



- In Attendance:**
- Joseph Handley, Chairperson, Board of Governors**
 - Richard Boudreault, Vice Chairperson, Board of Governors (In part)**
 - Tom Colosimo, Chairperson, Planning & Accountability Committee, Board**
 - Grant Hood, Acting Chairperson Audit & Finance Committee, Board (In part)**
 - Dave Hurley, Chairperson, Governance Committee, Board**
 - Lorraine Tordiff, Board Member**
 - Kevin Antoniak, Board Member**
 - Ellice Schneider, Board Member**
 - Mieke Cameron, Board Member**
 - Wanda Roberts, Staff Representative**
 - Xiaoyi Yan, Staff Representative**
 - Rebecca Plotner, Board Member**
 - Jack Rowe, Board Member**
 - Angela James, President, Aurora College**
 - Heather Meacock, Executive Assistant**
- Guest:**
- Dëneze Nakehk'o, Chairperson, Indigenous Knowledge Holders Council**

1. Land Acknowledgement & Welcome

2. Call to Order & Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 9:07am on February 20, 2025 by the Chairperson.

3. Declarations of Interest

No declarations

4. Scheduled Delegations

A delegation was made by the Union of Northern Workers (UNW) – President, Gayla Thunstrom and Local 29 President, David Bob.

A written submission was provided with questions and concerns related to the Community Learning Centre (CLC) closure announcement, the appearance of lack of consultation with the UNW and communities, and concerns of the closures not being in line with the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action. The Communities are not being considered in decisions making. A written response will be provided to the UNW in the coming days.

5. Adoption of Agenda

Motion#BG01-Feb-2025: To adopt the agenda as presented.

Moved by: Jack Rowe

Seconded by: Dave Hurley

Unanimous/Carried (February 20, 2025)

6. Board of Governors Committee & Council Reports

a. Audit & Finance Committee (Grant Hood)

Student Housing Request For Information (RFI) will be discussed by the Board later in the meeting during the IN CAMERA session. In response to a question, clarification was noted regarding regrets provided to any submissions that did not meet the RFI requirements for submission.

Aurora College's financial system has been requested to have updates to allow for additional reporting groupings by campus, rather than strictly by Division and program area.

Overview of a recent fraud attempt on the College was provided as information and was resolved quickly and was unsuccessful.

Staff and Faculty data requested by the Committee has been refined further in the ask and will be worked on to separate out additional detailed information to assist in providing the Board with information related to staff and faculty positions and direct or indirect supports for students, as well as vacancies and temporary vacancies due to extended leave.

b. Governance Committee (David Hurley)

i. Action Tracker

The action tracker was reviewed, noting additional updates will be made based on information stemming for the Board Committee meeting and this Board meeting. The tracker is broken out into quarters and aligns with the approved Aurora College Mandate Agreement and Milestone timelines on Transformation.

Board of Governors self-evaluation will be sent out to the Board for their input to be completed prior to the end of March 2025. The link will be provided and the data collected and compared to the data collected last year and shared with the Board Chairperson.

Revisions and updates are in process on the Governance Manual for the Board. Work will continue to flow through the Governance Committee with the expectation to have the final version to the Board in June.

ii. Sub Committee – Funding Strategy

Sub-Committee on Funding Strategy will be rejuvenated and led by the Governance Committee, including an assigned Executive Leadership Team member to assist in support to develop funding opportunities and partnerships, manage alumni engagement and support the ongoing funding needs of the College.

c. Planning and Accountability (Tom Colosimo)

i. Transformation – Quality Assurance – Made in the North Degree

The Committee reviewed the Mand in the North Degree White Paper draft, requesting changes, specifically to the title of the Degree Program and to revise the focus to be Indigenous Leadership.



Concerns were raised over the need to have a unique program available to the North that would attract students. The recommendation is for a Business Degree Program, so how do we ensure unique and a desired program. The College will need to dedicate time to ensure this aspect is a priority for development of this degree.

The Board noted that the process to move forward on becoming a Polytechnic University is a lengthy one and do not want to delay it further. Other program considerations will remain flagged for possible options to develop into degree programs at a later point.

Motion#BG02-Feb-2025: To proceed with the development of the Made in the North Degree Program White Paper, as presented, with a confirmed change of title to Bachelor of Business Administration with a focus on Indigenous Leadership, understanding the timeline is several years for development and delivery.

Moved by: Kevin Antoniak

Seconded by: Dave Hurley

Unanimous/ Carried (February 20, 2025)

ii. Corporate Plan

To ensure timelines allow for review of the Corporate Plan through Committee and Board for approval, a joint meeting between the Executive Committee and the Planning and Accountability Committee will be set for the end of March/early April to review the status and timeline for completion of the Corporate Plan.

d. Executive Committee (Joseph Handley)

i. Mobile Trades Training Lab (MTTL)

The Board reviewed the information provided and understood the reasons noted for why the MTTL was not in full use as originally intended, however the Board is seeking options, including costing, on how to move forward with getting this unit back into full operation, proposed ongoing usage, staffing, maintenance, whether in communities or a revamped proposal for use/partnerships.

The Board is requesting the options are presented at the April 2025 meeting by the Chair, Trades, Apprenticeship and Industrial Training for Board consideration and direction.

It may be reasonable to hold a separate meeting with the Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) and Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC) as partners involved in the initial funding for the purchase of the MTTL.

Motion#bg03-Feb-2025: To receive a finalized report with a vision to re-establish the use of the Mobile Trades Training Lab, including solution-based options, associated costs, staffing, possible partnerships and proposed ongoing usage.

Moved by: Jack Rowe

Seconded by: Lorraine Tordiff

Unanimous/Carried (February 20, 2025)

e. Indigenous Knowledge Holders Council (Dëneze Nakehk'o)

The Indigenous Knowledge Holders Council (IKHC) is working on finalizing the Council Framework that will come forward to the Board for final approval later this spring, followed by an implementation plan.

The focus of the IKHC includes the following:

- Cultural Knowledge and Indigenous Continuity
- Student Environment
- Care and Safety
- Leaders, Collaboration and Partnerships
- Educational Opportunities
- Engagement of Northern Realities
- Youth Empowerment

f. Research Advisory Council (Richard Boudreault)

The Research Advisory Council (RAC) is working with the Chairperson of the IKHC to identify possible candidates to sit as the Traditional Knowledge Representative on the Committee.

The Board has requested a presentation at the April 2025 meeting on the RAC and Research Division of the College to better inform the Board and create the linkage between all Councils of the Board.

Motion#BG04-Feb-2025: To have a presentation by the Vice President, Research and President on the Research Advisory Council of the Board and the Research Division of the College to better inform the Board and link the RAC and the Board at the April 2025 Board meeting.

Moved by: Dave Hurley

Seconded by: Richard Boudreault

Unanimous/Carried (February 20, 2025)

7. President's Report

The President's Report included the following items, aligned through the goals, objectives and strategic items to the Aurora College Mandate Agreement:

- Institutional Self Study
 - Final document will be provided to the Board mid-end March for submission through to Campus Alberta Quality Council (CAQC).



- Polytechnic launch is dependent on the outcome of the CAQC accreditation and quality assurance process along with upcoming legislative changes and finalized funding formula that are in development.
- Partnership Opportunities and Renewed Relationships
- College Infrastructure – Improve and Enhance
- Academic and Applied Research Excellence
 - General Studies Degree Program
 - Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is in final development.
 - Advertising has been running for delivery of in person in Fort Smith and online programming.
 - The Board has requested a sample package of what is being shared with Community Leadership and Secondary Schools across the North.
- Learning Centered Post-Secondary Education
- Organizational Effectiveness
 - Org Design Project – alignment with post-secondary institute standards and operations.
 - Finance Review – initiatives underway to advance recommendations of the review.
 - Cost Allocation Budget model.
 - Funding formula development.
 - Information Systems and Technology – initiatives underway to advance recommendation of the review.
- President's Communication
 - All – College Community meetings/information sharing.
 - Partnerships.
 - Leadership and Relationships.
- Aurora College Mandate Agreement – release February 13, 2025.
- Aurora College Strategic Plan and Corporate Plan
 - Strategic Direction Committee (SDC) has been established with the primary purpose to provide direction, support and oversight to the development and implementation of the Aurora College Strategic Plan which will inform the Aurora College Corporate Plan.
 - 2025-2026 Budget development.
- Community Learning Centre – Closure Announcement

8. IN CAMERA

Grant Hood and Richard Boudreault were not in attendance for the afternoon portion of the meeting, including the IN CAMERA session.

Motion#BG05-2025: To move IN CAMERA at 1:03pm on February 20, 2025.

Moved by: Tom Colosimo

Seconded by: Dave Hurley

Unanimous/Carried (February 20, 2025)

Motion#BG06-Feb-2025: To come out of IN CAMERA at 2:45pm on February 20, 2025.

Moved by: Mieke Cameron

Seconded by: Jack Rowe

Unanimous/Carried (February 20, 2025)

Motion#BG07-Feb-2025: To endorse the Org Design as presented to move forward.

Moved by: Dave Hurley

Seconded by: Ellice Schneider

Carried (9 in favour, 2 against, 1 abstained) (February 20, 2025)

Motion#BG08-Feb-2025: To approve moving forward with the hiring of a contractor expert to review the Student Housing proposals (Yellowknife) and bring forward a recommendation to the Board for final approval.

Moved by: Mieke Cameron

Seconded by: Wanda Roberts

Unanimous/Carried (February 20, 2025)

9. Closing Remarks & Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned, with unanimous agreement, at 2:48pm on February 20, 2025.