



In Attendance:

Joseph Handley, Chairperson, Board of Governors
Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox – Vice Chairperson, Board of Governors
Dave Hurley, Chairperson, Governance Committee, BOG
Tom Colossimo, Chairperson, Planning & Accountability Committee, BOG
Jack Rowe, Chairperson, Audit & Finance Committee, BOG
Lorraine Tordiff, Member, BOG
Rebecca Plotner, Member, BOG
Grant Hood, Member, BOG
Richard Boudreault, Member, BOG
Kevin Antoniak, Member, BOG
Xiaoyi Yan, Staff Representative, BOG
Wanda Roberts, Staff Representative, BOG

Glenda Vardy Dell, President, Aurora College
Contessa Stead, Governance Coordinator, Aurora College
Heather Meacock, Executive Assistant, Aurora College

1. Land Acknowledgement & Welcome

2. Call to Order & Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 9:45am on January 23, 2024 by the Chairperson.

3. Declarations of Interest

No declarations.

4. Adoption of Agenda

Motion#BOG01-2024: To adopt the agenda as presented.

Moved by: Jack Rowe

Seconded by: Lorraine Tordiff

Unanimous/Carried (January 23, 2024)

5. In Camera Matters (9:45am – 10:45am)

Deborah Ross, Director, Management & Recruitment Services, Department of Finance, GNWT was invited to the In Camera session.

Motion#BOG02-2024: To move IN CAMERA at 9:52am on January 23, 2024.

Moved by: Richard Boudreault

Seconded by: Lorraine Tordiff

Unanimous/Carried (January 23, 2024)

Motion#BOG03-2024: To come out of IN CAMERA at 11:19am on January 23, 2024.

The In Camera session will resume at 3:30pm on January 23, 2024.

Moved by: Richard Boudreault

Seconded by: Jack Rowe

Unanimous/Carried (January 23, 2024)

The public meeting was called to order at 11:25am on January 23, 2024 by the Chairperson.



6. Business from Previous Meetings/Minutes

The Board discussed the draft Board procedure for Responding to Unsolicited Letters or Proposals.

Motion#BOG04-2024: To accept the Board procedure for Responding to Unsolicited Letters or Proposals as presented at the November 30, 2023 Board of Governors meeting.

Moved by: David Hurley

Seconded by: Jack Rowe

Unanimous/Carried (January 23, 2024)

The Board has requested additional information on access to Board Professional Development and the use of funds, available funding and opportunities.

a. President's Report (Glenda Vardy Dell)

Student Housing

- Additional information will be shared with the Audit & Finance Committee for further review and discussion.
- Primary discussion on limited options to meet current needs.
 - In Inuvik we have 20 dorm rooms sitting empty. Students coming are coming with families and this housing is not suitable.
 - Fort Smith is sitting at a 30% vacancy rate, largely due to the suitability and types of housing, and the need for extensive maintenance to make them useable.
 - Additional units are required for Yellowknife through lease.
 - The Board would like to see a full presentation, including costs, budget and revenues, expected and recommended immediate needs, including the proposed cost and timeline for an Assessment project being completed, to also include upcoming expiration of leases and the cost of demolition of Breynat Hall.
 - The completed Facilities Master Plan was referenced and the link for the online report will be shared with the Board. Each Board Member received a published hard copy in the Spring of 2023.
 - https://www.ece.gov.nt.ca/aurora-transformation/sites/aurora-transformation/files/resources/facilities_master_plan_-_final_version_reduced_size.pdf

Accreditation Delays

- The Self-Study requirements have come back to the College indicating the need for a College specific degree, not a partnership degree. This development impacts the timelines of transformation and the self-study.

- The Board has requested additional information and recommendation from the Administration for consideration by the Board at the March 2024 meeting.

General Studies Program

- Student numbers have been reduced at the Yellowknife North Slave Campus (Yellowknife) and the Aurora Campus (Inuvik) for face-to-face due to lack of housing available for students.
- Face-to-face at Thebacha Campus in Fort Smith remains unchanged.
- 20 seats have been made available for online/virtual learning from anywhere in the NWT with reliable internet services.

Indigenous Knowledge Holders Council (IKHC)

- Partnership with Wilfrid Laurier University – sharing of knowledge and resources.
- Recommendations for Board appointments to this Council are expected late February/early March for consideration and approval.

Board of Governors Vacancy

- The vacancy call out is in process and the Board will be updated further as the process continues.
- The link will be provided to the Board once available. Board Members are encouraged to share out to their network in hopes of generating interest and applications.

b. Board of Governors Committee Reports**i. Executive Committee (Joseph Handley)**

Items noted individually on agenda.

ii. Audit & Finance Committee (Jack Rowe)

Specific information on student housing will be shared broadly with the full committee for discussion at the next committee meeting.

1. Fundraising Sub-Committee (Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox)

Through a discussion surrounding the need for funding partnerships and access to external resources for the College the Board requested further information to be brought back at the March 2024 meeting.

- Review of Staton Foundation (anything potentially similar that we could follow)
- Confirm the charitable status of Aurora College
- What would a foundation look like for the College and how would we move forward with the institutional mechanism – budget, process/policies and timelines.



c. Governance Committee (David Hurley)

Aircraft Maintenance Program

- The Administration will review and prepare a recommendation for the Board's consideration. This item will be brought back to the Governance Committee.

Board Self-Assessment Tool

- The information included in the Interim Governance Manual has been entered into an online electronic format and shared by Wanda Roberts. The Governance Committee will review further and make a recommendation to the Board at the February 2024 meeting.

Operational Items for Approval

- The Executive Committee had agreed to have these come forward through email poll to the Board, as needed, for standard items of approval.
 - Policies coming forward will now flow through the Governance Committee for review and recommendation to the full Board.

d. Planning & Accountability Committee (Tom Colosimo)

Upcoming discussions and review will need to be schedule for the Aurora College Corporate Plan.

e. Research Advisory Council (RAC) (Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox)

Motion#BOG05-2024: To accept the recommendations made by the Research Advisory Council in reference to the Research Assistantship (RA) and Research Fellowship (RF) program review, as per the minutes of November 29, 2023.

Research Assistantship (RA) Program

1. Aurora College discontinue both the Research Assistantship (RA) and Research Fellowship (RF) programs and redirect research funding in ways that better support the priorities of both the College and the NWT residents.
2. Aurora College creates competitive internal funding programs that can be accessed by College faculty, researchers, and students, so that the funding is used to directly benefit the College, its mission and its mandate. This would result in four new internal funding streams:
 - Strat-up Grants
 - Strategic Investment Grants
 - Research Assistant Grants
 - Outstanding Studentship Awards



3. Aurora College creates a competitive funding program that provides in-kind support for visiting early-career researchers conducting high-value research within the NWT.
4. To move forward with the proposed changes to the Research Associate Program Policy I.07 and accompanying procedures I.07.1 as proposed. The draft policy will be prepared by the College and brought back for review and recommendation to the Board of Governors.
5. The Research Advisory Council, as part of the Strategic Planning discussions would like to include a discussion and/or direction on the inclusion of a program section or new program to represent Elders and/or Traditional Knowledge Holders in relationship to Research as adjunct status.

7. Other Business

a. Ministerial Transition – Update & Discussion

- The College was permitted to submit our own transition binder, separate from that of the GNWT.
- The Minister requested additional information including the usage and student numbers currently at the Community Learning Centers. This number is quite low.
- Additional information was also provided and discussed related to student housing and transformation, including the need for funding.
 - The College needs to be awarded current third party funding for programming to be included as base funding.
- Possible delay in critical milestone as related to becoming a Polytechnic University.
- Quarterly meetings between the College, Board and the Minister's Office.
 - The Board would like to invite the Minister to meet face-to-face with the full Board as a closed door meeting prior to the end of this academic year.
- The Board would like to meet with the Minister, face-to-face, and could look to invite her to join them for one of the scheduled face-to-face meetings either in Inuvik or Fort Smith or could consider changing the May meeting from virtual to face-to-face in Yellowknife.

b. Board Priorities & Facilitated Session

The Board has requested a face-to-face session be added onto one of the scheduled meetings to be facilitated and allow for a full day discussion on priorities of the Board and setting up direction for the College based on these



priorities. The President will bring back options, including timeline, costs and proposed facilitator for the Board to consideration and confirm direction.

8. Delegations & Public Presentations

No delegations or public presentations.

9. Closing Remarks & Adjournment

Motion#BOG06-2024: To adjourn the meeting at 3:23pm on January 23, 2024.

Moved by: Richard Boudreault

Seconded by: Kevin Antoniak

Unanimous/Carried (January 23, 2024)