



RATIONALE FOR & PRINCIPLES OF THE OLDS COLLEGE GOVERNANCE MODEL

Category:	BOARD GOVERNANCE	
Policy Number:	BG-2	
Date Approved by the Board:	March 26, 2026	
Objective:	This policy articulates the rationale and principles that will guide the Olds College Governance Model.	
Scope:	This policy applies to all members of the Olds College of Agriculture & Technology Board of Governors	
Definitions:	The Act: The <i>Post-Secondary Learning Act</i> (Alberta), 2005. Olds College Governance Model: The Board of Governors' approach to its role as the policy and strategic leaders of the College as an advanced education institution and as that governance body which links the Government of Alberta with the institution, its professional and administrative leadership, aspirations, functions and resources and its policy direction. Board Policy: A principle-based statement, plan or course of action for the Board of Governors or requiring Board review or approval that is binding on all those to whom it applies.	
Policy:	1.	The Board is accountable for establishing an effective governance model that enables the Board to deliver on its accountabilities.
	1.1	The Governance Model articulates the Board of Governors' approach to its role as the policy and strategic leaders of Olds College of Agriculture & Technology as an advanced education institution. As that governance body, it links the Government of Alberta with the institution, its professional and administrative leadership, aspirations, functions and resources and its policy direction. The Model represents both a proactive and a reactive approach to the guidance of the College through its proactive approach to the establishment of governance policies and a Board-endorsed Strategic Plan and its reactive, responsive role in providing oversight, through policy monitoring, to the decision-making of the College administration. The Model is and will reflect an evolving approach to governance as the Board believes times and conditions change necessitating a robust leadership which is prepared to adjust to new circumstances.



	1.2	The Governance Model will be built upon the following Guiding Principles: A. Responsibility The Board is responsible for acting in the institution's best interests and exists to act as the informed voice and agent of the institution's stakeholders. This involves setting the strategic direction, ensuring legislative compliance, and providing oversight to financial and risk management. B. Accountability & Integrity The Board is accountable to stakeholders that the organization is successful. As such, it is not advisory to staff but an active link in the chain of command. All authority in the staff organization and in components of the board flows from the board. Important institutional decisions will inevitably lead to questions and the Board will be able to answer with clarity and evidence in support of the path taken. C. Awareness The Board will be aware of the landscape of risk around it. Board members will bring their experience and expertise to develop an understanding of the institution. D. Impartiality & Holism The Board will strike a careful balance between their various responsibilities, acting only in the best interests of the institution. Board members will approach decisions with an independent mindset, ensuring no personal interests come between them and the best decision for the College. The authority of the Board is held and used as a body. The Board speaks with one voice in that instructions are expressed by the Board as a whole through policy. Individual Board members have no authority to instruct staff. E. Transparency The Board will document and report on everything that is expected of it as clearly and thoroughly as necessary. Board members will report any real or perceived conflicts of interest and will ensure that Board deliberations are conducted in a culture of integrity and honest discourse. Governance at Olds College is built on a foundation of transparency and respect. The President will open up decision-making and actions so that the Board is aware of what is transpiring in the organization; the Board will focus on its governance role and will not become engaged in matters which have been delegated to the President.
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OLDS COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS POLICY



Supporting Documentation:

Review Period:

Revision History:

3 years

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Revised: February 2026