

MINUTES

BOARD OF GOVERNORS — REGULAR SESSION

Thursday, September 23, 2021, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Via Zoom webinar online meeting platform.

ATTENDANCE:

Voting Members:

Keith Kerrigan (Board Chair)	Lindsay McIntyre	Keith Reynolds
Carleen Thomas (Chancellor)	Lorcan O'Melinn	Stephanie Schneider
Gillian Siddall (President + Vice Chancellor)	Alex Phillips	Charles Simon
Megan Ellis	Esther Rausenberg	Emma Somers
Mary Macaulay		

Regrets: Sonny Assu

Guests: Trish Kelly (Provost + Vice-President Academic), Mark Douglas (Executive Director Financial Services), Adrian Tees (Associate Vice-President, Human Resources), Kevin Bird (Director, Recruitment, Admissions, International Development + Registrar), Marcia Guno (Vice Provost, Students), Heather Sanford (Interim University Secretary), Christen Downie (Associate University Secretary)

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 — Keith Kerrigan, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 3:20 p.m.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved / Seconded

Carried.

3. Approval of the Board Minutes of July 29, 2021 with amendments to:

(1) The attendance list and inclusion of Keith Reynolds in 'Regrets';

(2) Inclusion of the sentence "There were concerns that will be referred to the Board Governance Committee." in 'II. Business, 3. For Approval: Revision to 3.6 Sexual and Gender-based Violence and Misconduct Policy';

(3) Inclusion of "Megan Ellis, Board Member" in the final sentence in relation to those who were thanked for their input and work on the policy in 'II. Business, 3. For Approval: Revision to 3.6 Sexual and Gender-based Violence and Misconduct Policy'.

Action: Megan Ellis to provide Keith Reynolds, Chair of the Board Governance Committee, with written notes summarizing her concerns in

relation to *3.6 Sexual and Gender-based Violence and Misconduct Policy*.

II. PRESENTATION

1. Marcia Guno, Vice Provost, Students, Student Services, provided an overview of the Student Services team, including team member roles. She noted the work of Student Services in connecting with students, collaborating with departments across campus to enhance the student experience, supporting reconciliation and upholding the university's commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI).

Board Members commended the work of the Vice Provost and recognized the challenge involved in commencing her role during the global pandemic. The Vice Provost was invited to provide the Board with regular updates on Student Services' initiatives and progress towards EDI goals.

The President + Vice-Chancellor noted that today's presentation is intended to be the first of regular presentations to the Board to provide Members with opportunities to meet members of ECU's community and learn more about the initiatives they are engaged in.

III. BUSINESS

1. Approval of the Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) report.

Mark Douglas, Executive Director, Financial Services, presented the annual Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) report. In accordance with the *Financial Information Act* (FIA), the Board of Directors is responsible for overseeing management in the performance of its financial reporting responsibilities, including submission of an annual SOFI report. FIA corporations have six months following their fiscal year-end to comply with all reporting requirements under the Act and to annually submit the SOFI report to government.

It was noted that some figures in the SOFI report differ from related figures in the financial statements at March 31, 2021, as the financial statements are compiled on an accrual basis in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, whereas the SOFI report is compiled on a cash basis.

There was discussion.

Moved / Seconded that the Board of Governors approve the Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) for 2020/21 as presented.

Carried.

IV. REPORTS

1. Chair's Report

The Chair welcomed new Board Members and thanked outgoing members for their contributions to the Board. The Chair commented on the success of the recent in-person Board retreat and thanked the Interim University Secretary and Associate University Secretary for their support of the board. The Chair referenced the current vacancy on the board and noted Interest in seeking a member with fundraising experience.

2. President + Vice-Chancellor's Report

The President + Vice-Chancellor reiterated the significance and importance of ECU's new Chancellor, Carleen Thomas, being from one of ECU's Host Nations and the potential for the Chancellor to inform and enhance the university's work on reconciliation and Indigenization. The President noted the success of the recent Board retreat and commencement of strategic planning discussions. An update was provided on the transition to the return to campus for the fall term, as well as ongoing logistics and planning related to vaccination requirements. It was reported that recruitment of the VP, Finance + Administration is underway and that two board members are included on the recruitment committee.

3. Vice President, Academic + Provost's Report

The VP, Academic + Provost, commended the hard work of the academic team, particularly faculty and staff who were engaged directly in planning for the return to campus. Updates were provided on new faculty and non-regular faculty members, the new EDI grant, academic program review, and the appointment of an Interim Dean of Culture + Community.

4. Vice Provost, Students' Report

The Vice Provost, Students congratulated the recruitment team on exceeding its fall admissions target. It was reported that the direct entry process is being explored at ECU with the goal of implementation by 2023. Benefits of a direct entry model, which would entail students' identification of their intended major upon entrance to the university, were noted, including providing ECU with more certainty regarding program areas and class loads.

There was discussion. Several Board Members inquired about FTE funding, percentage of students covered by provincial grant funding, international student tuition costs, domestic student tuition subsidies, current GPA requirements for admission to ECU, and clarity regarding the impact of a direct entry model on foundational core curriculum, programs and faculty. It was explained by the VP, Academic + Provost that Program Development is being reviewed generally in relation to addressing the university's financial realities. It was noted that a direct entry model can help support application and retention issues, but that discussions of implementing a direct entry model at ECU are preliminary, and consultation and collaboration with Deans will continue.

5. Executive Director, Financial Services Report

The Executive Director, Financial Services, referred to the updates on the 2021/22 financial overview, external financial review by Peter Lockie, and 2022/23 Budget process included in the circulated report and discussed recently with the Board at the in-person Board retreat. Board Members inquired about budgeting and costs of rapid COVID testing at ECU, as well as changes in costs associated with ECU's previous designation as an institute and current designation as a university.

6. General Manager, P3, Facilities Report

The Chair noted that the Facilities Report is included in the board materials and invited Board Members to email any questions to the General Manager, P3 Facility Operations, who is currently on vacation.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

1. A Board Member requested the Board consider reinstituting the practice of holding portions of Board meetings without Administration. The topic will be discussed at the next meeting of the Board.
2. A Board Member requested a copy of the updated Board meeting schedule.
3. A Board Member recommended the Board discuss how to address the dissonance between ECU's official mandate as a special purpose teaching university and actual practice related to research. There was discussion. Several Board Members commented on:
 - Recommendation that Peter Lockie elaborate on this issue in his report to the Ministry.
 - Impact on ECU of the Ministry's current research review and what it means to conduct research at teaching universities.
 - Impact on ECU of the Ministry's funding formula review process.
 - Need to identify the value of research being done at ECU and that research is identified as a priority in ECU's strategic plan.
 - Need to identify ECU's value proposition.
 - Need for clarity regarding the Ministry's and Treasury Board's timeline.
 - Suggestion that the Board Finance + Audit Committee discuss the issue at its next meeting to identify recommendations.

The Board will explore reconvening again to discuss the issue at a special meeting of the Board in October.

Emma Somers departed the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

VI. NEXT MEETING: December 2, 2021

VII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.