

MINUTES

BOARD OF GOVERNORS – REGULAR SESSION

Thursday, September 17, 2020, 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Via Zoom online meeting platform.

ATTENDANCE:

Voting Members:

Kim Peacock	Randy Lee Cutler	Esther Rausenberg
Geoff Plant	Scott Hawthorn	Keith Reynolds
Gillian Siddall	Selina Huang	Emma Somers
Sonny Assu	Keith Kerrigan	Bill Tam
Jacob Brennan	Alex Phillips	

Guests: Trish Kelly, Michael Clifford, Kevin Bird, Adrian Tees, Philippa Mennell, Christen Downie, Carina Clark, Kevin Brewster (*joined at 3 p.m.*), Lindsay McIntyre (ECUFA), Lori MacDonald (ECSU staff)

Land Acknowledgement.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1. Call to Order – Kim Peacock, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm.
2. Adoption of Agenda.

Two friendly amendments were proposed to the agenda: “Facilities Access” (to be raised under Reports) and “Senate member” (to be discussed under Other Business).

Moved / Seconded to approve as amended.

Carried.

3. Approval of the Previous Extraordinary In Camera Minutes of June 26, 2020.

Moved / Seconded.

Carried.

4. Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes of Board Regular Session June 4, 2020.

Moved / Seconded.

Carried.

II. BUSINESS

1. For approval: BC Public Sector Executive Compensation Freeze Policy.
There was discussion regarding new policy statement from the Minister of Finance directing executive compensation freeze for all PSEA employers for the 2020/21 employee performance year. As part of this directive, public post-secondary boards are required to provide the PSEC Secretariat with a copy of a resolution acknowledging there will be no compensation increases for the President over this period. It was noted that, for other executive positions, the compensation freeze would be addressed through the sectoral compensation plan administered by PSEA. Adrian Tees, AVP HR, noted that executive compensation freeze is a common fiscal strategy used by government in times of financial constraint.

Moved / Seconded that the Board of Governors acknowledges that there will be no compensation increases for the 2020/21 employee performance year for the President at Emily Carr University.

Carried.

Action: A copy of this resolution will be submitted to the PSEC Secretariat by October 31, 2020.

III. REPORTS

1. Chair's Report – Kim Peacock reported that the Memorandum of Agreement between ECU and the ECU Faculty Association was approved at the extraordinary board in camera session held June 26th. This is effective for the next 3 years.

The Chair referred to the following reports included in the Board agenda package.

2. President + Vice Chancellor's Report – There was discussion about the status of enrolment for the fall term. Dr. Gillian Siddall commended the President's Executive Committee (PEC) on its work related to recruitment and the successful summer term and courses, and its impact on the positive registration figures to date.

There was also discussion about ECU community access to facilities. Dr. Trish Kelly, VP Academic + Provost, updated the Board that many ECU technical and service areas are currently functional and available for use by members of the ECU community, but in compliance with the university's health and safety requirements for the safe return to campus.

3. Vice President, Academic + Provost's Report.
4. Executive Director, Student Services + Registrar's Report.
5. Vice President, Finance + Administration's Report – There was discussion regarding the decrease in revenue from Continuing Studies (CS). The VP Academic + Provost explained that challenges related to access to technical services in CS program areas due to COVID-19 requirements was a contributing factor. ECU is examining alternative options for potential expanded access to technical services for the Spring Term.

IV. PRESENTATIONS

1. For information – Presentation from ECU Faculty Association (ECUFA).
Lindsay McIntyre, ECUFA Co-Vice President, provided an overview of the ECUFA, including its executive team, vision, plans and initiatives. The presentation included reference to ECUFA's support for the Scholar Strike Canada for racial justice and efforts to address precarity of employment for non-regular faculty and high faculty workload. Several board members thanked the ECUFA Co-Vice President for sharing ECUFA concerns and expressed the Board's commitment to continue to advocate for faculty.
2. For information – Kevin Brewster, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training (AEST), provided a financial update and government outlook on public funding for post-secondary institutions in B.C. Mr. Brewster noted that it is anticipated that all public post-secondary institutions in B.C. will run deficits in 2020/21 due to COVID-19-related impacts. The Ministry will make a submission to Treasury Board for approval of institutions' deficit budget requests. There was discussion about the issue of rising tuition costs for international students and the need to limit ongoing international tuition increases.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair announced that Keith Kerrigan volunteered to sit as the Senate non-voting member for the Board in 2020/21.

VII. NEXT MEETING – Thursday, October 15, 2020

VII. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.