

**Voting Members Present** with Carol Ryder in the chair were Dr. Mark Clintberg, Patti Dibski, Susanne DiCocco, Dr. Daniel Doz, Iain Howe, Amanda Hu, Chi Iliya-Ndule, Ashif Merani, Jamie Russett, Sheila Taylor, Rickee-Lee Webster

**Non-Voting, Ex-officio Member:** Andrea Power, Secretary to the Board of Governors

**Regrets:** John Faul, A. Stewart Hanlon, Spil Kousinioris

**Guests:** Jill Brown, Vice President Administration; Nicole Hamilton, Executive Director, Continuing Education and Professional Development; Jamie Leong-Huxley, Vice President Advancement; Dr. André Plante, Vice President Academic and Provost

**Observer:** Lisa Cerny, Chair, AUArts AUPE Chapter 006

The Chair welcomed all members, guests and one observer to the meeting, read the Treaty 7 Land Acknowledgement and then called the meeting to order.

## **1. Approval of Agenda**

The Chair noted that items 5.1 Finance and Audit Report and 6.0 Tuition and Fees will be presented by Sheila Taylor, member, Finance and Audit Committee.

**MOVED by R. Webster and SECONDED by S. Taylor:**

***THAT the Board of Governors approve the draft February 10, 2021 Board of Governors agenda, as amended.***

**CARRIED**

## **2. Consent Agenda**

***THAT the Board of Governors approve the December 9, 2020 Draft Board Meeting Minutes, as presented.***

***THAT the Board of Governors approve the revised Political Contributions Policy, as presented.***

***THAT the Board of Governors receive the General Faculties Council (GFC) Report, as presented.***

***THAT the Board of Governors receive the AUArts Student Association (SA) Report, as presented.***

***THAT the Board of Governors receive the Alberta University of the Arts Faculty Association (AUFA) Report, as presented.***

*THAT the Board of Governors receive the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees (AUPE) Chapter 006 Report, as presented.*

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

*Approved by CONSENT*

In response to questions on the Cabinet items, the following was noted:

- December 9, 2020 Draft Board Meeting Minutes:
  - One minor spelling correction
  - It was noted that there was a request for students to attend the Indigenous Council meeting.
- Congratulations were extended to the Advancement team on the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of AUArts becoming a university and the associated celebration.
- The Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Task force membership are:
  - Executive Sponsor, Co-Chair: Nicole Hamilton
  - Executive Sponsor, Co-Chair: Jamie Leong-Huxley
  - Student: Fayda Baillie
  - Human Resource: Wendy Harding
  - Design: Mitch Kern
  - Chair/AVP: Alex Link
  - Management Exempt: Joelyne Mayers-Jaekel
  - EAT: Jocelyn Reid
  - Craft: Natali Rodrigues
  - AUPE: Dale Vanden Berg
  - Fine Art: Justin Waddell
  - Critical Studies: Yoke Sum Wong
- The process to formulate and coordinate the AUArts Unit Plans (academic and non-academic) has started. There has been an initial review at Deans' Council, looking at integration and gaps; ensuring unit plans are not developed in isolation. All the pieces are connecting well, to date.
- Virtual We HeART Wellness 2021 was implemented for faculty and staff. A post event survey was distributed, and it was noted that attendance was a bit lower this year.

### **3. Board Chair's Report**

The Board Chair provided a verbal report and the following was discussed:

- There has been no new news from Advanced Education but anticipate more communication in the next few weeks.
- Participated in the Feb. 1, 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary event which featured guest artists Alum Mikhail Miller, BFA '06, Print Media and collaborator Rachel Ziriada; the Calgary-based artist duo known as NASARIMBA. Their mural was created over the past summer in the lower concourse of the AUArts campus and was revealed at the anniversary event.
- Attended the Calgary Caucus meeting with Calgary MLAs who had invited each Calgary PSI Chair and President to present on PSI challenges and opportunities.

- On March 19, 2021 there will be an exciting new Board Professional Development opportunity from 1pm – 4pm. The Advanced Education Minister, Demetrios Nicolaides, will speak to the AUArts Board of Governors on the PSI review. Following the Minister, Marion Haggarty-France, Facilitator, will lead a session on Board Dynamics and Culture. Two questions will be sent to Board members for response prior to the session and a few articles to read prior to the event.

#### **4. President and CEO Report**

The President and CEO verbally reported the following:

- Celebrated the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of AUArts as a university and it was very nice to celebrate the mural commissioned of an alum.
- The GFC Steering Committee is developing a GFC Standing Committee Annual Report that will be ready each Fall. The Report will be shared with the Board of Governors for information and available on the AUArts website.
- The President's Cabinet and Budget Task Force have begun work on the university budget, which the Board will see in May 2021. Tuition and fees are on the Board agenda today and today's tuition increase recommendation will put more pressure on our students, so we must recognize students need more support.
- The idea of PSI superboards seems to be set aside and the final PSI Review report will be made available in March or April. Still waiting on the final government budget.
- Student and faculty access to campus is going very well.
- Work integrated learning and experiential learning is a key area for academic studies.
- New front entrance is finished, and the landscaping will be completed in spring. Next, the internal furniture in the entrance, cafeteria, and area will be updated and completed by Fall 2021.

#### **5. Board Committee Reports**

##### **5.1. Finance and Audit Committee**

The Committee report was presented by committee member, Sheila Taylor.

- The committee last met on January 26, 2021 and received a report from Mawer Investment Management. Mawer reported that the portfolio continues to perform well, posting a positive return for both the three months and the year ended December 31, 2020. The committee received a recommendation from management regarding tuition and fees for the upcoming academic year and the committee confirmed that the recommendation from management be put forward for consideration by the Board of Governors.
- The committee went in-camera to receive a Collective Bargaining update from management.
- AUArts investments received 7-8 points on the return. It was noted there are very strict guidelines from the auditor general with respect to investments. AUArts have a very conservative portfolio which is low to medium risk. With respect to ESG, Mawer is a signatory of the United Nations Principles of Responsible Investing. The Finance and Audit Committee can pursue more on ESG with Mawer and come back to the Board with an update.

## **5.2 Advancement Committee**

The Committee Chair noted the following:

- The committee last met on January 27, 2021 and had a very productive meeting discussing the Boost-A-Student Campaign and honorary degree documents.
- Congrats to the university and special thanks to the Chair of the Board for efforts with the Board on Boost.
- The statistics on the campaign were:
  - Private campaign launch on November 23, 2020 with a public launch on December 3, 2020
  - Raised \$77,033 and continue to receive donations. The Board matched up to \$50K.
  - Advances a philanthropic culture; Attracts and builds relationships; and Awareness
  - The campaign success relied on already established relationships and received 105 gifts. Faculty and staff were the most engaged audience. There is a potential for future campaigns, and this will be reviewed.
- With respect to distribution of campaign funds, the following was noted:
  - Office of the Provost & Student Affairs to incorporate scholarship that also provides experience and mentorship
    - 27 scholarships – writing, campus life and initiatives, student initiatives, research
    - 10 entrance scholarships – pandemic impact
    - 2 work experiences in Student Affairs
    - 20 bursaries, including emergency bursaries
    - Additions to equipment lending library
- At the next Board meeting it will be confirmed if international students who receive scholarships or bursaries must consider this as a part of their allowable income.

## **5.2. Governance and HR Committee**

The Committee Chair noted the following:

- The committee last met on January 19, 2021 discussing the honorary degree documents that will be presented today. Recommended the revised political contribution policy. Gendered honorifics and other gender specific areas. The President and CEO Review policy was discussed but it was confirmed that this would be set aside until the PSI Review was complete.
- A professional development session was held on February 3, 2021 by the Governance and HR Committee Chair with two constituent Board representatives. It was determined that there would be an internal professional development focus for constituent representatives, followed by a full Board development session on March 19, 2021.
- The Board will not be receiving a copy of the President and CEO's review and, in future, the Board will look for a more formalized approach, confirming what can be reported out to the Board.

## **6. AUArts 2021-2022 Tuition and Fees**

Under the Post-Secondary Learning Act, Section 61(1), the board of a public post-secondary institution shall set the tuition fees and mandatory non-instructional fees (“MNIFs”) to be paid by students of the public post-secondary institution. All student fee recommendations are submitted to the Board through the Finance and Audit Committee as per the student fee consultation process as established by the Credit Tuition and Student Fees Procedure.

The proposed tuition and fee increases is estimated to realize approximately \$350K in additional revenue in 2021-2022 (at current enrollment levels). Revenue from the Campus Alberta Grant is projected to be reduced in 2021-2022 by at least \$897K, in addition to the \$1.4M reduction already realized in the current fiscal year.

Tuition currently covers ~60% of the cost of instruction, which does not align with the guiding principles of the Tuition and Fees Regulation. Tuition and program fees must, over time, be scaled relative to the requirements of a studio education that necessitates smaller class sizes, specialized facilities and equipment and must function within health and safety standards related to equipment, materials, and processes necessary to the program disciplines.

On behalf of the Finance and Audit Committee:

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| <p><b>THAT the Board of Governors approve the AUArts 2021-2022 Tuition and Student Fees, as presented.<br/>CARRIED.</b></p> |
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In discussion of the motion, the following was noted:

- The Vice President Administration presented the Tuition and Fees Report. The student fee consultation committee met on 3 separate occasions. Great conversation with the students; however, there was disagreement on the final tuition increase. The University was asking for a 7% increase and the students asked for a 6% increase. Mandatory instructional fees (MNIFS) were streamlined and grouped for students and administration, which provided clarity on fees.
- A 7% tuition increase was recommended to the Board as the projected decrease in the government operating grant will result in \$500K less revenue than the 7% tuition increase. Cuts will still need to be made at the university and it is projected that the operating grant will be further reduced when the budget is announced. In addition, AUArts has very limited ability to increase revenue in any other area. If tuition did not increase to 7% then AUArts will continue to have one of the lowest tuitions in arts and culture in Canada. Keeping the increase at 7% will result in fewer cuts that the university would have to make. The government opened the potential to increase tuition by 7% for only 3 years and, as of 2022, tuition increases will be linked to the Consumer Price Index (CPI).
- Students were asking for a 6% increase as the Alberta Students' Executive Council (ASEC) was collectively asking institutions each for a 6% increase.
- There could be a role for the Board to advocate for tax credits for students.

- The government has asked that the university reduce the need for the government grant and look for other revenue sources. The McKinnon Report indicated that the operating grant for PSI was too large and reductions were needed. In the past, students have paid a smaller share of the amount for education as tuition was frozen for 4 years. It is important to note that fundraising does not pay for operating.
- The question was called, members agreed that discussion had concluded, and the vote should proceed. The vote carried with a simple majority.

## **7. Draft Honorary Degree Documents**

AUArts have bestowed honorary degrees in the past number of years. Since becoming a university, the PSLA states the following with respect to honorary degrees: “Honorary degrees: The board of an undergraduate university may grant an honorary degree on a person.”

To date, the process for honorary degrees has resided with the institution. It has been determined that the process can now shift to the Board of Governors with the appropriate documentation for a new Board Honorary Degree Committee: Honorary Degree Committee Procedure, Honorary Degree Committee Terms of Reference, Honorary Degree Nomination Form and the Call for Honorary Degree Nominations.

On behalf of the Governance and HR Committee:

***THAT the Board of Governors approves the Honorary Degree Committee Procedure, Honorary Degree Committee Terms of Reference, and the Honorary Degree Nomination Form, as presented.***  
**UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

In discussion, the following was noted:

- The revised process is like the process followed by the previous university committee and matches the changes as noted in the PSLA.
- Several Board members noted this is a positive move and spoke favorably to the motion.
- The three criteria for nominations were noted in the procedure.

## **8. AUArts University Continuity**

The President and CEO provided a verbal update on university continuity. The following was discussed:

- The Vice President Academic and Provost informed the preparation plan for Fall 2021. The General Faculties Council Standing Committee, Academic Planning and Oversight Committee has started the discussion on the recommendation that will go to the Recovery Management Team and then to the President’s Cabinet for final approval. By the end of March, the university should be able to announce our decision on the Fall, which will be supported by health and safety.

- There is a total of 21 classes on campus for Winter and all is going well. Pleased that the protocols are going very well, and the in-person classes are going well, especially with the changes in the health and safety changes. There have been no incidents.

## **9. Business Arising**

The December 9, 2020 approved minutes noted an informal report had been prepared by Dr. Dam which focused on what is working and not working for faculty. Dr. Dam's report and recommendations have now been received by the Provost and School Chairs. The report will not be presented to the Board of Governors as this is operational in nature.

As a reminder, on the Board of Governors website, you can find:

- Board agendas and approved meeting minutes
- The AUArts Annual Report, year ended June 30, 2020
- The Board of Governors Meeting Agenda Guidelines

Dr. Dam, Faculty Association representative to the Board of Governors, has resigned effective February 3, 2021. A card of thanks will be sent to Dr. Dam.

**The open session of the Board meeting adjourned at 6:05pm.**

The Board in-camera session was held using a separate Teams link.

Thank you to the members of Cabinet and observer for attending today's Board meeting.

## **10. In Camera Session**

The Board of Governors went in camera at 6:20pm.

## **11. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:37pm.