



DELEGATION OF SIGNING AUTHORITY POLICY

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Policy Sponsor:	Vice President, Finance and Operations	Last Revised:	December 3, 2024
Primary Contact:	Finance	Review Scheduled:	December 2029
Approver:	President and CEO		

A. INTENT

Alberta University of the Arts (AUArts) Board of Governors is accountable for the fiscal oversight 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, as set out in the Delegation of Signing Authority Policy.

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 budget 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 budget approved by the Board of Governors.
- 2.3 Recommended additions or deletions of positions, which have not been previously identified through the annual budget process, must be forwarded to the President and CEO for approval.

3. VICE PRESIDENTS AND DEANS

- 3.1 The Vice-Presidents, and Deans have authority over the total approved budgets within their Divisions.
- 3.2 Vice-Presidents and Deans 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 or Dean and adjustments made to ensure adherence to the total operating and capital budget allocated.

4. ASSOCIATE DEANS AND DIRECTORS

- 4.1 Associate Dean and Management Exempt Directors have authority for the total approved budgets for their Department. Management Exempt Directors have the responsibility to ensure that total expenditures within their 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 or Dean's approval may be requisitioned under Associate Deans' and Management Exempt 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 Director, Vice President, Dean or the President and CEO, 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. The temporary delegation form must be completed and submitted to the University Secretary and the Finance department. The form will indicate 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.

8. SPECIMEN SIGNATURE CARDS

- 8.1 The delegation of signing authority is usually completed with a specimen signature card used to identify the Expenditure Officer to whom signing authority has been delegated.
- 8.2 All requests for the delegation of financial signing authority shall be submitted to the Controller via a completed specimen signature card.
- 8.3 Specimen signature is provided for any new signing authority and is valid until the incumbent no longer holds that position.
- 8.4 Specimen signature cards require approval of the person who has the signing authority on the department/fund codes.
- 8.5 Finance will retain the specimen signature cards in a centralized location and will use them for authentication purposes while processing transactions.

D. DEFINITIONS

Budget

A financial plan that allocates resources to achieve institutional goals, guiding revenue, expense, and reserve management in alignment with AUArts' mission. The budget includes projections for funding sources such as tuition, government grants, donations, and auxiliary revenues, as well as planned expenditures such as staffing, administrative operations, capital projects, and other priorities. The budget is approved by the Board of Governors and ensures accountability and performance monitoring.

Capital Budget

A financial plan to finance major long-term cash-intensive projects that provide benefits to the university for more than one year (e.g., facilities, equipment, buildings). Capital assets are defined in the Capital Asset Procedure.

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 and CEO.
Specimen Signature Card:	The university's standard form of specimen signature card in use for the purpose of identifying the signatories for a particular position.
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 and CEO or Vice President, Finance and Operations.
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.

E. RELATED LEGISLATION

- Alberta Post-Secondary Learning Act

F. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Board of Governors: Code of Conduct Policy
- 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			
03/13/2023	New section #8	Specimen Signature Card	Manager, Finance and Accounting	Vice President, Finance and Operations
12/03/2024	Revisions	All	Manager, Finance and Accounting	Vice President, Finance and Operations

Signing Authority Matrix

Delegation of Signing Authority



Position	Expenditure Limit ¹	Cheque Signatory ²	Staff Requisitions			Other Authority	
			new position	vacancy rehires	temporary, casual hires	non-financial agreements	student fee refunds
Board of Governors	unlimited	-	-	-	-	-	-
President and CEO	2,000,000	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vice President Finance and Operations	300,000	Yes	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Director, Campus Operations	100,000	-	-	Yes	Yes	-	-
Director, Finance	100,000	-	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
Controller	75,000	-	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
Manager, Procurement and Retail Operations	75,000	-	-	Yes	Yes	-	-
Chief Information Officer	50,000	-	-	Yes	Yes	-	-
Deans, all	50,000	-	-	Yes	Yes	-	Yes
Associate Dean, Academic	50,000	Yes	-	Yes	Yes	-	-
Executive Director, External Relations	50,000	-	-	Yes	Yes	-	-
Associate Deans, all	25,000	-	-	Yes	Yes	-	-
Director, Academic Resources	25,000	-	-	Yes	Yes	-	-
Director, Marketing and Communications	25,000	-	-	Yes	Yes	-	-
Executive Director, People & Culture	25,000	-	-	Yes	Yes	-	-
Registrar	25,000	-	-	Yes	Yes	-	Yes
University Secretary	10,000	-	-	Yes	Yes	-	-
Management Exempt Director, all other	10,000	-	-	Yes	Yes	-	-
Manager, Human Resources	5,000	-	-	Yes	Yes	-	-
Managers, all other	5,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Executive Assistants	5,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
IKG Curator	5,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
School Directors	500	-	-	Yes	Yes	-	-
Educational Art Technicians	500	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assistant Registrar	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000

Notes:

1. authority restricted to assigned budget cost centers. For purchase requisitions, orders, contracts, cheque requisitions, invoices, expense claims
2. two signatures required for cheques