

UNBC

Board of Governors

Rules

Board of Governors Rules

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GOVERNING LEGISLATION

The University of Northern British Columbia was established under the *University of Northern British Columbia Act [SBC 1990] c.28, (July 1990)*. The *UNBC Act* was repealed July 15, 2002, after which time UNBC was, and is, governed under the provisions of the *University Act [RSBC 1996] c.468 ("the Act")*.

These Board Rules replace former Board Rules (November 2023). Terms of Reference for the *Investment Advisory Committee* and the *University Advancement Advisory Board* are dealt with separately and are attached to these *Rules* as Appendices I and II respectively.

1. AUTHORITY TO ENACT RULES

- 1.1 These Rules are enacted by the Board under the authority granted in the *University Act* [s. 27(2)(a)].
- 1.2 Amendments to these Rules require proper notice of Motion as provided herein and require two-thirds support of the Members present and voting.

2. INTERPRETATION – THE UNIVERSITY ACT AND ROBERT’S RULES OF ORDER

- 2.1 In the event of a conflict or discrepancy between these Rules and the provisions of *the Act*, *the Act* will prevail.
- 2.2 If any procedural matter is not addressed, or is not adequately addressed by these Procedures, the Board will rely on Robert’s Rules of Order (latest edition), unless the Board Chair proposes reasonable alternate procedure(s) which are acceptable to at least two-thirds of the voting members present.

3. BOARD MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 Membership on the Board is determined by *the Act* [s. 19(1)].

Duty to Act in the Best Interests

- 3.2 Board Members must act in the best interests of the University [s.19.1].

Attendance and Preparation

- 3.3 Board Members are expected to prepare for and attend all Board Meetings, and all meetings of any Committee(s) to which they have been assigned. The *Act* provides [s.22(2)] that, unless excused by resolution of the Board, a member who does not attend at least half of the regular meetings of the Board in any year is deemed to have vacated his or her seat. The Governance and Human Resources Committee in its Terms of Reference is tasked with monitoring Member attendance.
- 3.4 Board Members are expected to respond to notices of meetings, and to indicate when they are not able to attend a meeting in person, or via video or teleconference.
- 3.5 Voting or attendance by proxy is not permitted.

Removal from the Board

- 3.6 Removal from the Board is addressed in s. 22 of *the Act*, which includes at s. 22(1), provision for the removal of a Board Member for cause, and at 22(2) the provision that:

Unless excused by resolution of the board, a member who does not attend at least half of the regular meetings of the board in any year is deemed to have vacated the member's seat.

- 3.7 In the event that any member is subject to the provisions of s. 22(2), the Board Chair will contact the Member to determine whether the Member wishes to continue to serve. If the Member wishes to continue to serve, a resolution will be taken to the Board to determine whether the Member's absences may be excused.

4. ELECTION AND ROLE OF THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

- 4.1 The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board will be elected annually from among the Order in Council appointees, in June using an approved electronic survey tool or other emerging technologies deemed appropriate by the Governance and Human Resources Committee. The result of the election(s) will be announced at the last regular scheduled Board meeting in June each year [s.19.2(1)].
- 4.2 In the event of a Chair resigning or being unable to fulfill the duties of Chair at any time during their term, the Vice-Chair will temporarily assume the role of Chair, and the Board shall hold an election for Chair as soon as

is practical to do so. A Chair elected under this section will hold the office for the duration of the term remaining of the Chair being replaced. A new election will then be held on the usual schedule as provided in s. 4.1 above.

- 4.3 In the event of a Vice-Chair being unable to fulfill the duties of Vice-Chair at any time during their term, the Board will hold an election for Vice-Chair as soon as practical to do so.

Election Process

- 4.4 Prior to the June Board meeting, the University Secretary will put out a call for nominations and set the election date.

Advance nominations must be submitted in writing to the University Secretary no later than two weeks prior to the election date.

The University Secretary will confirm that nominees are willing to stand for the position prior to the election and ask them to submit a short written statement to the Board.

Before the last regular scheduled June Board meeting, the Office of University Governance will conduct the election of Chair and Vice Chair using the approved electronic survey tool, with the nominees' short statements to the Board being uploaded to the survey tool. Voting will be conducted by secret ballot. All voting members of the Board, including nominees, are eligible to vote. Advance voting is not permitted.

The results of the election will be declared at the last regular scheduled June Board meeting and noted in the minutes. The Chair and Vice Chair elect will assume their roles following the June meeting.

- 4.5 A Chair or a Vice-Chair may not serve for more than three (3) consecutive terms in their respective roles.
- 4.6 In the event that both the Chair and Vice-Chair are absent for a meeting, the Board may appoint one of the other Order in Council Members to Chair the meeting.
- 4.7 The Board may, by a two-thirds vote, at any time terminate the appointment of a Chair or Vice-Chair. In such a case, University Secretary, will immediately open nominations for a new Chair or Vice Chair.

Role and Authority of the Board Chair:

- 4.8 In addition to chairing meetings of the Board, the Board Chair sits as a voting member of all Board Committees and Advisory Boards including: Investment Advisory sub-Committee, and the University Advancement Advisory Board. The Chair serves as the spokesperson for the Board and is a signing Officer authorized to approve the President's expenses.

The Chair maintains regular communication with the President and works to guide Board activities, oversee the setting of Board agendas and to create and respond to Board correspondence.

The Chair communicates with the Government of British Columbia's Crown Agencies and Board Resourcing Office to ensure vacancies on the Board are filled in a timely manner and, in consultation with the Governance and Human Resources Committee of the Board, reviews the Board Competency Matrix to ensure the Board maintains a necessary range of expertise and diversity.

The Chair works with the Governance and Human Resources Committee to provide performance feedback to the President.

Role and Authority of the Vice-Chair:

- 4.9 The Vice-Chair serves in the place of the Chair when the Chair is absent or unable to act. The Board Chair may delegate any of the usual duties of the Chair, to the Vice-Chair, on an ad hoc basis, as appropriate or necessary.
- 4.10 Should the Board Chair wish to delegate any of the usual duties of the Chair to the Vice-Chair on a regular or continual basis, the Chair must provide notice of such delegation to the Board.

5. BOARD SECRETARY AND RECORDING SECRETARY

- 5.1 The University Secretary acts in the role of the Board Secretary and oversees the Office of University Governance's responsibilities for the organization and administration of the Board of Governors and organization governance records, including governance compliance matters. The University Secretary has custody of all records of the Board and of the University Seal. The University Secretary provides guidance and advice to the Board Chair and Board Committee Chairs on meeting

protocols, governance requirements, and related matters. The University Secretary is appointed by and reports to the President for operational matters, while working closely with the Board Chair on best practice governance processes.

- 5.2 The Governance Officer is the Recording Secretary-of the Board.
- 5.3 The President may appoint an Acting Board Secretary in the absence of the University Secretary.

6. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD

- 6.1 The powers and duties of the Board are outlined in *the Act* [s. 27(1) & (2)].
- 6.2 *The Act* creates a bi-cameral system of governance for the University in which the Board has authority for the management, administration and control of the property, revenue, business and affairs of the university and Senate has authority for academic governance. Shared powers and the duty and responsibility to consult with the UNBC Senate, and to jointly decide certain matters with, and to approve certain actions and recommendations by, the Senate, are also outlined in *the Act* [s. 37 (1) & s. 38].

7. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY AND SIGNING RESOLUTIONS

- 7.1 The Board may, by resolution in writing, approved by two-thirds of the voting members, delegate any of its powers with respect to the operation, management and business affairs of the University to the President and Administration, on either an ongoing or ad hoc basis, and may designate and authorize an Officer or Officers of the University to sign legally binding documents on behalf of the University. The Board may, by resolution in writing approved by two-thirds of the voting members, amend or revoke any such delegation or authorization in the Board's discretion. (Appendix III)
- 7.2 The University Secretary will ensure that any such resolutions are published with the Board Rules.

8. CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND CONFIDENTIALITY

- 8.1 Standards and expectations with respect to Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality are outlined in the Board Code of Ethical Conduct, reviewed and approved by the Board annually, and generally at the March meeting.
- 8.2 All members of the Board are required to review and sign the Code of Ethical Conduct annually.
- 8.3 *Declarations of Conflict* will be a standing item at the start of all Board and Board Committee Agendas.

9. MEETINGS OF THE BOARD - REGULAR AND SPECIAL MEETINGS

- 9.1 *The Act* requires that the Board meet at least once every three months [s. 26]. The University Secretary will present a proposed annual schedule of meetings for the Board's consideration, generally at the June meeting. The schedule will be included as a standing item for review at each regular meeting of the Governance and Human Resources Committee.
- 9.2 If the President, or any three (3) or more members of the Board submit a written request for a special meeting of the Board, outlining the general nature and purpose of such meeting, and providing the text of any motion(s) the President or members wish to have considered at that meeting, the Board Chair will convene a meeting within two weeks of receipt of such a request.
- 9.3 Special or extraordinary meetings may also be called at the discretion of the Board Chair.
- 9.4 Board Committee meetings will be scheduled as needed by the Committee Chair and in consideration of Committee Members' availability. The dates for the regular Committee meetings will be included in the proposed annual schedule of meetings.

The Finance & Investment and Audit & Risk committees should meet quarterly at a minimum. The Governance and Human Resources Committee should meet six times per year at a minimum.

Public, Closed and In-Camera Sessions

- 9.5 Public sessions are open to the public. Closed sessions include Board Members and invited advisory staff or members of administration. In-Camera meetings are for Board Members only, with the University Secretary and Governance Officer present. The President is a voting member of the Board pursuant to *the Act* [s. 19(1) (b)] and will recuse themselves from regular in-camera meetings pertaining to their performance. The University Secretary will also recuse themselves from an in-camera meeting when the Board discusses the President's performance unless otherwise indicated by the Board Chair.
- 9.6 At the discretion of the Chair, Board meetings may begin, and/or end with brief in-camera session(s), and the balance of the meeting will be divided into a Public and Closed Session.
- 9.7 Board Committee meetings will be conducted in Closed Sessions, unless otherwise specifically directed by the Board.

10. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

- 10.1 At least three (3) clear days' notice will be given to each Member, of the date, time and location of any meeting of the Board or a Board Committee. Notice will be deemed to have been given if communicated through the usual email address provided by UNBC to the Member for Board business, or if the Member has been contacted verbally by the Board Chair, the Office of University Governance, or appropriate Committee Chair by phone or in person.

Waiver of Notice

- 10.2 If all Members are present and waive notice, a special or extraordinary meeting of the Board or of a Committee may be convened at any time. A meeting may also be convened without proper notice if all members present waive notice **and** written consent or waiver can be obtained from those members who are absent.
- 10.3 If Notice is properly given, non-receipt by a Member does not invalidate any resolution passed or action taken at the meeting in question.

11. AGENDAS AND MATERIALS

- 11.1 Agenda items for Board or Committee Meetings should be submitted to the Office of University Governance at least two weeks prior to the meeting at which they are to be addressed. Materials for meetings will be

circulated to Board or Committee members at least seven (7) days prior to a meeting.

- 11.2 Agendas for Board Meetings may include both a Regular and a Consent Agenda. If a Board Committee determines that an item is routine and does not require debate at the full Board, the Committee may recommend that the item or motion be placed on the Consent Agenda for the full Board. Prior to approval of the Consent Agenda, if any member of the Board requests that an item be removed and placed on the Regular Agenda, it will be removed.

12. PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD

- 12.1 If members of the public or members of the University Community wish to make a presentation to the Board, they must submit a written request to the Board Chair via the Office of University Governance at least five (5) business days prior to a scheduled meeting of the Board. The requestor must indicate clearly the subject or issue the person or group wishes to address, and the name(s) and title or position, if applicable, of the intended speaker(s).

The Board Chair will consider *inter alia*, the relevance of the matter to the work and authority of the Board, the upcoming meeting agenda and priorities and, whether or not the Board has already addressed the issue. The Chair will determine whether and when a presentation will occur, whether the presentation will be heard in a Public or Closed session of the Board, the time to be allocated, and the number of speakers permitted. As a general rule, five (5) to ten (10) minutes will be allocated and one (1) speaker will present.

At the discretion of the Chair, a brief amount of time may be allowed at the meeting, for questions from the Board, to the Presenter(s). Presenters may include questions to the Board in their presentation, or leave materials or questions with the Board, but neither the Board Chair, nor Members of the Board will respond to questions from a Presenter at the time of the presentation. The Board Chair, in consultation with the Board, will determine whether and how to respond.

The Chair will report any requests that are refused and provide a copy of the reasons for the refusal to the full Board, during the in-camera session of the Board meeting.

Recognizing Speakers from the Gallery at a Public Board Meeting

- 12.2 In exceptional circumstances, the Board Chair may recognize a speaker from the gallery during a public session of the Board, at the Chair's sole discretion. As with presentations arranged under section 12.1 above, the Board Chair may limit the time allowed for such a presentation and limit the number of speakers, and neither the Board Chair nor members of the Board will respond to questions from guests at the time of the presentation.

Orderly Conduct of Business

- 12.3 The Board Chair may, in the interests of ensuring the orderly and respectful conduct of Board Business, and in the interests of ensuring a meeting environment that is free of harassment or intimidation, order any person or persons removed from the gallery, or may direct that any Public meeting move into a Closed or In-Camera session at any time.

13. QUORUM

- 13.1 Quorum required for meetings of the Board is set by *the Act* [s.26(2)].
- 13.2 When a Board member(s) has a conflict of interest for a particular agenda item, and must not take part in the discussion of the matter or vote on any questions or decisions in respect of the matter, the member may be still counted in the quorum present for the vote.
- 13.3 Rules with respect to quorum for Committees may be set by the Board, and require two-thirds support to change. Requirements for quorum cannot be amended or suspended to address an absence of required quorum at a meeting.

Failure to Achieve Quorum

- 13.3 If quorum is not achieved within fifteen (15) minutes of the time set for the start of a meeting, the meeting will be cancelled, unless the majority of the members present agree to allow an additional brief amount of time for absent members to arrive. If quorum is not achieved at the expiration of the additional time allowed, the meeting will be cancelled.

Loss of Quorum During a Meeting

- 13.4 If quorum is lost during a meeting, the Board Chair may either adjourn the meeting or suspend the meeting for fifteen (15) minutes, to allow the return or arrival of a sufficient number of members of the Board to restore

quorum. If quorum cannot be restored in the time allotted, the meeting will be adjourned.

- 13.5 No Board official business may be conducted or decisions made, and no minutes or records will be kept for any time period during which a meeting does not have quorum.

14. MOTIONS

- 14.1 Notice of motions to be voted on in a Board or Committee meeting must be provided in advance, in meeting agendas. Motions may be introduced on the floor during a meeting if there are no objections from Members present. However, should *any* member raise an objection, a motion to allow the motion to be presented without notice, must pass with the support of two-thirds of the voting members present, or the motion must be postponed to the next meeting of the Board.
- 14.2 Motions require the support of the majority of Board or Committee members present at a meeting, unless otherwise provided in these Procedures.

Methods of Voting

- 14.3 Voting at the Board will be by voice or show of hands. However, if any member of the Board requests a recorded vote, prior to the vote being taken, the vote shall be recorded showing votes for, against and abstentions, without attribution. And, if any member of the Board requests a secret ballot, the vote shall be conducted by secret ballot. Balloted voting or elections shall be conducted by the Chancellor, or in their absence the President, or in their absence, the Provost or the Secretary.
- 14.4 Members may participate in a meeting and in voting, via tele, video or web conference provided the technology allows them to hear everyone who is speaking, and provided they can be heard, and seen when using video or web conference (the Chair can use discretion if technological difficulties arise), by everyone else present and participating. The Office of University Governance is responsible for managing remote meeting technology, and ensuring a technological process exists to provide Board Members with secret ballots where needed and if requested.
- 14.5 The Board Chair has the same right to vote as other members of the Board, and in an equality of votes for and against a matter, the question is resolved in the negative, and the Chair shall so declare [s.26(3)].

- 14.6 A resolution in writing signed and approved by all members of the Board or a Committee entitled to vote on the resolution or motion at a meeting of the Board is as valid as if it had been passed at a meeting.

15. RECORDINGS and MINUTES

- 15.1 Minutes will be taken by the Governance Officer - in accordance with the University's standards and best practices for minute taking. Motions and action items are to be recorded, as well as a brief summary of key points of debate and rationale. Any member may request that a specific point of concern or an objection be included in the minutes. Notation of approximate time spent discussing agenda items is recommended.
- 15.2 Audio and/or video of Board meetings may be recorded by the Governance Officer for the purpose of reference in completing the meeting minutes. Once meeting minutes have been approved, recordings will be deleted unless otherwise determined by a majority of the Board. However, at the discretion of a majority of Board members, recordings of open session meetings of the Board may be regularly or irregularly broadcast or otherwise made available to the public.

16. BOARD STANDING COMMITTEES – GENERAL PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL STANDING COMMITTEES

Purpose and Authority

- 16.1 *The University Act* [RSBC 1996] c. 468 (*the Act*), authorizes the Board of Governors to appoint committees it considers necessary to carry out the Board's functions, and to confer on those committees the power and authority to act for the Board.

Accountability to the Board

- 16.2 Board Committees have no authority to direct Management, to speak on behalf of the Board, or to commit UNBC, unless specifically authorized to do so through the Board Rules, a Board motion or resolution, or other express directive from the Board.

Membership and Committee Chairs

- 16.3 The Board Chair and President are voting members of each Board Committee and count for quorum. When the Audit & Risk Committee is fulfilling its audit functions, the President may participate, but should recuse themselves from voting. The Chancellor is an ex-officio non-voting member of each Committee and does not affect quorum. The Board Chair will appoint members to serve on Committees as outlined below.
- 16.4 Members are appointed to Committees for unspecified terms, having regard for the balance and complement of expertise of members and the mandates of each Committee. The Board Chair will also consider availability, participation and attendance when making and revising Committee assignments. The Board Chair may review and amend committee membership at any time, but will review the membership of all Committees at least annually.
- 16.5 The Board, on the recommendation of the Chair or the Governance and Human Resources Committee may appoint an external non-voting member to a standing or ad hoc Committee of the Board to enhance Committee expertise or diversity of perspectives. Any such appointment requires the support of two-thirds of the voting members of the full Board, and will be for a set term, not exceeding one year, renewable a maximum of three times. Appointments under this section may be terminated at any time by a two-thirds vote of the Board. These external members may be drawn from within or outside of the University, and must sign a Code of Conduct and Confidentiality agreement prior to participating in a Committee meeting and prior to being provided with any Committee meeting materials.
- 16.6 The Board Chair will appoint a Chair of each Committee, and may alter Chair assignments at any time having regard for the considerations outlined above. The Chair will review Chair assignments at least annually.

Frequency and Conduct of Committee Meetings

- 16.7 The Governance and Human Resources Committee should meet six times a year at minimum, and Committees related to Finance, Audit, Risk, and Investment should meet quarterly at minimum, and as often as deemed necessary by the Committee Chair.
- 16.8 Additional or special Committee meetings may be called as deemed necessary by the Board Chair or the Committee Chair, or; if any two (2) voting members of a Committee request in writing that a special meeting of the Committee be convened, the Committee Chair will call a meeting.

- 16.9 Board Committee meetings are Closed and meeting materials are to be treated as confidential. The Chair of a Committee may also, at their discretion, or at the request of a member, conduct a meeting, or portion of a meeting in-camera (as defined in the General Provisions of these Rules).
- 16.10 Board Members are entitled to attend any meeting of a Committee of the Board and to have access to the materials for that Committee, regardless of whether or not they are assigned as a voting member of the Committee, except those who may have a conflict with a specific item on an agenda.
- 16.11 Committees will follow the General Rules for Voting and for the Conduct of Meetings, followed by the Board.
- 16.12 Committees are authorized, as outlined below, to receive and review reports, provide advice and forward motions to the Board for either the Regular or Consent Agendas. A Committee may, in limited circumstances if expressly authorized by the Board to do so, make decisions on behalf of the Board, provided that the Committee informs the Board of decisions made on delegated authority.

17. BOARD STANDING COMMITTEES

- 17.1 The following are the Standing Committees of the Board of Governors:

- Governance and Human Resources Committee
- Audit & Risk Committee
- Finance & Investment Committee
- Investment Advisory Committee (sub-committee of Finance & Investment)
- Board of Governors Appeals Committee – [Appeals to the Board of Governors Policy](#)

Membership, Duties and Authority of Each Committee:

17.2 Governance and Human Resources Committee

Membership – 6 voting members – quorum 3

Board Chair

Vice Chair

President

3 additional members approved by the Board.

Meeting Frequency

The Governance and Human Resources Committee meets six times during the Fiscal/Academic year at minimum but may meet more often if necessary.

The meeting schedule and the duration of each meeting will depend on committee members and committee guest(s) availability and committee workload.

Duties and Responsibilities

The Governance and Human Resources Committee is authorized by the Board to receive reports, review and make recommendations to the Board with respect to:

- Board Rules
- Governance and human resources policies and procedures and other policies and procedures that are not within the scope of the Audit and Risk Committee or the Finance and Investment Committee
- University policies requiring Board approval
- Institutional relational agreements that require Board approval
- Form, substance, and frequency of execution of the *Board Code of Ethical Conduct*
- Board Member orientation and training
- Annual Board meeting schedule
- Board evaluation forms, substance and practices
- Recommendations to the Ministry with respect to the Board competency matrix and postings
- Collective Bargaining strategy and desired outcomes
- Collective Agreements and policies relating to terms and conditions of employment
- Labour relations environment, including arbitrations or litigation
- Policy and procedures for annual Presidential reviews and for reviews prior to re-appointment
- Form, substance and frequency of Human Resources Complement and similar Reports
- Institutional Human Resources Policies
- Management structure and succession plans at the senior executive level
- Procedures for search and recommendation of candidates for President, Deans, University Librarian, Registrar & other Senior Academic Administrators
- Appointment of Vice Presidents
- Compensation models and adjustments

- President's recommendations for Promotion & Tenure
- Adjustments to President and Executive Compensation

The Governance and Human Resources Committee may address other general Board matters as appropriate or as directed or referred by the Board or Board Chair.

17.3 **Audit and Risk Committee**

Membership – 7 voting members – quorum 4

Board Chair

President

5 additional members approved by the Board Chair, one of whom shall be from the Finance & Investment Committee.

Meeting Frequency

The Audit and Risk Committee meets 4 times during the Fiscal/Academic year but may meet more often if necessary.

The meeting schedule and the duration of each meeting will depend on committee members and committee guest(s) availability and committee workload.

Duties and Responsibilities

1) *Audit*

The Audit & Risk Committee is authorized by the Board to receive reports, review and make recommendations to the Board with respect to:

- The integrity of the University's financial reporting process and system of internal controls regarding financial reporting and accounting compliance.
- The qualifications and independence of the University's external auditors.
- The performance of the external auditors and the internal auditor if applicable.
- The University's compliance with legal, statutory and regulatory requirements.
- The management of the principal risks that could impact the financial statements.

- Review and ensure that procedures are in place for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the University regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or audit matters.
- The selection and hiring of the external auditors.

2) *Risk*

While the responsibility for university's risk management approach rests with the UNBC Board of Governors, the Board has authorized the Audit & Risk Committee to support management in its risk management activities, maintain oversight of the risk management program, receive, and review risk reports and make recommendations to the Board. To fulfill its mandate, the Audit and Risk Committee will:

- Oversee, review, and approve the management's approach to risk management regularly or as significant changes in the business environment dictate.
 - Ensure risk assessments are performed regularly.
 - Ensure the University has and maintains an effective on-going risk assessment process – risk identification, risk quantification, and risk evaluation.
 - Ensure the process identifies risk and opportunities.
 - Measures the potential impact and the likelihood of occurrence.
- Determine the risk appetite and tolerance.
- Review management's comprehensive framework, assessment and response to major risks facing the University.
- Review and recommend to the Board for approval appropriate policies and procedures relating to risk management governance, risk management practices, and risk control infrastructure.
- Ongoing monitoring of the University's compliance to the risk limit structure, policies, and procedures.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the risk management process which may include the use of internal or external assurance providers.
- Oversee and ensure timely implementation of corrective actions to address risk management deficiencies.
- Review UNBC Board of Governors and its committees' roles and responsibilities pertaining to risk management and propose changes (structural or scope) to ensure risk identification and communication is appropriately addressed.

Authority

The Committee in fulfilling its audit function has the authority to conduct any investigation appropriate to fulfilling its responsibilities, and it has direct access to the internal and external auditors, as well as the management of the University.

The Committee may recommend that the Board of Governors retain special legal, accounting, consulting, or other experts the Committee deems necessary in the performance of its duties.

The Audit & Risk Committee may address other general matters as appropriate or as directed or referred by the Board or Board Chair.

17.4 Finance and Investment Committee

Membership – 7 voting members – quorum 4

Board Chair

President

5 additional members approved by the Board Chair, one of whom shall be from the Audit & Risk Committee.

The Finance & Investment Committee is authorized by the Board to receive reports, and review and make recommendations to the Board with respect to:

- Financial decisions that are consistent with the University's strategic vision and priorities
- The University's financial operations, forecasts, projections and results
- The Annual Operating and Capital Budgets for approval
- Capital planning, construction and maintenance reports
- Contracts in accordance with the Board's Signing Resolutions and the University's Purchasing Policies, excluding externally funded research contract purchases.
- Annual Fees Schedule
- Signing resolutions and designation of the Signing Officers of the University
- Terms of Reference for an Investment Advisory Committee and Members to serve on the Investment Advisory Committee
- Finance and Investment Policies, on the recommendation of the Investment Advisory Committee
- Reports on Performance of Funds
- Terms of Reference for the Investment Advisory Committee and the University Advancement Advisory Board, which are attached to these

Rules as Appendix II and shall be considered part of these Rules, and as such, require notice of motion and two-thirds support for amendment.

- University Advancement Advisory Board reports and membership recommendations.

The Finance & Investment Committee may address other general related matters as appropriate or as directed or referred by the Board or Board Chair.

18. ADVISORY BOARDS

18.1 *The University Act* [RSBC 1996] c. 468 (*the Act*) [s. 34(1)], authorizes the Board of Governors (the Board) to appoint advisory boards, with both internal and external members at the Board's discretion, and as the Board considers necessary. The Board may seek advice and request reports on any subject from an advisory board, as the board considers appropriate.

18.2 Under this authority, the following Advisory Boards have been appointed:

- Invest

19. ANNUAL REVIEW OF BOARD RULES

19.1 The Governance and Human Resources Committee will review these Rules annually and recommend amendments as needed to the Board for approval. As provided herein, amendments to these Rules, including amendments to Committee or Advisory Board Terms of Reference, requires support of two-thirds of the voting members of the Board, present.

INVESTMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. **The Investment Advisory Committee** (the IAC) is a standing committee of the Finance & Investment Committee of the Board of Governors.
2. **Chair** – the IAC will be convened and chaired by the President, or by the Vice-President Finance and Administration, and will meet at least two (2) times a year. Additional meetings may be called on an as-needed basis at the discretion of the Chair.
3. **Membership**

Ex-Officio Members (6)	External Members (5)	Resource (Non-Voting)
President VP Finance & Administration VP Research & Innovation Chair – Board of Governors Chair – Finance & Investment Committee Associate VP, Financial Services	External Members are appointed by the Board of Governors on recommendation of the Finance & Investment Committee. External members are nominated and appointed based on their relevant and proven investment expertise and knowledge of investment concepts and activities applicable to public sector organizations	Manager Treasury Service – Committee Secretary Governance Officer (recording)

4. **Term** – *Ex-Officio* Members sit by virtue of their office, and their Term on the IAC is dependent on their incumbency in that office. The Term for External Members is three (3) years. There is no limitation on the number of renewal terms an external member may serve, but the Finance & Investment Committee will develop, update and consider an Investment Advisory Committee Competency Matrix in recommending renewals and appointments to the Board.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS – FINANCE & INVESTMENT COMMITTEE
INVESTMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE – JUNE 2021

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5. **Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest** – Given the confidential nature of information that may be made available to the IAC, Members will be required to sign a Code of Conduct, which will include Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest provisions. Current form of the Code is attached here as Schedule A.

The Chair of the IAC has the authority to direct any member of the IAC to recuse him or herself from a meeting, or discussion within a meeting, should the Chair believe that such member has a real or potential conflict of interest with respect to any subject or material to be reviewed or addressed by the IAC.

6. **Quorum** – Quorum is a majority of the current voting members, and must include 2 External Members and 1 of either the Chair of the Board of Governors or the Chair of the Finance & Investment Committee.
7. **Mandate** – The IAC makes recommendations to the Finance & Investment Committee, which the Finance & Investment Committee, in accordance with its authority may accept, reject or recommend on to the Board of Governors for approval:

The IAC will:

- Review UNBC's Investment Policies and practices and recommend revisions and adjustments as needed
- Review reports on investment related risk assessments or asset / liability studies and recommend revisions or adjustments to policies and practices as appropriate
- Receive information on performance, at least annually
- Provide advice to the President and Board of Governors on investment strategies, and asset mix
- Investigate, raise and address responsible investment concerns

Specifically, the IAC will:

- a) Review University Policy(s) and related guidelines applicable to the investment by the University of endowment funds and other long term investment funds, including expenditure practices and policies and, recommend needed or advisable revisions;
- b) Oversee the selection process for Investment Managers and recommend the appointment of investment management;

BOARD OF GOVERNORS – FINANCE & INVESTMENT COMMITTEE
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- c) At least twice annually review the investment performance of the Investment Manager, and seek professional outside assessment of the University's investment performance as deemed appropriate or required, and;
 - d) At least once annually submit a written report to the Finance & Investment Committee.
8. **Administrative Responsibility** – The Treasury Services Manager acts as Committee Secretary, and will ensure that meetings are called as required, that terms and vacancies are monitored, agendas and meeting materials are prepared, and orientation is provided to new Committee Members.

The Board Governance Officer will serve as recording secretary and will support the Treasury Services Manager in scheduling and preparation of meeting agendas and materials. The Governance Officer will ensure that a current Membership list, including terms of appointment, is kept up to date.

Finance & Investment Committee of the UNBC Board of Governors

UNBC Investment Advisory Committee

CODE OF CONDUCT

The UNBC Investment Advisory Committee (the IAC) advises the Finance & Investment Committee of the UNBC Board of Governors (the UNBC Board). In the course of their deliberations and work, IAC Members will have access to sensitive and confidential investment and financial information and may have access to other personal, proprietary and business information.

IAC Members are expected to treat all such information as confidential, and to demonstrate honesty, integrity and impartiality in carrying out their service on the IAC.

Conduct should instill confidence and trust, not bring the University into disrepute, nor in any way jeopardize vital and valued relationships with donors and others in the UNBC community.

All UNBC Employees and Board Members are subject to Codes of Conduct, and Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest Guidelines. External IAC Members are required to execute this Code of Conduct to indicate their awareness, understanding and agreement with confidentiality restrictions and conflict of interest guidelines.

This Code of Conduct may be amended from time to time on the authority of the Finance & Investment Committee of the UNBC Board of Governors.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The *BC Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* protects the privacy of personal information and the confidentiality of corporate records. It is the responsibility of IAC Members to be aware of, and adhere to the law, demonstrate best practices with respect to confidentiality and protection of privacy, and to adhere to any reasonable and related policies, guidelines and protocols specific to UNBC, which they may from time to time, be made aware of in the course of their service on the IAC.



Confidential information in any form, that Members receive through their service on the IAC, must not be disclosed, released, or transmitted to anyone other than persons who are authorized to receive that information.

The requirement for the proper treatment, handling and protection of confidential information, is applicable both within and outside of the University and continues to apply after an IAC Member's Term ends.

Confidential information that IAC Members receive through their service on the Committee must not be used for the purpose of furthering any private interest, or as a means of making personal gains.

Any IAC Member, who becomes aware of a breach of confidentiality or any loss or unauthorized sharing of personal information or corporate records, has a duty to immediately notify the Chair of the IAC.

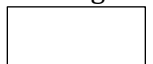
CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND IMPARTIALITY

A conflict of interest occurs when an IAC Member's private affairs or financial interests are in conflict, or could result in a perception of conflict, with that Member's service to the University or advice to the Finance & Investment Committee of the Board of Governors.

IAC Members who find themselves in an actual, potential or perceived, conflict of interest, whether with respect to information that has been, or may be, made available to the IAC, or with respect to a discussion, initiative, investment, campaign, or otherwise, must disclose the conflict of interest, or concern, to the IAC Chair.

Best practice dictates that a Member in a perceived, potential or real conflict of interest should declare the conflict, ask the Recording Secretary to not provide them with related confidential or financial information, return any and all related information that may have been provided to them, and recuse themselves from any meeting, discussion or decision related to the conflict.

In the event a conflict is identified, and not dealt with in the manner outlined above, the IAC Chair, in consultation with the Chair of the Board of Governors and Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee, will determine the appropriate handling of the conflict and may, without limiting their discretion, ask a Member to recuse him/herself from a particular discussion or meeting.



PUBLIC COMMENTS

Only the Chair of the IAC, the Chair of the Board of Governors or the Chair of the Finance & Investment Committee are authorized to make official representations on behalf of the IAC.

The requirement to acknowledge and comply with this Code of Conduct is a condition of a Member's appointment and continued service on the IAC.

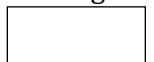
I have read, and I understand and accept the obligations contained in this Code of Conduct.

Further, I understand that my legal obligations with respect to confidentiality and the protection of privacy survive the completion of my Term on the Investment Advisory Committee, or the termination, for any reason, of my service as a Member of the Investment Advisory Committee.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____



Appendix II – Terms of Reference

**University Advancement
Advisory Board (UAAB)**

Approving Authority: Board of Governors
Effective Date: January 27, 2023
Date of Last Review/Revision: May 2025

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1. MEMBERSHIP

- 1.1 The membership of the University Advancement Advisory Board (UAAB) consists of the following:
 - Board of Governors OIC Member, appointed by the Chair of the Board of Governors (Chair of UAAB)
 - President and Vice-Chancellor
 - Senior administrator responsible for Advancement activities
 - A Member of the Alumni Council to be appointed by the Alumni Council
 - Minimum of seven and up to ten Members, who represent a diversity of regional, national, and international businesses and organizations with a demonstrated commitment to northern BC.
 - Manager, Campaign and Major Gifts (Committee Secretary, non-voting)
 - Manager, Philanthropy and Engagement (Recording Secretary, non-voting)
- 1.2 Other individuals may be invited by the UAAB Chair to attend all or any part of a meeting.
- 1.3 Any member of the Board of Governors (Board) or UAAB may nominate an individual for membership on the UAAB by forwarding the name of the nominee and appropriate supporting information to the UAAB Committee Secretary.
- 1.4 UAAB members must be recommended to the Finance and Investment Committee, who recommend approval to the Board.
- 1.5 The term of appointment of members of UAAB is three years, renewable for an additional two terms up to a maximum of nine years.
- 1.6 In the event that a UAAB member is also a Board member and is removed from the Board, they will be removed from the UAAB.

2. MEETING FREQUENCY

- 2.1 UAAB meets at least three times annually. Additional meetings may be called by the Chair.

3. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

UAAB is established by the Board and is accountable to the Board through the UAAB Chair. UAAB advises and assists the Board in advancing the mission and reputation of the University through community and business relations, alumni engagement, fundraising, donor relations and stewardship, and government relations. The responsibilities of UAAB include the following:

- 3.1 provide introductions to further develop prospects in support of the strategic plan;
- 3.2 connect the University to regional, national and international individuals, businesses and organizations for the purpose of enhancing relationships, fundraising, fostering partnerships and positive connections to the University;
- 3.3 identify opportunities for the University related to fundraising, special project development, recruitment, and alumni relations;
- 3.4 provide guidance and support to ensure the University safeguards and enhances its reputation, identity, brand, and profile;
- 3.5 where appropriate, invite friends of the University to support advancement initiatives;
- 3.6 propose and evaluate fundraising initiatives;
- 3.7 provide advice on the stewardship of donors;
- 3.8 advise on the development of relevant policies; and
- 3.9 provide relevant reports for the University community and the Board.

4. CONDUCT AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- 4.1 Given the high-profile role of the UAAB and the confidential nature of information that may be made available to the UAAB, members are required to agree to the terms of a Code of Conduct, which includes confidentiality and conflict of interest provisions.
- 4.2 Should an individual not do so independently, the Chair has the authority to direct any member of the UAAB to recuse themselves from a meeting, or discussion within a meeting, should the Chair believe that such member has a real or potential conflict of interest with respect to any subject or material to be reviewed or addressed by the UAAB.

5. REVIEWS

UAAB conducts an annual self-assessment of its performance against these Terms of Reference and reports its findings to the Finance and Investment Committee of the Board, and may recommend amendments to the Terms of Reference to that Committee.

6. REPORTING

The UAAB provides relevant reports at a minimum twice annually to the Board through the Finance and Investment Committee.

7. COMMITTEE SUPPORT

The Manager, Campaign and Major Gifts is the Committee Secretary, and the Manager, Philanthropy and Engagement is the Recording Secretary and provides administrative support to UAAB.

Appendix III – Delegation of Board Authority

The Board has delegated the following authorities:

1. Delegation of Authority to the President to Approve Fees – approved on an annual basis on recommendation of the Finance and Investment Committee. Report to be submitted by the Office of the President at the first meeting of the Board following the approval of the fees.
2. [Board of Governors Appointment Delegation Policy](#)

The Board of Governors delegates to the President or designate the authority to appoint:

- i. faculty requiring membership to the Faculty Association;
- ii. academic and administrative associate vice-presidents, and vice provosts;
- iii. administrative executive directors, directors and managers; and
- iv. university librarian, deans, university registrar, associate deans, and academic directors;

The Board of Governors delegates the appropriate Vice President or designate the authority to appoint the following positions:

- i. academic services;
- ii. staff requiring membership to CUPE 3799 or CUPE 2278;
- iii. exempt administrative employees; and
- iv student employees.

Reporting is to be done quarterly to ensure information is being received and the Board's fiduciary responsibilities are being met.

3. [Protection of Privacy Policy](#)

Through this Policy, the Board of Governors designates the President as the head of the public body under the *Act*.

In accordance with section 66 of the *Act*, the President may delegate the duties of Privacy Officer to an employee or employees through a formal written document. A

memo outlining any such delegation must be copied to the Chair of the Board of Governors, and maintained in the records of the Board of Governors.

4. Signing Authority

Generally exercise all rights, powers and authorities which the Board of Governors might or could exercise under the authority of the University of Northern British Columbia's Act and the laws governing the University of Northern British Columbia in the University's dealings with its banker.

5. Signing Authority

In special circumstances (and for limited time periods only), signing authority may be delegated to others, in strict accordance with the Procedures enacted under this Policy. Delegation must be done in writing and clearly specify the extent of authority delegated and any restrictions placed thereon. Delegation of signing authority does not alter the responsibility for expenditures.