

SENATE MINUTES – OPEN SESSION

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 10:00-11:20 AM

Main Boardroom / Online via Zoom webinar

C. Fears	Kyla Mallett
Cameron Cartiere	Laszlo Hollander
Chris Jones	Mimi Gellman
Danielle Zandvliet	Rachelle Sawatsky
Diyan Achjadi	Sophie Gaur
Eugenia Bertulis	Su Yamur Kucukakyuz
Jacqueline Turner	Trish Kelly (Chair)
Justin Langlois	Vanessa Kam
Kamila Bashir	Kyla Mallett

Regrets: Ben Reeves, Carleen Thomas, Celeste Martin, Ishika Tripathi and Louise St. Pierre

Support: Natasha Himer, Nicole Shin, Jacob Hrajnik (technical support)

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

Call to Order – Trish Kelly, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

1. **Moved / Seconded that Senate approve the Agenda.** **Carried.**

Trish Kelly requested an amendment to the agenda and asked that Senate begin with open session and move to closed session at the end when discussing the draft strategic plan.

2. **Moved / Seconded that Senate approve the September 27, 2023 Senate Minutes as circulated.** **Carried.**

3. Email Ballot: November 2023 Graduands

Natasha Himer reported that an email ballot with a proposed resolution was circulated to Senators on October 17, 2023. Senators were provided with a confidential list of the 2023 November ECU Graduands. It was reported that the resolution was passed unanimously on October 23, 2023.

MOTION: That Senate approve the granting of degrees for Emily Carr University students who have completed their program requirements and are now eligible to graduate November 2023.

Carried.

II. BUSINESS

1. Senate Chair's Opening Remarks

T. Kelly reflected on the September Senate working session where the role and important work of Senate was discussed, and where Senate sees opportunities to better inform the community on the function of Senate. She shared that feedback on the session emphasized building trust, focusing on Senate's collective leadership and accountability, and considering the best interest of the institution as a whole in decision-making and when ensuring academic goals are met.

T. Kelly also addressed the recent Israel and Palestine global event that have resulted in impacting members of our community. She acknowledged that it is a difficult time for many and encouraged members of our community to reach out for support as there several resources that are available throughout the University.

2. 2023/2024 Mandate Letter

T. Kelly reported that the annual Mandate Letter is sent to the University via the Board Chair and all public post-secondary institutions receive a letter. She noted that the letter sets out overarching principles and directions on priorities for the University. The 2023/24 Mandate Letter was approved by the Board of Governors in August 2023.

The 2023/24 Mandate Letter focuses on six key priorities:

1. Reconciliation: Supporting lasting and meaningful Reconciliation and delivering on specific commitments as outlined in the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act action plan;
2. Climate Action: Implementing targets and strategies for minimizing greenhouse gas emissions and managing climate risk to align with the CleanBC target by 2030;
3. Anti-Discrimination Work: Adopting the Gender Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) lens to ensure gender equity is reflected in our operations and programs, and as part of broader anti-discrimination work;

4. Privacy and Cyber/Info Security: Maintaining up to date systems and effective cybersecurity practices, including evaluating the organization against industry standards and maintain appropriate security and privacy practices;
5. Risk Management: Implementing and maintaining an effective fraud risk management strategy; and
6. Additional Priorities + Linkages with the StrongerBC Future Ready Action: The Ministry is investing to support the labour market the next generation of the workforce.

There was general discussion, highlights include:

- The language in our programs and ethos and continuing discussion around reconciliation and what it means for ECU;
- Linkages between the mandate letter and the Climate Action Plan that is in development;
- Continuing Studies receiving funding to develop micro-credentials and it was reported that the government has developed a Micro-credential Framework to support a coordinated and consistent approach to micro-credentials across the public post-secondary system; and
- Linkages between how the University is approaching credentials taking into account changes in labour force patterns and students' interest.

T. Kelly noted that she will report back to Senate regarding the integration of the GBA+ lens and whether the University will be providing training.

3. Academic Planning + Priorities (APP) Committee Report

The APP written report was provided for information. No further questions were raised.

4. MDes Virtual Stream, Information Futures

Justin Langlois, Interim AVP, Research + Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Katherine Gillieson, Associate Dean, Master of Design presented on the Master of Design Virtual Stream: MDes Information Futures. This item is coming forward to Senate for information and it was reported that the new stream will make use of existing MDes curriculum tailored for virtual-first delivery. It will also provide vital new access points for remote learners while minimizing impact on campus resources.

In response to a question, it was noted that although the stream is a virtual format, tuition costs would be the same as in-person offerings.

In response to a question, K. Gillieson explained that the one-week Intensives over the Fall and Spring reading week are conference like experiences to share research and take part in workshops, which is why it would be difficult to stretch it to two-weeks but will take it into account when finalizing the details.

J. Langlois also noted that the virtual stream is a full-time program and students would be eligible for student loans.

5. Course Change Proposals

Henry Tsang, Chair of the Senate Curriculum + Planning Review Committee reported that the recommendation to update the course name, description and the addition of learning objectives for course FNDT 161 Core Studio in Interdisciplinary Design is coming to Senate for approval. He noted that the revisions align with the goals of Direct Entry in Foundation and provides students with context and skills development in interdisciplinary design practices. With these updates it could potentially increase summer enrolments and support the design major by providing more flexibility.

MOVED / SECONDED That Senate approve the following course change proposal as recommended by the Senate Curriculum and Planning Review Committee:

FNDT 161 Core Studio in Interdisciplinary Design

Carried.

6. Presidential Search Update

N. Himer provided a brief update regarding the Presidential search. She reported there were various forms of community consultations that took place in October and early November including through a community wide survey, and in-person forums.

She will keep Senate apprised as the Presidential search progresses. She reminded Senators that additional information regarding the process is on the dedicated website.

7. Senate Chair's Report

T. Kelly reported that ECU has created an Accessibility Plan which is compliant with the *Accessible British Columbia Act*. ECU's plan is available on the website. While the current plan is posted, the Accessibility Committee is expanding its membership to continue to refine the plan and begin some of its foundational work. Updates will be provided to Senate regarding the updated Accessibility Plan.

T. Kelly reported that she has been meeting community partners. She noted that conversations around student housing continue to be a priority.

8. Interim Vice-President, Academic + Provost Report

D. Achjadi provided the following updates:

- The Direct Entry model was successfully introduced this fall. Direct Entry is an important component of the deficit mitigation plan and provides more predictability in enrollment patterns for course planning and budgeting.
- This summer the University piloted an Accelerated Foundation entry which allows students to complete 21 Foundation credits in a 14-week summer term as an intensive and accelerated pathway to second year. The intent of this program is to provide another entry and access point to ECU.

- The University welcomed 7 new faculty hires this fall. Currently there are a number of search underway such as: the Registrar + Director of Enrolment, faculty positions in Culture + Community, as well as an interim Internal Exhibition Coordinator who oversees the production and support of space allocation and presentation opportunities for students.

III. NEXT MEETING: December 13, 2023

IV. MOTION: ADJOURN — The meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.