Key Purposes

To understand governance at the University of Alberta

To spark interest in those considering getting involved and highlight the role you could play in university decision making

To give interest in those considering more involvement in governance committees – or to those who have already ‘jumped-in’ with access to information

To provide insight into the rationale behind the process and preparation behind the decisions and why ‘good’ material makes a big difference

To learn something about governance at the University of Alberta
History of the University of Alberta

www.ualbertacentennial.ca
What is Governance?

• **processes and practices** through which an entity organizes itself to achieve its mandate.

• **structures and procedures** for decision-making, accountability, control and codes of conduct.

• **How? Through legislation, policies and by-laws, and informal norms.**

• **GOAL** - of effective governance is an organization that achieves peak performance and is accountable to the people it serves.
Governance – that is, how an educational community defines its mission, identifies its challenges, develops its strategies, involves its stakeholders, and makes its decisions – determines whether a school can thrive.

- G Douglass Lewis

“Governance of good relationships”

- Harold Cardinal
Governance at a University –
  works because of the participation and engagement of many

For GFC and its standing committees, there are 370 members of our community who serve

For the Board, we have about 40 members (21 on the Board and External members)

Members serve the ‘institution’
  Not their particular constituency group

Each of the stakeholders and Faculties also have a number of structures and processes - all of which depend on an engaged community of members!
System of governance that depends heavily upon the participation of colleagues to establish and realize a shared purpose.

Provides an opportunity for citizens to participate in decision-making, and it is the hallmark of academic decision-making.
In Alberta, authority is transferred from the Province to the University by means of legislation.

As noted, the central legislative piece for Alberta universities is the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* of 2004.

Although there are many checks and balances, the University is an autonomous entity and its own corporation, continued by Provincial legislation.
Proclaimed in 2004 (combined and updated four separate Acts into one comprehensive piece of legislation)

Advances concept of Campus Alberta by taking Alberta’s post-secondary system into the future: accessible, flexible, and responsive, regardless of where a student chooses to learn
• Works with post-secondary institutions to ensure all Albertans have access to high quality learning opportunities
Accountable to the Minister and governed under the authority of the Post-Secondary Learning Act

Funded in part by government through operating and other types of grants

May also generate revenue from:
- tuition and fees
- ancillary services
- sponsored research funding
- investments and donations
The University of Alberta exercises its authority with a governance structure of three branches:

- Legislative Branch
- Executive Branch
- Judicial Branch

- Each branch has its own set of decision-making groups and officers.
- And each branch operates with a set of ‘rules’ – and committees have their own terms of reference as a guide.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEGISLATIVE</th>
<th>EXECUTIVE</th>
<th>JUDICIAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Makes broad guiding decisions, e.g., mission, mandate, academic plan, policy</td>
<td>Develops proposals for Legislative Branch</td>
<td>Sits in judgment on individual cases independent of the Legislative or Executive Branch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Implements the decisions of the Legislative Branch</td>
<td>Acts in accord with judicial policies passed by Legislative Branch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Develops procedures, regulations and guidelines</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oversees operations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**
Debates and passes policies

- Board*
- GFC*
- Faculty Councils*
- Department Councils

**EXECUTIVE BRANCH**
Proposes policy to Legislative Branch - Carries out policies

- President
- Provost and VP (Academic)
- Deans and some Directors
- Dept Chairs
- Faculty & Staff
- Most Directors
- Staff

**JUDICIAL BRANCH**

- Students (GFC)
  - Academic Standing
  - Discipline
  - Practicum placement/safety

- Academic Staff (Board of Governors)
  - Article 16 of Board/AASUA Agreements

- Non-Academic Staff (Board of Governors)
  - Discipline and Grievance Articles of Board/NASA Agreements

*Named in the PSLA
The most common means for governance to identify and realize shared purpose is through the identification of guiding frameworks, such as the Institutional Strategic Plan: *For the Public Good*, Comprehensive Institutional Plan (CIP), Faculty plans, and business plans.

These guiding frameworks inform and influence all institutional decision-making.
Authority Frameworks

Guiding authorities which influence decision-making:

- Legislation
- Staff agreements
- Mandate, vision, the academic plan, business plans
- The University Calendar
- Policy and procedure
- Governance committees
- Terms of reference
The general operating practices of the University are found in:

- University of Alberta Policies and Procedures On-Line (UAPPOL)
- General Faculties Council Policy Manual
- University Calendar
- Staff Agreements
University of Alberta Policies and Procedures On-Line (UAPPOL)

- UAPPOL (pronounced “you apple”) is a central repository in SharePoint for University of Alberta policies and procedures, except for those found in the University Calendar and Staff Agreements. Please be aware that UAPPOL is the official repository for these documents (there is no “official hard copy”)

- Policies exist to protect both you and the University. Please be aware that you have an obligation to comply with University policy and procedure

- The work of populating UAPPOL is ongoing. There is currently material in transition to UAPPOL from the General Faculties Council (GFC) Policy Manual
Governance processes vary, but here are some examples:

- Creation of governance instruments to guide decision-making, articulate decisions, or to create an authority to allow for decision implementation

- Developing advisory groups or consultative processes to enrich decision-making
A governance instrument is a means to exercise authority.
It can, for example: empower, limit, delegate, authorize, prescribe, or prohibit.

The most common examples:
- a resolution
- a delegation
- a policy
- an agreement, such as a memorandum of agreement or a collective agreement

These examples clearly articulate goals to be implemented.
The University of Alberta governs itself with a **bicameral** governance structure (literally, it is governance in two chambers):

- The two governing bodies are the [Board of Governors](#) and [General Faculties Council](#)

- Although the Board is the senior of the two, the Board and GFC share and balance power within the University

The [University Governance unit](#), under the direction of the University Secretary, provides support for all areas of the Board and GFC
The Board has senior oversight of the institution; it concerns itself with the long-range planning and the business affairs of the institution.

- Examples of its role are the approval of the mandate, the budget, tuition fees, financial statements, investment policy, collective agreements, and the appointment of the President.

General Faculties Council, subject to the authority of the board, is responsible for the academic affairs of the university.

- Examples of its role are granting degrees, approval of the academic plan, academic programs, academic policies, academic calendar, academic awards, and hearing and determining student appeals.
Board of Governors

- Autonomous
- Composed of 21 members who represent groups including students, staff, alumni, and the public
- Members are appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council and the Minister
- Must follow the approved mandate of the institution
The **Alberta Public Agencies Governance Act** (APAGA) (received Royal Assent on June 4, 2009 and was proclaimed in June 2013). APAGA requires that all public agencies have a Mandate and Roles Document.

The University of Alberta’s Mandate and Roles Document was approved initially in 2010 and is reviewed annually by the Board.

The document describes:

- the mandate of the University
- the roles of Government and the University
- the accountability chain
- a process for annual reaffirmation of mandate documents
- how the renewal of mandate documents will occur
Board of Governors Organization

Board of Governors

Audit (BAC)
Finance & Property (BFPC)
Human Resources & Compensation (BHRCC)
Investment (BIC)
Learning & Discovery (BLDC)
Safety, Health & Environment (BSHEC)
University Relations Committee (BURC)
General Faculties Council (GFC)

Legislative body dealing with academic and student affairs

**Composition**
- 158 members
  - Statutory members by virtue of their office (ex officio) or elected
  - Appointed members (appointed by Statutory members)

**Authority**
- New Faculties, Schools, Departments, Programs
- Admissions, the Calendar
- Academic Schedule/Exam timetable
- Budget
- Conferring degrees (except Honorary)
- Appeals
- Processes associated with appointments, promotions, dismissals, salaries and tenure
GFC Standing Committees

- Academic Planning Committee (APC)
- Academic Standards Committee (ASC)
- Campus Law Review Committee (CLRC)
- Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE)
- Executive Committee (EXEC)
- Facilities Development Committee (FDC)
- Nominating Committee (NC)
- Replenishment Committee (RC)
- Undergraduate Awards and Scholarship Committee (UASC)
- University Teaching Awards Committee (UTAC)
Ad Hoc Committee’s Four Guiding Documents (approved by GFC on April 21, 2017):

**Principles for General Faculties Council Delegation of Authority**

**Principles for General Faculties Council Standing Committee Composition**

**Roles and Responsibilities of Members**

**Meeting Procedural Rules**
The Board of Governors and the Board Standing Committees operate under Robert’s Rules of Order. In addition, the Board of Governors has enacted General Terms of Reference for Board Standing Committees.

The General Faculties Council and the GFC Standing Committees have enacted Terms of Reference and attendant procedural rules to carry out its responsibilities. Roberts Rules are the ‘last’ reference!
Share 7 Members In Common

- President
- SU President
- GSA President
- Undergraduate student nominee
- Nominee – AASUA
- Nominee – NASA
- Nominee – GFC

Each GFC Agenda – receives a report from the Board

Each Board Agenda – receives a report from GFC
GFC Committees Dealing With:

**STUDENT ACADEMIC STANDING AND DISCIPLINE**

- **Academic Appeals Committee**: final level of appeal for students wishing to appeal Faculty decisions on matters of academic standing, as outlined in the academic appeals policy.

- **Practice Review Board**: deals with appeals from students who have been withdrawn from practicum placements, as outlined in the Practicum Intervention Policy.

- **University Appeal Board**: final level of appeal for students and student groups charged under the Code of Student Behaviour or applicants charged under the Code of Applicant Behaviour.

- **Other graduate student discipline matters**
Required by the Post-Secondary Learning Act

Advisory to:

• President
• Board of Governors
• General Faculties Council

Members include:

• President
• Vice-Presidents
• Dean of each Faculty
• Other administrators
Faculty or School Councils:

- Required for each Faculty and School
- Members include the President and all of the School or Faculty’s full-time academic staff

Student Affairs:

- Students Association (Students’ Union)
- Graduate Students’ Association
Important Stakeholders

- Association of Academic Staff University of Alberta (AASUA)
- Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA)
- Postdoctoral Fellows Association (PDFA)
- Alumni Association (governing body: Alumni Council)
Elects a **Chancellor** for a 4-year term

- represents the University at ceremonial occasions
- presides over all degree-conferring ceremonies
- chairs Senate meetings

The **President** serves as the Vice-Chancellor

**61 members**, including 30 members of the public
Mandate: “To inquire, promote and connect.”

Senate Strategic Plan 2008-2012

Senator Roles (ABCs):
- Ambassador
- Advocate
- Bridge-Builder
- Catalyst
- Celebrant
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION
THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENTS

- President and Vice-Presidents are appointed by the Board of Governors.
- President – has overall supervision and direction of the operation of the institution. President – Chief Executive Officer.
- Provost and VP (A) – Chief Operating Officer and Chief Academic Officer.
- Sources of Authority for the President and Vice-Presidents:
  - PSLA
  - Job Descriptions (approved by the Board)
  - Delegations of Authority – from the Board and GFC
Universities have developed a unique governance model in order to exercise authority to serve their interests.

It is important, when you are involved in governance, to remember that you serve the greater good of the entire institution.

A definition of governance that is suitable for the university setting:

* A collective effort, through smooth and suitable process, to take actions that advance a shared purpose consistent with the institution’s mission.  
  - Chait, Holland and Taylor, 1996
University Governance

Governance is the processes and practices through which an entity organizes itself to achieve its mandate. It is concerned with the structures and procedures for decision-making, accountability, control and codes of conduct. It is expressed through legislation, policies and by-laws, and informal norms. The goal of effective governance is a robust organization that achieves peak performance and is accountable to the people it serves.

The University of Alberta governs itself with a bi-cameral governance structure, as set out in the Alberta Post-Secondary Learning Act. The Board of Governors has authority for business governance and the General Faculties Council (GFC) has authority for academic governance.

While senior authority rests with the Board of Governors, the Board and GFC conduct their affairs effectively, respecting jurisdictional borders, capitalizing on shared interests, balancing and sharing authority, within a civil and productive relationship based upon a mutual desire to serve the greater good of the institution. More...
University Governance
Main Office
Tel: 780.492.4262
3-04 South Academic Building
University of Alberta
Edmonton, AB
T6G 2G7

Michael Phair, Chair, Board of Governors
Tel: 780.492.4262
3-04 South Academic Building
University of Alberta
Edmonton, AB
T6G 2G7