

**Voting Members Present** with Carol Ryder in the Chair were Jolie Bird, India Dmytriev, Dr. Daniel Doz, A. Stewart Hanlon, Chi Iliya-Ndule, Ashif Merani, Jamie Russett, Adrian Stimson, Sheila Taylor, Justin Waddell

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

**Regrets:** Patti Dibski, Ian FitzGerald, Spil Kousinioris

**Guests:** Carissa Cameron Matthews, Director, Academic Resources; Wendy Harding, Executive Director, People and Culture; Nicole Hamilton, Dean, Innovation, Learning & Development; Jamie Leong-Huxley, Vice President Advancement; Dr. Alex Link, Associate Vice President, Academic Affairs; Kim Neutens, Dean of Students; Scott Powell, Vice President, Finance and Operations

**Observers:** Lisa Cerny, AUArts AUPE Chapter 006, Chapter Chair; Quynn Covey, Student Leadership Council, BFA General Studies; Mary Ann Gurman, Coordinator, Indigenous Student Community

The Chair welcomed all members, guests, and observers to the meeting, read the Treaty 7 Land Acknowledgement and then called the meeting to order at 4:07pm. A warm welcome was extended to a new member of the President's Cabinet, Scott Powell, Vice President, Finance and Operations.

### 1. Approval of Agenda

**MOVED and SECONDED:**

***THAT the Board of Governors approve the draft February 16, 2022 Board of Governors agenda, as presented.***

**CARRIED**

### 2. Consent Agenda

**2.1 December 15, 2021 Draft Board Meeting Minutes**

**2.2 Constituent Reports:**

**2.2.1 General Faculties Council**

**2.2.2 AUArts Student Association**

**2.2.3 Alberta Union of Provincial Employees**

**2.3 President's Cabinet Report**

***Approved by CONSENT***

It was noted that the AUArts Faculty Association did not submit a report (again) for the meeting. There were no questions.

### 3. Board Chair's Report

The Board Chair provided a written report, and verbally noted one additional item:

The Advanced Education Minister sent a letter to the Chair, Board of Governors, noting that Alberta's government is introducing a \$2.4 million one-time investment to the system in support of modernizing the approach to gender-based violence on Alberta campuses. Details of the investment, including allocations and grant agreements, will be confirmed in the coming weeks. Each post-secondary institution is asked to review their Sexual Violence Policy and submit the revised policy by November 2022.

The President noted that AUArts began a review in December 2021 of the Sexual Violence Policy and a work group is in place to complete the work. The work group members, appointed by their respective units include Work Group Chair, Andrea Power; Human Resources, Wendy Harding; Security, Jeff Meighen; Student Affairs, Joleyne Mayers-Jaekel; Student Association, Graham Boyd; Student Counsellor, Jason Bauche; Faculty representative, Lisa Lipton.

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

##### **4.1 Return to Campus: Winter 2022**

Four areas of focus were noted with respect to the covid-19 restrictions being removed by the Alberta government. The vaccine mandate was repealed effective immediately, the mask mandate removed as of March 1, the work from home mandate was removed, and the QR code app was being disabled. Each President received a letter from the Advanced Education Minister with a request to comply with the changes. Most PSI will be removing their vaccine mandates by March 1. Mask mandates are being retained by several PSI until the end of the Winter semester and AUArts will be examining the retention of the mandate until the end of the Winter semester. AUArts can limit access to the building and will be reviewing the potential to maintain the limited access. To date there has not been an omicron transmission on campus and, by controlling access, it is anticipated the university can still manage as safely as the start of the semester.

In discussion, it was noted that an in-person convocation and grad show are still under consideration and a decision will be made very soon. The current exhibit in the Illingworth Kerr Gallery is open to the vaccinated public on the weekend by appointment only. A message to this affect will go out to the community later this week.

##### **4.2 Update: Investment Management Agreement (IMA)**

Advanced Education has shared the draft updated IMA. The document notes:

- IMAs for 2022-2025 (3-year plan), which is in addition to the first 2021-2022 IMA (one metric for Work Integrated Learning (WIL))
  - At risk 2022-23 = 15%
  - At risk 2023-24 = 25%
  - At risk 2024-25 = 40%
- Tolerance bands and proration will be in place for each metric, which will be negotiated with each institution
- Activation of metrics:

- In 2022: 1) WIL 2) Graduate Outcomes using the Graduate Outcome Survey (GOS) 3) Domestic enrolment
- In 2023: 1) Administrative Expense ratio 2) Innovation & Commercialization
- Transparency metrics under consideration: 1) International student enrolment 2) Indigenous student enrolment 3) Revenue dependency ratio
- Next Steps: March-April: AE and PSI negotiate and finalize IMA targets.

#### **4.3 Update: Senior Administration and Academic Leadership Restructure**

- Successful in recruiting a new Dean, Academic Programs and Associate Dean, Graduate – announcements coming soon.

In discussion of the President's Report, the following was noted:

- With respect to advocacy of the government for increased funding for PSI, there has been some advocacy by the Calgary PSI (6). In addition, any time there is an opportunity to meet with the Ministers, there is an opportunity for advocacy to the province. There could be an opportunity with the upcoming provincial election.
- There are considerations for inflation in the budget and there is a desire to advocate to the government to make PSI accessible to students. The government should also look at student supports for funding. The university does have a suite of internal scholarships to assist with student funding.

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

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

A written committee report was presented by the Committee Chair. There were no questions.

##### **5.2 Advancement Committee**

A written committee report was presented by the Chair, Board of Governors, on behalf of the Chair of the Advancement Committee. There were no questions.

##### **5.3 Governance and Human Resources Committee**

A written committee report was presented by the Committee Chair, and the following was discussed:

- There is a desire to change the Board meeting date from Wednesday to Tuesday. An email will be sent to all Board members to confirm if the change, for the 2022-2023 year, will be agreeable.
- Board members are invited to participate in the upcoming Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) training session and an email will be sent to members with a request to register.

#### **6. Finance and Audit Committee: 2022-2023 Draft Tuition and Fees Proposal**

The Post-Secondary Learning Act, Section 61(1), states that the Board of a public postsecondary institution shall set the tuition fees and mandatory non-instructional fees (MNIF) to be paid by students of the public post-secondary institution. The Alberta University of the Arts Credit Tuition and Student Fees Procedure outlines the Student Fee Consultation (SFC) Committee terms (Section 3) and annual

approval process (Section 2) which commences with setting proposed fees as guided by the Tuition and Fees Regulation, followed by the student consultation process, and concludes with a recommendation submitted to the Board through the Finance and Audit Committee.

The AUArts Board of Governors approved 7% increases to undergraduate tuition in 2020-21 and 2021-22 respectively. This is the last year where the 7% increase in Section 11.1 of the Tuition and Fees Regulation is in effect. The Guidelines for the Alberta Tuition Framework indicates that “beginning in the 2023/2024 academic year, average increases for domestic students will be capped at the percentage annual change in the Alberta Consumer Price Index (CPI).”

On behalf of the Finance and Audit Committee:

***THAT THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS APPROVE THE 2022-2023 DRAFT TUITION AND FEES PROPOSAL, AS PRESENTED.***

***CARRIED***

The Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee and the Director, Academic Resources, presented the 2022-2023 Draft Tuition and Fees proposal and a short PowerPoint was provided. The following was discussed:

- A Board member, who was unable to attend the meeting, asked that their question and answer be provided at the meeting.
  - Question: The briefing note states there will be no increase to graduate tuition. Given that there will likely be an increase to Cost of Instruction for undergraduate and graduate programs when the new Collective Bargaining Agreement comes into force, and indeed under the current one, has that likelihood been taken into consideration on this recommendation?
  - Answer: The tuition fee proposal has taken into consideration current direct costs and market position. While bargaining unit negotiations are still in progress, it is not appropriate to make assumptions on those outcomes for current proposed tuition and fees increases.
- The government has reduced the operating grant by 6.1% and student tuition will be increased by 7%. Tuition represents 1/3 of the university revenue and the remaining 2/3 of the budget has been reduced by the 6.1% operating grant. The university is not creating a buffer, but rather decreasing the gap created by the reduction in the grant. In addition, for over 5 years, tuition was frozen and now there has been a three-year window where tuition could be increased.
- It is the understanding that the government will be looking at their structure for student assistance.
- International fees and associated increases impact the variable cost of instruction. When international students are enrolled, the university must ensure the cost of the tuition for the entire time of their studies is made aware.

## **7. Governance and Human Resources: Draft Annual Acknowledgement and Undertaking Form**

The Board is responsible for governing the affairs of AUArts according to its mandate and in the best interest of AUArts. AUArts Board of Governors are directors with fiduciary responsibilities for the University and the University community and, as such, every Governor of the Board shall carry out the duties of their office in the best interests of AUArts, and in accordance with any criteria set out in the Bylaws and policies of AUArts. The addition of the Annual Acknowledgement and Undertaking Form will enhance the Board fulfillment of their fiduciary responsibility.

On behalf of the Governance and Human Resource Committee:

***THAT THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS APPROVE THE DRAFT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND UNDERTAKING FORM, AS PRESENTED.***

***CARRIED***

The Chair of the Governance and Human Resource Committee presented the draft form noting that the links in the form will be updated.

#### **8. Business Arising from the December 15, 2021 Board Meeting**

There was no business arising from the December 15, 2021 Board meeting.

#### **9. Presentation: AUArts Learner and Enrollment Demographics 2015-21**

The President and CEO and the Director, Academic Resources, provided a presentation on AUArts Learner and Enrollment Demographics 2015-2021 and there was a robust discussion noting the complexity of the data as presented. The data provides knowledge for the institution and students on what AUArts looks like as we move forward. The PowerPoint provided will be sent out to all Board members and a listing of internal and external indigenous student resources will be presented at the next Board meeting.

#### **10. Update: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Taskforce**

The President and CEO and the Co-Chair of the EDI Taskforce provided an update on the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Taskforce work which is ongoing. There are extensive discussion groups for faculty, students and staff currently being conducted by an external research firm, which will then be followed up with a survey.

#### **11. Update: Indigenous Framework**

The President and CEO and the Dean of Students provided an update on the Indigenous Framework.

- The Strategic Plan preliminary work was initiated in 2019 and there was a change in engagement plans in 2021 following the Lodgepole Center's placement in Student Affairs (from Academic Affairs).
- There was engagement with external consultants in 2021, which included research and engagement with faculty, staff, students, Indigenous student leaders, alumni, and the Elder Council members.
- The focus, as of Fall 2021, was on building on the feedback from the engagement sessions to Treaty 7 area history and culture as the foundation for our commitment to students (including Indigenous students), our curriculum and programming, our faculty, and staff and how we govern within our university.

- Sessional faculty member, Troy Patenaude, has worked with the Student Affairs team (including the Coordinator, Indigenous Student Community), with Elder Casey and the Elder Council - at large - on key components of the Strategy.
- A draft of the plan is currently with the Elder Council members for consideration, with a feedback session planned for early March. Two students are now members on the Elder's Council. It is anticipated the Elders will be present at a GFC and/or Board meeting when the document is presented.
- The first external consultants were from Treaty 8, which was noted to not be a concern by the Elders, at that time.

### **12. In Camera Session**

The Board of Governors went in camera at 5:00pm. The Board Chair thanked all observers and members of the President's Cabinet for attending the open session.

#### **MOVED and SECONDED:**

***THAT the Board of Governors approve the draft December 15, 2021, Board of Governors in camera minutes, as presented.***

**CARRIED**

### **13. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.