

## AGENDA

### BOARD OF GOVERNORS — OPEN SESSION

**Thursday, June 27, 2024 — 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Main Boardroom (D2315) and via Zoom

Join the Webinar:

<https://emilycarru.zoom.us/j/68317052005?pwd=WFFJWXcxZkdzQ2ovNzRoSERkUGNsUT09>

Webinar ID: 683 1705 2005

Passcode: 315090

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***Territorial Acknowledgement:*** *We respectfully acknowledge that Emily Carr University is situated on the unceded, traditional and ancestral territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.*

#### I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1. Call to Order Don Avison, Board Chair

2. APPROVAL: Adoption of the Agenda Chair

**MOTION: That the agenda for the Board Open Session of June 27, 2024 be approved as presented.**

3. APPROVAL: Past Meeting Minutes Chair

- ***Attachment:*** *Draft Minutes of the Board Open Session of May 29, 2024 (pp. 3-7)*

**MOTION: That the Minutes of the Board Open Session of May 29, 2024 be approved as presented.**

#### II. BUSINESS ARISING

1. Chair's Remarks Chair

2. President's Remarks Dr. Trish Kelly,  
President + Vice Chancellor

#### III. BUSINESS

1. UPDATE/APPROVAL: Carry Forward of Wellness Kitchen Motion from March 2024, and Requested Update on Student Food Security and Well Being Chair/  
President Kelly/  
D. Achjadi,  
Interim VP  
Academic +  
Provost

- ***Attachments:*** *Briefing Note (pp. 8-10)*
- *Wellness Kitchen Motion*

**MOTION:** see attachment on page 11

**2. APPROVAL:** Updates to Policy 5.1 Ethics in Research

- **Attachments:** Briefing Note Policy 5.1 (pp. 12-13)
- *New Policy 5.1: Research Administration, Ethics, and Conduct (pp. 14-17)*
- *Current Policy 5.1 Ethics in Research (pp. 18)*

Keith Reynolds,  
Governance  
Committee Chair/  
Natasha Himer,  
University  
Secretary

**MOTION: That the Board, on the recommendation of the Governance Committee, approve revised Policy 5.1: Research Administration, Ethics, and Conduct.**

**3. APPROVAL:** Employee Safe Disclosure - Public Interest Disclosure Act (PIDA) Policy

- **Attachments:** Briefing Note PIDA Policy (pp. 19-20)
- *New Policy 8.12 Employee Safe Disclosure under PIDA (pp. 21-26)*

Governance  
Committee Chair/  
Adrian Tees, AVP,  
Human Resources

**MOTION: That the Board, on the recommendation of the Governance Committee, approve new Policy 8.12: Employee Safe Disclosure Policy – Public Interest Disclosure Act.**

**4. APPROVAL:** Institutional Accountability Plan and Report (IAPR) 2023-24

N. Himer

**MOTION: That the Board confirm delegation of review and decision-making authority to the Executive + Human Resources Committee to approve the draft 2023-24 ECU Institutional Accountability Plan and Report for submission to the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills.**

**IV. REPORTS**

**1. President + Vice-Chancellor Report (pp. 27)**

President Kelly

**2. Vice-President, Finance + Administration Report (pp. 28-29)**

V. Sokha,

**3. Interim Vice-President, Academic + Provost Report (pp. 30-33)**

D. Achjadi

**V. OTHER BUSINESS**

**VI. NEXT MEETING: Thursday, September 26, 2024**

*[Secretary's Note: Possible meeting date change to be confirmed]*

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Thursday, May 29, 2024 — 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
via Zoom webinar

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**ATTENDANCE:****Board Members:**

Don Avison (Board Chair)  
Trish Kelly (Interim President + Vice Chancellor)  
Lorcan O'Melinn (Vice-Chair)  
Lindsay McIntyre

Keith Reynolds  
Sung Van  
Alex Phillips  
Natasha Tony  
Mary Macaulay

**Regrets:** Esther Rausenberg, Ishika Tripathi, Gaye Fowler, Carleen Thomas, Parnian Anaa, Brenda Crabtree

**Resources and/or Guests:** Diyan Achjadi (Interim Vice-President, Academic + Provost), Viktor Sokha (Vice-President, Finance + Administration), Mark Douglas (Executive Director, Financial Services), Natasha Himer (University Secretary), Nicole Shin (Associate University Secretary, Recording Secretary), Alexander Muir (IT Support)

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**I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

1. Call to Order — Don Avison, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 2:50 p.m.
2. Adoption of the Agenda

**MOTION: That the Agenda for the Board Open Session of May 29, 2024 be approved as presented.**

**Moved / Seconded**

**Carried.**

3. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes – Open Session

**MOTION: That the Minutes of the Board Open Session of March 28, 2024 be approved as presented.**

**Moved / Seconded**

**Carried.**

**II. BUSINESS ARISING**

1. Chair's Remarks

The Chair shared the following congratulations on behalf of the Board:

- He congratulated student Board member Ishika Tripathi on graduating at May convocation.
- He congratulated Esther Rausenberg who was presented with the BC Achievement Foundation Community Achievement Award in May (for 2023). The award is presented as a means of "honouring excellence and inspiring achievement in community service and leadership." E. Rausenberg was recognized for her service, highlighting her stewardship of the Eastside Arts Society and working as an advocate for the arts and artists.

The Chair reported that Lorcan O'Melinn, Mary Macaulay and Sung Van have been reappointed to the Board; that Parnian Anaa has been re-elected as a student Board member and the Board will also be welcoming a newly elected student Board member, Eknoor Matharoo in September.

## 2. Interim President's Updates

T. Kelly reported on a busy month of May which involved several keystone for the University.

- She congratulated the graduating class of 2024, sharing that approximately 440 undergraduate and graduate students crossed the stage at convocation.
- ECU saw a number of visitors on campus to view and celebrate the work of the graduating class at the Grad Show. Crit Night, also held during the Grad Show on May 15<sup>th</sup>, provided an special opportunity for 24 local curators and students to come together and meet.
- ECU hosted the annual donor recognition event on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, which provides an opportunity to give recognition to donors and supporters of the University and for ECU supporters to connect more directly with students and to see the impact of their generous contributions.

T. Kelly previewed activities to come over the summer months, highlighting i) the Teen Programs, which offers engaging and accessible art, media and design studios for youth through Continuing Studies, and ii) the start of the low-residency MFA graduate student program commencing in July.

## 3. Budget Update

It was noted that items 3 & 4 be reported out together.

L. O'Melinn, Chair of the Audit + Finance Committee of the Board (the AFC) reported that the Audit + Finance Committee was informed that the year end results are very close to what the University had budgeted for 2023/24 within \$60,000 on an all-fund basis (deficit of \$411,325 improvement over budgeted deficit of \$470,558).

He noted that the majority of the variance is within the University's grants and salaries and is directly related to the shared recovery mandate and the collective agreement that were ratified during the year.

It was also explained that the 3% decline in projected tuition was due to international student enrolments but it is important to note that ECU did meet the registration targets and most of the cost was off set by improvements from domestic undergraduate, master's program and Continuing Studies.

M. Douglas provided additional details:

- The shortfall in tuition was offset by an improvement in investment in GNW campus trust, which did much better than budgeted;
- There was an increase in interest revenue that is directly related to improved interest rates over the last year;
- There were a number of hiring set backs this year, much of it was due to staff turnover both expected and unexpected but most positions were filled by the end of the year;
- There was significant increase to the vacation accruals, however, it is important to differentiate that this is due to the increase to salary and not to the number of hours accrued;
- Scholarship and bursaries award by the University were more than budgeted because of the number of special provincial grants that were received; and
- At the request of donors, there were endowment and investment transfers to the Vancouver Foundation during the year to obtain a more favourable return on investment, which was not budgeted.

There was a conversation regarding how the instruction vs. instruction support is captured under expenses. A Board member mentioned that it may be helpful to break down the categories further and define what those expenses entail. Management noted that the current reporting structure is in relation to our deficient mitigation efforts.

L. McIntyre requested further clarification on the financial activity for the University's Continuing Studies programing. M. Douglas noted that the financial activity does present a shortfall of \$131,542 when comparing budget to actual activity.

A. Phillips asked what is considered a non-salary research expense. The Chair responded that it is an ancillary cost that is related to research activity that is not directly related to salary.

#### 4. 2023/24 Financial Statements

L. O'Melinn reported that the University received a clean opinion from the auditors and that there were no areas of concern raised at AFC.

**MOTION: That the Board, on the recommendation of the Audit + Finance Committee, approve the audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended March 31, 2024, as presented.**

**Moved / Seconded**

**Carried.**

5. ECU Annual Report on Forced Labour and Child Labour

L. O'Melinn reported that on January 1, 2024, the *Fighting Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains Act* was enacted by the Federal Government. This Act imposes an obligation on certain entities to report on the measures taken in the previous fiscal year to prevent and reduce the risk that forced labour or child labour is used by them or in their supply chains.

This is the first year ECU is producing this report. ECU has a risk management framework in place and no risks related to forced labour or child labour have been identified. The University has reviewed the items it imported during the year, including the countries of origin, and feels that the risk of forced labour or child labour in the production of these goods is low.

He reported that AFC has reviewed the report and is recommending for Board approval.

The report must be approved by the organization's governing body and attested to, before it is submitted to the Ministry of Public Safety by May 31, 2024. This report will be publicly accessible on the government registry as well as the ECU website.

**MOTION: That the Board, on the recommendation of the Audit + Finance Committee, approve ECU's Annual Report on Forced Labour and Child Labour for the year ended March 31, 2024, as presented.**

**Moved / Seconded**

**Carried.**

**III. OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chair recommended two books:

- *North of Nowhere: Song of a Truth and Reconciliation Commissioner (TRC)*, by Marie Wilson; and
- *The Creative Act: A Way of Being*, by Rick Rubin.

The Chair took a moment to remark on the unique experiences and contributions of art and design students in the sector, and in our broader community He encouraged all to reflect on how we must bring this into more focus for our internal and external communities.

L. McIntyre noted that she recently took part in a survey on the affordability and working conditions of artists across Canada, which was commissioned by the Cultural Human Resources Council. The survey was completed earlier in 2024 and the survey analysis was release on May 29<sup>th</sup> to survey respondents. The report outlines the unique challenges that recent graduates face in comparison to the general population and provides insight into the opportunities and challenges for artists. She will forward the information to the Board.

[Secretary's note: L. McIntyre shared the analysis of the survey via email on May 29, 2024.]

- IV. **NEXT MEETING:** The next Regular Open Session of the Board is Thursday, June 27, 2024.
- V. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m.

DRAFT



<b>TO:</b>	Board of Governors
<b>FROM:</b>	Viktor Sokha, VP Finance + Administration Diyan Achjadi, Interim VP Academic + Provost
<b>DATE:</b>	June 21, 2024
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Student Food Security and Well Being – Response to Wellness Motion
<b>PURPOSE:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> For Action <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Discussion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Information
<b>RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO:</b>	Diyan Achjadi, Interim VP Academic + Provost

## BACKGROUND

At the March Board meeting, a motion/proposed resolution was brought forward to direct management to allocate \$17,000 to the Wellness Kitchen. A copy of the motion is attached for reference. The motion was deferred/tabled and the Board of Governors requested the Administration to bring back a briefing on the Wellness Kitchen and current ways in which food security for students is being addressed.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/OVERVIEW

The [Wellness Kitchen](#), which currently runs cook and connect programming, baking socials, and skill sharing cooking workshops, is part of a series of initiatives organized by our Counselling + Wellness area to increase the mental health support for students outside of one-on-one counselling. The intention is to tackle the isolation and alienation some of our students experience by reducing stress and enhancing student success and well-being along seven dimensions of wellness: emotional, psychological, physical, financial, environmental, cultural, and social. It should be noted that the Kitchen's programming schedule and breadth of activities is intentionally designed to be accessible to the students who are at the greatest need for access to community and food, in a framework that minimizes social stigma. Other initiatives include dog therapy, mindfulness meditation, gardening, and quilt making. All of these programs have clinical counsellors present.



The free breakfast program has been great as a social connector for students, but it has not been a targeted program to address food insecurity. Free food pop-ups will continue to run on occasion to promote student engagement and community. But to better target food insecurity, the university is moving forward with more targeted support, with the first priority a community pantry for students.

The Wellness-area initiatives began with a two-year provincial grant of \$50,000 per annum (2021-3). When the external funding was discontinued, the Counselling + Wellness area asked to increase its budget to provide internal resourcing for the programming. At this time, and to maximize meaningful connections between students and with counsellors, Counselling + Wellness indicated they would be moving to more targeted food programming (smaller groups workshops) and decreasing the free breakfast pop-ups (which at that point were running about 3 times per week). Recognizing that food insecurity is an increasing issue on university campuses, management added \$30,000 to the Counselling + Wellness budget (for Wellness programming) and \$30,000 to the Student Services area (to address food security).

The Administration views food access and insecurity as a cross-institutional priority. The total added to the 2024-25 Budget to address food insecurity and wellness programming involving food is \$60,000.

**FOOD INSECURITY ON CAMPUS**

Food insecurity on university campuses has grown post-pandemic and is directly tied to student wellbeing and academic success. The household food insecurity rate in Vancouver is currently 10.4% (BC Centre for Disease Control, 2023). The student rate for food insecurity is estimated to be 2-3 times higher than that of the general population. ECU does not have reliable data regarding food insecurity on campus other than metrics connected to emergency bursaries requests (for food and housing) and some surveys organized by students and provided to the university. We are currently putting into place a framework to better track current and emerging food access needs, though we recognize that students are not always willing to discuss food insecurity because of associated social stigmas.

For the past academic year, we surveyed events across all program areas to determine which ones provides free food for students. These events included exhibition openings and artists talks, student town hall and feedback forums, student-focused community building events, food cart pop-ups, film screenings, workshops and symposia. On average, during the 2023-24 academic year, there were 5 to 6 such events per week. In addition, the AGP has a food pantry open to indigenous students, and both the Foundation and Student Services areas provide free snacks for students on a continuing basis. A rough estimate of the cost of this is \$30-35,000 per year.

Further sources of external funding for students experiencing food insecurity are noted below.

Emily Cares	Emergency Bursaries	63,889 11,000 5,000	current balance bursaries awarded in 2023/24 food gift cards purchased in 2023/24
Aboriginal Emergency Assistance	Emergency Bursaries	8,350	current balance

(Ministry grant)		17,100	bursaries awarded in 2023/24
BC Student Emergency Assistance	Emergency Bursaries	80,225	current balance
(Ministry grant)		14,800	bursaries awarded in 2023/24

## ACTIONS TAKEN

A working group on improving campus spaces and food access was established in February 2024. It includes representation from Academic Affairs (including the VP Academic + Provost), Student Services, Counselling + Wellness, and the Students' Union (both student representatives and staff). Discussions have identified three areas for further research and analysis: food insecurity and targeted support, food access on campus (where can students buy healthy food at a lower price point), and food as social connector. Some actions coming from the working group include:

- Through a partnership between the Students' Union and Student Services, the university is working to implement a community pantry. Currently, space on campus and any capital/funding needs are being identified and addressed. The intention is to make this a low barrier, easy access mechanism to bring food directly to those most in need.
- The Office of Student Engagement, Retention + Success in Student Services is mapping the area around ECU's campus to help identify less expensive food options and broader community-based supports for those experiencing food insecurity.
- Research into [UpMeals](#) – vending machines with healthy fresh food (used by UBC and SFU) is being conducted. This is a vending machine option that takes care of meal prep, machine monitoring, and clean up. Unsold food is redistributed in a zero-waste model.
- The Office of Student Engagement, Retention + Success is developing a proposal for a university-wide council on food access that would continue to build capacity, programming, and resources in relation to food access on campus.

Additionally in Spring 2024, the Facilities area mapped the refrigerators and microwaves on campus to ensure we have the infrastructure to meet student demand. Facilities has also been working with our on-site vendor to have more affordable priced, grab and go, food for purchase. And we have been working on increasing awareness of and access to the Emily Cares Emergency Bursaries.

## ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Motion: Wellness Kitchen

Notice of Impending Motion or Amendment to the Budget Adoption Motion  
Mover: Alexandra Phillips, Faculty Representative  
Emily Carr University Board of Governors

**MOTION:**

**Whereas the University expects to realize an extra \$380,000 next year, and an extra \$6.3 million over ten years following February's tuition increases;\***

**Whereas the University in 2020 received a \$50,000 three year grant to fund the Wellness Kitchen, and continued to fund it until recently out of operational revenues;\*\***

**Whereas international students presenting to the Board on February 8<sup>th</sup> reported they had to choose between food and rent, with many going hungry;**

**Whereas the Wellness Kitchen's annual cost of \$17,000 is a small investment in ensuring students meet their minimal daily nutrition requirements;**

**Whereas \$17,000 represents 0.15% of last year's \$10,655,897 in international tuition;\*\*\***

**Whereas the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills' Mandate Letter directed the University to develop and implement protections for international students that support their fair treatment;\*\*\*\***

**Whereas the University can afford to continue funding the Wellness Kitchen;\*\*\*\*\***

**Be it resolved that the Board directs the University to continue funding the Wellness Kitchen out of operational revenues to those amounts previously committed, adjusting for inflation.**

\* Vice-President Finance and Administration's Information Briefing Note, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

\*\*Interim President's Report to the Board, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023

\*\*\*2023/24 Budget Presentation to the Board of Governors March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023

\*\*\*\*Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

\*\*\*\*\*According to the 2023 Institutional Accountability Report ECU's top sixteen administrators received \$197,195.88 in expenses among them.



<b>TO:</b>	Board of Governors
<b>FROM:</b>	Justin Langlois, AVP, Research + Dean of Graduate Studies Natasha Himer, University Secretary
<b>DATE:</b>	June 21, 2024
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Revised Policy 5.1 Ethics in Research (renamed Research Administration, Ethics, and Conduct)
<b>PURPOSE:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Action <input type="checkbox"/> For Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> For Information

## **MOTION**

**That the Board, on the recommendation of the Governance Committee, approve revised Policy 5.1: Research Administration, Ethics, and Conduct.**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/OVERVIEW**

The revisions to policy 5.1 currently titled “Ethics in Research” (2012) but proposed to become “Research Administration, Ethics, and Conduct”, ensure the University’s compliance with external guidelines concerning research ethics (RE) and responsible conduct of research (RCR). The university is required to have policies and procedures that demonstrate our compliance with national guideline statements from the Tri-Agencies that describe RE and RCR standards. Both have been revised substantially since 2012 when this policy (5.1) was last approved.

Research ethics standards are described in TCPS2 (Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans, 2022), and the Tri-Agency Framework (Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research) describes standards for responsible conduct of research. All scholarly research at Emily Carr University, funded or not, is expected to comply with these externally defined standards as a condition of the university’s agreement to receive funding from the Tri-Agencies.

The current revisions have been drafted to meet all these external requirements. We have consulted the wording of similar policies in other jurisdictions, along with stakeholders within Emily Carr University.

### **KEY POINTS/CONSIDERATIONS**

Scope of Revisions since previous presentation to Governance Committee:

- Following the feedback received, section 1.2 has been updated to include a weblink to the ECU REB's In a Good Way statement which also more accurately contextualizes references to UNDRIP and the TRC calls to action, along with other important reference points including OCAP Principles and DRIPA. In turn, references to UNDRIP and TRC in the policy itself have been removed.
- Further, 2.5 has been updated to include links to resources and the additions of resources discussed during the last meeting.

### **NEXT STEPS**

The policy is being brought forward to the Board of Governors for approval.

### **ATTACHED SUPPORTING MATERIALS**

1. Updated Policy 5.1 Research Administration, Ethics and Conduct
2. Current Policy 5.1 Ethics in Research

Policy Number	5.1
Approval Body	Board of Governors
Policy Officer	AVP Research
Approval Date	
Review Date	March 2024

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## 5.1 RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION, ETHICS AND CONDUCT

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### ENABLING LEGISLATION + LINKED POLICIES

- University Act  
*Section 47.1 (d) so far as and to the extent that its resources from time to time permit, undertake and maintain applied research and scholarly activities to support the programs of the special purpose, teaching university.*
- Emily Carr University of Art + Design Policies and Procedures
  - 5.1.1 *Integrity in Research + Scholarship Procedures*
  - 5.1.3 *Conflict of Interest Procedures (Research)*
  - 5.2 *Intellectual Property*
  - 4.17 *Academic Integrity Policy*
  - 8.11 *Conflict of Interest Policy*
  - ECU's Code of Conduct*
- Other External Guidelines and Procedures
  - Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (TCPS 2), most current edition.*
  - Tri-Agency Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research (Tri-Agency Framework), most current edition.*
  - N2/CAREB-ACCER REB Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), most current or modified versions as approved by the AVP-Research or delegate.*

### OBJECTIVE

The objective of this policy is to describe the standards for research, research ethics, and responsible conduct of research at Emily Carr University (University).

### SCOPE

This policy applies to all University researchers engaged in any research activities (funded or not funded) that are supported through university equipment, staff, or students. All members of the University involved in research are expected to adhere to the highest standards of ethical conduct and in a manner consistent with their research disciplines.

As a special-purpose teaching University with faculty, staff, and students engaged in a range of research, research-creation, and creative practice activities, this policy relies on the definition of creative practice provided by the TCPS2 in Article 2.6 as follows:

“Creative practice is a process through which an artist makes or interprets a work or works of art. It may also include a study of the process of how a work of art is generated. Creative practice activities do not require REB review, but they may be governed by ethical practices established within the cultural sector.”

This policy and the work of the ECU-REB interprets creative practice activities as occurring across the disciplines of art, design and media. In following the TCPS2, creative practice activities that involve human participants do not require REB review and approval; however, research employing or relying on creative practice to obtain responses from participants that will be analyzed to answer a research question is subject to review by the REB as detailed in this policy.

With the exception of REB review, all other aspects of this policy do apply to any research-creation and creative practice activities that are part of a research project.

This policy does not apply to the University’s institutional research or quality improvement studies that are in accordance with its core mandate and are related directly to the normal administering, evaluating, or improving of an operation, program service, or activity with the University.

## **POLICY PRINCIPLES**

### **1. Research Ethics**

1.1 Ethical conduct of research involving human participants involves upholding the core principles stated in the [TCPS2](#) including respect for persons, concern for welfare, and justice, and standards for responsible conduct of research described in the [Tri-agency Framework](#).

1.2 Building on Chapter 9 of the TCPS, the University recognizes that research involving Indigenous peoples requires additional ethical considerations, including but not limited to the need to co-create research projects in a community-led process. As described in the [“In a Good Way”](#) statement issued by the ECU-REB in 2022, research conducted on Indigenous knowledge, territories, topics, and with Indigenous people and communities may involve rights holders, accountabilities, risks, and benefits that are specific to communities, territories, and traditions and which must be considered throughout the scope of review. The ECU-REB is committed to Indigenous research expertise in all research ethics reviews involving Indigenous content or peoples.

1.3. All members of the ECU community conducting research involving human participants or human biological materials must seek the review of the ECU Research Ethics Board (ECU-REB) and receive research ethics approval prior to the commencement of research, unless these are specifically exempted by the ECU-REB (such as those listed in Chapter 2, TCPS2, ECU-REB SOP102 “Research Requiring REB Review”, or the ECU-REB’s “Risk and Review Tool”).

1.4. The REB is established and empowered under the authority of the University to review ethical acceptability of all research involving human participants conducted under the auspices of the University. The ECU-REB is independent in their decision-making process of research ethics review. Research ethics board procedures are guided by ECU-REB Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) which are consistent with the most recent version of N2/CAREB-ACCER SOPs (or equivalent).

1.5. The ECU-REB is authorized to approve or reject, and to state conditions for any research involving a human subject or subjects, in accordance with the TCPS2.

1.6. Instructors who assign or supervise research projects and exercises (such as, but not limited to, theses, major research projects, and course-based research) conducted by students are responsible for providing sufficient ethical oversight to ensure that the student conducts their research ethically in accordance with the TCPS2, including seeking approval of the ECU-REB for student theses and major research projects where required.

1.7. Researchers are entitled to appeal a decision from the REB by following the associated appeal procedures outlined in 5.1.4 Research Ethics Appeal Procedures.

## **2. Responsible Conduct of Research**

2.1. All research must be conducted in alignment with the relevant policies, guidelines, and procedures established and provided by the University and funders. Researchers are encouraged to contact the Research + Industry Office for guidance on how to meet the required standards of ethics and conduct throughout their research.

2.2. If any person has concerns about conduct that may constitute a potential breach or non-compliance with this policy, you may direct your concerns to the policy officer, the AVP-Research. Breaches of responsible conduct of research and/or non-compliance with this policy will be taken seriously by the University and will be addressed in accordance with the 5.1.1 Integrity in Research and Scholarship Procedures. All inquiries and proceedings will be conducted expeditiously.

2.3. Upholding the 5.1.1 Integrity in Research and Scholarship Procedures may necessitate reference to other policies and laws. Depending on the circumstances, aspects of research misconduct may be dealt with under other policies including all linked policies and procedures. Each situation must be assessed based on its own particular facts to determine how to respond to an allegation.

2.4. Researchers who secure external funding for their research shall disclose their source(s) of support to potential participants for the purpose of transparency in obtaining consent and disclosure of potential conflicts of interest. This disclosure should explicitly note any project funding and support from the University but shall not represent that the research is sponsored by the University or a department within the University except by explicit arrangement with appropriate administrative authorities.

2.5 Researchers who conduct research that relates to or involves Indigenous communities, or that involves traditional knowledges and/or cultural practices, are expected to consult relevant guidelines and documents such as the [University's Strategic Research Plan](#) for information on best practice. University resources that address conduct of research involving Indigenous communities include current editions of the University library's research guide (or LibGuide) "[Indigenous](#)



[Research Ethics](#)", [The First Nations Principles of OCAP®](#) (Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession), [Onscreen Protocols and Pathways](#), the [University's Strategic Research Plan](#), and the [Aboriginal Gathering Place](#). Research licenses and approvals may be required in Indigenous jurisdictions. It is the responsibility of the researcher to ensure that their research is respectful of the cultural protocols, traditions, and laws of the relevant communities.

2.6 Researchers who engage in projects that involve animals and/or more-than-human species are expected to observe and consult relevant guidelines, LibGuides, and expert opinions to ensure their projects are conducted ethically. While these activities do not fall under the purview of ECU's REB, researchers can contact the Research + Industry Office for advice or more information before embarking on a project.

Policy Number	5.1
Approval Body	Board of Governors
Policy Officer	VP Academic + Provost
Approval Date	February 2008
Revision Date	Feb 2012; May 2012

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## 5.1 ETHICS IN RESEARCH

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### ENABLING LEGISLATION + LINKED POLICIES

#### **University Act**

Section 47.1 (d) so far as and to the extent that its resources from time to time permit, undertake and maintain applied research and scholarly activities to support the programs of the special purpose, teaching university.

***TCPS2 Tri-Council Statement 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed, Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans, 2010***

***Tri-Agency Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research, 2011***

***Other laws of general application***

### OBJECTIVE

The objective of this policy is to establish the Ethical parameters for Research involving Human Participants by Emily Carr University of Art + Design (University) Researchers.

### SCOPE

This policy applies to University researchers engaged in any research activities that include human participants and involve the University.

This policy does not apply to ongoing information gathering activities deemed to be of minimum risk that are sanctioned by the University, are in accordance with its core mandate and are related directly to the normal administering, evaluating or improving of an operation, program service or activity with the University.

### CODE OF RESEARCH PRACTICE

It is expected that members of the University community will pursue their research activities in a manner that is consistent with the highest standards of ethical and scientific practice.

### POLICY

University researchers will investigate and consider all current national and international university and college association documentation, policies and principles and, will abide by all applicable Canadian and Provincial legislation, government regulations and guidelines to ensure that all research at the University is conducted in a safe, ethical, and effective manner.

<b>TO:</b>	Board of Governors
<b>FROM:</b>	Adrian Tees, Associate Vice President, Human Resources Natasha Himer, University Secretary
<b>DATE:</b>	June 21, 2024
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Policy 8.12 updated safe disclosure policy established in accordance with the <i>Public Interest Disclosure Act</i>
<b>PURPOSE:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Action <input type="checkbox"/> For Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> For Information
<b>RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO:</b>	Associate Vice President, Human Resources

## MOTION

**That the Board, on the recommendation of the Board Governance Committee, approve new Policy 8.12: Employee Safe Disclosure Policy – Public Interest Disclosure Act.**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/OVERVIEW

Further to the briefing note of May 10, 2024 concerning the *Public Interest Disclosure Act* (PIDA), which encourages the disclosure of information about suspected wrongdoing in the public sector, the purpose of this note is to communicate further updates based on feedback received.

Based on feedback received from this committee and the President's Executive Committee, the following changes were made to 8.12 Employee Safe Disclosure Policy:

- Revision of Scope: Language was updated to reflect our governance model more accurately in switching references in the policy from directors to Board Members

- Addition of University Accountability section: At the recommendation of the President's Executive Committee and with the aim of transparency, it was suggested that the Policy include wording that outlines the university's requirement for annual reporting made each year.

Lastly, as noted by the Board Administrator, the university adjusted the approval and rollout of the procedures as a result of a regulation that required ECU to have procedures in effect for June 1, 2024. The procedures, which are attached for your reference, were reviewed and approved by the President's Executive Committee on May 28, 2024, in time for the June 1, 2024 deadline.

### **NEXT STEPS**

As the policy is implemented, the Administration will consider and discuss with the Board whether oversight rests with the Governance Committee or the Executive + Human Resources Committee.

In due course, the Administration will also work through and seek approval for any necessary/consequential amendments to existing policies such as the existing Safe Disclosure policy and the Code of Conduct.

### **ATTACHED SUPPORTING MATERIALS**

1. New Policy 8.12 Employee Safe Disclosure

Policy Number	8.12
Approval Body	Board of Governors
Policy Officer	Associate Vice President, Human Resources
Approval Date Review Date	MONTH YEAR

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## 8.12 EMPLOYEE SAFE DISCLOSURE POLICY (PIDA)

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### RELATED LEGISLATION + LINKED POLICIES

- University Act
- BC Human Rights Code
- All related ECU policies
- Criminal Code
- Emergency and Disaster Management Act
- Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act
- All Collective Agreements

### OBJECTIVE

Emily Carr University of Art + Design (“University”) is committed to maintaining the highest standards of ethical conduct and promoting a culture of honest, transparent and accountable behaviour. Employees are encouraged to report Wrongdoing as defined by this Policy through this Policy and its related Procedures.

The Public Interest Disclosure Act (“PIDA”) protects an employee who in good faith requests advice about making, or makes, a Disclosure of Wrongdoing or complaint about reprisal. PIDA also protects employees who in good faith cooperate with an Investigation under PIDA. The University is committed to its obligations under PIDA and adopts this Policy and Procedures to meet them.

The University will protect the privacy of those involved in such requests for advice, Disclosures and Investigations in accordance with all applicable laws, including PIDA and privacy laws.

## SCOPE + APPLICATION

The purpose of this Policy and related Procedures is to establish processes that comply with PIDA for:

- employees and former employees to seek advice on and make Disclosures in good faith about wrongful or unlawful conduct without fear of retaliation or reprisal;
- the University to manage and investigate Disclosures, and report the outcomes of investigations;
- employees, former employees and contractors to cooperate with Investigations without fear of retaliation or reprisal; and
- the University to protect the privacy of people involved in Disclosures, Investigations and reports.

The Policy applies to employees which includes Board Members and former employees who were employed when a Wrongdoing occurred or was discovered.

This Policy applies to Wrongdoing, as defined in PIDA, in or related to the University:

- a) a serious act or omission that, if proven, would constitute an offence under an enactment such as laws, regulations and statutes of British Columbia or Canada;
- b) an act or omission that creates a substantial and specific danger to the life, health or safety of persons, or to the environment, other than a danger that is inherent in the performance of an employee's duties or functions;
- c) a serious misuse of public funds or public assets;
- d) gross or systemic mismanagement;
- e) knowingly directing or counselling a person to commit any act or omission described in paragraphs (a) to (d) above.

PIDA does not limit an employee's rights or remedies that may be available under a collective agreement, contract or law. The Policy establishes a separate reporting procedure for employees to disclose specific types of improper activity, referred to as Wrongdoing, and does not affect an employee's duty to report other misconduct or improper activity under Code of Conduct or similar policies or right to raise concerns under an applicable law, contract or policy.

## DEFINITIONS

In this Policy and the Procedures, terms have the same meaning as set out in the *Public Interest Disclosure Act (PIDA)*, except as further defined below:

**“Designated Officer”** means the following senior official(s) designated to do the following or, in the event the senior official designated is disqualified from acting, the official who is responsible under the section *Referral of Disclosure to Designated Officer* in the Procedures to:

- a) Receive requests for advice: Associate Vice President, Human Resources
- b) Receive and investigate disclosures: Associate Vice President, Human Resources

**“Disclosure”** means a report of Wrongdoing made under this Policy;

**“Investigation”** means an investigation of a Disclosure undertaken by the University under this Policy or by the BC Ombudsperson under PIDA;

**“Natural Justice”** means the right to an independent and unbiased hearing and the right to be heard.

**“Procedural Fairness”** means:

- a) The right to know the case against you
- b) The right to an impartial decision maker
- c) The opportunity to have your views considered by the person or people making the decision
- d) The right to a decision and the rationale for that decision

**“Protection Official”** means:

- a) in respect of a health-related matter, the provincial health officer,
- b) in respect of an environmental matter, the provincial administrator as defined in section 1 (1) of the Emergency and Disaster Management Act, or
- c) in any other case, an appropriate police force in British Columbia.

**“Respondent”** means a person about whom allegations of Wrongdoing are made;

**“Supervisor”** means:

- a) for employees, the employee’s administrator, manager or supervisor, as applicable;
- b) for Board Members, the Chair of the Board of Governors.

**“Wrongdoing”** has the meaning described above under the heading “Scope”.

## **POLICY PRINCIPLES**

1. The University is committed to supporting ethical conduct in its operations, including by receiving, investigating and responding to Disclosures and by providing information about PIDA, this Policy and the Procedures, and seeks to foster a culture in which employees are encouraged to disclose Wrongdoing.
2. The University will follow this Policy in Investigations of Disclosures that it receives under this Policy in accordance with the principles of procedural fairness and natural justice.
3. The University will not commit or tolerate reprisals against any employee who, in good faith, makes a request for advice, makes a Disclosure, cooperates in an Investigation or makes a complaint about reprisal, or against any contractor which has cooperated in an Investigation, under this Policy.
4. The University is committed to protecting the privacy of disclosers, Respondents and those who cooperate in Investigations in a manner that is consistent with its obligations under PIDA and the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* ("FIPPA"). All reporting under this Policy will be in compliance with PIDA and FIPPA.

## **Duties and Responsibilities**

1. All employees are responsible for acting with honesty, integrity and accountability and complying with applicable law and policy in their work and dealings with others at the University.
2. Employees must make Disclosures in good faith based on a reasonable belief that Wrongdoing has or is about to occur, in accordance with this Policy and Procedures.
3. Employees must not engage in any reprisal against a person who has, in good faith, requested advice about making a Disclosure, has made a Disclosure or complaint about reprisal, or has cooperated in an Investigation under this Policy.
4. The President is responsible for administering this Policy, assigning the role of Designated Officer and ensuring that instruction is available to all employees about PIDA, this Policy and the Procedures, and preparing an annual report on disclosures of Wrongdoings made in that year in accordance with section 38 of PIDA. In the event that the President is unable or unavailable to perform their duties under this Policy, the President may delegate their authority in writing to other senior officials of the University.
5. The Designated Officer is responsible for exercising the responsibilities assigned to them by the President under this Policy and Procedures.



6. Supervisors are responsible for responding to requests for advice from employees, receiving Disclosures and referring Disclosures to the Designated Officer, or other senior official, as set out in the Procedures.
7. Everyone involved in an Investigation must treat all related information as confidential and everyone must protect any personal information collected, used or shared as part of a request for advice, Disclosure, complaint about reprisal or Investigation to the extent possible under applicable legislation, policy and collective agreements.
8. Nothing in this Policy relieves those responsible for the administration and management of the University from their responsibilities to address Wrongdoing or other types of misconduct or improper activity in accordance with good management practices and other policies, guidelines and procedures.

#### **Consequences of Non-compliance**

1. An employee found to have engaged in Wrongdoing may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.
2. An employee who makes a bad faith, malicious or intentionally false Disclosure may be subject to discipline, up to and including termination of employment.
3. Breach of confidentiality and privacy is a serious offence. An employee who does not strictly protect confidentiality and privacy as required by this Policy and Procedures and applicable law may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.
4. The University will not tolerate any reprisal against any person who has, in good faith, requested advice, made a Disclosure or complaint of reprisal, or cooperated in an Investigation under this Policy, including any contractor who has cooperated in an Investigation. This protection does not apply to protect an employee from the consequences of their own Wrongdoing, misconduct or improper activity unrelated to their rights under PIDA. An employee who engages in any such reprisal may be subject to discipline, up to and including termination of employment.
5. In addition to disciplinary consequences, it is a provincial offence under PIDA to obstruct, make a false statement to, or mislead or attempt to mislead, a person in the performance of their duties, powers or functions under PIDA, which is punishable upon conviction by a fine.

#### **UNIVERSITY ACCOUNTABILITY**

The University must prepare an annual report on all disclosures made in that year, including disclosures made to the BC Ombudsperson, and make the report publicly available on its website. The report must include:

- the number of disclosures received, including referrals;
- the number acted on and not acted on;
- the number of investigations commenced; and,
- if an investigation finds wrongdoing, a description of the wrongdoing, recommendations and corrective action taken in relation to the wrongdoing (or why no action was taken).

The report must not include any information that would invade a person's privacy or reveal the identity of a discloser or an individual who was the subject of an investigation.

## End of Academic Year Celebrations

May was full of celebrations honoring our 2024 graduates (48 graduate students, 396 undergraduate students) and their achievements at the university. **Convocation**, which was held at the Chan Centre at UBC on May 9<sup>th</sup> included a welcome address by the Honorable Lisa Beare, Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, and a drum procession and welcome by Squamish Elder and Honorary Doctorate recipient Xwalactun, and his son Austin. Honorary Doctorates were awarded to filmmaker Kirk Tougas (documentarian and founded of the Pacific Cinematheque) and artist Carole Itter (internationally known for an expansive range of practices, including performance work). Alumni Nadia Myre received the Emily Award. More information about Kirk, Carole, and Nadia can be found [here](#).

The **2024 Grad Show** featured the work of 360 graduates from our art, media and design programs in various exhibition formats: a two week in-person exhibition (which opened on May 9), various film and animation screenings (on campus and at the Vancity Theatre), and an online exhibition (which can be viewed [here](#)). Additionally, a highly successful [Crit Night](#) was held (May 15) which brought 24 gallerists, curators and exhibition directors onto campus to extend professional opportunities by offering direct, in-person feedback to our graduates.

On May 23, the University hosted a **Donor Event**, celebrating our donors and sponsors who have worked in partnership with the institution to fund enriching programs and financial awards. In fact, more than 400 students at ECU received financial awards this past year, including through the Emily Cares emergency assistance fund. As this event coincided with the in-person Grad Show exhibition, four graduating students spoke about their grad projects, and toured attendees through the exhibition.

## Indigenous Art Market and Libby Leshgold Exhibition

The [Aboriginal Gathering Place](#) (AGP) held its first Indigenous Art Market in celebration of National Indigenous History Month on June 8-10. There were 16 Indigenous artists and designers from the ECU community present, with a large variety of work on sale, including clothing, jewelry, prints, paintings, and other objects. It was an amazing event in support of Indigenous makers and practice-based knowledge sharing.

Curated by Daina Warren, Executive Director, Indigenous Initiatives, the exhibition *Your Old Way Kind of Vision* is currently on view in the Libby Leshgold Gallery. The show brings together the works of four artists – Siku Allooloo, Catherine Blackburn, Wally Dion and Charlene Vickers – who explore their Indigenous backgrounds and identities through distinct artistic practices. Using Allooloo's poem, "Arnauqatikka," as a jumping off point, the exhibition explores materials and ideas that speak equally of traditional material cultures and contemporary vision. The exhibition is on view until June 20.

## Continuing Studies' Financial Activity, 2023-24

In response to a question from a Board member, management is providing clarification on the 2023/24 financial activity for the university's Continuing Studies (CS) programming.

During the May 29 Board meeting, management presented a variance of \$131,542 for CS tuition and operations. While this presentation correctly shows a shortfall when comparing budget to actual activity, it does not accurately reflect the profitability of CS programming (i.e. profit/loss results).

In 2023/24, Continuing Studies achieved a net profit of approximately \$74,000 when including all tuition and related provincial grants directed towards CS programming.

## Summer Term, 2024

The Summer Term has completed the first of two, two-month terms. Term 1 classes ended on June 22 and Term 2 classes commence July 2, with a registration (add/drop) deadline of July 4.

- Registration to mid-June has been positive, particularly when compared to the 2023 Summer Term:

	Heads		Credits	
	DOM	INT	DOM	INT
Summer 2024	525	241	3645	1494
Summer 2023	412	190	2748	1164
increase	113	51	897	330
% increase	27.4%	26.8%	32.6%	28.4%

- Current activity shows an improvement of approximately \$200,000 above budgeted projections; however, adjustments will continue until early July.

## Fall Term, 2024

Fall Term registration opened for 4<sup>th</sup> year students on June 10 and, as of June 20, has been open for students in all year levels. The university will have a good indication of registration figures by early July, which will provide a clearer picture of our ability to achieve our registration targets for the academic year.

## Broadway Subway Project (BSP)

The high-level activity schedule provided by BSP is as follows:

**Tunnels:**

- TBM Phyllis completed her journey to Cypress Street on March 20.
- TBM Elsie completed her journey to Cypress Street on April 26.
- TBMs Elsie and Phyllis are being disassembled and removed at Cypress Street.

**Great Northern Way-Emily Carr Station:**

Throughout 2024, work will continue to focus on constructing the underground station and station entrance building. This includes regular concrete pours for the walls, columns, concourse levels, and roof sections. Work is also happening in the tunnels to prepare for track installation. Regular hours of work are Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. There may be occasional work on weekends or holidays. Occasional overnight work is from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.

**Facility Operations**

**Maintenance Activity:**

86 scheduled preventive maintenance activities were completed this period. Highlights of this work consist of: service to main electrical vault, HVAC equipment, roads, grounds and landscaping services, fire and life safety equipment, sprinkler systems inspections, pest control, exit lighting, painting, appliances, access control and panic duress systems, elevators, waste and recycle services and wireless network maintenance.

114 service requests were responded to and addressed in this period. Highlights of this work consist of requests for service related to lighting control changes, event furniture arrangement, housekeeping, access control, telecommunications, plumbing and drainage, waste management and recycling.

**Waste Diversion:**

42% of waste removed from the Facility in this reporting period was recycled.

**Energy:**

Campus energy use is tracking at 98% (up from 97% last report) of the energy performance target for the rolling 12-month period.

**Campus Activity:**

Facilities completed maintenance, facility and safety support for several notable events including convocation 2024, the Grad Show, Donor Appreciation Night, and several external party events hosted on campus. Supports included event safety planning, additional resource requests (security and housekeeping services), waste removal and access control.

## Spring 2024 Highlights

### Tenure and Promotion

The following candidates received Tenure and/or Promotion:

- Harry Killas, FMSA – recommended for promotion to Full Professor
- Peter Bussigel, NMSA– recommended for tenure and promotion to Associate Professor
- Christine Howard Sandoval, Interdisciplinary Praxis – recommended for tenure and promotion to Associate Professor
- Sara Osenton, Learning Specialist – recommended for tenure
- Birthe Piontek, PHOT - recommended for tenure and promotion to Associate Professor
- Rachelle Sawatsky, PNTG – recommended for for tenure and promotion to Associate Professor

### Professor Harry Killas

#### Film and Screen Arts, Ian Gillespie Faculty of Design and Dynamic Media

Harry Killas joined Emily Carr in 2004 as an Assistant Professor in Film, Video and Integrated Media, becoming Associate Professor in 2009, having held previous teaching appointments at a number of institutions including Simon Fraser University, Vancouver Film School, and Langara College. Prof. Killas is a graduate of Stanford University (A.M., A.B.) and New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, Graduate School of Film and Television (M.F.A.) He is a director, writer and producer, whose films have screened at major international festivals including Bilbao, Clermont-Ferrand, Oberhausen, Palm Springs, Torino, Toronto and Vancouver. His documentaries have screened at festivals and museums across Canada and internationally, and have been broadcast by BBC, BBC Worldwide, Bravo!, CBC, CTV affiliates, Knowledge, NHK, TVO and various European broadcasters. Recent credits include three feature-length documentaries: Is There A Picture on the first generation of the Vancouver School of photo-conceptual artists; Greek to Me, an autobiographical look at family, filmmaking and Greek ethnicity; and Superkids 2, a profile of highly gifted learners, filmed over a time span of 15 years.

### Associate Professor Peter Bussigel

#### New Media and Sound Arts, Audain Faculty of Art

Dr. Bussigel holds a BM in Music Composition from the University of Michigan, an MA in Sound + Video Art from New York University, and an MA and PhD in Multimedia + Electronic Music Experiments from Brown University. He joined Emily Carr in 2018 as tenure -track faculty in New Media and Sound Arts, having previously held a position as Assistant Professor at the University of Virginia, as well as part-time teaching posts at Brown University and the Rhode Island School of Design. He is a composer and intermedia artist working with sound, video, and performance. His projects include audiovisual instruments, interactive software systems, sound installations, experimental videos, and concert games. Peter is active as a performer on brass instruments and electronics and frequently collaborates with playwrights, game designers, theorists, and choreographers.

**Associate Professor Christine Howard Sandoval**  
**Interdisciplinary Praxis, Audain Faculty of Art**

Christine Howard Sandoval holds a BFA from Pratt Institute and an MFA from Parsons School of Design. She joined Emily Carr in 2019 as tenure-track faculty in Interdisciplinary Art Praxis, having previously held an adjunct faculty position at Parsons. Prof. Howard Sandoval is a multidisciplinary artist who questions the boundaries of representation, access, and habitation, where what is held in the land and what is held within state sponsored archives negotiate shared spaces of meaning. Howard Sandoval's work has exhibited nationally and internationally and has been the subject of solo museum exhibitions at the ICA San Diego (2021) and Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College (2019), during which time she was the Mellon Artist in Residence at Colorado College. Howard Sandoval has been awarded numerous residencies including: UBC Okanagan, Indigenous Art Intensive program (Kelowna, BC), ICA San Diego (Encinitas, CA), Santa Fe Art Institute (Santa Fe, NM), Triangle Arts Association (New York, NY). Prof. Howard Sandoval is an enrolled member of the Chalon Nation in Bakersfield, CA.

**Sara Osenton**  
**Learning Specialist, The Writing Centre, The Teaching and Learning Centre, and Faculty of Culture and Community**

Sara Osenton graduated from Emily Carr with a BFA in visual arts before going on to pursue an MA and Ph.D. in Contemporary Japanese Art in the Department of East Asian Studies at the University of Toronto. Her dissertation explored the ways contemporary Japanese art responds to World War II with a particular interest in cyborgs. She has also taught undergraduate courses in Japanese and East Asian history, art history, pop culture, and visual culture at the University of Toronto, York University, and the University of Toronto Scarborough. Dr. Osenton's role encompasses, among other duties, supporting graduate students in developing and positioning their practice through writing; expanding access and equity for a wide range of students through her work in unpacking "hidden curricula" and supporting students by supporting faculty in their approach to building syllabi, learning outcomes, and assessment modes through scaffolding; building resources that contribute to student success in the classroom; as well as a focus on multidirectional learning and developing reading skills that decenters Western paradigms. She is a strong advocate for innovative teaching and learning strategies expanding beyond typical forms of knowledge mobilization

**Associate Professor Birthe Piontek**  
**Photography, Audain Faculty of Art**

Birthe Piontek has a BFA and MFA (combined) in Communication Design and Photography from the Folkwang University of the Arts in Essen, Germany. She joined Emily Carr in 2019 as tenure-track faculty in Photography, having previously held Adjunct and non-regular teaching positions at Emily Carr. Her work has been exhibited internationally, in both solo and group shows, and is featured in many private and public collections such as the Museum of Contemporary Photography in Chicago and the Museum of Applied Arts in Gera, Germany. Through photo work, sculpture and installations, she explores aspects of the relationship between memory and the complexities of identity, including female identity and its representation in society. Birthe Piontek's project The Idea of North won the Critical Mass Book Award 2009 and was published as a monograph in 2011. Her project Abendlied received the Edward Burtynsky Grant in 2018 and was nominated by Time Magazine as one of the best photo books in 2019. The most recent work, Janus, was published by Gnomonic Book in 2021.

**Associate Professor Rachelle Sawatsky**  
**Painting, Audain Faculty of Art**

Rachelle Sawatsky holds a BFA from Emily Carr University and an MFA from the University of Southern California. She joined Emily Carr in 2019 as tenure -track faculty in Painting, having previously held a non-regular teaching position at Emily Carr and other Universities. Her practice encompasses painting, ceramics, drawing, and critical and creative writing. She has exhibited nationally and internationally, including at the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa; Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver; Diaz Contemporary, Toronto; China Art Objects, Los Angeles, USA; Material Art Fair, Mexico City, Mexico; and Tate St. Ives, St. Ives, United Kingdom. Sawatsky was finalist of the 2013 RBC Canadian Painting Competition, and has been awarded artist residencies at Banff Center for Arts and Creativity, Alberta, Canada, and Griffin Projects, Vancouver, Canada.

**Faculty symposium**

The annual faculty symposium was held on May 2-3 2024 in the IMS Studio with the following presentations:

- A panel on pedagogy by recent winners of the West Coast Teaching Awards, including faculty from UBC, SFU, and Emily Carr
- Presentations from faculty awarded sabbaticals in 2022-23, including Ana Diab, Beth Howe, Ingrid Koenig, Gwenessa Lam, and Ben Reeves
- Presentations from faculty awarded Teaching and Learning Fellowships, including Beth Howe and Lauren Marsden

The panel and presentations highlighted the thoughtful, innovative, and expansive research and pedagogy of Emily Carr faculty, and presented an opportunity for faculty across the university to connect and engage through their respective practices.

**Undergraduate Admissions**

- We are continuing to monitor the impact of the new IRCC guidelines on international student admissions. Currently, the turnaround time for visa applications is currently at 12 weeks, which may affect students' ability to arrive in Canada in time for September start of classes.
- The IRCC has stated that it will fast-track visa applications from students who are willing to pay for the first year of tuition up front; some students are going forward with this.
- The Student Services team is actively following up with each international applicant to ensure that they have the information and documentation they need to receive their visas and prepare for the beginning of term.

**Graduate Admissions**

- We are expecting 66 incoming graduate students in September, across our five MFA and MDes programs.
- Approximately 40% of these students are international.
- The new IRCC guidelines do not impact graduate education at this point. The Graduate Studies team is monitoring closely the issuance of visas, and currently anticipate that most visas will be issued by August.



## Research

- The \$2.25M NSERC Mobilize internal grant applications are now open for applications by ECU researchers. Successful applicants will receive up to \$25,000 each in Research Assistants and release time to engage with a partner on a small-scale research project
- We were successful at the Letter of Intent stage of the NSERC Lab to Market. competition, awarding us \$200,000 to develop a full proposal with OCAD U, AU Arts, and NSCAD U that focuses on developing a national network for advanced professional development training for students and researchers.
- For the last round of SSHRC's Insight and Insight Development competitions (which are two of their main programs), ECU has outperformed all other art schools in Canada in terms of successful grants.
- We continue to disseminate internal SIG Research grants, with 5 faculty receiving Explore grants for exploration of new research trajectories, and 3 faculty receiving Exchange grants to support knowledge exchange and research dissemination.

## Partnerships

- Through the Shumka Centre for Creative Entrepreneurship, the University is engaging with 27 partners this year, all benefiting students with professional practice opportunities
- The Health Design Lab has engaged with over 20 partners in the last 6 months, including BC Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Vancouver Coastal Health, and BC Children's hospital.
- Material Matters Lab is launching a research partnership with the BC Ministry of Forests, along with researchers at the UBC Bio Products institute, with a goal to re-constitute and re-generate wood char as alternate medium, emulsion and material substrate; and a partnership with the Chinese Canadian Museum that will see faculty, students and staff supporting the museum's interest in growing and diversifying their archive of historically significant works through digital twinning of original works of art and object of distinct heritage and cultural importance.

## SWAAC Conference

Emily Carr University was a co-organizer of the annual SWAAC (Senior Women Academic Administrators of Canada) Conference, along with Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Capilano University, and the Justice Institute of BC. Dean Kyla Mallett and Interim VPA Diyan Achjadi were part of the steering committee, and President Trish Kelly, Dean Celeste Martin and Dean Mallett all presented at this symposium focused on sustainable leadership. This was an opportunity to work collaboratively with our colleagues across the sector locally and build important relationships across the Canadian post-secondary landscape.