

Board of Governors  
Open Session Minutes

Friday, December 13, 2024  
Zoom virtual meeting  
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

---

**ATTENDEES:**

Voting Members:

Kate Chisholm	Appointed Chair, General Public
Guy Bridgeman	Appointed Vice-Chair, General Public
Haseeb Arshad	Appointed Member, Graduate Student
Chris Ashdown	Appointed Member, University of Alberta Alumni Association
Zarina Bhambhani	Appointed Member, General Public
Ross Bricker	Appointed Member, General Public
Darren Durstling	Appointed Member, General Public
Bill Flanagan	Appointed Member, President and Vice-Chancellor
Lisa Glock	Appointed Member, Undergraduate Student
Ryan Hastman	Appointed Member, General Public
Ange Kadima	Appointed Member, University of Alberta Senate
Kevin Kane	Appointed Member, Academic Staff (AASUA Nominee)
Adrien Lam	Appointed Member, Undergraduate Student
Janice MacKinnon	Appointed Member, General Public
William Morrish	Appointed Member, Non-Academic Staff (NASA Nominee)
Sett Policicchio	Appointed Member, General Public
Thomas (Tom) Ross	Appointed Member, General Public
Rakesh Saraf	Appointed Member, General Public
Miles Safranovich	Appointed Member, General Public
Nizar Somji	Appointed Member, Chancellor
Venkata Vemana	Appointed Member, General Public
Dilini Vethanayagam	Appointed Member, Academic Staff (GFC Nominee)
Diane Wheatley	Appointed Member, General Public
Kate Young	Appointed Member, University of Alberta Alumni Association
Lillian Zenari	Appointed Member, General Public

Non-Voting Officials Appointed by the President:

Todd Gilchrist	Vice-President (University Services, Operations and Finance)
Brad Hamdon	General Counsel
John Lemieux	University Secretary
Elan MacDonald	Vice-President (External Relations)
Aminah Robinson Fayek	Vice-President (Research and Innovation)
Verna Yiu	Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Juli Zinken	Board Secretary and Manager of Board Services

Regrets:

Robert Seidel	Appointed Member, General Public
Paul Whittaker	Appointed Member, General Public

Presenter(s):

Ashley Bhatia	Associate Vice-President (Infrastructure Planning, Development and Partnerships)
Giri Puligandla	Chair, Board Learning, Research and Student Experience Committee
Carrie Smith	Vice-Provost (Equity, Diversity & Inclusion)
Marvin Washington	Vice-Provost and College Dean, Social Sciences and Humanities

Staff:

Erin Plume, Associate Board Secretary (University Governance)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and welcomed members and guests.

**IN CAMERA SESSION OF GOVERNORS ONLY**

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

**WELCOME**

1a. Opening Remarks

*Presenter(s)*: Kate Chisholm

The Chair delivered a land acknowledgement, noting the University's strong commitment to working in good relations with First Nations, Metis, and Inuit peoples.

1b. Approval of Open Session Agenda

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s)*: Kate Chisholm

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)*: Kate Chisholm

The Chair invited members to declare any conflicts of interest related to the open session agenda. Seeing no conflicts, the Chair declared the question asked and answered.

**DISCUSSION / DECISION ITEMS**

2. Report of the President

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s)*: Bill Flanagan

*Discussion:*

President Flanagan provided a verbal update on planning for the January 31, 2025 Board of Governors ("Board"), General Faculties Council, and Senate Summit, noting that the session was an opportunity for the three groups to come together informally and that this year's summit would focus on articulating the university's values as set out in the People Strategy. He also briefed the Board on the university's record year for research, as well as his recent trip to Japan to meet with a number of companies and promote an upcoming hydrogen conference in Edmonton. The Chair encouraged the President to invite a hydrogen researcher to speak at an upcoming Board meeting.

Report of the Finance and Property Committee

*Presenter(s)*: Rakesh Saraf

3. Financial Update

a) Tuition Briefing

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Todd Gilchrist; Verna Yiu

*Discussion:*

R Saraf introduced the item and T Gilchrist provided a financial update, reviewing the current fiscal year status, 2025-26 budget process and consultations, and ongoing discussions with the Government of Alberta regarding the university's finances.

V Yiu then reviewed anticipated tuition proposals for domestic and international students, noting the government cap on domestic tuition, changes to the student financial support funding approach, consideration of alternate international tuition scenarios, and an overview of student consultation to date.

V Yiu and Melissa Padfield, Deputy Provost (Students and Enrolment), responded to questions from the Board, including: the risk of decreased international student enrolment; consideration of a differential tuition approach; the possibility of adjusting timing of tuition installment payments for international students to provide additional stability; and the status of additional funding supports.

*Report of the Finance and Property and Learning, Research and Student Experience Committees*

*Presenter(s):* Rakesh Saraf; Giri Puligandla

4. Built for Purpose: University Strategic Campus Plan

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

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

*Discussion:*

R Saraf and G Puligandla introduced the item and acknowledged the consultation process to date. T Gilchrist reviewed the plan and commented on its alignment with the university's strategic plans, noting the timeline for continued consultation and governance approval.

T Gilchrist and A Bhatia responded to questions and comments from the Board, including: potential for performance and cost benchmarks with other Canadian post-secondary institutions; how the plan addresses accessibility needs and barrier-free access, and how progress in those areas will be tracked; and the importance of prioritizing student safety.

Following the discussion, the Board requested that, for the March meeting cycle, administration:

- highlight the process for the assessment of life cycle costs for university buildings, identifying problematic structures and evaluating the same; and
- compare performance and costs against U15 institutions, with a focus on managing higher-cost buildings.

*Report of the Human Resources and Compensation and Learning, Research and Student Experience Committees*

*Presenter(s):* Tom Ross; Giri Puligandla

5. "Changing the Story" Integrated Action Plan and Metrics

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Bill Flanagan; Verna Yiu; Carrie Smith

*Discussion:*

T Ross and G Puligandla introduced the item and reviewed discussions at both committee meetings where 'Changing the Story; An Integrated Action Plan for Transforming our Vibrant and Interconnected University Community,' ("the plan") and its metrics were discussed.

President Flanagan and C Smith responded to questions and comments from the Board, including: concern regarding the presentation of Canada's history as a settler society; the necessity of the proposed changes, including related resources and costs; size and demographics of the proposed annual surveys; the importance of considering changes in culture when tracking the number of incidents; support for the plan, accountability through metrics, and diversity fuelling innovation; and acknowledgement that language may never be perfect but that the plan was a positive step forward.

Following the discussion, a member proposed an amendment to the main motion to address concerns regarding the plan's presentation of Canadian history.

The motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the Board of Governors amend the main motion to include direction for administration to review 'Changing the Story; An Integrated Action Plan for Transforming our Vibrant and Interconnected University Community,' to ensure it reflects a balanced representation of Canadian history, avoiding the endorsement of any singular perspective or prescribing specific viewpoints.

**CARRIED**

The amended motion was moved and seconded.

THAT the Board of Governors ("the Board"), on the recommendation of the Board Human Resources and Compensation Committee, approve 'Changing the Story; An Integrated Action Plan for Transforming our Vibrant and Interconnected University Community,' including the metrics therein as recommended by the Board Learning, Research and Student Experience Committee, in the form presented to the Board for review, as a successor to the university's Strategic Plan for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity (2019–2023); and direct the administration to review the Integrated Action Plan to ensure it reflects a balanced representation of Canadian history, avoiding the endorsement of any singular perspective or prescribing specific viewpoints.

**CARRIED**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

6. Approval of Consent Items

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

*Presenter(s):* Kate Chisholm

The items were moved and seconded en masse.

THAT the Board of Governors approve the Open Session consent agenda, as presented.

**CARRIED**

6a. Open Session Minutes of October 11, 2024

THAT the Board of Governors approve the Open Session minutes of its October 11, 2024 meeting.

**CARRIED**

6b. Envision 2.0

THAT the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Board Finance and Property Committee, execute a Borrowing Resolution for phase 1 of the Envision 2.0 Energy Management Program in an amount not to exceed \$5 million in Canadian funds for a term not to exceed 15 years at an interest rate of not more than 7.35%, and make an application to the Minister of Advanced Education for the required approval.

**CARRIED**

6c. Revised Board of Governors Bylaws

THAT the Board of Governors (the "Board"), on the recommendation of the Board Governance Committee, approve revised Board Bylaws in the form presented to the Board, such revised Board Bylaws to take effect January 6, 2025.

**CARRIED**

6d. Proposed Revisions to the Vice-Presidential Review Procedure

THAT the Board of Governors (the "Board"), on the recommendation of the Board Human Resources and Compensation Committee ("BHRCC"), approve the revised Vice-Presidential Review Procedure in the form presented to the Board.

**CARRIED**

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

Materials before members are contained in the official meeting file.

There were no requests from members to discuss the information items listed below.

- 7a. Action Arising from Previous Meetings
- 7b. Resolution approved via Electronic Vote of the Board of Governors held October 18 – 21, 2024
- 7c. Resolution approved via Electronic Vote of the Board of Governors held November 4 - 6, 2024
- 7d. Report of the Audit and Risk Committee
  - Health, Safety and Environment Quarterly Report
  - "Culture of Care" Quarterly Implementation Report
- 7e. Report of the Finance and Property Committee
  - Carryforward 101
- 7f. Report of the Governance Committee
  - Guidance for the Use of Consent Agendas
- 7g. Report of the Human Resources and Compensation Committee
- 7h. Report of the Investment Committee
- 7i. Report of the Learning, Research, and Student Experience Committee
- 7j. Report of the Reputation and Public Affairs Committee
  - Edmonton External Relations Advisory Committee
- 7k. Chancellor's Report
- 7l. Alumni Association
- 7m. Students' Union
- 7n. Graduate Students' Association (including 2023-24 Financial Statements)
- 7o. Association of Academic Staff (no report)
- 7p. Non-Academic Staff Association

7q. General Faculties Council

7r. Board Chair Report

**CLOSING SESSION**

8. Other Business

*Presenter(s):* Kate Chisholm

There was no other business.

9. Adjournment

*Presenter(s):* Kate Chisholm

The Chair adjourned the Open Session at 9:40 a.m.