

SENATE MINUTES

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 2021, 10:00-11:30 AM

Online via Zoom webinar

Gillian Siddall, Chair	Trish Kelly
Diyan Achjadi	Steven Lam
Eugenia Bertulis	Pierre Leichner
Kevin Bird	Kyla Mallett
Melanie Camman	Celeste Martin
Cybèle Creery	Alex Muir
Hélène Day Fraser	Suzanne Rackover
Heather Fitzgerald	Stephanie Schneider
Sophie Gaur	Charles Simon
Mimi Gellman	Louise St. Pierre
Chris Jones	Danielle Zandvliet

Regrets: Carleen Thomas

Guests: Tiffanie Ting

Support: Heather Sanford, Christen Downie

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1. Call to Order – Gillian Siddall, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.
2. Welcome to new Senate members.

The Chair welcomed the following new members to Senate:

- New ECU Chancellor Carleen Thomas.
- Faculty members Diyan Achjadi (Interim Dean, Culture + Community), Chris Jones (Culture + Community), Sophie Gaur (Design + Dynamic Media), Eugenia Bertulis (Design + Dynamic Media) and Rachelle Sawatsky (Audain Faculty of Art).
- Student Senate members Melanie Camman, Stephanie Schneider and Ishika Tripathi.
- Alumni Member Pierre Leichner.

3. **Moved / Seconded that Senate approve the Agenda as circulated.**

Carried.

The Chair reminded Senators of the decision made last year not to use the chat function during Zoom Senate meetings in an effort to ensure online meetings function as closely to in-person meetings as possible and in adherence to Robert's Rules of Order. Senators were further reminded that the direct chat function would be used during today's meeting for the confidential election of Senate members.

The Chair commented on the Faculty Association letter sent recently to the Provost in relation to the review process of the Dean of the Faculty of Culture and Community. It was reported that Senate Executive Committee had discussed the letter in advance of today's Senate meeting, as the Faculty Association had requested the letter be brought to Senate. The Senate Executive made the decision not to include the letter on today's Senate agenda as the letter did not raise issues that fall within the purview of Senate.

The Chair further reported on two related actions also shared with the Board at their meeting on September 23, 2021:

- The President + Vice-Chancellor had discussion with the Faculty Association regarding the content of the letter and, with the Associate VP HR, has committed to work collaboratively with the Faculty Association to address concerns about the working environment in the faculty.
- The Board Governance Committee has been tasked with reviewing policy *8.9.1 Procedures for the Recommendation + Selection of Senior Academic + Administrative Personnel* to propose updated language that will address reappointment procedures, which are not currently included in the policy. Any changes to the policy and procedures will come to Senate for approval.

4. Approval of Senate minutes.

Moved / Seconded that Senate approve the April 26, 2021 Senate Minutes as circulated, with a friendly amendment to change the name Sophie Gatineau to Sophie Gaur in II. Business, 1. Report from the Registrar – Senate elections on page 4.

Carried.

5. Senate Housekeeping Items. Heather Sanford, Interim University Secretary, reported that the circulated Senate Handbook – Fall 2021, contains updated lists of Senators and Senate + Senate Committee meetings for 2021/22.

II. BUSINESS

1. Election of Vice-Chair of Senate.

Kevin Bird, Registrar, noted that the Executive Assistant to Vice Provost, Students would act as scrutineer during the elections.

It was noted that the Vice Chair of Senate provides continuity in Senate oversight, supports Senate Committees, sits on Senate Executive Committee, chairs Senate Budget Committee and Senate Nominations Committee, and stands in for the Chair

Nominees were called to serve as Vice-Chair of Senate. Trish Kelly was nominated and elected by acclamation.

Moved / Seconded that Senate approve the new and renewed nominees for appointment to Senate committees as recommended by the Nominations Committee.

3. Election of Senate members to Senate committees.
The Registrar called for nominees to serve on Senate committees.

- Executive Committee
 - 1 Member-at-Large: Pierre Leichner
 - 1 (of 2) Faculty member: Mimi Gellman
 - 1 (of 2) Faculty member: H  l  ne Day Fraser
 - 1 Dean: Celeste Martin
 - 1 Support Staff member: Danielle Zandvliet
 - 1 Student Senate member: Melanie Camman

Charlies Simon joined the meeting at 10:34 a.m.

- Governance Committee
 - 1 Dean: Diyan Achjadi
 - 1 Administration member: Suzanne Rackover
 - 1 CUPE Staff member: Cybele Creery
 - 1 Student member*: Stephanie Schneider

Moved / Seconded that Senate will table election of the Senate Governance Committee student position to the end of the meeting. Carried.

Stephanie Schneider and Charles Simon were nominated. Charles Simon declined the nomination. Stephanie Schneider was elected by acclamation.

The following individuals were elected:

- Curriculum Planning + Review Committee
 - 1 Faculty member: Mimi Gellman
 - 1 Faculty member: Rachel Sawatsky
 - 1 Other member: Sophie Gaur

Mimi Gellman, Rachelle Sawatsky, Sophie Gaur and Louise St. Pierre were nominated. The Interim University Secretary advised that the Curriculum Planning + Review Committee Terms of Reference indicate membership includes “Three (3) members, of whom at least 2 are Faculty members, as appointed by the Senate.” Thus, three of the four nominated faculty members could be elected. Mimi Gellman, Rachelle Sawatsky and Sophie Gaur were elected.

The following individual was elected by acclamation:

- Academic Planning + Priorities Committee
 - 1 Senate-appointed member: Chris Jones and Louise St. Pierre were nominated. Chris Jones declined the nomination. Louise St. Pierre was elected by acclamation.

The Chair of the Nominations Committee reported that a faculty member from the Faculty of Culture + Community has yet to be nominated for this committee by the constituent group.

The following individual was elected by acclamation:

- Aboriginal Advisory Committee
 - 1 Senate-appointed member: Celeste Martin and Mimi Gellman were nominated. Mimi Gellman declined the nomination. Celeste Martine was elected by acclamation.

It was clarified that Mimi Gellman was nominated to the Aboriginal Advisory Committee by the Aboriginal Gathering Place (AGP). Mimi indicated she declined the nomination as she chairs the committee. The Chair of the Nominations Committee reported that she will reach out to the AGP to complete the list of nominees on the committee.

The following individual was elected by acclamation:

- Appeals Committee
 - 1 Senate-appointed member: Chris Jones and Suzanne Rackover were nominated. Chris Jones declined the nomination. Suzanne Rackover was elected by acclamation.

The following individual was elected by acclamation:

- International Development Committee
 - 1 Senate-appointed member: Steven Lam

The Chair thanked the Registrar for facilitating the elections and thanked those Senate members for volunteering to serve on Senate committees.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1. Report of the President + Vice-Chancellor and Chair of Senate

The President welcomed new Senate members. Senate was asked to take a moment of silence to honour the passing of two UBC students yesterday.

The President commended faculty for their work in maintaining a vibrant learning experience for students learning remotely. It was noted faculty employed innovative ways to support students and deliver services remotely, including counselling, academic advising, financial support, recruitment, fundraising, etc. It was further noted that the Fall Term continues to be a combination of online and on-campus learning.

It was noted that ECU continues to work with the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training to resolve our longstanding financial challenges. It was reported that a financial review of the institution is currently underway. ECU is working with Peter Lockie, a consultant hired by the Ministry, to review our finances and operations and offer analysis and solutions. Mr. Lockie will meet with members of the President's Executive Committee (PEC), CUPE, Faculty Association, Students' Union and others. The President reported that Mr. Lockie met with the Board in September and will attend an upcoming Senate meeting to provide an update and answer questions. It was noted that there have been financial audits of the institution conducted in the past, but no one has been charged with finding a permanent solution to ECU's financial challenges. The President reported that Mark Douglas, Executive Director, Financial Services, and Trish Kelly, VP Academic + Provost, will hold internal sessions regarding the budget process and strategies to address some of the financial challenges.

The President reported that the university's strategic plan to 2021 has concluded and a new strategic planning process is underway under the leadership of two co-chairs: Kyla Mallet, Dean, Audain Faculty of Art, and , and Tiffanie Ting, Executive Director, Continuing Studies. While planning is in the early stages, it was noted that the goal is to ensure the process is as iterative and emergent as possible, and involves robust collaboration within and outside the university community. Kyla and Tiffanie reiterated the importance of consultation and collaboration as part of the process.

It was reported that the installation of the new Chancellor, Carleen Thomas, may be held in February 2022 when there is greater likelihood of holding an in-person ceremony.

2. Report of the Vice-President, Academic + Provost

The Vice-President, Academic + Provost, welcomed Diyan Achjadi, Interim Dean, Faculty of Culture + Community. It was noted the appointment was

made to ensure during this period of transition that all faculty of Culture + Community are supported by decanal leadership. The Vice-President, Academic + Provost reported on her commitment to continue conversations with the Faculty of Culture + Community and with the Faculty Association regarding processes and procedures in relation to the decanal search process moving forward.

The hard work of faculty was acknowledged in relation to the return to campus this fall. It was noted that the plan for 30% online and 70% hybrid curriculum this term was adjusted due to the inability of students in certain program areas to return to Canada as a result of travel delays, particularly from China and India.

It was reported that 10 faculty members are experimenting with high-flex teaching this term, which involves students' options to study online or in person at the same time in the same classroom.

New regular faculty members this academic year were welcomed. It was reported that six of the seven regular new faculty members starting this academic year self-identify as Indigenous or racialized, and four of whom were hired through restricted search processes.

It was reported that one position is open in 3D computer animation, and hires for print media and film arts will commence in coming months.

It was reported that Senate will soon receive material for review as part of the Academic Program Review. It was noted a series of areas of the university undergoing program review will continue this year and other areas will commence review.

Academic Affairs' response to our EDI Action Plan was raised. It was noted a plan will be brought forward to Senate regarding how we are supporting curricula development in areas that prioritize bringing Indigenous knowledge and our broader interests in non-western curriculum to better reflect more inclusive curriculum. It was further reported ECU received a grant from Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) that will help build our capacity in relation to systemic barriers and how we as a community think about processes of decolonization. A plan for course release to help faculty take up that work will be discussed with Deans in coming weeks.

IV. OPEN FORUM

1. Steven Lam invited Senate members to join future webinar sessions and NSERC EDI grant opportunities, which can be found [here](#). Additionally, ECU Research is collaborating on a series of panels and workshops with OCADU Research on Research Ethics. To find those talks, visit [A Keynote Artist Lecture by Ken Lum](#) and [Reciprocity & Responsibility: Conducting Research via Mentorship and Partnership](#).

V. INFORMATION

1. Senators received the Fall 2021-Spring 2022 Senate and Senate Committee meeting schedule.

VI. NEXT MEETING: November 1, 2021

VII. MOTION: TO MOVE IN CAMERA

1. **Moved / Seconded to move the meeting In Camera.**

Carried.

Guests departed the meeting at 11:22 a.m.

2. **Moved / Seconded to approved the May 21, 2021 Special In Camera Senate minutes.**

Carried.

3. **Moved / Seconded to move back into the Regular Session.**

Carried.

VIII. MOTION: ADJOURN — The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.