



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

BOARD OF GOVERNORS
SPECIAL MEETING
Approved Minutes - Open Session

January 20, 2023, 11:30 a.m.

Governors Boardroom A167/Zoom Platform

Members

Mark Herman, Chair
Nancy Foster, Vice-Chair*
Muntaha Aamir
Joule Bergerson
Jeff Davison
Aleem Dhanani*
Hamid Habibi
Lorinda Hammond
Jodi Jenson Labrie*
Candice Li*
Ed McCauley
William O'Yeung
Saaka Sulemana Saaka
Nicole Schmidt
Glenn Tibbles*
John Weissenberger
Cara Wolf*
Elaine Wong* - left during Item 7
Gary Zhang*
Paul Zonneveld

Secretary

Courtney McVie

Scribe

Tasha Hodzic, Governance Coordinator

Staff

Cherie Tutt, Director, Secretariat and Student Appeals Office*
Holly Lywin, Governance Coordinator, Secretariat and Student Appeals Office*
Elizabeth Sjogren, Governance Coordinator, General Faculties Council Lead, Secretariat*

Regrets

Mark Blackwell
Jay Brown
Jon Cornish
William Ghali, Vice-President (Research)

Management

James Allan, Vice-President (Advancement)
Ron Kim, Vice-President (Finance) and Chief Financial Officer
Jacqueline Lacasse, General Counsel*
Mike Van Hee, Vice-President (Services)
Penny Werthner, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Management Support

Kate Hamilton, Executive Director and Chief of Staff, President's Office

Guests

Amy Dambrowitz, Registrar – Present for Item 6
Bruce Evelyn, Vice-Provost (Planning and Resources)* – Present for Item 6
Christine Johns, Senior Director, Program Innovation and Planning* – Present for Item 6
Albert Lamartino, Director, Active Living* – Present for Item 6
Ben Matchett, Director, Athletics* – Present for Item 6
Verity Turpin, Vice-Provost (Student Experience) – Present for Item 6
Robin Yates, Dean and Vice-Provost (Graduate Studies)* – Present for Item 6

Observers*

Adrian Alcantara, Students' Union Vice President Student Life
Colson Buchanan, Students' Union, Policy Analyst
Michael Brown, Students' Union, External Communications Specialist
Daniella Ikurusi, Executive Director, Graduate Students' Association
Andrew Kemle, Advocacy Advisor, Graduate Students' Association
Sarah Luthy, Executive Director, Office of the Provost
Jason Morgan, Students' Union Assistant General Manager
Dean Parthenis, Director, Media, Issues and Outreach
Siraaj Shah, Students' Legislative Council, Faculty of Arts Representative
Aly Samji, Students' Union Vice President Operations & Finance

*via Zoom

Secretary's note: In accordance with the Board Bylaws Section 9.2, the motion box and "Carried" denotation serves as the entry in the minutes that the Chair of the meeting declared the motion carried.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of the Agendas**Moved/Seconded**

That the Agendas for the January 20, 2023 Board of Governors special meeting be approved.

Carried

2. Conflict of Interest Declaration

No conflicts were declared.

3. Territorial Acknowledgement

The Chair provided a Territorial Acknowledgement and updated the Board on the development of a Territorial Acknowledgement which will be more reflective of the lands the University is situated on and welcomed Board members to provide a Territorial Acknowledgement at a future meeting.

4. Remarks of the Chair

The Chair remarked on the observer protocols for the meeting, and thanked the student leaders, Management, and Board Members for their efforts in attending and preparing for this special meeting.

5. Approval of the December 9, 2022 Open Session Meeting Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

That the Minutes of the Open Session of the Board of Governors meeting held on December 9, 2022 be approved.

Carried

6. Approval of the 2023-2024 Tuition and Fees for New and Existing Programs

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Penny Werthner, Amy Dambrowitz, Verity Turpin, Saaka Sulemana Saaka and Nicole Schmidt presented this item.

Highlights:

- Management provided a presentation on the tuition and fees proposal, highlighting:
 - The University’s budget and financial position including impacts resulting from inflation across all expenditures, and that no further decreases are anticipated in respect to the Campus Alberta Grant (CAG)
 - The Tuition and Fees Regulation (TFR) sets the requirements for tuition and fees increases, with the domestic tuition increase limit determined by the Alberta Consumer Price Index (CPI) during the period of June 2021 – June 2022, and the Mandatory Non-Instruction Fees (MNIF) increases permitted to a maximum of cost recovery
 - The University’s Tuition and Fees Consultation Committee (TFCC) Terms of Reference and the alignment with the TFR consultation requirements
 - The extended consultation period provided at the request of the student leadership, which included a townhall and meetings with the student legislative councils
 - Changes that have been made to the proposal based on the feedback received during the consultations, such as reduction in rate increases for some programs and fees, and increased bursaries. Management also emphasized their commitment to on-going, open, and transparent consultation with students, including a review of the MNIF reporting structure, student wellness services, and resources.
- Nicole Schmidt, Students’ Union (SU) President, then gave a presentation from the perspective of undergraduate students, highlighting:
 - The difficult circumstances students are facing, in particular, around rising costs due to inflation and the cumulative tuition and fee increases over the past three years, which exceeded CPI, and the further financial strain the proposed tuition increases will place on students
 - Concerns from the perspective of undergraduate students regarding the timing of the consultation for the tuition increases and the nature of the consultation process, noting that as a significant stakeholder in the University, a more robust consultation process with students should be conducted
 - The use of the MNIF and reporting under the TFR, noting the SU’s position that the current level of reporting does not meet the requirements of the regulation
- Saaka Sulemana Saaka, President of the Graduate Students’ Association (GSA) then reported on the perspective of graduate students, highlighting:
 - The feedback received from graduate students, including concerns around financial and food insecurity and the impact on students’ educational experience, and the University’s ability to attract international students for research and teaching

- That the proposal would have benefited from presenting multiple percentage increase options, and that the TFCC should better reflect the graduate student feedback
- The correlation between the University's consecutive tuition increases and CAG reductions, and encouraged the Governors to discuss with government the impacts of the provincial funding levels on students and the University
- The Chair of the Finance and Property Committee (FPC) thanked the student groups for their engagement during the consultation period and Management for addressing the student feedback in this proposal. The Chair of the FPC then reported on the discussion at the FPC meeting, specifically around the extent of the consultations and the University's obligations under the TFR, which the Committee felt had been met and recommended this proposal to the Board for approval.
- Discussion included:
 - The potential objectives and outcomes of additional consultation, including more direct engagement between Management and students, additional mechanisms for providing feedback, and the feasibility of further changes to the proposal
 - The financial contributions for student activities made between each Faculty and their Faculty specific student groups
 - The potential risks of delaying the tuition increases, specifically regarding admission offers and the impact to the budget process
 - The consultation process, in particular, concerns from student members regarding how feedback from students was incorporated into the proposal and engagement with student groups at the Faculty level
 - The local political environment, budget reductions and the impacts to the University's strategic goals compared to other jurisdictions which have seen increases in post-secondary funding
 - Improvements that could be made to the consultation process including, engaging with students earlier in the process, relationship building with student groups and increasing clarity around where resources will be allocated and how they are utilized to benefit students
 - How funds received are strategically utilized across the University
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
 - A delay in a decision around tuition would impact both current and in-coming students, in particular, international students who require their offer letter with tuition information for their visa documents
 - The timing of tuition rate approvals between institutions can vary, due to early issuance of international admission offers and admission timelines
 - Further consultation with students could provide information clarifying how the increases will be applied to priority areas, such as central services and wellness supports that benefit student experience, and that this can also be achieved through the committed ongoing consultations with students
 - The typical timeline for approving tuition is December, and delaying a tuition decision until March would make it unfeasible for the University to build a budget that is ready for approval by the Board in March

- Management and the Board are aware of and recognize the concerns for students around wellness and food security, noting the efforts being undertaken to improve supports, in particular, fundraising for student initiatives, the establishment of a committee to develop an action plan to support student needs, and reviewing student wellness services to best utilize and increase access to student health and wellness supports

Moved/Seconded

That the Board of Governors approve the tuition and fees for 2023-2024 as set out in the documents provided to the Board, and as recommended by the Finance and Property Committee.

Carried**Moved/Seconded**

That the Board of Governors approve the maximum international tuition fees for students commencing their programs in 2023-2024, as set out in the documents provided to the Board, and as recommended by the Finance and Property Committee.

Carried

Secretary's Note: A motion to postpone motions 1 and 2 until March 2023 was moved and seconded, which motion to postpone was defeated on a vote of the Board, and the Board proceeded with the original motions.

7. Approval of the Quality Money Program Budget for 2024, 2025, 2026

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda. Penny Werthner and Bruce Evelyn presented this item.

Highlights:

- Management highlighted that since 2004, the Quality Money Program has provided the SU and the GSA funding to support projects that directly enhance the student experience and requires Board approval to renew every three years
- There were no questions

Moved/Seconded

That the Board of Governors approve a Quality Money budget for each of the 2023-2024, 2024-2025, and 2025-2026 fiscal years in a base amount of \$2,494,815.69 in 2023-2024 indexed by the annual tuition fee increase in each of the subsequent years, if any, to be used for student-directed projects that enhance the quality of the student experience in ways that advance UCalgary's strategic vision and academic and research plans, subject to adequate resources being available in those budget years, and as recommended by the Finance and Property Committee.

Carried**8. Other Business in the Open Session**

There was no other business.

9. **Motion to Adjourn the Open Session and Move into the In-Camera Session**

Moved/Seconded

That the Board of Governors adjourn the Open Session and move into the In-Camera Session.

Carried

The Open Session was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Courtney McVie
University Secretary