

MINUTES

BOARD OF GOVERNORS — REGULAR SESSION

Thursday, February 8, 2024 — 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
ECU Boardroom (D2315) and via Zoom webinar

ATTENDANCE:

Board Members:

Don Avison (Board Chair)	Esther Rausenberg
Trish Kelly (Interim President + Vice Chancellor)	Keith Reynolds
Carleen Thomas (Chancellor)	Sung Van
Lorcan O'Melinn (Vice-Chair)	Parnian Anaa
Mary Macaulay	Brenda Crabtree
Ishika Tripathi	Alex Philips
Natasha Tony	

Regrets: Lindsay McIntyre (joined for closed session), Gaye Fowler

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

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, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.
2. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION: That the Agenda for the Board Open Session of February 8, 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 December 7, 2023 be approved as presented.

Moved / Seconded

Carried.

4. Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair reminded the Board two new Board members, Natasha Tony and Brenda Crabtree were appointed as of December 1, 2023 and welcomed them again to the Board. N. Tony was sworn in at the December Board meeting.

Brenda Crabtree took the Oath of Office.

5. Emily Carr Students' Union Presentation

Kamila Bashir, 4th year of Industrial Design and the Chairperson of the Student's Union and Student Senator; and Su Yagmur Kucukakyuz, 4th year of Communication Design and Student Senator presented to the Board regarding the 2024-25 Budget.

Three recommendations were made, two in respect of the 2024-25 Budget:

1. Match international tuition increases at 2% same as domestic counterpart;
2. Draft 2 budgets, one with one-time funding and one without, and analyze how that will affect the tuition increase; and
3. More involvement with BCFS campaigns.

The students expressed their concerns around tuition fee increases and described current challenges facing students from well-being to food insecurity and housing precarity, and noted there can be differential impacts as between international and domestic students.

The Chair acknowledge the key issues raised and thanked the students for their presentation to the Board.

II. BUSINESS

1. Chair's Remarks

The Chair shared some opening remarks, including to refer to a recent article regarding proposed development plans around the Great-Northern Way-Emily Carr Skytrain station, and in connection with the university's interest in the development of the area around campus and student housing. He reiterated that these are top focuses for the Board and the university.

Action item: N. Himer to circulate the article to Board members.

2. Interim President's Remarks

Trish Kelly, Interim President + Vice Chancellor thanked the students for their presentation to the Board.

She also made note of important budget consultation steps led by Diyan Achjadi, Interim Vice-President, Academic + Provost and Viktor Sokha, Vice-President, Finance and efforts to engage with the community to explain the financial context of the university and gather input on

2024/25 budget priorities. She made note of continued conversations with the student union to ensure that students in particular have the opportunity to provide feedback.

3. Graduate Student Extension Fees

L. O'Melinn reported that Policy 4.11, *Faculty of Graduate Studies: Extension to Time Allowed for Program Completion* was updated in May 2023 for students who require longer than the 2-year program to complete their degree. The policy identifies a fee for approved extensions. HE noted that:

- The administration has recommended a proposed revised fee of \$500 per term;
- This is not a fee increase, rather a fee change;
- Previously students were charged \$400 per month, and many students request an extension for 3-4 months;
- The administration estimates the change would affect approximately 10 students or less; and
- There has been consultation with community, including graduate students and with the Ministry.

MOTION: That the Audit + Finance Committee recommend Board approval of the revised graduate extension fee, which will be set at \$500 per term effective immediately.

Moved / Seconded

Carried.

4. 2024/2025 Proposed Tuition Increase

L. O'Melinn reported that the AFC was presented with and considered the tuition increased. He noted the following:

- Based on the current registration targets, the proposed tuition increases will generate approximately \$380,000 in 2024/25. With this additional revenue, ECU is projecting a preliminary deficit of \$3.7M;
- Foregoing this revenue would have a significant impact both in 2024/25 as well as cumulatively over the years. Assuming no adjustments to international tuition in future years and based on current registration targets, the cumulative impact over a 10-year period of foregoing the proposed increase in 2024/25 will be approximately \$6.3M; and
- With rising costs and uncertainty of receiving one-time Ministry funding in 2024/25, increases to tuition are necessary to meet ECU's financial obligations.

It was noted that international students registered in 2022/23 and earlier will not be impacted by the increase, as the current tuition increase will be applied to students who started at ECU after 2022/23.

D. Achjadi noted that the university is working to improve student support. D. Achjadi will be meeting with the student union group regarding food security and accessibility for students. She also noted on the continued work to improve the teaching and learning space.

MOTION: That the Audit + Finance Committee recommends Board approval of tuition fee increases for 2024/2025 as follows:

Domestic Undergraduate: 2% increase

Domestic Graduate: 2% increase

International undergraduate:

- **No increase for students first registered 2022/23 and earlier**
- **4% increase for students first registered 2023/24 and 2024/25**

International graduate:

- **5% increase for incoming international students**
- **No increase for returning international students**

Learning Access Fee: 2% for all students

In response to a question, V. Sokha noted that although there are senior executive salary increases, they are covered by the provincial government.

In response to a question, T. Kelly clarified that last year when the tuition increases were brought forward, students going into their 2nd, 3rd, and 4th year were given a 10% increase with a promise not to raise increase further in their time at ECU. For incoming 1st year international students there was a 30% tuition readjustment to align with the sector, and there was no cap of further tuition increase for those students. Therefore, ECU is in line with the motion presented last year.

A request was made to revise the motion to include limiting expense accounts for senior administration for \$5000 a year with the remaining funds reallocated to the wellness kitchen. Following a discussion about the proposed amendment the motion was ruled out of order.

It was noted that Board members would like advance notice of motions and supplemental information is necessary to make informed decision. It was asked that the proposed motion to be directed to the administration and the Board for further clarification.

P. Anaa asked if the issue around food insecurity were addressed at any of the budget consultations. T. Kelly informed the Board that the government provided a \$50,000 grant for the wellness kitchen for only 2 years. Once the university no longer received the funds, ECU invested \$30,000 from our budget towards food security. ECU also extended Emily Cares to provide additional support for all students, including international students.

Moved / Seconded

Carried.

With 1 against (Ishika Tripathi)

With 1 abstention (Alex Philips)

Carleen Thomas joined the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

III. REPORTS

1. Interim President + Vice-Chancellor's Report

T. Kelly highlighted the following:

T. Kelly reported on the ongoing discussions regarding the two-year cap on international

undergraduate students. This cap reduces the amount of incoming international students by 35% from 2023 levels. She informed the Board that the Ministry of Post-Secondary and Future Skills is working directly with public universities on support offered to international students. There will be more information to share on this in the coming months.

ECU hosted a campus tour for a group of City of Vancouver, City Councillors. This was a great opportunity to showcase ECU's programs and research areas, and the contributions our students and alumni make to the city. It was also a positive step in strengthening our relationship with municipal government.

T. Kelly also informed the Board of a 4U Partnership: ECUAD, OCAD, NASCAD and Alberta University of the Arts. This is a partnership to advocate for the important work of art and design institutions.

A Board member asked for an update on potential student residence. Administration noted that student housing continues to be a top priority and the university has been addressing the issue whenever there is the opportunity. The challenge is that ECU does not have the land assets like other larger institutions. A Board member suggested connecting with the city for opportunities of co-operative housing and/or redeveloping.

2. Vice-President, Finance + Administration's Report

The Board had no further questions regarding the VP, Finance + Administration Report.

3. Interim Vice-President, Academic + Provost's Report

D. Achjadi highlight the following:

- Kathryn Verkerk, new Registrar + Director of Enrollment;
- Sue Dorey, Interim Director, Student Engagement, Retention and Success; and
- Noted the various special events happening on campus after the Board meeting and Board members are welcome to attend: Opening of Piling/Upon Exhibition, T, AS IN TIME E, AS IN EVER, and the Great Canadian Pottery Throwdown Viewing Party.

It was asked if there was a reason for the record number of applicants for the graduate programs. D. Achjadi noted there could have been an increase due the launch of the online Master of Design: information Futures Program.

In response to a question, D. Achjadi noted that ECU's average of undergraduate applicants ranges from 1300-1400. It is unsure what percentage of those applicants are international but will provide an update once the data is finalized.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS – No other business.

V. NEXT MEETING: Next Regular Open Session of the Board is on Thursday, March 28, 2024

VI. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 2:04 p.m.