

# SENATE MINUTES

MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2021, 10:00 AM

Online via Zoom

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Gillian Siddall, Chair	Keith Kerrigan
Kajill Aujla	Jorma Kujala
Ruth Beer	Steven Lam
Kevin Bird	Kyla Mallett
Jacob Brennan	Celeste Martin
Cybèle Creery	Geoff Plant
Hélène Day Fraser	Suzanne Rackover
Keith Doyle	Martin Rose
Heather Fitzgerald	Charles Simon
Cissie Fu	Louise St. Pierre
Mimi Gellman	Danielle Zandvliet
Erick Jantzen	

Regrets: Mark Igloliorte, Trish Kelly, Geoff Plant

Guests: Michael Clifford, Tiffanie Ting, Alia Hijaab Ebayed, Lori MacDonald, Marcia Guno

Support: Carina Clark, Philippa Mennell, Christen Downie

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## LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

### I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1. Call to Order – Gillian Siddall, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.
2. Welcome to new Senate Member – The Chair welcomed new Senate member Charles Simon, Master of Design student.
3. Approval of the Agenda as circulated.  
**Moved / Seconded.** **Carried.**
4. Approval of the previous Senate Minutes of February 8, 2021 as circulated.  
**Moved / Seconded.** **Carried.**

## II. BUSINESS

### 1. Report from the Registrar.

Kevin Bird, Registrar, provided an update related to a Senate CAC faculty term position that had come up for renewal in January 2021. The Registrar reported that the Senate had failed to run an election at that time, and it was proposed that the Senator continue in her role until summer 2021, with the intention of aligning the timing of the election with other summer elections. Eleven Senate terms will end as of July 31, 2021 and elections will be run accordingly.

The Dean of CAC referred to University Policy 2.1.1 and indicated she had not been notified of the vacancy. Discussion followed. The Registrar and Chair provided apology for the oversight in not running the election and ensuring the Dean was consulted in a timely way. The Dean requested that Senate be made aware of Tema Okun's 8-page plain-language guide to white supremacy culture in organizations, which identifies and provides antidotes to particular characteristics of white supremacy culture ([collectiveliberation.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/White\\_Supremacy\\_Culture\\_Okun.pdf](https://collectiveliberation.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/White_Supremacy_Culture_Okun.pdf)).

### 2. Curriculum Planning + Review (CPR) Report.

There were no questions from Senators about the circulated CPR Report.

**Moved / Seconded to approve the collective list of 10 new courses and course changes as presented. Carried.**

### 3. Academic Planning + Priorities (APP) Report.

There were no questions from Senators about the circulated APP Committee report. APP last met on March 1, 2021. Heather Fitzgerald, Chair, reported that APP has identified significant policy work for completion over the coming years, including review and revision of 19 academic policies and creation of new policies, including those related to Student Services.

The Committee Chair provided rationale for the motion to approve the change to policy 4.3 Program and Curriculum Change. It was noted that the policy will require subsequent revision, but that the purpose for the proposed change is to ensure compliance with the policy considering current pandemic requirements for remote learning and online delivery of curriculum. It was further explained that, according to the current policy, the decision to change the format of a course and run a class online is considered a major curricular change that requires Senate approval. There was discussion. Several Senators indicated support for the motion and agreed with the need for flexibility in responding to students' needs.

**Moved / Seconded that Senate approve the change to policy 4.3 Program and Curriculum Change to remove the fifth bullet under Major Changes section (a) (p.3), "Change of course format (such as distance education, online web formats)" as presented. Carried.**

4. Governance Committee Report.

Suzanne Rackover, Chair, reported that Senate will be asked to consider for approval at the next Senate meeting in April the notices of motions included in this agenda package. It was explained that the Governance Committee has been undertaking a significant amount of work to revise the ECU Senate Bylaws over the past number of months. Recommendations to amend the Senate Bylaws as presented are based on the Committee's ongoing work and extensive discussions held at the last regular committee meeting on February 22, 2021 and a special meeting on March 1, 2021.

The Chair referred to the circulated Senate Committee Report Form and Senate Committee Recommendation Forms, and provided an update on timing, next steps and proposed amendments to the Senate Bylaws as presented. There was discussion. Senators inquired about leave of absence considerations for Senators and duties of the Vice Chair with respect to Senate committees.

**Action:** Senate Governance Committee will bring forward three motions for approval of amendments to the Senate Bylaws as presented at the next meeting of Senate on April 26, 2021.

5. Aboriginal Advisory Committee (AAC).

Mimi Gellman, Chair, referred to the circulated AAC report and noted highlights of the exciting work underway via the Aboriginal Gathering Place. There were no questions from Senators about the circulated AAC report.

6. Chair's Report.

The Chair provided an update on the new Anti-racism and Community Enhancement Awards. Valued at a total of \$20,000, the awards were developed in response to a request from BIPOC students for University funding to support the work of BIPOC students. Nine Anti-racism Awards and six Community Enhancement Awards were awarded. The Chair commended Steven Lam, Dean, Jake Kerr Faculty of Graduate Studies and Associate VP Research, for his work in facilitating development of these awards.

It was reported that the 2021 QS World University Rankings have been released. ECU was ranked 30<sup>th</sup> this year (up from a ranking of 40<sup>th</sup> last year) and was the only Canadian university to place among the top 50 universities in the over 200 institutions ranked.

The Chair had an update for the Senate on the Honorary Awards selection process.

**Moved / Seconded to move the meeting in camera. Carried.**

*The meeting moved in camera at 11:01 a.m. Michael Clifford, Carina Clark, Tiffanie Ting, Marcia Guno, Alia Hijaab Ebayed and Lori MacDonald left the meeting at 11:01 a.m.*

*The open meeting resumed at 11:09 a.m. The guests returned to the meeting.*

## 7. Vice Chair's report

The Chair referred to the circulated Vice Chair's report on behalf of Trish Kelly, Vice Chair. It was noted there are plans for greater presence on campus in the fall 2021, but decisions will be based on recommendations from public health authorities. Members inquired about the potential return to campus in fall 2021 and requirements for international students returning to Canada. The following points were noted:

- It is anticipated we will be on campus, but with capacity to pivot to online delivery or some combination of on-campus and remote delivery if necessary.
- The Canadian government has recently removed the 50% mandatory in-Canada study requirement related to accessing a post-study work permit. Therefore, international students who have completed 100% of their studies outside Canada can now access a work permit.
- International students returning to Canada must fulfill quarantine requirements upon return.
- With respect to scheduling fall courses, it will be important to ensure that ECU schedules single section courses for accessibility by international students who are studying from abroad.

## III. PRESENTATION

### Unit Plans

- 1) Steven Lam, Dean, Jake Kerr Faculty of Graduate Studies and AVP Research presented the Unit plan for Jake Kerr Faculty of Graduate Studies. The presentation will be included for reference in the April Senate agenda package.

## VI. NEXT MEETING – April 26, 2021

## VII. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 11:38 am.