13). The Chair also noted the Government of Alberta’s intention to maintain the two percent cap on tuition indefinitely.

3. Approval of Open Session Agenda

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm ▾

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the Board of Governors approve the Open Session agenda, as presented.	CARRIED ▾
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4. Conflict of Interest - Opportunity for Declaration

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm ▾

The Chair invited members to declare any conflicts of interest related to the open session agenda. Lisa Glock declared student conflicts on behalf of all the student governors with Item 6.1.1. Tuition Proposals. The Chair noted that although that item related to tuition, the Board’s Code of Conduct and Bylaws include provisions to manage any conflict for student Governors related to tuition and fee matters as an allowed conflict, and on that basis indicated that student input was welcomed in the discussion and vote for those items.

5. Report of the President

Presenter(s): Bill Flanagan ▾

Discussion:

In addition to his written report, President Flanagan provided a verbal update on various tours and engagements since December 2024 as well as an update on the Biological Sciences Building renewal and name change to the LIFT Centre. He provided a brief overview of exemptions for the university under the *Provincial Authorities Act* (Bill 18), noting that research funding essentially remains unchanged. Lastly, President Flanagan congratulated several academics at the university for their significant achievements, notably Richard Sutton’s A.M. Turing Award from the Association for Computing Machinery for his work in machine learning and artificial intelligence, as well as a recent federal research grant from the New Frontiers in Research Fund-Transformation program that was awarded to a UofA interdisciplinary research team led by Vivian Mushahwar for their work advancing the frontier of assistive technology.

6. Report of the Finance and Property Committee

Presenter(s): Rakesh Saraf

6.1. Presentation on the University of Alberta's 2025-2026 Consolidated Budget

Presenter(s): Bill Flangan; Todd Gilchrist, Verna Yiu

Discussion:

T Gilchrist presented a brief overview of the 2025-26 consolidated budget which included the University’s

three-year financial plan, revenue highlights, expenses, and submission of the budget to the Government of Alberta by May 31, 2025. V Yiu then reviewed the tuition proposals, noting the current provincial domestic tuition cap and reviewing the international tuition model.

Governors raised several questions and comments, including: whether the utility savings from the absence of a consumer carbon tax were factored in; how clinical funding for oncology and dentistry is reflected in the budget; how graduate tuition is handled for part-time versus full-time students; potential tuition cap changes due to upcoming elections and leadership changes; the University's strategic position within the U15 Group of Canadian Research Universities regarding international student tuition; government advocacy efforts surrounding the Expert Panel on Post-Secondary Institution Funding and Alberta's Competitiveness (the "Mintz Panel"); the possibility of future funding for initiatives such as the Campus Food Bank; and potential for adjusting parking rates; and confirmation that, by law, the university is not permitted to use reserves to fund the operating budget.

6.1.1. Tuition Proposals

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT The Governors of The University of Alberta ("the Board"), on the recommendation of the Board Finance and Property Committee, approve a 2% increase to domestic tuition for undergraduate and graduate students for Fall 2025.	CARRIED -
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The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT The Governors of The University of Alberta, on the recommendation of the Board Finance and Property Committee, approve tuition fees for new international students for all programs to take effect for the Fall 2026 intake, as set forth in the documents disseminated to the Board for its review	CARRIED -
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6.1.2. University of Alberta Consolidated Budget

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT The Governors of The University of Alberta ("the Board"), on the recommendation of the Board Finance and Property Committee and the General Faculties Council Academic Planning Committee, approve the University of Alberta 2025-26 Consolidated Budget as disseminated to the Board.	CARRIED -
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7. Report of the Finance and Property and Learning, Research and Student Experience Committees

Presenter(s): Rakesh Saraf; Giri Puligandla

7.1. Built for Purpose: University Strategic Campus Plan

Presenter(s): Verna Yiu; Todd Gilchrist; Marvin Washington; Ashley Bhatia

Discussion:

R Saraf and G Puligandla introduced the item, emphasizing the importance of increasing the attractiveness of the University experience for students, researchers, and others, and noting an intention to maximize the use of existing resources.

T Gilchrist presented the final draft of the “Built for Purpose” plan for recommendation to the Board, stressing the focus on accommodating growth within the existing campus footprint, referencing a 10-year infrastructure map, and outlining key performance indicators and benchmarking.

V Yiu spoke to ongoing renovations of student spaces and laboratories, underscoring that enhanced spaces contribute to a better experience for both students and researchers, and that University spaces are a critical factor in institutional competitiveness, making performance in this area essential.

Members of the Board raised questions and comments, including: inquiries about what job loss and position restructuring might look like from a broader perspective, and appreciation for the strategic and thoughtful work that had gone into developing the plan.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT The Governors of The University of Alberta (“the Board”), on the recommendation of the Board Finance and Property Committee, the Board Learning, Research and Student Experience Committee, and General Faculties Council, approve <i>Built for Purpose: The University’s Strategic Campus Plan</i> , in the form disseminated to the Board.	CARRIED -
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8. Report of the Human Resources and Compensation and Learning, Research and Student Experience Committees

Presenter(s): Tom Ross, Giri Puligandla

8.1. Discrimination & Harassment and Accommodation Policy Suites - draft

Presenter(s): Verna Yiu; Todd Gilchrist; Marcie Chisholm; Carrie Smith; Ravina Sanghera; Jax Oltean

Discussion:

The presenters reviewed a draft of the revised Discrimination & Harassment and Accommodation Policy Suites, noting that key changes included separating the two policies, creating distinct procedures for students and faculty/staff, and updating titles. They noted that final versions were expected to be brought forward for approval in June.

There were no comments or questions.

9. Consent Agenda

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm -

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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9.1 Approval of Open Session Minutes of December 13, 2024

THAT the Board of Governors approve the Open Session minutes of its Dec 13, 2024 meeting.	CARRIED ▾
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9.2 Revised Conflict of Interest and Commitment and Institutional Conflict Policy and Procedure

<p>THAT The Governors of The University of Alberta ("the Board"), on the recommendation of the Board Audit and Risk Committee:</p> <p>a) approve the revised Conflict of Interest and Commitment and Institutional Conflict Policy and the Conflict of Interest and Conflict of Commitment Reporting and Assessment Procedure ("the procedure"), in the forms disseminated to the Board; and</p> <p>b) delegate future approval authority for the procedure to the Vice-President (University Services, Operations and Finance), Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and Vice-President (Research & Innovation);</p> <p>all to take effect upon final approval.</p>	CARRIED ▾
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9.3 Recission of the Off-Campus Activity and Travel Policy

THAT The Governors of The University of Alberta, on the recommendation of the Board Audit and Risk Committee, rescind the Off-Campus Activity and Travel Policy, effective upon approval and implementation of the Off-Campus Activity and Travel Procedure by the Vice-President (University Services, Operations and Finance).	CARRIED ▾
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9.4 Tuition for New Programs

THAT The Governors of The University of Alberta ("the Board"), on the recommendation of the Board Finance and Property Committee, approve domestic and international tuition rates for the Master of Real Estate	CARRIED ▾
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Development, the Certificate in Sustainability, and the Master of Nursing Practitioner Programs, as detailed in the documents disseminated to the Board for its review.	
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9.5 University of Alberta Capital Plan

<p>THAT The Governors of The University of Alberta ("the Board"), on the recommendation of the Board Finance and Property Committee, approve the institution's Capital Plan 2025-26 to 2027-28, in the form disseminated to the Board, and authorize the Vice-President (University Services, Operations and Finance) to make minor grammatical, formatting, or stylistic revisions to the plan, provided that such revisions do not alter the intent or substantive content of the approved plan.</p>	
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CARRIED ▾

9.6 University Funds Investment Policy

<p>THAT The Governors of The University of Alberta ("the Board"), on the recommendation of the Board Investment Committee, approve the revised University Funds Investment Policy, in the form disseminated to the Board, with changes to take effect upon final approval.</p>	
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CARRIED ▾

10. Information Items

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm ▾

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

- 10.1. Action Arising from Previous Meetings
- 10.2. 2025-2026 Board of Governors' Calendar
- 10.3. Report of the Audit and Risk Committee
- 10.4. Report of the Finance and Property Committee
- 10.5. Report of the Governance Committee
- 10.6. Report of the Human Resources & Compensation Committee
- 10.7. Report of the Investment Committee
- 10.8. Report of the Learning, Research and Student Experience Committee
- 10.9. Report of the Reputation and Public Affairs Committee
- 10.10. Chancellor's Report
- 10.11. Alumni Association
- 10.12. Students' Union (including 2023-24 Financial Statements)
- 10.13. Graduate Students' Association
- 10.14. Association of Academic Staff

10.15. Non-Academic Staff Association

10.16. General Faculties Council

10.17. Board Chair Report

11. Other Business

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm ▾

There was no other business.

12. Adjournment of Open Session

Presenter(s): Kate Chisholm ▾

The Chair concluded the open session at 9:10 a.m. and the Board moved into closed session.