

SENATE MINUTES – OPEN SESSION

Wednesday, January 29, 2025, 9:30 a.m. – 10:40 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	Stuti Gulati
Justin Langlois	Anoushka Nair
Vanessa Kam	Shawn Choi
Cameron Cartiere	Laszlo Hollander
Adriana Jaroszewicz	Micaela Kwiatkowski
Helene Day Fraser	Eknoor Madharoo (non-voting)
Kathryn Verkerk	Alex Philipps

Regrets: Carleen Thomas, Mimi Gellman

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

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1. Call to Order – D. Achjadi, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m.
2. Agenda Approval

The agenda was adjusted to accommodate President Kelly's late arrival, due to a last-minute meeting with Deputy Minister Trevor Hughes.

- Chair's Remarks, President's Report, and the Vice-President Academic & Provost Report were moved to later in the meeting.
- The closed session was moved to the end of the meeting.

Moved / Seconded that the Agenda of the January 29, 2025, Senate meeting be approved as amended.

Carried.

3. Past Minutes

The following amendments were proposed:

- N. Himer and K. Mallett requested a correction regarding the CPR recommendations for course change proposals in the previous minutes.

- The minutes originally implied the process had not started, whereas work was already underway.
- Minutes should reflect that the working group had already begun the process. Specifically, the statement

“She indicated she would lead a review of the forms to clarify expectations around these requirements, among other changes.”

should be revised to

“She indicated she is currently leading a review of the forms to clarify expectations around these requirements, among other changes.”

- A senator raised a concern that a previously mentioned comment on space expansion was not included in the minutes. They had recalled that, during an all-university meeting at the Granville Island campus, the then-President had stated the new campus would provide approximately 30% more space.
 - N. Himer noted that the minutes could reflect that the senator had noted this as their own recollection of a commitment rather than confirming it as an official statement.
- Attendance correction: Alex Phillips and Sanvi Bhatt should be recorded as present, and Stutti Gulatti should be recorded as absent.

Moved / Seconded that Senate approve the Minutes of the Senate Meeting of December 11, 2024, as amended.

Carried.

II. BUSINESS

1. Chair’s Remarks + Report

Key Updates from the Deputy Minister Meeting:

- T. Kelly had a productive meeting with the Deputy Minister Trevor Hughes before the Senate meeting.
- Provincial budget updates are expected in the coming weeks.
- The government is prioritizing funding for housing and economic growth initiatives, and universities are expected to align their programs with labor market needs.
- Deputy Minister Hughes was interested in and remarked on Emily Carr’s contributions to social innovation and reconciliation efforts.
- T. Kelly noted that:
 - ECU is well positioned to demonstrate its economic impact and graduate employment outcomes, and referenced a prior report on this impact, Emsi’s *The Economic Value of Emily Carr University of Art + Design* (2019).

There was discussion and T. Kelly emphasized the University is proactively engaged with the ministry in key areas, such as:

- Building stronger industry partnerships to demonstrate ECU’s role in job creation.
- Advocating for student housing initiatives.

Ministerial Visit with Minister Anne Kang (Post-Secondary Education):

- Minister Kang also visited ECU for the first time, and was accompanied by Parliamentary Secretary for International Credentials, Sunita Dhir, and MLA for Vancouver-Strathcona, Joan Phillip.

- The visit agenda included:
 - A tour of the Health Design Lab and Material Matters Research Center.
 - Meetings with faculty, student representatives, and administration.
 - Discussions on student housing, international student caps, and the role of art and design education in economic development.
- The Minister was highly engaged and impressed with ECU's approach.
- The Ministry has not yet issued a mandate letter to ECU, but the visit provided insights into government priorities.

Vice President Academic & Provost Hiring Process

- The search for a new VP Academic + Provost is ongoing. Candidate applications are being reviewed.
- Interviews will take place in February.

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

D. Achjadi provided the following updates:

- Provincial Attestation Letters (PALs) have been distributed for 2024-25; issued late due to federal delays.
- ECU's international student allocation decreased by ~7-8% but reflect the actual PALs used and visas issued last year. Applications demand remains stable.
- New regulations include graduate student allocations, which were based on our data from the past 2-3 years.
 - Students must pay a deposit before receiving a PAL to prevent over-allocation.
 - Some of the MDes streams have been heavily subscribed by international students; strategies are being developed to increase domestic enrollment via scholarships.

Senators inquired about the following and there was discussion:

- Visa delays affecting enrollment:
 - Students report longer wait times for visas.
 - The government is revising processing timelines, but there is no immediate fix.
- New work restrictions reinstated:
 - The government has set an up to 24 hours per weekwork limit for international students.
 - Some senators worried this reduces the appeal of studying in Canada.
- Future uncertainty in allocations:
 - Allocations will be reviewed annually, making long-term planning difficult for programs relying on international students.

3. INFORMATION: Academic Planning + Priorities Committee Report

J. Turner, Chair, referred to the committee report in the meeting materials. Key updates include:

- Academic Schedule (Summer 2026 – Spring 2027): Two draft versions will be reviewed at the February 5 APP meeting, with a final version presented to Senate in March.
- Program Review Policy & Procedures: Initial draft has been completed. Final review expected at next APP meeting before moving to Senate for approval.
- Clarity was sought on how procedures differ from policies:
 - N. Himer explained that policy outlines overarching principles and delegation of authority, while procedures focus on implementation.
 - Some members felt the distinction was unclear and suggested a Senate presentation on the topic in the future.

4. APPROVAL: Addition of Registrar to APP Committee Membership

N. Himer, University Secretary, explained that the recommended addition reinstates the Registrar + Executive Director of Enrollment as a voting member of the APP Committee.

This role exists on equivalent committees at other universities and ensures enrollment policies are aligned with academic planning.

Moved / Seconded that the Senate, on the recommendation of the Academic Planning and Priorities (APP) Committee, and the Senate Governance Committee, approve the addition of the Registrar + Executive Director of Enrollment as a voting member of the APP Committee, effective immediately.

Carried.

5. INFORMATION: Curriculum Planning + Review (CPR) Committee Report

C. Cartiere, Chair, referred to the committee report in the meeting materials. She drew specific attention to the Program Review Policy and Procedures draft, highlighting that while the policy itself is straightforward, the accompanying procedures deserve particular scrutiny. Senators were encouraged to review both separately to avoid conflating governance with implementation and be ready to provide thorough, detailed feedback on these procedures once they are presented to Senate.

Some clarity was sought on the following:

- How do procedures differ from policies?
 - N. Himer explained that policy outlines overarching principles and delegation of authority, while procedures focus on implementation.
 - Some members felt the distinction was unclear and suggested a Senate presentation on the topic in the future.
- Are procedures easier to amend than policies?
 - N. Himer clarified that procedures are adaptable, but policy should be more stable.

6. APPROVAL: Curriculum Planning + Review Committee Recommendations

a) Faculty of Graduate Studies: Change to MFA Low Residency Program Requirement Worksheet

J. Langlois presented the proposed changes to the PRW that would move GSMA 652 (6 credits) from second-year fall semester to second-year summer semester to better align student thesis development and administrative processes.

Key points on this change:

- The move would ensure that students remain full-time status and maintain access to necessary services.
- Change will take effect Fall 2025 for second-year students.

The following discussion ensued:

- Why change this now?
 - Administrative issues have arisen because the course is listed as a Spring semester extension rather than a formal summer course.
 - The change will align thesis work with when students actually complete it.
- Impact on faculty workload
 - Some senators questioned whether supervisors would now work longer with students.

- Clarification: Supervisor workload remains the same, but thesis work is better distributed.
- Concerns about tuition
 - Some members asked whether this change affects tuition fees.
 - J. Langlois confirmed that there would be no increase in credits or tuition.
- Alignment with MDes Program
 - The MDes program finishes earlier than the MFA program.
 - No major impact expected as MFA Low Residency follows a different timeline.

Moved / Seconded that Senate, on the recommendation of the Curriculum Planning and Review Committee, approve the change to MFA Low Residency Program Requirement Worksheet, as presented.

Carried.

b) Faculty of Design and Dynamic Media Changes

C. Martin presented the updated course change proposals for:

- COMD 304: Typographic Systems
- COMD 314: Complex Typography
- COMD 404: Advanced Typography
- COMD 420: Type Design

The changes:

- Update course names, descriptions, learning objectives, and prerequisites.
- Align with industry expectations and program accreditation standards.

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

- i) **COMD 304 Typographic Systems**
(change to name, description, add learning objectives)
- ii) **COMD 314 Complex Typography**
(change to name, description, add learning objectives)
- iii) **COMD 404 Advanced Typography**
(change to name, prerequisites, description, learning objectives)
- iv) **COMD 420 Type Design**
(change to description, add learning objectives)

Carried.

7. INFORMATION: Senate Governance Committee Report

C. Martin provided an update on the committee's work:

- Currently review draft operating principles for Senate subcommittees.
- This work and the operating principles will help to standardize committee operations, clarify practices and will serve as a basis for updating committee terms of reference. . Draft guidelines have been reviewed in January 2024, and further discussions are ongoing.
- This work will be brought to Senate in due course.

III. OPEN FORUM

Exchange Program Credit Issues:

- A senator inquired about how often exchange agreements and course equivalencies are updated and whether there is a process for reviewing them. They cited an example of a student on exchange who was required to take more courses than they would at Emily Carr to receive equivalent credit.
- It was noted that exchange agreements vary by institution, and each agreement is reviewed as it expires.
- The Senate International Development Committee reviews these terms, especially regarding credit structures at partner institutions.
- Within BC, many courses are covered under the BC Transfer Guide. However, new or out-of-province courses undergo an internal review in Student Services, sometimes in consultation with Deans.
- K. Verkerk acknowledged that the current process works but needs updating, particularly in how equivalency information is published (e.g., the BC Transfer Guide and the university website).
- The Registrar's Office and Student Services are working on streamlining the process for transferring credits, especially in the Visual Arts area, to prevent students from taking extra courses unnecessarily.
- Course substitutions can be approved by the Dean if a course labeled "general studio" meets a core requirement.
- Students encountering issues on exchange should contact the Exchange Office for support. The office maintains close communication with students to address credit and course concerns as they arise.

IV. NEXT MEETING – March 5, 2025

V. MOTION: ADJOURN – The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.