Alberta University of the Arts

Board of Governors
Approved Minutes
May 12, 2026
4:00pm – 6:30pm
300e/Teams

Voting Members: Adrian Stimson, Board Chair, Patrick Chiu, Sara Anhorn, Dr. Janis Goldie, Tom Graham, Ruby Gupta, Chi Iliya-Ndule (virtual), Mackenzie Kelly-Frère, Evan Legate, Samantha Mirjah, Tanya Mryglod, Tammi Price, and Murray Wittmeier.

Regrets: Chris Cran and Kurtis Lesick

Guests: Ava Griffin, Student – for Item 4, Siena Kacsmar-Mayoh, Student – for Item 4, Jeff Meighan, Director Campus Operations – for Item 13.

Management & Resource Members: Jessica O'Connell, Executive Director, University Relations, Scott Powell, Vice President Finance and Operations, and Cherie Tutt, University Secretary and Joanne Deaver, Scribe.

Observer: TaLeesha Mahe, Student Association Vice President of Academic Affairs

---

The Chair provided the land acknowledgement and shared his recent experience while travelling in Australia with the Welcome to Country and land acknowledgement protocols.

The Chair reminded the Board that convocation is upcoming on May 27, reporting that 200 students will graduate from the MFA, BFA, BDes as the class of 2026. As part of the public launch of convocation during the week of May 18, the Honorary Degree recipient will be announced.

This year's recipient is extra special, recognizing the incredible Joni Mitchell.

Outgoing Student members were recognized for their contributions and service to the Board.

The meeting was called to order at 4:06 p.m. and quorum was confirmed.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved / Seconded
That the Agendas for the May 12, 2026 Board of Governors meeting be approved.
Carried

2. Conflict of Interest Declaration

No conflicts were declared.

3. Consent Agenda

Documentation was included in the meeting materials.

The following Consent Agenda items were adopted:

3.1 March 10, 2026 Board of Governors Meeting Minutes.

That the Minutes of the Board of Governors meeting held on March 10, 2026 be approved. **Adopted**

The following Consent Agenda items were received by the Board for information:

3.2 Board Expense Policy
3.3 Board Standing Committee Reports
  A. Advancement
  B. Governance & HR
3.4 Constituent Reports
  A. Students' Association (SA)
  B. Faculty Association (AUAFA)
  C. General Faculties Council
3.5 Cabinet Reports
  A. Vice President, Academic
  B. Vice President Finance & Operations
  C. Dean Innovation, Learning & Development
  D. Dean of Students, Acting
  E. Executive Director, University Relations
  F. Executive Director, People & Culture

4. Annual President and Board Student Work Presentations

Documentation was included in the meeting materials. Dr. Janis Goldie, Ava Griffin, and Siena Kacsmar-Mayoh presented this item.

Highlights:

- It was reported that annually the President and CEO sends out a call for submissions from students for a President's shawl, to be worn at convocation, glass pitchers, ceramic cups and bowls and 3D printed coasters to be used at Board meetings.
- Ava Griffin, who made one of the sets of coasters presented on their work and their experience at AUArts. Sienna Kacsmar-Mayoh, who made this year's Presidential Shawl, presented on her work designed after the magpie.
- Dr. Goldie provided a brief explanation of the other works submitted, noting that the student who created the second set of coasters and the student who created the glass pitchers will join the May 29th Board meeting to present.

- Mandolin Martin made the beautiful mugs and bowls on display.

5. Board Bylaws and Board Terms of Reference (TOR)

Documentation was included in the meeting materials. The Board Chair, Chair of Governance and Human Resources Committee and the University Secretary presented this item.

Highlights:

- The Board Chair reported that the revisions to the Bylaws were presented at the March Board meeting in accordance with Section 13 of the Bylaws following review over 2025 by the Governance and Human Resources (HR) Committee.
- Several changes to the Bylaws are being proposed, the most significant being the incorporation of the content from the TOR into the Bylaws to create a single, comprehensive reference document. Additional updates are intended to better align the Bylaws with the *Post-Secondary Learning Act,* clarify roles and responsibilities of the Board and expectations for members.
- There were no questions.

Moved / Seconded
That the Board of Governors rescind the Board of Governors Terms of Reference and approve the changes to the Board Bylaws, in the form provided to the Board, effective immediately, and as recommended by the Governance and Human Resources Committee. **Carried**

6. President and Board Chair Emeritus Policy/Procedure

Documentation was included in the meeting materials. The Chair of Governance and HR Committee and the University Secretary presented this item.

Highlights:

- It was reported that as per the Policy Development Process the President and Board Chair Emeritus Policy and Procedure have recently been reviewed and the changes are presented following consultation with Governance and HR Committee. The changes include rescinding the policy, creating one Institutional policy, with two sets of procedures one for academic staff “Professors”, under the authority of the President and one for presidents and board chairs under the authority of the Board.
- The revised procedure removes the nomination process and requires Governance and HR Committee recommendation to the Board.
- There were no questions.

Moved / Seconded
That the Board of Governors rescind the President and Chair Emeritus Policy and approve the changes to the President and Board Chair Emeritus Procedure, effective immediately, as recommended by the Governance and Human Resources Committee
Carried

7. Board Committee Terms of Reference: Honorary Degree (HD)/Board Award and Recognition and Advancement/External Relations

Documentation was included in the meeting materials. The Chair of Governance and HR Committee, Chair of the HD Committee, Chair of the Advancement Committee and the University Secretary presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters reported that the proposed changes to the Advancement Committee TOR are intended to better support the Advancement Committee in focusing on Board level responsibilities, and includes a name change to External Relations Committee.
- For the HD TOR, the proposed revisions broaden the scope of Board awards and recognition and reinstate alumni awards, which have been paused since 2019. To accompany this, change a new Alumni Award Procedure has been created.
- There were no questions.

Moved / Seconded
That the Board of Governors approve the changes to the Standing Committee Terms of Reference for the Advancement Committee and the Honorary Degree Committee and the creation of a Board Alumni Awards Procedure, in the forms provided to the Board, effective for the 2026-2027 meeting year, as recommended by the Governance and Human Resources Committee.
Carried

8. Strategic Plan Process

Documentation was included in the meeting materials. Dr. Janis Goldie presented this item and provided a presentation.

Highlights:

- The President reported that the current Strategic Plan ‘Moving Toward 2026’ was developed in 2019 and originally was approved to cover 2020-2026. In December 2023 the Board approved a one-year extension for several factors, including the most significant being the commencement of a new President and CEO in 2025 and the centennial in 2026.

- The President then reviewed strategic planning within the post-secondary context, what makes an effective strategy, guiding principles, phases and processes, and the roles and responsibilities of the Strategic Plan Steering Committee, the specialist advisor to the President and the consultation facilitator.
- The Board discussed:
  - The composition of the Strategic Plan Steering Committee, in particular faculty representation and finance representation.
  - The phases and total timeframe for development.
  - The role of the President in helping shape the vision and strategy.
  - Reporting, including development of key performance indicators and metrics to measure success.
  - Government interest in strategic plans.
- The Board indicated its support for the proposed guiding principles.
- In response to questions, it was noted that:
  - The use of external consultants beyond facilitating consultation sessions has presented challenges for other institutions; based on this feedback and sector learnings, the current approach of engaging a faculty specialist advisor is considered an appropriate balance.
  - An initial survey will explore whether there is a interest from the community in carrying forward goals/content from the current Strategic Plan with the expectation this evolve throughout the process.
- A member of the Board recommended inclusion of the School of Communication Design Program Advisory Committee members in consultations, as well as alumni members.

9. Board Chair Activity Report

Documentation was included in the meeting materials. The Board Chair presented this item.

Highlights:

- The Board Chair reported on activities from March to May, highlighting key community events and meetings.
  - Attendance at the Canadian Arts Summit in April. The summit was a gathering of senior art leaders, including artistic directors, executive directors and volunteer board chairs of Canada's largest arts institutions.
  - Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture, Marc Miller's visit to AUArts in March.

10. President and CEO Report

Documentation was included in the meeting materials. The President and CEO presented this item.

Highlights:

- The President and CEO reported on:
  - Attendance at the Look Gala, hosted by Contemporary Calgary, which served as an opportunity to connect with community and government representatives.
  - Attendance at the National Summit on Artificial Intelligence and Culture.
  - A meeting with Mayor Farkas and Calgary post-secondary presidents.
  - Participation in the European League of Institutes of the Arts (ELIA) Global Connectedness Working Group.
  - University Preview Evening for prospective students and their families.
  - A tour and overview of the new SAIT Student Centre, which will be available to AUArts' students.
  - Attendance at the Calgary Influential Women In Business Awards.

11. Adjournment of the Open Session

Moved / Seconded That the Board of Governors adjourn the Open Session and move into the Closed Session. **Carried**

Secretary's Note: The Open Session adjourned at 5:11 p.m. and Management and Observers were excused from the meeting 5:21 p.m.