

SENATE MINUTES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2021, 10:00 AM

Online via Zoom

Gillian Siddall, Chair	Mimi Gellman
Trish Kelly, Vice Chair	Mark Igloliorte
Ruth Beer	Erick Jantzen
Kevin Bird	Keith Kerrigan
Jacob Brennan	Jorma Kujala
Cybèle Creery	Steven Lam
Hélène Day Fraser	Celeste Martin
Keith Doyle	Martin Rose
Heather Fitzgerald	Louise St. Pierre
Cissie Fu	Danielle Zandvliet

Regrets: Kajill Aujla, Kyla Mallett, Geoff Plant, Suzanne Rackover

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

Support: Carina Clark, Philippa Mennell, Christen Downie

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1. Call to Order – Gillian Siddall, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.
2. Approval of the Agenda as circulated.
Moved / Seconded. **Carried.**
3. Approval of the previous Senate Minutes of January 18, 2021 with amendment of “international” to “internal” under Vice Chair’s Report.
Moved / Seconded. **Carried.**

II. BUSINESS

1. Approval of a curricular review and development plan to Senate.

The Chair put forward a motion on behalf of the Senate Executive Committee:

Moved / Seconded that Senate task the VP Academic + Provost, in consultation with the Deans and CPR and AAC and other Senate subcommittees as appropriate, with presenting to Senate in early fall 2021 a plan for curricular review and development across all Faculties that prioritizes Indigenization, decolonization, anti-racism, anti-ableism, non-Western perspectives, queer and trans lives and creative practice.

The Provost indicated her support for the motion, indicating that a plan for curricular review and development provides an opportunity for the deans and her to respond to Senate on how it will support and continue to develop this important work.

Carried.

2. Curriculum Planning + Review (CPR) Report.

Trish Kelly referred to the circulated CPR Committee report on behalf of Ingrid Koenig, Chair, CPR. CPR last met on January 25, 2021. There were no questions from Senators about the report.

A Senator inquired about the circulated Senate Committee Recommendation Form – CPR and whether the new course proposal ANIM-3XX responds to any of the strategies in the University's Strategic Plan (2017-2021). It was confirmed that ANIM-3XX responds to Student Agency.

Moved / Seconded to approve the new course proposal ANIM-3XX 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 January 25, 2021.

Heather Fitzgerald, Chair, reported on the recommendation from APP to approve the Duolingo English Test. The proposal was brought forward by the ECU Registrar in response to pandemic learning conditions and the resulting inaccessibility of conventional language proficiency tests required of students (IELTS and TOEFL). Many institutions have adopted the Duolingo English Test, which has been designed for online access and is more affordable for students. It was noted that questions were raised at APP regarding the robustness of the Duolingo test and its effectiveness in determining academic preparedness in comparison to the longer and more complex IELTS and TOEFL tests. As a result, the Registrar is seeking approval for use of the Duolingo test for the Fall 2021 intake only and will review the test's efficacy before seeking approval for potential use in subsequent intakes.

Moved / Seconded to approve for the Fall 2021 intake, the addition of the Duolingo English language proficiency test for the purpose of assessing the English language proficiency of applicants to ECU whose first language is not English. Carried.

4. Governance Committee Report.

There were no questions from Senators about the circulated Governance Committee report. Senate Governance Committee last met on January 21, 2021.

5. Appeals Committee Report.

There were no questions from Senators about the circulated Senate Appeals Tribunal report. Kevin Bird, Chair, reported that the Appeals Committee did not meet during Fall 2020 as it was unable to constitute a quorum; however, the committee will aim to convene a meeting in spring 2021. A Senator noted there is considerable Senate Appeals policy work to be completed.

6. Aboriginal Advisory Committee (AAC).

Mimi Gellman, Chair, provided a brief verbal update on the last AAC meeting of February 2, 2021 and an AAC Committee Report will be available for the next Senate meeting. New Aboriginal faculty members, as well as Marcia Guno, Vice-Provost, Students, were introduced at the recent meeting and informed of the work of the AAC and the Aboriginal Gathering Place. Aboriginal faculty also shared information on current and upcoming exhibitions they are a part of in Canada and the U.S.

7. Nominations Committee Report.

There were no questions from Senators about the circulated Nominations Committee report. Senate Nominations Committee last met on December 1, 2020.

8. Budget Committee Report.

Trish Kelly, Chair, noted a correction to the name of the committee listed on the circulated Senate Committee Report Form in the agenda package; it should be titled, "Senate Budget Committee". The Senate Budget Committee last met on November 20, 2020.

9. Chair's Report.

The Chair and Marcia Guno, Vice-Provost, Students, provided an update on plans

for convocation, tentatively set for May 14, 2021 as a virtual event due to pandemic restrictions. The online event will include recognition of honorary doctorate degree and Emily Award recipients and hopefully installation of the new Chancellor. It was noted that Simon Fraser University (SFU) will partner with ECU to help produce the virtual convocation ceremony. Planning for the event is being led by Student Services with Advancement and Events and IT Services. Senators are invited to provide input and feedback.

The Chair reported on the recent virtual meeting with Kim Peacock, Chair of the ECU Board of Governors, and Minister Anne Kang, B.C.'s new Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training. ECU's accomplishments and strengths, as well as challenges were shared with the Minister. Minister Kang will be invited to visit ECU when it is safe to do so and pandemic restrictions are lifted.

10. Vice Chair's report – Trish Kelly, Vice Chair, provided an update on the 2021 Grad Show Committee's planning in consultation with students and internal community members. It was noted that due to the pandemic, plans for the event include online adjudication of graduation awards, supplemented by on-demand publication and screenings, and in-person exhibitions as allowed by public health authorities. A survey of 4th-year students will be elicited to help determine next steps in planning the 2021 Grad Show.

Susanna Browne has been appointed Interim Director of the Libby Leshold Gallery. Broader consultations continue internally and with external community stakeholders in preparation for hiring of a permanent position.

It was noted that program review is ongoing. Self-study is underway and will be completed soon by each Faculty. ECU is planning to host external review committees later in this term as part of Academic Program Review.

Academic planning is underway for Summer 2021 and the 2021-2022 Academic Year. It is anticipated that Fall 2021 classes will be 50% online and a 50% hybrid approach, with plans to increase access to technical resources, as allowed by public health authorities.

There were no questions from Senators.

III. PRESENTATION

Unit Plans

- 1) Cissie Fu, Dean, Faculty of Culture + Community presented the Unit plan for Culture + Community. The presentation will be included for reference with the March Senate agenda package.

Unit Plan to be presented at the Senate meeting in March:

- 2) Steven Lam, Dean, Jake Kerr Faculty of Graduate Studies

IV. DISCUSSION

1. Senate Committee Action Tracking – The Chair reported that the circulated Senate Committee Action Logs are being piloted by Senate committees as a way to track and share discussions and actions that arise during committee meetings. It was noted that an additional purpose of the action logs is to provide a means of capturing EDI, anti-racist and decolonization work that committees are taking on. The Chair suggested that Senators consider how best to highlight this work in the action logs. There were no questions from Senators.

V. OPEN FORUM

1. A Senator raised concern regarding the protection of forests in B.C. for information and requested input from Senators on ways to raise awareness about the following initiatives:
 - 1308 Trees – An invitation to the public to submit art and letters in the protection of 1,308 trees in Burnaby, B.C. that are scheduled to be cut down without permits as part of the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion project (<https://1308trees.ca/>).
 - Sanctuary: The Dakota Bear Ancient Forest Experience – A performance work seeking protective status of the ancient forest in the Dakota Creek Watershed (<https://pushfestival.ca/shows/sanctuary/>).
 - Efforts to conserve the mature Clack Creek Forest.

There was discussion. Several Senators expressed appreciation for being made aware of the issues. A number of suggestions were provided, including potential involvement of the Climate Action Task Force, Aboriginal Gathering Place and a group operating in association with the Shumka Centre.

2. A number of Senators requested additional time for review of reports and Senate agenda materials, either in advance of meetings or during meetings. It was proposed that more time to consider written reports during the meeting, as well as more verbal presentation of reports may be helpful. The Chair noted the request will be raised with Senate Executive to determine next steps.

VI. NEXT MEETING – March 8, 2021

VII. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 11:31 am.