

Thursday, May 29, 2024 — 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
via Zoom webinar

ATTENDANCE:

Board Members:

Don Avison (Board Chair)	Keith Reynolds
Trish Kelly (Interim President + Vice Chancellor)	Sung Van
Lorcan O'Melinn (Vice-Chair)	Alex Phillips
Lindsay McIntyre	Natasha Tony
	Mary Macaulay

Regrets: Esther Rausenberg, Ishika Tripathi, Gaye Fowler, Carleen Thomas, Parnian Anaa, Brenda Crabtree

Resources and/or Guests: Diyan Achjadi (Interim Vice-President, Academic + Provost), Viktor Sokha (Vice-President, Finance + Administration), 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 2:50 p.m.
2. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION: That the Agenda for the Board Open Session of May 29, 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 March 28, 2024 be approved as presented.

Moved / Seconded

Carried.

II. BUSINESS ARISING

1. Chair's Remarks

The Chair shared the following congratulations on behalf of the Board:

- He congratulated student Board member Ishika Tripathi on graduating at May convocation.
- He congratulated Esther Rausenberg who was presented with the BC Achievement Foundation Community Achievement Award in May (for 2023). The award is presented as a means of "honouring excellence and inspiring achievement in community service and leadership." E. Rausenberg was recognized for her service, highlighting her stewardship of the Eastside Arts Society and working as an advocate for the arts and artists.

The Chair reported that Lorcan O'Melinn, Mary Macaulay and Sung Van have been reappointed to the Board; that Parnian Anaa has been re-elected as a student Board member and the Board will also be welcoming a newly elected student Board member, Eknoor Matharoo in September.

2. Interim President's Updates

T. Kelly reported on a busy month of May which involved several keystone for the University.

- She congratulated the graduating class of 2024, sharing that approximately 440 undergraduate and graduate students crossed the stage at convocation.
- ECU saw a number of visitors on campus to view and celebrate the work of the graduating class at the Grad Show. Crit Night, also held during the Grad Show on May 15th, provided an special opportunity for 24 local curators and students to come together and meet.
- ECU hosted the annual donor recognition event on May 23rd, which provides an opportunity to give recognition to donors and supporters of the University and for ECU supporters to connect more directly with students and to see the impact of their generous contributions.

T. Kelly previewed activities to come over the summer months, highlighting i) the Teen Programs, which offers engaging and accessible art, media and design studios for youth through Continuing Studies, and ii) the start of the low-residency MFA graduate student program commencing in July.

3. Budget Update

It was noted that items 3 & 4 be reported out together.

L. O'Melinn, Chair of the Audit + Finance Committee of the Board (the AFC) reported that the Audit + Finance Committee was informed that the year end results are very close to what the University had budgeted for 2023/24 within \$60,000 on an all-fund basis (deficit of \$411,325 improvement over budgeted deficit of \$470,558).

He noted that the majority of the variance is within the University's grants and salaries and is directly related to the shared recovery mandate and the collective agreement that were ratified during the year.

It was also explained that the 3% decline in projected tuition was due to international student enrolments but it is important to note that ECU did meet the registration targets and most of the cost was offset by improvements from domestic undergraduate, master's program and Continuing Studies.

M. Douglas provided additional details:

- The shortfall in tuition was offset by an improvement in investment in GNW campus trust, which did much better than budgeted;
- There was an increase in interest revenue that is directly related to improved interest rates over the last year;
- There were a number of hiring set backs this year, much of it was due to staff turnover both expected and unexpected but most positions were filled by the end of the year;
- There was significant increase to the vacation accruals, however, it is important to differentiate that this is due to the increase to salary and not to the number of hours accrued;
- Scholarship and bursaries award by the University were more than budgeted because of the number of special provincial grants that were received; and
- At the request of donors, there were endowment and investment transfers to the Vancouver Foundation during the year to obtain a more favourable return on investment, which was not budgeted.

There was a conversation regarding how the instruction vs. instruction support is captured under expenses. A Board member mentioned that it may be helpful to break down the categories further and define what those expenses entail. Management noted that the current reporting structure is in relation to our deficient mitigation efforts.

L. McIntyre requested further clarification on the financial activity for the University's Continuing Studies programing. M. Douglas noted that the financial activity does present a shortfall of \$131,542 when comparing budget to actual activity.

A. Phillips asked what is considered a non-salary research expense. The Chair responded that it is an ancillary cost that is related to research activity that is not directly related to salary.

4. 2023/24 Financial Statements

L. O'Melinn reported that the University received a clean opinion from the auditors and that there were no areas of concern raised at AFC.

MOTION: That the Board, on the recommendation of the Audit + Finance Committee, approve the audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended March 31, 2024, as presented.

Moved / Seconded

Carried.

5. ECU Annual Report on Forced Labour and Child Labour

L. O'Melinn reported that on January 1, 2024, the *Fighting Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains Act* was enacted by the Federal Government. This Act imposes an obligation on certain entities to report on the measures taken in the previous fiscal year to prevent and reduce the risk that forced labour or child labour is used by them or in their supply chains.

This is the first year ECU is producing this report. ECU has a risk management framework in place and no risks related to forced labour or child labour have been identified. The University has reviewed the items it imported during the year, including the countries of origin, and feels that the risk of forced labour or child labour in the production of these goods is low.

He reported that AFC has reviewed the report and is recommending for Board approval.

The report must be approved by the organization's governing body and attested to, before it is submitted to the Ministry of Public Safety by May 31, 2024. This report will be publicly accessible on the government registry as well as the ECU website.

MOTION: That the Board, on the recommendation of the Audit + Finance Committee, approve ECU's Annual Report on Forced Labour and Child Labour for the year ended March 31, 2024, as presented.

Moved / Seconded

Carried.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair recommended two books:

- *North of Nowhere: Song of a Truth and Reconciliation Commissioner (TRC)*, by Marie Wilson; and
- *The Creative Act: A Way of Being*, by Rick Rubin.

The Chair took a moment to remark on the unique experiences and contributions of art and design students in the sector, and in our broader community. He encouraged all to reflect on how we must bring this into more focus for our internal and external communities.

L. McIntyre noted that she recently took part in a survey on the affordability and working conditions of artists across Canada, which was commissioned by the Cultural Human Resources Council. The survey was completed earlier in 2024 and the survey analysis was released on May 29th to survey respondents. The report outlines the unique challenges that recent graduates face in comparison to the general population and provides insight into the opportunities and challenges for artists. She will forward the information to the Board.

[Secretary's note: L. McIntyre shared the analysis of the survey via email on May 29, 2024.]

IV. NEXT MEETING: The next Regular Open Session of the Board is Thursday, June 27, 2024.

V. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m.