

SENATE MINUTES

Wednesday, December 11, 10:00 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.
ECU Boardroom / *Online via Zoom webinar

ATTENDANCE

Trish Kelly (Chair + Vice-Chancellor)	Haig Armen
Diyan Achjadi (Vice-Chair)	Mark Johnsen
Jacqueline Turner	Beth Howe
Celeste Martin	Ishita Arora
Kyla Mallett	Saanvi Bhatt
Justin Langlois	Anoushka Nair
Vanessa Kam	Shawn Choi
Cameron Cartiere	Laszlo Hollander
Adriana Jaroszewicz	Micaela Kwiatkowski
Helene Day Fraser	Eknoor Madharoo (non-voting)
Mimi Gellman*	Alex Phillips

Regrets: Carleen Thomas, Stuti Gulati, Kathryn Verkerk, Vanessa Kam

Guests/Support: Natasha Himer (University Secretary), Sonia Orlu (Senate Support), Alex Muir (Technical Support),

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1. Call to Order – Trish Kelly, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.
2. Agenda Approval

Moved / Seconded that the Agenda of the December 11, 2024 Senate meeting be approved as circulated.

Carried.

3. Past Minutes

Moved / Seconded that Senate approve the Minutes of the Senate Meeting of November 6, 2024 as circulated.

Carried.

II. BUSINESS

1. Chair's Remarks + Report

T. Kelly provided the following updates:

Ministry Changes and Leadership:

Anne Kang has been appointed as Minister of Post Secondary Education and Future Skills, returning to a portfolio she previously held. Minister Kang has been contacted and indicated her office will make it a priority to visit the institution in early 2025.

Trevor Hughes has been appointed as the new Deputy Minister, bringing 14 years of experience from the Labor portfolio. It was noted that Hughes may maintain connections with the infrastructure portfolio, where treasury and capital funding decisions are made.

The Ministry has also created a new Assistant Deputy Minister position specifically focused on international education. This role will help post-secondary institutions navigate federal changes to international visas and advocate at the federal level for institutions like Emily Carr. The position will also look to ensure proper support across the sector for international students and to maintain the quality of international education programs.

VP Academic and Provost Search:

The search committee has been formed and PFM Executive Search is supporting the process. Community consultation has begun, and a position profile has been finalized and is being shared with potential candidates. In response to a question, President Kelly indicated she will consult with HR about posting of the search committee membership list with the community.

Institutional Advocacy:

Advocacy work continues with other art and design institutions in Ottawa, particularly through Universities Canada and UAD4. The meetings have focused heavily on the challenges facing international education, particularly considering recent federal changes to visa policies. A significant concern emerged about Canada's attractiveness as a study destination, with institutions discussing how federal caps on international student visas might affect perceptions of Canadian education globally.

Discussions also addressed how institutions can maintain research excellence and attract top talent in the current climate. President Kelly noted that these conversations weren't solely focused on Emily Carr but considered broader implications for Canada's position in global education.

A substantial portion of both meetings centered on building institutional resilience. This topic was examined from multiple angles:

- Supporting senior management through periods of change
- Developing strategic team capabilities
- Building faculty and staff resilience
- Managing multiple concurrent initiatives while maintaining educational quality

President Kelly emphasized that these discussions were particularly relevant for smaller institutions like Emily Carr, which must address both internal demands and external factors with limited resources.

Holiday Festivities:

The university recently held a holiday feast that served 150 students, hosted collaboratively by the Student Union and various departments. President Kelly participated in serving food and noted that supporting students brings the university community together and is a fundamental purpose of the institution.

Centennial Planning:

Preparations are underway for the university's centennial year, beginning October 1, 2025 - marking 100 years since the first class at Emily Carr. More information about planning and community engagement will be shared in the new year.

East Van Cross:

President Kelly is scheduled to address the Vancouver City Council regarding the East Van Cross sculpture. She will explain that Emily Carr University supports exploring relocation options for the sculpture, as a new building may obstruct its view from downtown Vancouver. In her address, President Kelly will discuss Emily Carr University's role as a cultural anchor in the city and emphasize the importance of public art. While supporting the motion to explore relocation options, she will stress the need for artist consultation and community accessibility. President Kelly indicated she will not address the proposal's monetization aspects.

There was discussion and some questions centered around the university's expansion plans. It was noted:

- The institution will lease additional space in the adjacent CDM building. In response to questions from senators, President Kelly explained that the additional space, approximately 8,000-10,000 square feet in what's known as the "hangar space," will provide much-needed classroom and studio space. The main building will continue to house all technical support facilities to maintain student access to essential resources.
- The university has received approximately \$1.5 million in government funding, but this can only be used for renovating spaces within the main building, as government funding cannot be used for leased spaces. The lease costs will be covered by revenue generated from increased enrollment, particularly from growth in the foundation program over the past four years.
- A Senator recalled that, during an all-university meeting at the old Granville Island campus, the then-President had stated the new campus would provide approximately 30% more space. In response, President Kelly clarified that the current building has been operating at capacity since its opening, as it was designed to match the exact spatial dimensions of the previous location.
- The need for expansion stems from consistent growth in the foundation program over the past four years. President Kelly explained that this growth has created additional space requirements as students advance to their second year.

2. Interim Vice President, Academic + Provost's Report

Diyan Achjadi reported that the university recently hosted its first on-campus National Portfolio Day since 2017, marking a significant return to in-person recruitment events. The event saw unprecedented attendance, with over 300 portfolio reviews for potential applicants conducted **by** Emily Carr faculty and more than 500 **attendees** and their families visiting campus. Twenty visiting institutions participated, and notably, more potential students attended in the first two hours than typically attended in entire previous events.

D. Achjadi invited Justin Langlois, AVP Research + Dean of Graduate Studies to provide an update.

J. Langlois reported that this has been an exceptional year for research at Emily Carr, with faculty achieving numerous grant successes. Several faculty members secured Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Institutional Grants, which are designed to seed early-stage research.

A particularly notable achievement was Alla Gadassik's receipt of an Insight Grant worth \$260,000 over five years. The grant reviewers specifically commended the high caliber of student training proposed in the application. Emily Hermant secured a high-value award from the Insight Development Grant competition of \$72,000, which was especially impressive as it was her first external grant application. The success built upon her previous internal grant through the university's seed funding program.

The university's MITACS program has also seen significant success, facilitating partnerships between faculty, community partners, and students. The program supported 21 internships in the last calendar year, providing over \$200,000 in student funding. J. Langlois emphasized that approximately 50% of many research budgets are dedicated to student training, providing valuable professional experience.

The Artist Apprenticeship Network has engaged 15 undergraduate and graduate students, supported by \$50,000 in funding. Of the 12 independent artists serving as mentors, six have connections to Emily Carr University, demonstrating the institution's strong ties to the professional arts community.

3. Academic Planning and Priorities (APP) Committee Report

Jacqueline Turner, Chair, referred to the committee report in the meeting materials. No questions or comments were offered on the report.

4. APPROVAL: Academic Planning + Priorities Committee

The proposed academic schedule, now renamed from "academic calendar" include the following changes:

- Make-up days moved to Remembrance Day week
- Spring semester delayed by one week, shifting May Convocation accordingly

The remaining three years of a planned four-year schedule will be presented in the new year, after faculty consultation, in February. A formal academic schedule policy will follow later in the year.

A senator commented on the timing of Reading Week, suggesting that its current placement disrupts teaching momentum. They suggested moving it closer to the end of the semester to better serve students' needs for catch-up work.

A procedural point was raised regarding the alignment of the academic schedule with the fiscal year, resulting in a friendly amendment. The amendment specified the schedule would run "through Spring 2026" rather than Summer 2026.

Moved / Seconded that Senate, on the recommendation of the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee, approve the first year of the new academic schedule Fall 2025–Spring 2026.

Carried.

5. Curriculum Planning + Review (CPR) Committee Report

Cameron Cartiere, Chair, referred to the committee report in the meeting materials. No questions or comments were offered on the report.

6. Curriculum Planning + Review Committee Recommendations

Kyla Mallet presented the proposed changes for:

VAST 410 Senior Studio (Interdisciplinary):

- Added learning outcomes.
- Removed references to the team-taught model in course descriptions for clarity.
- Emphasis on ensuring course descriptions align with delivery.

Jacqueline Turner presented the proposed changes for:

SOCS 302 The Ethics of Representation:

- Updated description and added learning objectives.
- Adjustments reflect removal of outdated references to professional internships.

There was discussion on the proposed course changes, particularly regarding VAST 410 Senior Studio (Interdisciplinary):

- A Senator commented on the course description's statement that "students meet regularly," as this may not reflect the actual course delivery, which emphasized flexible meeting times and independent work. A suggestion was made to consider using "often" instead of "regularly" since the self-directed, independent work time made regular meetings unfeasible.
- Another point was raised about the structure of learning objectives in the course proposal form, suggesting they should begin with "students will be able to..."
- K. Mallett responded, suggesting that given the thorough discussion at CPR, they should proceed with passing this version as a first step, but include the note about the meeting frequency language for the next revision. She explained they would undertake a more comprehensive discussion at the faculty level.
- C. Cartiere explained that course descriptions also serve as guides for faculty and can help students advocate for more group meetings if desired. The description shouldn't necessarily be rewritten based solely on current classroom practices.
- A senator commented on the rationale section that claimed the courses would "decolonize the curriculum and address the climate change," noting this seemed to be asking more than many courses could potentially deliver, using a wheel-throwing course as an example.
- K. Mallett acknowledged that when these forms include questions about decolonization/indigenization and climate change, authors often feel compelled to address them even when the connection isn't direct. She indicated she is currently leading a review of the forms to clarify expectations around these requirements, among other changes.

For SOCS 302 (The Ethics of Representation), a senator noted that only four learning objectives were listed despite the form suggesting five to ten. J. Turner responded that she viewed the suggested number as arbitrary since only four were needed in this case. The committee agreed to note this feedback.

Moved / Seconded that Senate, on the recommendation of the Curriculum Planning and Review Committee, approve the course change proposals as presented:

- **VAST 410 Senior Studio (Interdisciplinary)**
- **SOCS 302 The Ethics of Representation**

Carried.

III. OPEN FORUM

President Kelly excused herself from the meeting to attend the City Council presentation. Before departing, she expressed gratitude for the community's work throughout the year and encouraged reflection on the year's achievements.

D. Achjadi assumed the role of Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

T. Kelly departed the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

A question was raised about the university's enrollment growth plans. This was made note of for potential follow-up.

IV. NEXT MEETING – January 29, 2024

V. MOTION: ADJOURN – The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 a.m.