



## DELEGATION OF SIGNING AUTHORITY POLICY

<b>Policy Type:</b>	Institutional	<b>Initially Approved:</b>	October 3, 2018
<b>Policy Sponsor:</b>	VP Administration	<b>Last Revised:</b>	October 3, 2019
<b>Primary Contact:</b>	Finance	<b>Review Scheduled:</b>	September 2024
<b>Approver:</b>	President and CEO		

### A. INTENT

The Alberta University of the Arts (AUArts) Board of Governors is accountable for the fiscal management of the institution and has a fiduciary responsibility to ensure the appropriate expenditure of public funds. Delegation of position signing authority is necessary for the ongoing administrative and operational requirements of the institution; however, the level of delegation must be placed with positions of appropriate responsibility to ensure a system of internal control sufficient to protect the assets of the institution.

### B. SCOPE

This Policy applies to all employees, students or contractors acting as agents for the institution who require expenditure approval. All positions listed on the Signing Authority Matrix are considered to be Expenditure Officers and are authorized on specific financial functions.

### C. POLICY STATEMENT

#### 1. Board of Governors

1.1 The Chair of the Board of Governors has responsibility to approve certain direct expenditures or commitments incurred by the President including travel for business, conference attendance and p-card purchases.

#### 2. President and CEO

2.1 The President and CEO has authority over the total approved budgets of the institution. The President and CEO is authorized to procure and administer the institution's financial, physical and human resources within the limits of the annual budgets approved by the Board.

- 2.2 The President and CEO has the responsibility to ensure that total expenditures within the institution for the fiscal year is not in excess of annual budgets approved by the Board of Governors.
- 2.3 Recommended additions or deletions of positions, which have not been previously approved through the annual budget process, must be forwarded to the President and CEO for approval.

### **3. Vice Presidents and Associate Vice Presidents**

- 3.1 The Vice-Presidents have authority over the total approved budgets within their Divisions.
- 3.2 Vice-Presidents have the responsibility to ensure total expenditures within their Divisions for the fiscal year are not in excess of the amounts approved during the annual operating and capital budget processes. When actual costs within Departments or Schools differ from approved estimates, the overall budgetary impact must be determined and, if deemed significant, must be reviewed by the appropriate Vice President and adjustments made to ensure adherence to the total operating and capital budget allocated.

### **4. Chairs and Directors**

- 4.1 Chairs of Schools and Department Directors have authority for the total approved budgets for their School or Department. Chairs and Directors have the responsibility to ensure that total expenditures within their School or Department for the fiscal year are not in excess of the amounts approved during the annual operating and capital budget processes.
- 4.2 Only capital items, which have been previously approved or have the appropriate Vice-President's approval may be requisitioned under Chairs' and Department Directors' authority.

### **5. Managers**

- 5.1 Managers have authority for the total approved operating budget within their Departments as may be assigned by their direct Supervisor. Department Managers have the responsibility to ensure that total expenditures within their subject area or Department for the fiscal year are not in excess of the amounts approved and assigned during the annual operating and capital budget processes.

### **6. Other Employees**

- 6.1 Other employees, contractors or students acting as agents of the institution will have authority for expenditure as may be assigned by their Chair/Director, Vice President, or President, whichever may be the most direct supervisor, and as indicated on the Signing Authority Matrix or as approved in the documented

terms and conditions of the contractor agreement under which they are contracted to perform services to the institution.

## 7. Expenditure / Contract Approvals

- 7.1 All expenditures and contracts must be approved by an authorized Expenditure Officer, as per the Signing Authority Matrix.
- 7.2 Employees may not approve their own expenses. Requisitions for payment to or services for any employee, must be countersigned by the appropriate Expenditure Officer, typically one up approval.
- 7.3 A signing authority may be delegated for an absent Expenditure Officer, when the proposed delegate is already an approved Expenditure Officer for the institution. Email notice must be provided to the Finance department indicating who will be designated as the acting signing authority and the time period of the acting designation. Finance will retain a log of all delegations for audit purposes.

## D. DEFINITIONS

Cheque Signatories	The signing of cheques by authorized Expenditure Officers. Identified positions and contact information is shared with the institution's Bank for cheque processing and security.
Expenditure Officer	A delegated employee with authority to initiate and approve expenditures or contracts on behalf of the institution as per the Signing Authority Matrix and certify receipt of goods or services and contract performance and price.
Staffing Requisitions	Utilized to approve and facilitate New FT /PT Position hires; Vacancy rehires and Temporary or Casual Hires.
Procurement Card / (P-cards)	Credit cards administered through the Finance department to facilitate a convenient, timely and cost-effective method of acquiring lower cost operational goods and services where tendering or purchase requisitions are not required.
Purchase Requisitions	The authority to requisition the purchase of goods or services in advance of the goods or service being received. The completed requisition form must be approved by the Expenditure Officer, and once accepted by the Bookstore provides authorization to purchase goods or a service from a vendor.
Signing Authority Matrix	Outlines the authority delegated to specific positions within the institution to commit the institution to legally binding contracts or commitments with external parties. This encompasses various types of authority including commitments and approval authority and may be updated from time to time on the authority of the President +CEO.

Standing Purchase Order	A preauthorized requisition submitted to the Bookstore for a recurring service where the vendor will submit more than one invoice during the budget year. These orders will be completed in lieu of ongoing purchase requisitions to vendors.
Contract	A written financial agreement that outlines an exchange of services and monies between a third party (vendor, individual, institution) and the institution. This includes grant or sponsorship applications/agreements and gift agreements.
Non-financial agreement	A written agreement that outlines a partnership, mutual cooperation or service agreement between a vendor, party or group and the institution that does not entail a monetary exchange or obligation. All non-financial agreements must be authorized by the President + CEO or Vice President, Administration.
Invoice Approval	The acknowledgement or validation of a purchase or service received from a vendor. Approval consists of a signature and inclusion of a purchase order (PO) number, already provided to the Expenditure Officer by the Bookstore, or a fully executed contract or financial agreement.
Payment Voucher	An accounting document to make payments to students for scholarships, bursaries, and awards, and may only be authorized by the Registrar, CFO, or Vice President/President.

**E. RELATED LEGISLATION**

- Post-Secondary Learning Act

**F. RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- 100. Board of Governors: Code of Conduct
- Appendix A: Signing Authorities Matrix

**G. REVISION HISTORY**

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)	Description of Change	Sections	Person who Entered Revision (Position Title)	Person who Authorized Revision (Position Title)
09/2019	Revisions			

		SIGNING AUTHORITY MATRIX per Delegation of Signing Authority Policy						
Employee Title	Cheque Signatories (2 required)	Staffing Requisitions			Expenditure Limit (authority restricted to assigned budget cost centres)	Other Authority		
		New Position	Vacancy Rehires	Temporary / Casual Hires	For purchase requisitions /orders/contracts/cheque requisitions/invoices/expense claims	Non-financial Agreements	Payment Vouchers	Student Fee Refunds
President and CEO	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	unlimited	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vice President Administration	Yes	/	Yes	Yes	\$200,000	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vice President Academic and Provost	/	/	Yes	Yes	\$200,000	Yes	Yes	Yes
Director, Facilities and Ancillary Services	/	/	Yes	Yes	\$100,000	/	/	/
Vice President Advancement	/	/	Yes	Yes	\$25,000	/	/	/
Chief Financial Officer	Yes	/	Yes	Yes	\$25,000	/	Yes	Yes
Executive Director Con Ed and Prof Dev	/	/	Yes	Yes	\$25,000	/	/	/
Associate Vice Presidents, all	/	/	Yes	Yes	\$25,000	/	/	/
Director, Human Resources	/	/	Yes	Yes	\$25,000	/	/	/
Director, Enterprise Solutions	/	/	Yes	Yes	\$25,000	/	/	/
Director, Computing and Technical Services	/	/	Yes	Yes	\$25,000	/	/	/
Director, Communications and Marketing	/	/	Yes	Yes	\$25,000	/	/	/
Registrar	/	/	Yes	Yes	\$10,000	/	Yes	Yes
University Secretary	/	/	Yes	Yes	\$10,000	/	/	/
Director, all other	/	/	Yes	Yes	\$10,000	/	/	/
School Chairs	/	/	Yes	Yes	\$5,000	/	/	/
Managers, all	/	/	/	/	\$5,000	/	/	/
Executive Assistants	/	/	/	/	\$500	/	/	/
Educational Art Technicians	/	/	/	/	\$500	/	/	/
Assistant Registrar, Curriculum, Registration & Student	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	up to \$5000