



MINUTES
OLDS COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
 Thursday, February 26, 2026 @ 9:00 a.m.

The Board of Governors is committed to the principles of governance excellence. Underpinning this pledge is an unwavering commitment to integrity and ethical action. The key values reflect both the reality and aspiration of the Board and form a constant guide for planning, decision-making and working together.

The Board Key Values are:

Responsible Decision-Making

- Being committed and engaged
- Being fully prepared for our duties
- Fostering a culture inclusive of diverse perspectives
- Being unified in our support of Board decisions
- Ensuring integrity in our considerations and decisions
- Ensuring the highest level of stewardship of human and financial resources

Visionary Governance

- Focusing on the future while learning from the past
- Seeking growth in the best interests of the College
- Setting direction which recognizes the importance and holistic nature of the agriculture industry as being essential to the preservation and betterment of life

Diversity and Inclusiveness

- Providing a board environment that is conducive to board members openly honoring their positionality
- Recognizing and accepting the unique attributes and contributions of all of our stakeholder communities
- Vigorously defending legislated rights and freedoms
- Making decisions that support a culture of diversity and inclusiveness

[Board Member Acknowledgement](#)

Attendees:		
Al Kemmere, Board Chair	Mykaela Bauer	Rana Atta
Anna Dau	Sarah Hayes	Mabel Hamilton
BR Pirri	Debbie Thompson	Earl Graham
Regrets:	Cherie Copithorne-Barnes	Jeff Nielsen
Recording:	Heather Steckly	

AGENDA ITEM

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
 Chair Kemmere called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

2.	AGENDA A MOTION was made by BR Pirri to approve the agenda as presented. MOTION CARRIED
3.	CONFLICTS OF INTEREST In accordance with the Alberta Public Agencies Governance Act, Board members were asked to declare conflicts of interest relating to agenda items for the meeting. D. Thompson declared a conflict with respect to an item on the in-camera session agenda. MOTION TO MOVE IN-CAMERA Access to Information Act Regulation 9(1-2) A MOTION was made by M. Bauer to move the meeting in-camera. MOTION CARRIED MOTION TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION A MOTION was made by R. Atta to return to Open Session. MOTION CARRIED
OPEN SESSION	
5.	MOTIONS OUT OF IN-CAMERA
5.1	2025/26 PRESIDENT & CEO PERFORMANCE PLAN A MOTION was made by BR Pirri that the Board of Governors accept the President's mid-year review as presented. MOTION CARRIED (D. Thompson abstained)
5.2	PARTNER OF THE YEAR A MOTION was made by M. Bauer that the Board of Governors support the Executive Leadership Team recommendation and approve the Partner of the Year as presented and to embargo the information until the public announcement is made. MOTION CARRIED
6.	CONSENT AGENDA (6 month pilot) Guidance of the Use of Consent Agendas
6.1	REVIEW OF MINUTES
	6.1.1 December 11, 2025
	6.1.2 January 9, 2026
6.2	CHAIR'S REPORT
6.3	AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
	6.3.1 February 17, 2026 Meeting Minutes
	6.3.1.1 Board Operating Budget Second Quarter Reports
	6.3.1.2.1 Budget to Actuals
	6.3.1.2.2 Board Member Expenses
6.4	EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
	6.4.1 February 17, 2026 Meeting Minutes
	6.4.1.1 AgSmart 2026
	6.4.1.2 Advocacy Breakfast
	6.4.1.3 Common Ground Event
6.5	NICE TO KNOW INFORMATION
	6.5.1 Events and Happenings
	6.5.2 Olds College News
	6.5.2.1 AFSC and Olds College Re-Sign MOU to Advance Smart Agriculture
	6.5.2.2 Third Annual Battle with the Broncos Raises More Money Than Ever!

	6.5.2.3	Olds College Students Find Success at Agribition Sheep Show
	6.5.2.4	Olds College Suspends Craft Beverage & Brewery Operations Diploma; Brewery to Close June 2026
	6.5.2.5	AgSmart to Return in 2027 with an Expanded Vision & Stronger National Focus
	6.5.2.6	Celebrating Progress & Innovation: Olds College Launches 2025 Impact Reports
	6.5.2.7	Niznik: A Family Legacy
	6.5.3	Correspondence
	6.5.3.1	Board Member Appointments
		Orders in Council
		Ministry of Advanced Education - Appointment Letter - J. Nielsen
		Ministry of Advanced Education - Appointment Letter - E. Graham
	6.5.4	2026/27 Residence Rates
		<i>A MOTION was made by E. Graham that the Board of Governors approve the Consent Agenda, including items 6.1 to 6.5.4.</i>
		MOTION CARRIED
7.		OPERATIONAL REPORTS
	7.1	PRESIDENT'S REPORT
		The following highlights were provided from the President's written report included in the agenda package:
		D. Thompson, President & CEO: External Engagement Activities:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended the Future of Food Conference (over 800 attendees spanning industry, government, and Post Secondary) and took advantage of the opportunity to meet with key government and international officials focusing on a core message around the importance of agriculture and the unique value proposition of Olds College • Co-Chair of the Alberta Chamber of Commerce and Alberta Post Secondary Network Taskforce which is working toward hosting Acceleration Summits where industry participants within specific core industries will be convened to discuss skills, competencies and workforce needs. Post-secondary institutions will have an opportunity to learn from industry through these industry-led discussions.
		ML Moroz, Chief People & Culture Officer (CP&CO)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous Services is collaborating with the Broncos Athletics staff to ensure support for Indigenous student athletes. • Indigenous Services hosted the Senior Indigenous Engagement Specialist from Advanced Education during a Frybread Taco lunch in December. • Indigenous Services staff attended the Canmore Collegiate Indigenous Post Secondary Night as a panelist and to assist in the recruitment of future Olds College students. • People and Culture is modernizing the employee recognition framework to enhance how the College recognizes and celebrates the dedication and contributions of our long-serving employees. • The College is in the process of establishing a consistent framework for Hybrid/Remote and Flexible Work arrangements.
		D. Bullock, VP, Academic (VPA)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new Meat Processing Management certificate was approved by the Provider and Program Registry System (PAPR's). Planning is underway to welcome our first intake in September 2026. • Comprehensive Program Reviews (CPR) for Agricultural Management and the Bachelor of Applied Science - Agribusiness Programs are nearing completion. The CPR process is designed to support program refinement to meet the needs of students and industry.

- The new trades facility will provide an opportunity for additional trades programming at Olds College. Strong support has been provided by other PSIs as the College moves through the approval process for new trades programming.
- P. Mal, VP, Student Experience (VPSE)
- Olds College's "What's Next" internal recruitment campaign is demonstrating a 45% year-over-year increase in current students indicating their intent to return for a subsequent program at Olds College.
 - The CLC Fitness Centre is in the process of targeted upgrades to equipment to meet the needs of students, staff, and community members, support membership growth, and further enhance the user experience.
 - Residence Services continues to operate at capacity, welcoming over 100 new students for the Winter Term and reaching a current occupancy of 618 students.
 - Convocation 2026 has been scheduled for Friday, June 5, 2026. This year's ceremony will serve as a pilot to assess the impact of hosting the event on a Friday rather than Saturday.

A MOTION was made by A. Dau that the Board of Governors receive the President's Report.
MOTION CARRIED

7.2 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

7.2.1 Presentation

A MOTION was made by M. Hamilton that, in the absence of T. Ormann, VP, External Relations and Research, the Capital Campaign Report will be deferred to the March 26, 2026 Board of Governors meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

8. OVERSIGHT (MONITORING)

8.1 REPORTS

8.1.1 BO-3 Enterprise Risk Oversight (Q2)

8.1.1.1 Monitoring Report

S. Hayes provided the Audit and Finance Committee's assessment of the Enterprise Risk Oversight Report for the second quarter. No concerns with the information within the report were raised, however, it is the intention of the Committee to conduct a fulsome review at the May meeting. The Committee will work with administration to ensure that future reporting affords the Board a high level overview of risk in a way that allows the Board to see movement over time. Board members were asked to provide any feedback with respect to the format of the Enterprise Risk Report to the Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee for consideration.

A MOTION was made by S. Singh that the Board of Governors has received the recommendation of the Audit & Finance Committee assessing the Monitoring Report for Policy BO-3 Enterprise Risk Oversight as demonstrating compliance with the policy.

MOTION CARRIED

8.1.2 BO-4 Investments Oversight (Q2)

8.1.2.1 Monitoring Report

S. Hayes advised that the Audit and Finance Committee reviewed the second quarter Investments Report and deemed it compliant with Board policy. Disappointment with the results was expressed while recognizing that the portfolio is quite new, it is the expectation of the Committee that over time the portfolio performs in alignment with market benchmarks. Administration will communicate this expectation to the portfolio manager.

		<p><i>A MOTION was made by S. Hayes that the Board of Governors has received the recommendation of the Audit & Finance Committee assessing the Monitoring Report for Policy BO-4 Investments Oversight as demonstrating compliance with the policy.</i></p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>
8.1.3	BO-5 Fiscal Oversight (Q2)	
8.1.3.1	Monitoring Report	<p>S. Hayes provided the Audit and Finance Committee's assessment of the Financial Report and Cash Flow Analysis for the second quarter and deemed them compliant with Board policy. P. Mal spoke to the second quarter enrolment report which indicates that overall enrolment is over budget by 227 FLEs for the second quarter of 2025/26. Enrolment projections continue to be closely monitored</p> <p><i>A MOTION was made by BR Pirri that the Board of Governors has received the recommendation of the Audit & Finance Committee assessing the Monitoring Report for Policy BO-5 Fiscal Oversight as demonstrating compliance with the policy.</i></p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>
8.1.4	BO-7 Major Capital Projects Oversight	
8.1.4.1	Presentation: Major Capital Projects Prioritization	<p>The CFO reviewed the draft Major Capital Projects Prioritization Plan together with the required timeline for submission to the Ministry. Projects are selected based on: current statement of existing facilities, functional needs or requirements of the campus community and operations, health and safety, hazardous materials abatement, deferred maintenance and future strategic growth. Criteria utilized by the Government of Alberta to assess each project include: being shovel ready, institutional contribution, strategic alignment and deferred maintenance reduction. Based on the foregoing criteria, the Board of Governors considered the recommendation presented by administration. By way of feedback, the Board suggested that the budget for the Frank Grisdale Hall project be clarified to indicate that it encompasses both demolition and upgrades to ongoing facilities.</p> <p>Upon approval, the Capital Projects Prioritization list will be submitted to the Government of Alberta for funding consideration and will be included in the 2026 Annual Report, forming a significant part of the College Facilities Strategy.</p> <p><i>A MOTION was made by S. Hayes that the Board of Governors support the recommendation of administration and approve the Major Capital Projects Prioritization plan as presented.</i></p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>
8.1.4.1.1	Monitoring Report	<p>All aspects of the project, budget, schedule & scope are tracking as specified. Progress is on track for a successful completion.</p> <p><i>A MOTION was made by A. Dau that the Board of Governors has assessed the Monitoring Report for Policy BO-7 Major Capital Projects Oversight and finds it demonstrates compliance with the policy.</i></p> <p>MOTION CARRIED</p>

8.1.5	BO-11 Treatment of Employees & Volunteers
8.1.5.1	<p>Monitoring Report</p> <p>ML Moroz provided a high level overview of reporting within the Treatment of Employees and Volunteers monitoring report, reporting compliance with Policy Statements 1 through 3. P. Mal provided a high level overview of the Emergency Response Plan and Health and Safety reports included in the agenda package.</p> <p><i>A MOTION was made by E. Graham that the Board of Governors has assessed the Monitoring Report for Policy BO-11 Treatment of Employees and Volunteers and finds it demonstrates compliance with the policy.</i></p> <p><i>MOTION CARRIED</i></p>
LUNCH	
9. LEGISLATED APPROVALS	
9.1.1	Tuition & Fees
9.1.1.1	Briefing Note
9.1.1.2	<p>Presentation</p> <p>P. Mal reviewed the recommendations for 2026/27 Tuition and Fees and Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees, presented to the Board for approval as required under legislation. The proposed tuition and fee increases align with legislation and are consistent with Olds College Policy I10. Using a data-driven, consultative process administration recommended a 2% overall institutional tuition increase and a 2.6% increase to Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees.</p> <p><i>A MOTION was made by BR Pirri that the Board of Governors approve the 2026/2027 Tuition and Fees as presented.</i></p> <p><i>MOTION CARRIED</i></p>
10. BOARD EDUCATION - internal	
10.1 COMMUNITY LEARNING CAMPUS	
10.1.1	<p>Presentation</p> <p>J. Taylor provided a comprehensive overview of the Community Learning Campus collaborative joint venture between Chinook's Edge School Division and Olds College.</p> <p><i>A MOTION was made by R. Atta that the Board of Governors receive the Community Learning Campus presentation.</i></p> <p><i>MOTION CARRIED</i></p>
1:40 p.m. President Thompson left the meeting to attend the embargoed provincial budget presentation	
11. BUSINESS	
11.1 AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE	
11.1.1	Withdrawal of Invested Funds
11.1.1.1	<p>Briefing Note</p> <p>Board Policy BO-5 Fiscal Oversight states that "unrestricted invested funds, other than income generated from the invested funds identified as revenue in the annual budget, may not be withdrawn without Board approval."</p> <p>In the course of regular quarterly review, Business Services assesses the portfolio value of each investment pool, to determine if there is an excess or shortfall in the investment pool that requires adjustment. In the second quarter review, Business Services identified that the Capital Investment Pool is in a</p>

shortfall of \$6.6 million and the Operating Investment Pool is in a surplus position of \$6.6 million.

In response to a request by administration, the Audit and Finance Committee recommends that the Board approve a \$6.6M withdrawal from the Operating Fund Portfolio for reinvestment in the Capital Investment Portfolio. The intent is to correct both funds to ensure that investment income is apportioned properly for each pool. The Committee confirmed that movement of the funds to rebalance the investment pools will not result in unrestricted net assets falling below 3% of gross operating revenue as required under Board policy.

A MOTION was made by S. Singh that the Board of Governors support the recommendation of the Audit and Finance Committee and approve the withdrawal of a maximum of \$6,640,000 from the Operating Investment Pool for reinvestment into the Capital Investment Pool.

MOTION CARRIED

11.2 BOARD EFFECTIVENESS COMMITTEE

11.2.1 Board Education

To follow up on the decision to cancel the February Board Workshop, Chair Hamilton requested Board feedback regarding Board Workshops in general. Past practice is that the Board holds three workshops annually and policy BG-11 Board Effectiveness Committee Terms of Reference specifies that the Committee will ensure that Board education includes “board key responsibilities, best practice in Board governance, equity, diversity and inclusion and indigenous awareness”. The Board was challenged to consider and articulate the purpose of Board Workshops and identify the outcomes to be achieved. The general consensus was that Board Workshops should be focused on enhancing the Board’s governance function and effectiveness, specifically including financial literacy training. Continuing the governance conversation started at the December 10, 2025 Workshop received strong indications of support. The Board Effectiveness Committee will use the Board’s feedback and consider next steps at the March Committee meeting.

11.2.2 Board Improvement Process

Board members were reminded that the Board Improvement Process documents will be provided at the March meeting.

11.3 EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

11.3.1 MasterClass Series

11.3.1.1 Briefing Note

In conjunction with the Board Effectiveness Committee, the External Relations Committee develops and executes external Board education opportunities. In fulfilling this role, the Committee requested that administration convene a panel of industry and agriculture experts to present to the Board with the intent to invite the campus community to attend. In consideration of action in this direction, administration has proposed a MasterClass Series for the campus community. To facilitate Board attendance, the launch date is planned to coincide with the March 26, 2026 Board of Governors meeting.

The Board was enthusiastic in its support of this initiative and the meeting agenda will be developed to accommodate participation.

A MOTION was made by M. Hamilton that the Board of Governors support the MasterClass Series to be launched in conjunction with the March 26, 2026 Board of Governors meeting and that the Board agenda be structured to accommodate Board member participation.
MOTION CARRIED

2:20 p.m. President Thompson joined the meeting

12. ROUNDTABLE

BOARD SELF-EVALUATION

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was declared adjourned at 2:38 p.m.



Al Kemmere
Board Chair



Dr. Debbie Thompson
President & CEO