

Voting Members: Adrian Stimson, Board Chair, Sheila Taylor, Vice-Chair, Dr. Janis Goldie, Tom Graham*, Ruby Gupta* (arrived during Item 3), Chi Iliya-Ndule*, Mackenzie Kelly-Frère, Samantha Mirjah, Tanya Mryglod, Tammi Price, and Murray Wittmeier.

Management & Resource Members: Joanne Deaver, Executive Assistant to the President (Scribe), Scott Powell, Vice President Finance and Operations, Pablo Ortiz, Dean of Students, and Cherie Tutt, University Secretary.

Regrets: Patrick Chiu, Chris Cran, Nurgul Balaç, and Evan Legate.

The Chair provided the land acknowledgement and welcomed members to the May 20, 2025 meeting.

The Chair provided the following remarks:

- Sheila Taylor was thanked for stepping in to chair the April Board meeting and ensuring that everything ran smoothly during the Chair's absence.
- Nurgul Balaç was acknowledged for her service and contributions to the Board over the past year. Kurtis Lesick will join the Board as the Faculty Association-nominated member, effective June 1, 2025.
- Tanya Mryglod and Murray Wittmeier were congratulated on their reappointments to the Board, which have been confirmed by Ministerial Order.
- It was noted that Premier Smith's Cabinet shuffle, announced on May 16, 2025, included the appointment of Myles McDougall as the new Minister of Advanced Education.

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m. and quorum was confirmed.

1. Approval of the Agendas

It was reported that Item 3.4.3 the AUPE Constituent Report has not been received and will be struck from the Agenda and the report will be circulated to the Board for information when received.

Moved / Seconded

That the Agendas for the April 22, 2025 Board of Governors meeting be approved with the reported amendment.

Carried

2. Conflict of Interest Declaration

No conflicts were declared.

3. Adoption and Receipt of the Open Consent Agenda Items

Documentation was included in the meeting materials.

The following Consent Agenda items were adopted:

3.1 April 22, 2025 Board of Governors Meeting Minutes.

That the Minutes of the Board of Governors meeting held on April 22, 2025 be approved.

Adopted

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

3.2 Board Standing Committee Reports

1. Finance and Audit
2. Governance & HR

3.3 Board Work Plan

3.4 Constituent Reports

1. Students' Association (SA)
2. General Faculties Council
3. Faculty Association

3.5 Cabinet Reports

1. Dean, Academic Programs
2. Advancement/External Relations
3. Vice President Finance & Operations
4. Dean Innovation, Learning & Development
5. Dean of Students
6. Executive Director, People & Culture

In response to questions relating to Item 3.4.1, the SA Financial Statements:

- The reasons for the delay in completing the audit process were explained.
- It was noted that the SA's cash position had changed, with the current deficit now closer to \$40,000. The SA is actively working to improve its financial sustainability by increasing membership fees and health and dental fees for the 2025–26 academic year to address the shortfall.

In response to a question relating to Item 3.4.3, the Faculty Association Report:

- Management has discussed the issues identified in the report with the Faculty Association, and ongoing efforts are underway to address their concerns. Initiatives include regular workshops, opportunities for discussions on challenges related to student accommodations, the establishment of pre-approved field trip locations, and the creation of an artificial intelligence (AI) committee.
- The Board emphasized the importance of ongoing education for the AUArts community regarding AI-related matters.

4. Board of Governors Award Winners

Documentation was included in the meeting materials. Dr. Janis Goldie presented this item.

Highlights:

- The President reviewed the work submitted by the recipients of the Board of Governors Awards for the graduating class of 2025. Congratulations were noted for all the student recipients. The students will be invited to join the Board and faculty in the platform party room prior to the convocation ceremony.

5. Budget 2025 - 2026

Documentation was included in the meeting materials. Tom Graham and Scott Powell presented this item.

Highlights:

- Management reviewed the annual budget process, including a review of ongoing challenges and planning methodologies. This was followed by an overview of the revenue and expenses within the operating and capital budgets and an update that renewal of the Investment Management Agreement is anticipated in the fall. It was highlighted that a nine-month budget is presented because of AUArts' upcoming change to year-end.
- In response to questions, it was confirmed that:
 - In alignment with the *Post-Secondary Learning Act*, AUArts cannot propose to increase domestic tuition rates by more than 2%.
 - It is not expected that the new federal government leadership will make the international student policy rules and regulations introduced in 2024 less restrictive.

Moved/Second

That the Board of Governors approve the Operating Budget and Capital Budget for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026, as set out in the document provided to the Board, and as recommended by the Finance and Audit Committee.

Carried

6. Board Chair Report

The Board Chair presented this item.

Highlights:

- The Board Chair provided an overview of recent engagements on behalf of the University, highlighting:
 - A ceremony with the AUArts Elders to Honor Dr. Doz, with a Blackfoot name, Pitina, Eagleman.
 - Meetings with Dr. Goldie to support the President and CEO transition.
 - Meetings with government representatives.

7. President and CEO Report

The President and CEO presented this item.

Highlights:

- The President and CEO reported on recent activities, including meeting with several industry and civic partners, government representatives and other post-secondary colleagues.
- The Campus Alberta Quality Council (CAQC) institutional review process is near completion, with a positive draft report received from the external review team highlighting many commendations. The university concurs with the recommendations, which emphasize research development, graduate studies, and long-term financial planning. In response, the university is preparing a response and action plan, which will be discussed with CAQC on May 27. The review process is anticipated to recur in 5 to 7 years.
- The President and CEO, along with the presidents of Mount Royal University and MacEwan University, participated in the post-secondary funding review panel led by Dr. Jack Mintz on behalf of the Ministry of Advanced Education. The meeting was productive, with the presidents coordinating their responses in advance. Dr. Mintz demonstrated a strong understanding of the funding challenges faced by post-secondary institutions.

8. Board Meeting Evaluation

The Board participated in the Board meeting evaluation.

9. Board Member Annual Survey

Members of the Board were asked to participate in the Annual Board Member Survey, which is used by the Governance and HR Committee to assess and provide recommendations on Board effectiveness.

10. Adjournment

The Board meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be on June 17 on Teams.

May 28 is convocation at 1:30 p.m. followed by the Grad Show at 3:30 p.m. members were encouraged to attend.