

SENATE MINUTES

Wednesday, March 29, 2023, 10:00 – 11:20 am
ECU Boardroom / Online via Zoom webinar

ATTENDANCE

Voting Members:

Gillian Siddall (Chair)	Vanessa Kam
Trish Kelly (Vice-Chair)	Justin Langlois
Diyan Achjadi	Pierre Leichner
Eugenia Bertulis	Kyla Mallett
Kevin Bird	Rachelle Sawatsky
Cameron Cartiere	Ishika Tripathi
Isabella Dagnino	Danielle Zandvliet
Jenie Gao	Cybèle Creery
Celeste Martin	
Kashish Hukku Jani	
Chris Jones	

Regrets: Ben Reeves, Louise St. Pierre, Sophie Gaur, Mimi Gellman, Carleen Thomas

Guests/Support: Jacqueline Turner (Chair, Academic Planning and Priorities Committee), Henry Tsang (Chair, Curriculum Planning and Review Committee), Viktor Sokha (Vice-President, Finance + Administration), Natasha Himer (University Secretary), Holly Lewis (Assistant, University Secretary + President's Office), Bessie Chow (Governance Support), Jacob Hrajnik (Technical Support)

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1. **Call to Order** – The Chair, Gillian Siddall, called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.

2. **Agenda Approval**

MOVED / SECONDED that the Agenda of the March 29, 2023 Senate meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3. **Past Minutes**

MOVED / SECONDED that Senate approve the Minutes of the Senate Meeting of February 22, 2023 as circulated.

CARRIED
with 1 abstention (Kyla Mallett)

On behalf of the Executive Committee, the Chair remarked on the importance of keeping the Senate apprised of Board renewal. On that note, she reported on the recent departure of Lieutenant Governor-in-Council-appointed Megan Ellis, and the arrival of newly appointed, Don Avison. Two vacancies remain on the Board.

II. BUSINESS

1. ECU Graduating Class of 2023

K. Bird presented a list of confidential candidates for graduation at the 2023 convocation.

MOVED/SECONDED that Senate approve the ECU Graduating Class of 2023: the following candidates are presented to the Senate of Emily Carr University for the conferral of their respective Emily Carr University degrees following successful completion of all required coursework.

No questions or comments were made on this motion.

MOTION CARRIED

2. Academic Planning and Priorities Committee Report

It was noted that the report by Committee Chair, Jacqueline Turner, was included in the agenda briefing materials. No questions or comments were raised on the report by Senate members.

3. Curriculum Planning and Review Committee Report

It was noted that the report by Committee Chair, Henry Tsang, was included in the agenda briefing materials. No questions nor comments were raised on the report by Senate members.

4. Nominations Committee Report

Trish Kelly, Chair of the Nominations Committee, reported on two orders of business from the Committee's meeting on March 2, 2023: (1) filling vacancies on Senate Committees; and (2) the educational mandate. On the former, the Committee will be reaching out to relevant constituencies for nominations. On the latter, it was emphasized that the Committee is looking to support greater community understanding of ECU's governance structure and more specifically encourage participation on Senate committees. The Senate will be invited to provide feedback as the process develops.

No questions or comments were made on this report.

5. Research Advisory Committee Report

Justin Langlois, Chair of the Research Advisory Committee, reported that following Senate's approval of the 2023-28 Strategic Research Plan (SRP), the Committee is considering the question of a permanent standing committee for research. The Committee intends to provide a report at the next Senate meeting.

No questions or comments were made on this report.

6. Alumni Association Report

Pierre Leichner, member representative of the Alumni Association, reported that the University has been invited to exhibit alumni works at the BMO Arts Centre. The Association will be meeting on March 30, 2023 to determine a selection process for the exhibit.

In response to a question, P. Leichner confirmed that the invitation will include all ECU alumni.

7. Senate Chair's Report

G. Siddall reported on the following:

- Preparations are underway for the May 10 convocation and graduate show. Senators, faculty and staff were all encouraged to attend. Appreciation was also expressed for all those who have been helping with preparations.
- The Climate Action Task Force, led by faculty members Craig Badke and Julie Andreyev, and Visual Arts student-now-alumni, Erick Jantzen, are reviewing the draft action plan for consistency, refinements and the addition of appropriate measures; a presentation will be brought forward to the Senate.
- Consultations under the Strategic Planning process are nearing completion. The committee is working on reviewing the results and next steps towards a draft plan. A presentation will be brought forward to Senate soon.
- The Board will be meeting on March 30 for final approval of the 2023-24 Budget. As part of the President's responsibilities, G. Siddall will report on the discussions from the Senate and Senate Budget Committee. Accordingly, the Senate Budget Committee meeting scheduled for April 26, 2023, will be released. G. Siddall underlined that the 2023-24 Budget will be a deficit budget of approximately (\$1.036 million), including an assumption of \$2 million in one-time funding from the government; the Ministry has also approved the University's plans for a deficit budget.

Questions and comments were raised about the 2023-24 Budget for Board approval. Concerns were raised about specific requests made by Senate Budget Committee members prior to moving forward to Board approval. G. Siddall highlighted that general issues raised by the Committee are shared with the Board via the President's report. Management noted no substantial impact on the operating budget for approval based on the Committee's discussions. It was further noted that the concerns raised by the Committee relate to broader conversations about student support, which are expected to continue with more understanding of specific needs and impact on other strategic and operational decisions.

It was suggested that more information be provided via the Money Matters sessions and to the Senate on all funds (e.g., capital, trust, operating, etc.) to enable a more holistic understanding of the University's financial picture. Management described work underway to develop regular modules for Money Matters sessions and provide more structural opportunities for community members to learn about the University's financial systems. In response to a question about the recent combined session for faculty, staff and students with only two days' notice, Management acknowledged that. The scheduling of consultation sessions (of which there have been many more this year than in previous years), including changes in the Committee's (and Board's) meeting dates from April to March, were associated with adjustments to the budget planning timeline. It was noted that 2022-23 is a transition year to align budget approvals prior to the beginning of the next fiscal year. The revised timeline will take effect immediately for the following year and allow for many more opportunities for consultation with both students and faculty, beginning in September. G. Siddall added that the Communications team is also working on plans to make ECU's financial and related information more accessible.

8. Vice-President, Academic and Provost's Report

Trish Kelly, Vice-President, Academic and Provost, reported on the following:

- The University is amid an intense hiring period, especially for faculty positions, which is hoped to be completed by the end of the term. Search for a Dean, Culture and Communications, will also be opened soon.
- Work on direct-entry initiatives under Strategic Enrollment Management is on track, with thanks to Kevin Bird, Director, Recruitment, Admissions + International Development, and his team.

- The Quality Assurance Process Audit Steering Committee (Chelsea Hug, Manager of Operations and Analysis, Academic Affairs; Celeste Martin, Dean of Design and Dynamic Media; and Heather Fitzgerald, Senior Advisor, Teaching and Learning) is working on gathering feedback on actions recommended by the audit report for the University's response back to the Ministry by late May.
- Work is underway on plans to move the course evaluation online to enable more dynamic updates to questions, as well as better data analysis. The shift will result in moving course evaluation from Human Resources to Academic Affairs, with HR access to personnel-related statistics. The new system is anticipated to go live in September.
- Staff announcements: Catherine Horan is retiring at the end of April; Danielle Zandvliet has moved from Student Services to Academic Affairs as Interim Director, Records, Registration and Advising.

There were no questions or comments on this report.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

G. Siddall noted the federal budget was released on March 28, 2023 with disappointing results in terms of scholarships for graduate students and innovative research. She indicated that, as a member of Universities Canada, a membership organization for university presidents advocating for higher education, research and innovation, there are ongoing efforts to communicate the need for more support for these scholarships, which have not increased in 20 years and are significantly behind other countries.

IV. OPEN FORUM

A request was made to resume the Senate Budget Committee meeting on April 26 and to inform the Board of the Senate's unfilled requests for additional information prior to the presentation of final budget for approval. The Chair requested clarification between directives by the Committee as a whole, versus requests by individual members.

Discussion ensued about the specific requests from the previous meeting, which were stated to include more information relating to the total funds available for student support; a breakdown of expenses included under Curriculum and Technical Support; information on expenses of the Alumni Association and by department; and information on wage increases for working students limited to 28 hours/week. It was requested that formal motions for Senate consideration be provided in written form to all Senate members.

A break was held from 10:51 am to 10:57 am to allow the motions to be delivered to the University Secretary, who then printed copies and distributed them to Senators.

- (1) Be it resolved that Senate Budget recommend that the budget be revised to increase student awards from 1% of expenses to 5% of expenses, from \$322,268 to \$1,611,340.
- (2) Be it further resolved that Senate Budget recommend a more detailed breakdown of the budget to include the following before the budget can be voted on for approval:
 - Further breakdown of Curriculum and Tech category
 - Expenses per department (undergraduate, graduate and department majors)

Following a reading of the motions, it was directed that they be divided due to the different requests inherent in each.

MOVED / SECONDED that Senate Budget recommend that the budget be revised to increase student awards from 1% of expenses to 5% of expenses, from \$322,268 to \$1,611,340.

V. Sokha presented a table of figures showing the funds for student awards available from the

operating, special purpose and trust funds. He indicated that the total figure is close to that requested in the above motion. He cautioned, however, that funds from the Foundation cannot be directed as the latter is a separate legal entity. T. Kelly added that the Foundation is engaging in various fundraising efforts to seek additional funds for students, which may result in greater figures. Management further noted that the figures being displayed are only those intended to help students offset costs and do not include other student support, such as student wages. It was acknowledged that the spirit of the motion's request is related to the University's efforts to support students with the impact of tuition fee increases. The importance of understanding the specific needs to be addressed with each spending allocation was emphasized, with consideration of the risks associated with not meeting the need with the proposed amount and taking away funds from other critical operating areas.

The Senate proceeded to a lengthy discussion with questions about the impact of the proposed increase in student awards on the overall operating budget and budget process. Management clarified that the Senate does not have the authority to revise the budget but can make recommendations to the Board to direct Management to do so. It was noted that the increase may result in an overall deficit of over \$2 million for the University. Concern was expressed about the arbitrary nature of the proposed increase in student awards, without evidence of which or how many students would be impacted by the tuition hike. Support was expressed for the spirit of the motion, especially with respect to the impact of tuition increases on more vulnerable students and the University's stated commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion, Indigenization, and accessibility. A question was posed about whether the issues being raised were symptoms of broader socio-economic-political problems and what support may be considered to help relay these concerns to the Ministry. V. Sokha clarified that the impact of the tuition increases would be more relevant for new students rather than existing students (30% for new international students vs. 10% for domestic)

MOTION FAILED

G. Siddall thanked everyone for sharing their thoughts and reiterated that the Senate's discussion will be relayed to the Board regardless of the voting results.

In light of the meeting running over time, there was insufficient time to table and discuss the second motion. Management confirmed that per the actions recorded from the March 6, 2023 Senate Budget Committee meeting, an additional breakdown for the Curriculum and Technical Support has been prepared for inclusion in the final budget package for the Board. T. Kelly remarked on the complexities that would be involved in preparing a detailed breakdown by department due to considerations of differences between direct and indirect costs.

A suggestion was made for going forward, that the Senate Budget Committee have an opportunity to review the same version of the budget material to be presented to the Board for the latter's approval. It was remarked that this would be a good item to add to the Governance Committee's tasks on consideration of best practices in consultation.

V. NEXT MEETING: May 3, 2023

VI. MOTION: ADJOURN – The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 am.