

# SENATE MINUTES

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29 2021, 10:00-11:30 AM

Online via Zoom webinar

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Diyan Achjadi	Pierre Leichner
Eugenia Bertulis	Kyla Mallett
Kevin Bird	Celeste Martin
Cybèle Creery	Suzanne Rackover
Hélène Day Fraser	Ben Reeves
Sophie Gaur	Rachelle Sawatsky
Mimi Gellman	Louise St. Pierre
Chris Jones	Ishika Tripathi
Trish Kelly	Danielle Zandvliet
Steven Lam	

Regrets: Gillian Siddall, Melanie Camman, Stephanie Schneider, Charles Simon

Guests: Mark Douglas, Kristina Fiedrich, Marcia Guno, Tiffanie Ting

Support: Heather Sanford, Christen Downie, Alex Muir (technical support)

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## *LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT*

### **I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

1. Call to Order – Trish Kelly, Vice Chair of Senate and meeting Chair called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

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

**Carried.**

3. Approval of Senate minutes.

**Moved / Seconded that Senate approve the November 1, 2021  
Senate Minutes as circulated.**

**Carried.**

### **II. REPORTS**

**1. Academic Planning + Priorities (APP)**

K. Fiedrich

Kristina Fiedrich, APP Chair, reported on the following:

- The APP Committee has established a working group for the review of policy *4.3 Program + Curriculum Change* and will bring any recommendations for revisions to the Senate Governance Committee and to Senate.
- A working group has been formed to review the student registration process and current challenges identified by students. The VP Academic + Provost recommended the working group engage IT to advise on supports students may need.
- The Committee has also discussed its role in relation to policies regarding qualifications for faculty members. A representative from Human Resources met with the Committee to discuss hiring processes and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion initiatives.

A Senator commented on the need for a baseline understanding of the percentage of BIPOC faculty at ECU.

In response to an inquiry from a Senator, it was noted that the Board has asked for a review of policy *8.9.1 Procedures for the Recommendation + Selection of Senior Academic + Administrative Personnel* and related series 8 policies.

**2. Alumni Association**

P. Leichner

Pierre Leichner, Alumni Association Chair, commented on the value of the Alumni Association's representation at Senate and commended the President, Provost and Dean of Design + Dynamic Media for rekindling the connection between the Alumni Association and Senate. It is a critical time for the Association as membership has been declining for a number of years. The AA Annual General Meeting will be held on December 7, 2021 via Zoom and all Senators are invited.

**3. Curriculum Planning + Review Committee**

I. Koenig

Trish Kelly provided an overview of the submitted CPR Report for Ingrid Koenig, Committee Chair. It was reported that the proposed Indigenous Presence/Locating Ourselves in Place course was unanimously approved; however, questions remain, including, credits, whether the course would be mandatory, and where the course would be housed. This foundational course is intended to provide students with a basic understanding of Indigenous knowledge and methodologies and recognition of the unceded territory on which ECU is situated. The course will be coming forward as a recommendation to Senate in early 2022 once these other questions are answered.

It was also noted the Committee discussed the process of how curriculum comes forward to CPR, including processes for consultation and development across faculties. The Committee will explore potential reinstatement of an internal Curriculum Initiatives Committee to encourage broader consultation.

**4. Governance Committee**

S. Rackover

Suzanne Rackover, Governance Committee Chair, provided an update on the new *Presidential Review for Re-appointment Policy and Procedures*. The

Governance Committee will provide further input on the draft, followed by community consultation and review by Senate. It was noted that as this is a joint Board and Senate policy, it will need to go through the governance structures of both sides of the bicameral system.

There was discussion. Several Senators inquired about the composition of the review committee, including the number of faculty represented. It was noted that the committee is intended to have broad representation but that composition has yet to be finalized. It was emphasized that the purpose of the review committee is to ensure a transparent and consultative process, while decision-making power in regards to reappointment rests with the Board.

The Committee Chair noted that all Senators will see a draft of the policy and have the opportunity to provide input and feedback. Senators were encouraged to seek feedback from respective faculties, departments, etc. and bring forward any recommendations to Senate.

#### 5. Research Advisory Committee (RAC)

S. Lam

Steven Lam, RAC Chair, thanked Committee members for their participation over the year and noted the next stage in development of the 2022-2027 Strategic Research Plan will involve soliciting feedback from faculty, staff and students.

The Committee Chair explained the function of the Strategic Research Plan as a means to support collaboration through research; highlight methods and connections between strategic goals and academic programs through the lens of research; support communities of practice; and act as a framework for recruitment of new Canada Research Chairs.

Collaboration, reciprocity, and equity, diversity and inclusion were mentioned as proposed values associated with the plan. A Senator further suggested the importance of environmental justice and having a world ecosystems perspective as an additional value.

The Committee Chair noted seven themes reflected in the Strategic Research Plan:

- 1) Indigenous research
- 2) Environmental justice + climate action
- 3) Social justice + community wellbeing
- 4) Experimental forms of practice-based research
- 5) Critical engagements with ethical technology
- 6) Land and place-based research
- 7) Connection between pedagogy and research (emerging theme)

In response to a Senator's inquiry, the goal for alignment between ECU's new Strategic Plan and the Strategic Research Plan was noted. Next steps will entail a survey of faculties in mid-December on desired areas, themes and/or expertise required of Canada Research Chairs. Further consultation and a more finalized Strategic Research Plan are anticipated in late spring or early fall next year.

**6. Aboriginal Advisory Committee**

M. Gellman

Mimi Gellman, Aboriginal Advisory Committee Chair, provided updates on:

- Aboriginal Gathering Place (AGP) collaboration with numerous research projects around the world.
- Progress on carving of the totem pole in the AGP.
- Progress and potential roll-out of courses, including the Indigenous Presence course.
- Mitacs grant.
- Collaboration with neurodiverse school Kenneth Gordon Maplewood School.
- AGP provision of food for students.

**7. Report of the Vice-President, Academic + Provost**

T. Kelly

The VP, Academic + Provost updated Senate on the following:

- Registration is currently underway for the Spring semester.
- There is a desire by students and faculty for more formal definitions of hybrid learning. The goal is to be largely back in person by fall 2022.
- The Provost acknowledged the patience and resilience shown by all involved in determining the academic schedule.
- Faculty hiring: Finalizing the 3D Animation search and will soon launch a call for new faculty in the Print area. Further faculty hiring will be determined in the spring dependent on budget.
- Mark Douglas (Executive Director, Financial Services) and Chelsea Hug (Manager of Operations and Strategic Planning for Academic Affairs) discussed deficit mitigation with faculty in advance of Peter Lockie's financial review to generate ideas for potential opportunities for cost savings and increased revenue in academic areas. The outcome of Mr. Lockie's review will have an impact on every area; the exercise now is to prepare for next steps.

In response to a request from Senate, the Provost reported on work being done by Academic Affairs related to EDI and presented in connection to the curricular commitments as articulated in the EDI Action Plan. It was emphasized that Academic Affairs does not develop curriculum, but supports the work of faculty in producing that curriculum. The Provost acknowledged that the high teaching load and challenge to find time to seed curricular development were substantial challenges to encouraging this work.

- The Deans recognize that consultation regarding curricular development takes time so they have been looking at ways to build time and self-reflection into the process. The Provost will report to Senate regularly to share progress on this work.
- The practice of critique has been a cornerstone of art and design education and assessment; this creates a potentially serious power imbalance and a need to rethink ways to create supportive space. Work has been ongoing in terms of speakers and workshops to support faculty in thinking about decentering critique processes in light of EDI concerns.
- The work to bring forward a core course in Indigenous methodologies and land-based pedagogy, potentially for every student, is ongoing but moving forward. This course will help students develop a critical consciousness in relation to decolonization, Indigenous knowledge, and what it means to live

and work on this land. The course is currently at CPR and making its way to Senate in the new year.

- Action items in the EDI Action Plan also focused on decentering course content from a Western model; goal to increase class offerings on black, diasporic, African, Asian, Middle Eastern, LatinX histories. Academic Affairs is working to support curricular development by faculty through a course release model. Twelve courses per term, for the next two years, will be allocated to seed this form of curricular change.
- Two funds have been increased to support anti-racism: 1) Community Enhancement Fund; 2) Antiracism Student Action and Response Fund.
- The Deans, working with industry partners and the Research Office, are looking to expand more mentorship opportunities for students in connection to this work and opportunities for Indigenous students and students of colour.
- A broader action/goal is to engage our existing course descriptions and learning outcomes. We hope to take this up in spring to provide frameworks for faculties to begin these conversations. This is complicated work, time sensitive and ties into program review and program review processes that will be audited in the fall of 2022.
- We would like to begin to articulate a shared framework for Academic Affairs, to be used across Faculties, regarding how we are held accountable for broader work around EDI and inclusion in the classroom.

There was discussion. A Senator inquired whether members of the community who are not faculty or students are included in the EDI Action Plan. The Provost noted all Deans have been working with student groups and faculty are collaborating with students in this work; however, the question of how to bring this work to the broader community, beyond Senate, is important.

A Senator requested this presentation be shared with faculties. The Provost will share with Deans to bring to their faculties.

The Chair thanked Senators for all their work and participation on Senate during this term.

## **8) OPEN FORUM**

No discussion

## **9) NEXT MEETING: January 24, 2022**

## **10) MOTION: ADJOURN — The meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.**