



Aurora College Board of Governors

Title: Research Advisory Council, Board of Governors – Terms of Reference
Approved: Motion#BG20-2012 (February 1, 2012)
Motion#BG64-2012 (October 30, 2012)
Motion#BG30-2016 (June 9, 2016)

Purpose

The Aurora College Board of Governors has overall responsibility for the fulfilment of the responsibilities outlined in the *Aurora College Act* (R.S.N.W.T. 1988,c.A-7) and the *Scientists Act* (R.S.N.W.T. 1988,c.S-4). In accordance with subsection 16(l) paragraph 1.6 and subsection 17(2) of the *Aurora College Act*, the Aurora College Board of Governors can establish a Research Advisory Council (RAC) to be responsible for the fulfillment of subsection 16(l) paragraphs 1.1 – 1.4 of the *Aurora College Act*.

The Research Advisory Council is established by the Aurora College Board of Governors. The Advisory Council will have a complement of internal Aurora College Board Members nominated to sit on the Council, as well as members that are external to the Board. The Council will provide the Board of Governors with advice on accomplishing the mandate of the Aurora Research Institute.

Membership

The RAC shall have a total of nine members consisting of:

- Two (2) members from the Aurora College Board of Governors, one (1) of whom is the Vice Chairperson of the Board. These members are referred to as internal members.
- The Chairperson of the Board of Governors is an ex-officio member. As an ex-officio member the Chairperson of the Board has the same rights as other committee members and is counted in determining if quorum is present.
- Four (4) members from the general public, each with a background in one of traditional knowledge, the natural or physical sciences, the social sciences, and the health sciences.
- One (1) member from the GNWT who is a science practitioner.
- The College President or designate will be an ex-officio, nonvoting member of the Council.

These members will be selected based on their interest in and commitment to scientific research, traditional knowledge, science education and commitment to communities and regions in the NWT.

The Aurora College Board of Governors will appoint internal members to the RAC. The internal members' terms will coincide with their terms as members of the Aurora College Board of Governors.

The Research Advisory Council will solicit expressions of interest from the public and recommend to the Board of Governors candidates for appointment to the RAC. External members will be appointed for a three (3) year term. Initial appointments to re-establish the RAC will be two (2) members for two (2) year terms and two (2) members for three (3) year terms. At the end their first term external members may be reappointed by the Board of Governors for an additional appointment of up to three (3) years.

The Aurora College Board of Governors will appoint a GNWT science practitioner from candidates jointly recommend by the Ministers of Education, Culture and Employment and Environment and Natural Resources. The GNWT science practitioner will be appointed to the RAC for a three (3) year term.

Appointment of a Chairperson

In accordance with the bylaws of the Aurora College Board of Governors, the Vice Chairperson of the Board of Governors will act as the Chairperson of the Research Advisory Council. In the absence of the Chairperson of the Research Advisory Council, the Chairperson of the Board will act as the Chairperson for the Research Advisory Council.

Functions and Roles

To fulfill the requirements of Section 16 of the *Aurora College Act* on behalf of the Aurora College Board of Governors, the primary responsibility of this Council will be advising on the establishment of an annual research strategy for the Aurora Research Institute (ARI), and monitoring the progress of ARI in accomplishing this strategy.

To fulfil this responsibility the RAC will:

- Collaborate with the Vice President, Research, to establish a research strategy for ARI.
- On a yearly basis, assess the progress of ARI in achieving the goals of the research strategy, reassess the content of the strategy, and provide recommendations for the upcoming year.
- Advise the College Board on the development of a plan that guides the College's research efforts.
- With respect to the GNWT Knowledge Agenda,
 - provide support and advice to the VP Research on the role of ARI in the GNWT Knowledge Agenda, and
 - provide recommendations to the College Board to ensure the College's and ARI's active participation in the implementation of the GNWT Knowledge Agenda, in collaboration with ECE and ENR.
- Participate in financial decision making, as required.
- On a yearly basis, review applications to the ARI Research Assistantship and Research Fellowship programs, assess applicant eligibility, and disburse funds.
- Organize and prepare contributions to Board meetings.
- Respond in accordance with the *Aurora College Act* to research-related requests from the Legislative Assembly through the College Board.
- Promote a Canadian, northern, and circumpolar research community.
- Support the Vice President, Research, in the preparation of an annual report on the state of scientific and research issues in the NWT.
- Approve the annual report on the state of scientific and research issues in the NWT.

Meetings

The RAC will have a minimum of three meetings scheduled each year. Meeting dates will coordinate with the dates of the Board meetings to ensure council reports to the Board are both timely and current. A minimum of one meeting per year will be held face-to-face in Inuvik. Other meetings may be held via teleconference. The President's Office and the Executive Office of ARI will provide administrative services to the Council.

Quorum

The majority of members of the RAC will constitute a quorum.

Revocation

Availability and participation in all meetings is necessary to provide the required support to the Aurora College Board of Governors. Upon the recommendation of the RAC, the Board of Governors may remove members.

References

Aurora College Act (R.S.N.W.T. 1988,c.A-7)

Scientists Act (R.S.N.W.T. 1988,c.S-4)