

SENATE MINUTES

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1 2021, 10:00-11:30 AM

Online via Zoom webinar

Gillian Siddall, Chair	Trish Kelly
Carleen Thomas	Pierre Leichner
Diyan Achjadi	Kyla Mallett
Eugenia Bertulis	Suzanne Rackover
Kevin Bird	Ben Reeves
Cybèle Creery	Rachelle Sawatsky
Hélène Day Fraser	Stephanie Schneider
Sophie Gaur	Louise St. Pierre
Mimi Gellman	Ishika Tripathi
Chris Jones	Danielle Zandvliet

Regrets: Melanie Camman, Steven Lam, Celeste Martin, Charles Simon

Guests: Mark Douglas, Kristina Fiedrich, Marcia Guno, Peter Lockie

Support: Heather Sanford, Christen Downie, Alex Muir (technical support)

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1. Call to Order – Gillian Siddall, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

2. Moved / Seconded that Senate approve the Agenda as circulated.

Carried.

3. Approval of Senate minutes.

**Moved / Seconded that Senate approve the September 27, 2021
Senate Minutes as circulated.**

Carried.

The Chair introduced new Faculty member to Senate: Ben Reeves
(Audain Faculty of Art).

II. NEW BUSINESS

1. Introduction to ECU Financial Review

The Chair provided an overview of ECU's longstanding financial challenges and structural deficit, including the impact of COVID on the progress the university had been making to reduce its deficit over a three-year period. The need for ECU to find long-term solutions to its financial challenges beyond a continued reliance on one-time funding from government was noted. It was explained the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training has engaged Peter Lockie (President, Inverleith Consulting Inc.) to conduct an independent financial review of ECU that will include recommendations to help ECU find a sustainable solution for financial stability.

Mr. Lockie provided an update on the status of his review.

- The review includes examination of financial records, forecasts and mitigation plans, revenue and expenditures, enrolment and student FTE numbers, etc. over the past five years; capital funding; reflection on ECU's Mission and values; and other factors that might have an impact on ECU's financial sustainability.
- The review will also consider the issue of ECU's designation as a special purpose teaching university, including faculty workload challenges and the nature of teaching at an art + design university.
- He noted that resolution of the issue resides partly with Government, but that the Ministry will also want assurance ECU is doing everything possible from an expenditure and revenue perspective to address its financial situation.
- Mr. Lockie has met with the President and President's executive team, Faculty Association leadership, CUPE leadership, Students' Union leadership and others.
- The review is approximately two-thirds complete, with the goal of a draft report for the President's review by the end of November.
- Ministry's review of the final report and subsequent direction to ECU is anticipated before the end of the university's fiscal year.

Mr. Lockie noted that the ECU Board's decision to not implement a tuition increase last year presents a challenge in the signal it sends to government, at a time when the university is experiencing financial instability and nearly all other post-secondary institutions in B.C. implemented increases.

A Senator noted that the risks and consequences of the decision were discussed when the decision was made, but it was felt that a freeze recognized significant challenges faced by students, particularly during COVID. A Senator inquired whether the freeze is being reviewed historically in the context of rising tuition fees. Further discussion on the Review followed.

Peter Lockie departed the meeting at 10:44 a.m.

2. Approval of the Election Report.

Kevin Bird, Registrar/Secretary of Senate, referred to the circulated Senate Committee Membership list showing new nominees for appointment to Senate Aboriginal Advisory Committee: Sydney Pickering, Randall Barnetson, Mimi Gellman and Leo Vicenti. He also referenced other vacancies remaining to be

filled this year.

A Senator advised that Jacqueline Turner had been nominated by the Faculty of Culture + Community to serve on the Senate Academic Planning + Priorities Committee.

Moved / Seconded that Senate approve the new and renewed nominees for appointment to Senate committees as recommended by the Nominations Committee.

Carried.

3. Update on EDI NSERC Grant

Trish Kelly, VP Academic + Provost and Vice Chair of Senate, provided an update on the EDI Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) Grant on behalf of Steven Lam, Dean of Graduate Programs and Research Advisory Committee Chair. The two-year federal grant is aimed at fostering greater equity, diversity and inclusion within the post-secondary research sector. The first phase of webinars facilitated by ROOTS, a restorative justice organization that focuses on relational ways of being and healing from an Indigenous world view, are concluding. Senators were encouraged to learn more at: <https://www.ecuad.ca/events/participate-in-ecus-edi-capacity-building-research-grant#webinar-with-r-o-o-t-s>.

It was reported the next stage of the grant will entail implementation of community caucus groups for listening and collecting information throughout the fall and spring terms, with the goal of establishing an advisory council for implementation of broader consultation. In response to a question from a Senator, it was confirmed research assistantship opportunities will be included in connection to the grant.

III. REPORTS

1. Academic Planning + Priorities (APP) Report K. Fiedrich

Kristina Fiedrich, APP Chair, reported the Committee will continue discussions from March 2021 regarding policies of priority for the Committee this year.

The Chair reminded Senators of the templates created last year for consistency in Senate reporting: Senate Recommendation Form and Senate Committee Report Form.

2. Curriculum Planning + Review (CPR) Report I. Koenig

Trish Kelly, VP Academic + Provost and Vice Chair of Senate, noted that she will provide updates on behalf of Ingrid Koenig, CPR Chair, as Ingrid is not currently a member of Senate.

3. International Development Committee (IDC) Report K. Bird

Kevin Bird, Registrar + IDC Chair, reported the Committee will this year review teaching and learning resources that support ECU's international students, including student services, and create goals to improve and provide a more inclusive environment.

4. Research Advisory Committee

S. Lam

Hélène Day Fraser provided an update on behalf of Steven Lam, Research Advisory Committee Chair. It was reported the Committee will continue work on a new draft of the 2022-27 Strategic Research Plan, including an exploration of emerging and possible themes that represent the entire university such as: Indigenous research and decolonial practices, environmental justice and climate change, social justice, connection between research and pedagogy, etc.

5. Report of the President + Vice-Chancellor and Chair of Senate

G. Siddall

Gillian Siddall, President, noted her optimism about the work Peter Lockie is undertaking to generate recommendations for the financial sustainability of ECU. She reported on analysis and financial modelling being conducted by Trish Kelly and Mark Douglas (Executive Director, Financial Services) that has been presented to the Board, senior administrators and managers, directors and Deans. She noted the presentation is available to the entire ECU community and encouraged Senators to encourage others to see it and become aware of the financial analysis underway.

The President updated Senators on ECU's new strategic planning process led by Co-Chairs Tiffanie Ting and Kyla Mallet. Following development of terms of reference for the planning committee, a call for expression of interest is anticipated to go out before the end of this term. Consultation is expected to commence in the spring term.

Following completion of the Request for Proposals, KCI has been selected to conduct a feasibility study for ECU's 100th anniversary fundraising campaign to determine a realistic fundraising goal, identify potential donors and seek feedback on campaign pillars. A Planning Study Committee will be established to guide KCI in its work and will include Gillian Siddall, Trish Kelly, Brenda Crabtree, Chantale Lavoie, Diyan Achjadi, Lorcan O'Melinn (board member) and one additional board member.

It was reported that Trish Kelly, VP, Academic + Provost, will provide an update to Senators on work she and Academic Affairs were tasked with by Senate Executive Committee to review and implement changes to curriculum that decenter western modes of thinking and western forms of knowledge.

A Senator inquired about financial modeling related to non-academic areas. The VP, Academic + Provost reported that modeling was conducted first in relation to academic areas as these are ECU's largest revenue-generating areas, but expansion of modeling work will continue and that suggestions have already come forward from the community.

6. Report of the Vice-President, Academic + Provost (verbal)

T. Kelly

The VP, Academic + Provost, noted there are two types of budget information sessions currently being offered that would be useful for Senate members: Finance 101, a general educational overview of the budgets we work with at ECU presented by the Executive Director, Financial Services; and upcoming sessions related more broadly to deficit mitigation.

A faculty search is wrapping up in 3D Animation, Design + Dynamic Media, and another will be commencing in Print, Faculty of Art.

Academic Program Review:

- Responses to external review will be brought to Senate at the December 2021 or January 2022 Senate meeting.
- The university will progress a second set of program reviews in compliance with our obligations under the Degree Quality Assessment Board to review ECU curriculum every five to seven years. Self-studies are underway with the goal to commence external review in the spring.
- ECU will undergo the Quality Assurance Process Audit (QAPA) in September 2022 in connection with the university's academic program reviews. All B.C. public institutions participate in this external review process with QAPA.

EDI Action Plan and Academic Affairs Accountability:

- Goals to decolonize and create curricular changes in line with ECU values are being done in a variety of ways.
- It was clarified that Academic Affairs does not make curricular changes but creates the conditions for faculty to take up this work.
- The importance of consultation in relation to this work was emphasized and had been raised by faculty.
- A core course on Indigenous methodologies and relationship to the land will be proposed for all students.
- Additional course offerings as part of EDI curricular changes may include Indigenous, African, Asian Middle Easter and Latinex histories, as examples.

An update on this work will be presented at the next meeting of Senate.

IV. OPEN FORUM

1. A Senator referenced the letter from the Faculty Association regarding the decanal appointment process that the President referred to in the previous Senate meeting, and asked for clarification regarding why the subject matter did not fall within the purview of Senate. The Chair noted that Senate's role is academic governance, and personnel matters are issues for management and the Board.

V. INFORMATION

There were no items for information.

VI. NEXT MEETING: November 29, 2021

VII. MOTION: TO MOVE IN CAMERA

1. Moved / Seconded to move the meeting In Camera.

Carried.

Guests departed the meeting at 11:17 a.m.

2. Moved / Seconded to approve the granting of degrees for Emily Carr University students who have completed their program requirements and are now eligible to graduate November 2021.

Carried.

3. Moved / Seconded to move back into the Regular Session.

Carried.

VIII. MOTION: ADJOURN — The meeting adjourned at 11:19 a.m.