
May 29, 2025

1:00 p.m.

MRU, EC 2010

PRESENT:

Chris Lee - Public Member- Chair
Tala Abu Hayyaneh – Student Member
Laura Daniels – Public Member
Denise Hughes- Public Member
Cheryl Melatdoost - Staff Member
Jacqueline Musabende - Faculty Member
Dexter Nelson- Public Member
Thomas O’Leary – Public Member

Shannon Pestun - Alumni Member- Vice-Chair
Tim Rahilly - President and Vice-Chancellor
Kari Roberts - Faculty Member
David Routledge – Alumni Member
Arlene Strom- Chancellor
Sheba Singh – Public Member
Anita Surujbally- Student Member

RESOURCES:

Kathy Homer, Assistant University Secretary-Board, Recording Secretary
Chad London, Provost and Vice-President, Academic
Amy Nixon, General Counsel and University Secretary
Melanie Rogers, Vice-President, University Advancement
Jason Unsworth, Acting Vice-President, Finance and Administration
Phil Warsaba, Vice-President, Students

REGRETS:

Sherri Evers – Public Member
Brenden Hunter – Public Member

Reynold Tetzlaff- Public Member
Rob Schaefer – Public Member

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Chris Lee, Chair of the Board of Governors, called the Open Session to order at 1:00 p.m., confirmed quorum, and S. Pestun commenced with a land acknowledgement.

1.1. Conflict of Interest Declaration

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

ACTION ITEMS

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved and seconded:

THAT the agenda be approved, as distributed.

CARRIED.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**3.1. Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held on March 27, 2025**

Moved and seconded:

THAT the minutes of the Open Session of the Board of Governors' meeting held March 27, 2025, be approved as distributed.

CARRIED.

3.2. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the past set of minutes.

4. 2024-2025 YEAR END APPROPRIATIONS AND RESERVE FUNDS

Information on the proposed appropriation from the operational surplus to internally restricted funds for institutional strategic priorities was presented for approval. L. Daniels, acting Chair of the Finance Committee, provided background details and summarized the discussions from the Finance Committee meeting noting that the Finance Committee supports this recommendation to the Board.

Moved and seconded:

THAT the Board of Governors approve the appropriation of \$8.75M from the 2024/25 year-end operating surplus to internally restricted funds to support investments in university strategic priorities.

CARRIED.

5. CONSOLIDATED AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO MARCH 31, 2025

The Consolidated Audited Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2025 were provided for approval, as recommended by the Audit and Risk Committee. L. Daniels reported that the Audit and Risk Committee reviewed and recommended the financial statements, that the Office of the Auditor General and KPMG acknowledged that MRU presented a clean, unqualified report.

Moved and seconded:

THAT the Board of Governors approve the Mount Royal University consolidated audited financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2025.

CARRIED.

REPORTS**6. REPORTS****6.1. Board Chair**

C. Lee, Board Chair, provided a written report that included an overview of the activities he has undertaken as Chair. In addition, he thanked Board members for their engagement this year.

6.2. President and Vice-Chancellor

T. Rahilly provided a written report and expressed thanks to the outgoing Board members, the remaining Board members, community members in the gallery, and the Executive Leadership Team.

6.3. General Faculties Council

A summary from the meetings of the General Faculties Council was included in the meeting package for information. T. Rahilly acknowledged the work related to the tenure and promotion changes

requiring Board approval, highlighting the contributions of the Academic Standards Committee of GFC. He reflected on a successful year for the GFC, noting thoughtful discussions around the body's responsibilities and the nature of governance. The Executive Committee was recognized for effectively overseeing business and setting the tone for GFC.

6.4. Chancellor

A. Strom thanked board members and the MRU community for the warm welcome, orientation, and support. She expressed gratitude for the assistance provided and is excited about the opportunities ahead over the next four years.

COMMITTEE MATTERS

7. AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

7.1. Committee Report

A written report outlining the items considered by the Committee at the May 29, 2025 meeting was included for information, and areas of the report discussed at that meeting were summarized by L. Daniels, Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee.

8. CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

8.1. Committee Report

A written report from the May 5, 2025 meeting was included in the package for information, and areas of the report were highlighted by D. Routledge, Chair of the Campus Development Committee.

9. FINANCE COMMITTEE

9.1. Committee Report

A report outlining the items considered by the Committee at the May 29, 2025 meeting was included for information, and areas of the report discussed at that meeting were summarized by L. Daniels, acting Chair of the Finance Committee.

10. GOVERNANCE AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE

10.1. Committee Report

C. Lee, Chair of the Governance and Nominating Committee, provided a written report summarizing the discussions from the May 5, 2025 meeting and highlighted the appointment of Rob Schaefer as vice-chair in the consent agenda. He recognized and expressed gratitude to S. Pestun for her leadership, as her term on the Board concludes this summer.

10.2. Board Committee Structure

C. Lee informed the Board that the GNC has undertaken a review of the Board's committee structure and that the GNC will meet in June to review all committee terms of reference. The GNC will be looking at the dissolution of the Campus Development Committee and possibly creating a new Finance and Property Committee, which is in line with practices at other Alberta post-secondary institutions.

CONSENT AGENDA

11. ITEMS REMOVED FOR DISCUSSION

There were no items removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

Moved and seconded:

THAT the Board of Governors approve the Consent Agenda items for the May 29, 2025, Open Session.

CARRIED.

12. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

12.1. Appointment of Board Vice-Chair

THAT the Board of Governors approve the appointment of Rob Schaefer as the Board Vice-Chair effective July 1, 2025 until June 30, 2026.

12.2. Composition of Committees 2025-2026

THAT the Board of Governors approve the Board standing committee chair appointments for a one-year term, commencing July 1, 2025 until June 30, 2026:

- *Laura Daniels, Chair, Audit and Risk Committee*
- *Rob Schaefer, Chair, Finance and Property Committee*
- *Chris Lee, Chair, Governance and Nominating Committee*
- *Denise Hughes, Chair, Human Resources Committee*

And

THAT the Board approve the membership for the standing committees for a one-year term, commencing July 1, 2025, until June 30, 2026, as presented.

12.3. Biosafety Policy

THAT the Board of Governors approve the revisions to the Biosafety Policy.

12.4. Art Policy and Procedures

THAT the Board of Governors approve the revisions to the Art Policy and Procedures.

12.5. Workplace Violence and Harassment Prevention Policy

THAT the Board of Governors approve the revisions to the Workplace Violence and Harassment Prevention Policy and Procedures.

12.6. Revised Tenure and Promotion Handbook (Appendix D)

THAT the Board of Governors approve the addition of a minimum required academic credential in the Tenure, Permanency, and Promotion Handbook (Appendix D) for tenure for Indigenous faculty across all Faculties as follows:

“A Master's degree with significant relevant expertise. In determining the expertise, the AVP Indigenization and Decolonization will be consulted. If necessary, the AVP Indigenization and Decolonization will assist and/or support in identifying First Nations, Métis or Inuit Indigenous experts to assess expertise in specific cases. Also, note that the above credentials should not be confused with hiring criteria. When hiring, academic units may seek candidates with credentials which exceed those listed above.”

12.7. Revised Tenure and Promotion Criteria for the Faculty of Business, Communication Studies and Aviation

THAT the Board of Governors approve the proposed revisions to the Research and Scholarship Criteria, Evidence and Standards for Tenure and Promotion for the Faculty of Business, Communication Studies and Aviation on the recommendation of the General Faculties Council.

13. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

The following items were received for information:

13.1. Fourth Quarter Financial Statements to March 31, 2025

13.2. MRU Foundation Audited Financial Statements to March 31, 2025

13.3. Mount Royal Early Learning Centre Audited Financial Statements to March 31, 2025

13.4. Students' Association of Mount Royal University

13.4.1. Annual Report for 2023 – 2024 (including Audited Financial Statements to June 30, 2024)

13.4.2. Student Centre Liaison Committee Report for 2023 – 2024

13.5. 2024-2025 Philanthropic Naming Report

OTHER BUSINESS

14. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business identified for the consideration of the Board.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Moved and seconded:

THAT the Board of Governors meeting be adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

CARRIED.