

Present: with Carol Ryder in the chair were the following: Dr. Daniel Doz, President and CEO; Larry Clausen, Chair, Advancement Committee; Reid Cummings, Chair, Finance and Audit Committee; Natasha Pashak, Chair, Governance and HR Committee; Amanda Hu; Spil Kousinioris; Patti Dibski; Cassandra Dam Bobby Yin; Ashif Merani; A. Stewart Hanlon (teleconference); Rickee-Lee Webster

Regrets: Iain Howe

Guests: Dr. André Plante, Vice President Academic and Provost; Jamie Leong-Huxley, Vice President Advancement; Jill Brown, Vice President Administration; Andrea Power, Secretary to the Board of Governors

The Chair welcomed all governors and guests to the meeting and then read the Basic Treaty 7 Land Acknowledgement. The new University Secretary was introduced and changes on the agenda and procedures were noted.

1. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Natasha Pashak and **SECONDED** by Reid Cummings:

THAT the Board of Governors approve the draft February 12, 2020 Board of Governors agenda, as presented.

CARRIED

2. Consent Agenda

THAT the Board of Governors approve the draft December 11, 2019 meeting minutes, as presented.

Approved by **CONSENT**.

THAT the Board of Governors appoint Reid Cummings as Chair, Finance and Audit Committee for the term ending September 19, 2020.

Approved by **CONSENT**.

THAT the Board of Governors receive the Cabinet Report, as presented.

Approved by **CONSENT**.

THAT the Board of Governors receive the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees (AUPE) Report, as presented.

Approved by **CONSENT**.

3. Board Chair's Report

The Board Chair reviewed her report and then thanked Natasha Pashak for her service on the Board and her hard work on the Board policies.

4. President's Report

The President reviewed his report, noting the following:

- Thoughts and prayers were extended for Jim Burton, AUArts staff member who passed away recently.
- Cabinet is focused on the new reality for the fiscal framework, which will incorporate new Key Performance Indicators (KPI). The KPI may require additional institutional data skills to manage and track. The budget is being developed with the information available at this time.
- Institutional size does matter as it was noted that Watkins College of Art, a small college in Nashville, is merging with Belmont University.
- The AUArts Award document distributed was prepared by Advancement and demonstrates the commitment the university has with student awards. 90% of the awards were distributed last year.
- There have been several key staff changes in the Ministry of Advanced Education, which has created delays in information.
- The new Continuing Education marketing materials were distributed to Board members and it is hoped that the additional marketing will help with enrolment and AUArts diversification of revenue.
- University admission is strong, exceeding last year's numbers. To date, 587 applications have been received and the largest growth area is in transfer students.
- The 10th Annual President's Student Art, Craft and Design Exhibition will immediately follow the Board meeting.
- The New Investment Management Agreement Framework document and the approved AUArts Strategic plan both were appended for information. The Strategic Plan does speak to diversification of revenue sources; specifically, through growth in Continuing Education. Advancement are also looking for additional sponsorships to assist with funding.
- Responding to the digital world was noted and the approved Academic Plan does speak to key programmatic areas which will address this area.

5. Board Committee Reports

5.1. Finance + Audit Committee

The newly appointed Committee Chair expressed his gratitude at the opportunity to serve as chair and noted the following:

- Last meet on February 5 where the investments were reviewed. They have had a healthy rate of return. The 2020-2021 budget assumptions were also reviewed.
- Will receive the draft budget on March 25, and it will then go to the Board on April 15.
- With respect to the Q2 financial performance, there is an operating surplus due to constraint shown by all budget holders.
- There were no issues with Q2 Senior executive expenses.

5.2. Advancement Committee

The Committee Chair noted there was no report as the committee did not meet.

5.3. Governance/HR Committee

The Committee Chair noted the following:

- Last met on February 4 and discussed the draft mandate statement feedback and timeline for approval. Advanced Education have asked for a Board approved revised statement by March 31. It is anticipated that the Board will approve the mandate via email vote; however, if the document is controversial the Board will have a meeting by March 31.
- Two outstanding Board policies are in progress and it is anticipated they will come to the Board later in the academic year.

6. 2020-2021 Tuition and Fee Increases

The Board Chair invited the Finance and Audit Committee Chair to present the motion and the discussion on the proposed tuition and fee increases. In the presentation, the following was noted:

- In December 2019 the provincial government removed the tuition freeze that had been in place for 5 years.
- AUArts are recommending an increase of 6.65% increase for domestic students and 6.89% for international students; which will result in a \$355K increase in revenue. The operating grant from the province is anticipated to be reduced by over \$800K.
- During the Student Fee Consultation process there were three meetings and students stated they would prefer a 5% increase; which would be a reduction of ~80K in the proposed tuition revenue.
- It is estimated that the proposed increases would result in an ~\$300/year/student increase and ~\$1000/year/student for international students.
- Tuition at AUArts is in line with or lower than other universities in Alberta and other arts programs across Canada. Other Alberta institutions have made variable tuition increases in programs.
- AUArts will continue to look at alternate revenue sources and maintain restraint on spending. Government were clear they wanted to reduce the operating grant and one way for universities to offset the reduction is to increase tuition.
- If the motion were not to pass today, the entire process would be stalled, and the tuition adjustment would have to be revisited by the committee.

On behalf of the Finance and Audit Committee:

THAT the Board of Governors approve the 2020-2021 student fees, as presented.

CARRIED.

At 5:10pm the Board of Governors recessed for a group photo taken by student photographer, Alaska White, and then resumed the meeting at 5:30pm.

The President then introduced Kayla Brown, the student artist who crafted the 2020 President's Pitcher.

7. AUArts Draft Mandate Statement & Timeline

The Governance and HR Chair reported on the requirement for feedback on the draft mandate statement and the timeline for approval requested by the Alberta government, by March 31, as outlined in the documents. The Board agreed that the schedule would work, however, it is yet to be determined if the Board will confirm the document via email vote or at a special meeting. The mandate will be one of the components in the new IMA.

8. Reports

8.1. General Faculties Council Report

The President reported the following on the GFC:

- There were GFC meetings on December 11, 2019 and January 22, 2020.
- Both meetings had busy agendas, approving the GFC Bylaws, academic plan and several course curriculum changes.
- Now that the academic plan has been approved, each academic unit plan will be developed.
- By the end of May 2020, all GFC standing committee terms of reference are expected to be approved.
- The GFC representative to the Board will be elected by May 30, with a three-year term effective September 1, 2020.

8.2. AUArts SA Report

The SA President noted the following in her report:

- The SA are working on revisions to their bylaws and policies; including a new Health and Dental plan provider which will take effect September 2020. The new plan has the potential for alumni to be included. There will not be a fee increase to students with the new plan.
- On March 2 the SA will host the 2nd annual Gracious Gratitude Event. The SA AGM take place at that same time.

8.3. AUFAFA Report

The AUFAFA representative noted the following in her report:

- The Climate Survey results were included in the report. There was a very low response rate to the survey. 95 faculty were sent the survey and the response rate has decreased over the years; which is what has been happening across other provincial respondents. It is unclear what the reasons are behind the low response.

- Continuing to receive feedback on the Respectful Workplace Policy.
- Collective Bargaining is underway.
- AUAFA is still a member of the Alberta Colleges and Institutes Faculties Association, ACIFA, and it is not anticipated that AUAFA will move to the provincial university association group.
- The Board Chair and the AUAFA President will resume monthly discussions.

9. Business Arising

There were two matters arising from the December 11, 2019 Minutes:

- It was confirmed that the L2 concourse is SAIT jurisdiction and the lighting in the concourse has been fixed. The Main Mall lights have also been upgraded.
- The exact numbers for enrollment in the Crescent Heights Program will be presented at the next Board meeting.

10. Board of Governors representative: 2020 Board of Governors Student Award Committee

The Board of Governors Award is presented each year to one graduating student in either each major or each stream within a major and one graduating student in each graduate program. Larry Clausen will be the Board of Governors Representative for the 2020 Board Student Award Committee.

11. In Camera Session

The Board went in camera at 5:45pm and held two sessions: one with the President and the second without the President.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:35pm.