



AGENDA

BOARD OF GOVERNORS – **OPEN SESSION**

Thursday, February 5, 2026 — 2:15 – 3:15 p.m.
Microsoft Teams Webinar

Territorial Acknowledgement: We respectfully acknowledge that Emily Carr University is situated on the unceded, traditional and ancestral territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

Time	Item	Speaker	Action	Page #
2:15	1. Call to Order and Territorial Acknowledgement 2. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest	L. O'Melinn		
CONSENT AGENDA				
2:15	3. Items for approval by consent MOTION: That the Board approves the items included under the Consent Agenda.	L. O'Melinn	Approval	
	3.1 Agenda		Approval	1 – 2
	3.2 Minutes of the Board Open Session of December 4, 2025		Approval	3 – 5
4. BUSINESS and PRESENTATION				
2:20	4.1 Acting Chair's Opening Remarks	L. O'Melinn	Information	
2:25	4.2 ECSU Presentation	ECSU Representatives	Information	
2:40	4.3 Tuition + Fees IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that on the recommendation of the Audit + Finance Committee, the Board approves proposed tuition and fees according to the fee schedule attached and marked "Schedule A."	M. Douglas/ D. Achjadi	Approval	6 – 16
2:50	4.4 Academic Schedule Policy ■ New Policy: Academic Schedule IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that, on the recommendation of the Governance Committee and the Senate, the Board approves the new Academic Schedule Policy, as presented.	N. Himer/ K. Verkerk	Approval	17 – 21

Time	Item	Speaker	Action	Page #
2:55	5. REPORTS			
	(a) President + Vice-Chancellor's Report	Dr. T. Kelly	Information	22 – 24
	(b) Vice President, Academic + Provost's Report	D. Achjadi	Information	25 – 28
	(c) Interim Vice President, Finance + Administration Report	M. Douglas	Information	29 – 30
3:10	6. CLOSING REMARKS	L. O'Melinn	Information	
	7. NEXT MEETING – MARCH 26, 2026	L. O'Melinn		
3:15	8. CONCLUSION OF MEETING	L. O'Melinn		



MINUTES - DRAFT

BOARD OF GOVERNORS — OPEN SESSION

Thursday, December 4, 2025
1:15 p.m. – 1:40 p.m.
Board Room D2315 and via *Zoom

ATTENDANCE:

Board Members:	Saanvi Bhat, Student-elected Board Member Ashley Chung, Student-elected Board Member Brenda Crabtree, Board Member Alla Gadassik, Faculty-appointed Board Member Mimi Gellman, Faculty-appointed Board Member Trish Kelly, President + Vice-Chancellor Steve Kinsey, Board Member Lorcan O'Melinn, Acting Board Chair and Audit + Finance Committee Chair Harv Phandal-Dhanda, Board Member Eduardo Rodriguez, Employee-elected Board Member Natasha Tony, Board Member* Sung Van, Board Member
Regrets:	Mary Macaulay, Board Member Carleen Thomas, Chancellor
Employee Resources:	Mark Douglas, Interim Vice-President, Finance + Administration Natasha Himer, University Secretary Alexander Muir, Technical Support Kayla Stuckart, Executive Director, Communications, Marketing + Public Affairs Adrian Tees, Associate Vice-President, Human Resources
Recorder:	Bessie Chow, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER AND TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

With quorum present, the Acting Board Chair, L. O'Melinn, called the meeting to order at 1:16 p.m.

L. O'Melinn took a moment to note that D. Avison has stepped off the Board of Governors (the "Board") to lead the independent review of British Columbia's public post-secondary education system. L. O'Melinn expressed the Board's appreciation for D. Avison's service to the university and for the strong and steady leadership he provided as Chair.

L. O'Melinn noted he will serve as Acting Chair for the interim.

He acknowledged that Emily Carr University of Art + Design ("ECU") is situated on the unceded, traditional, and ancestral territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

2. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Board members were invited to disclose any conflicts of interest related to the agenda items. No conflicts were disclosed.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

The following resolution was moved, seconded, and **CARRIED:**

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board approves the items included under the Consent Agenda, as circulated.

3.1. Agenda

3.2. Minutes of the Board Open Session held on September 25, 2025

3.3. Q2 Forecast

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board, on the recommendation of the Audit + Finance Committee, ratify the Q2 Forecast for the fiscal year 2025/26 as submitted to the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education + Future Skills.

4. BUSINESS

4.1. Acting Chair's Remarks

In response to a question, L. O'Melinn advised that the Ministry is aware of the new vacancy on the Board; and he confirmed that the Crown Agencies and Board Resourcing Office ("CABRO") in coordination with the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (the "Ministry") is responsible to appoint members as vacancies arise. Updates will be provided as they become available.

4.2. President's Remarks + Updates

The President + Vice-Chancellor, T. Kelly, in turn, took a moment to express their appreciation and thanks to D. Avison and L. O'Melinn for their leadership and service to the university.

T. Kelly highlighted the success of the Student Art Sale. The event received positive feedback from donors, partners, and other participants. Organizers were congratulated for their work.

5. REPORTS

5.1. President + Vice-Chancellor's Report

The President presented a visual overview of recent fall activities and events, highlighting ECU's centennial celebrations, community and student engagement initiatives,

exhibitions, and ongoing advocacy efforts. Faculty and students were thanked for their contributions throughout the term.

In response to a question about the status of the Granville Island Arts + Innovation Hub opportunity, T. Kelly noted that ECU has received positive feedback on the press release announcing its shortlisted candidacy, but no further information was available regarding next steps in the Expression of Interest process.

5.2. Vice-President, Academic + Provost's Report

Questions and comments were offered on the following items from the written report of the Vice-President, Academic + Provost, D. Achjadi:

- **Impact of the new Headstart Programs on scheduling and space** – Administration advised that more information will be provided during faculty meetings.
- **Progress on student food security** – Administration noted that more feedback has been collected compared to previous years – via voluntary, anonymous surveys – but actual metrics remain limited. A faculty member shared anecdotal evidence of students leaving class early to attend the community kitchen. It was acknowledged that the issue is not unique to ECU but reflects broader challenges across the city. A more in-depth update on ongoing work and initiatives will be brought forward to the Board later in 2026, potentially at the commencement of the next academic year.

5.3. Vice-President, Finance + Administration's Report

Questions were invited on the written report of Interim Vice-President, Finance + Administration, M. Douglas.

No questions or comments were offered.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Governors was confirmed as scheduled on February 5, 2026.

7. CONCLUSION

With no further business, the Open Session of the December 4, 2025, Board of Governors meeting concluded at 1:40 p.m.



BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Information Briefing Note

TO:	Board of Governors
FROM:	Mark Douglas, Interim Vice President, Finance + Administration Diyan Achjadi, Vice President, Academic + Provost
DATE:	February 5, 2026
SUBJECT:	Financial Update – Recommended Tuition and Fees
PURPOSE:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Action <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> For Information
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO:	Vice President, Finance + Administration

PROPOSED MOTION:

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that, on the recommendation of the Audit + Finance Committee, the Board approves proposed tuition and fees according to the fee schedule attached and marked “Schedule A”.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/OVERVIEW

As part of ECU’s annual financial planning cycle, Administration brings forward proposed tuition and fee adjustments for Board consideration. These recommendations are intended to support the university’s long-term financial sustainability by ensuring that core academic delivery, infrastructure, and student services are appropriately funded.

ECU’s academic reputation and its standing as Canada’s #1 art and design university is intricately linked to the quality of its learning environment. Sustaining that reputation requires continued investment in programs, services and infrastructure. Consultation with students has shown that the value students derive from their education is directly linked to the resources available to support high-quality instruction, current facilities and reliable student services.

Tuition and fees are a critical mechanism through which ECU supports academic quality, student services and overall financial stability. The 2026/27 budget development process is ongoing and approval of the fees at this point in the process is necessary to confirm our revenue projections before finalizing the budget.

On the recommendation of the Audit + Finance Committee, Administration is requesting that the Board approves an increase in tuition and fees as presented in the motion.

A detailed analysis follows.

BUDGET ENGAGEMENT + FEE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Throughout the 25/26 academic term, the Interim Vice President, Finance + Administration (VPFA) and the Vice President, Academic + Provost (VPA) engaged with staff, faculty and students in new ways, across many different forums to educate the ECU community on the financial environment the institution faces and challenging post-secondary sector. These engagements included student townhalls, faculty meetings, and departmental staff meetings. Sessions provided opportunities to share information, speak about ECU's deficit mitigation strategies, the purpose of fees and services and the investments they support across the institution. Following years of low budget engagement turnout, the goal of these engagements were to reach as many people as possible. Overall, the response to these tailored meetings has been positive and many have expressed their appreciation for the financial transparency provided.

In 25/26, ECU established a Tuition + Fees Committee to review the university's fee structure and associated services. The committee was tasked with assessing current operations, benchmarking fees against comparable institutions, and developing recommendations to support ongoing investment in the student experience and core infrastructure.

The committee included representatives from Financial Services, Academic Affairs, Student Services and Information Technology Services. Its work resulted in recommendations for new mandatory fees intended to better align funding with current service demands, while maintaining ECU's competitiveness and affordability. Comparative analysis indicates that, with these recommendations, ECU's tuition and fees will remain below or competitive with similar BFA and BDES programs offered in BC and peer art and design universities across Canada (see Appendix 1).

RECOMMENDED TUITION + FEES FOR 2026/27

Administration is recommending the following tuition and fees for the 2026/27 academic year, in line with the committee's proposal. Tuition and fees are summarized on Schedule A.

A. UNDERGRADUATE TUITION:

Domestic Tuition - 2% increase, all domestic students

International Tuition, cohorts before 2023/24 – 0% increase – In 2023/24, international students who were registered at ECU prior to the Spring 2023 term were promised a tuition freeze after a 10% increase to their fees.

International Tuition, cohorts after 2023/24 – 6% increase

Increases at these levels were discussed with the Board at last February's Board meeting, as such, these increases have been included in the preliminary budget.

See additional information in Appendix 1.

B. GRADUATE TUITION:

Domestic Tuition – 2% increase, incoming students only

International Tuition – 6% increase, incoming students only

See additional information in Appendix 1.

C. EXISTING NON-INSTRUCTIONAL FEES:

Existing non-instructional fees are restricted by the provincial Tuition Limit Policy, limiting increases for domestic students to 2%.

Learning Access Fee – 2% increase, all students

The Learning Access Fee was introduced in 2013/14 and is charged per credit. It includes fees related to counselling, library resources and digital access. The fee has increased by 2% per year since its inception, in line with the tuition limit policy. All students pay the same per credit rate.

Student Technology Fee – 2% increase, all students

The Student Technology Fee combines the existing Adobe Fee and LinkedIn Learning Access Fee. It will continue to fund student access to Adobe software and LinkedIn Learning material but has been combined under a new name to include other technology made available to all students (i.e. technology that is not course-specific). Fee increases of 2%, in line with the tuition limit policy, will support the introduction or update of new technology.

Application Fees – 2% increase, all student types

ECU is recommending a 2% increase to current application fees, in line with the tuition limit policy.

Course Materials Fees – 2% increase

ECU is recommending a 2% increase to all material fees. Course materials fees vary by course.

D. NEW MANDATORY FEES:

Student Orientation Fee - \$40.00 per student, first year students only

The Student Orientation Fee will support expenses related to Orientation activities. A comprehensive orientation ensures that the student transition into their first year at ECU is successful, through introducing expectations, policies, learning and wellness supports, and providing opportunities through smaller break-out sessions for students to meet each other and form community.

In 2025/26, the Student Orientation underwent a rigorous review and transformation, from a Foundation-focused half-day program that focused on community-building into a centrally organized full-day program that centered student-preparedness, and included the participation of multiple units and supported new students from across different levels.

Expenses include welcome kits, student leader training, food, and speaker/workshop costs.

Student Support Fee - \$238 per term (Fall and Spring terms only), all students

The Student Support Fee will enable student success, well-being and belonging through the addition and improvement of several core student affairs functions that are currently under-resourced or absent at ECU, including in areas of inclusion, accessibility, student engagement, professional development and career support, and advocacy.

The fee will support new positions and programming, including but not limited to cultural programs, transition programs for new students, the creation of an ombudsperson position, expanded student advisory capacity to reduce wait times, development of accredited work-integrated learning programs, expanded student ambassador programs and increased support for international students.

Capital Refresh Fee - \$15 per credit, all students

ECU's unique practice-based education model depends on access to current facilities, equipment, and technology. Maintaining these assets is essential to the integrity of the university's programs and to the students learning experience.

As creative industries continue to shift quickly, graduates are expected to enter the workforce with hands-on experience using state-of-the-art hardware, software, and technologies. Regular capital renewal is therefore a core academic requirement, not a discretionary enhancement.

The introduction of a capital refresh fee will establish a predictable and sustainable cadence to renewing facilities, equipment, and technology across the university. This approach supports program quality, aligns with industry and safety standards, and ensures that ECU graduates are well prepared to enter the job market with high quality, practice-based, technology-forward degrees.

E. NON-MANDATORY FEES:

Non-mandatory fees are not restricted by the tuition limit policy and do not require Ministry oversight. However, the *University Act* gives the Board the power to set, determine and collect various fees charged to students. As a result, the AFC recommends Board approval of the following non-mandatory fees:

Parking Fee - \$115.62 per month

ECU currently leases 160 parking stalls from Low Tide Properties. Access to the stalls is limited to staff, faculty and students who have purchased parking passes. Since 2017, parking rates have been subsidized through a combination of Ministry funding and ECU operating funds. Administration is recommending an adjustment to the monthly parking rate to align user fees with the actual cost of providing parking, increasing the rate from \$96.35 to \$115.62 per month. While Board approval is required for changes to the student parking fees under the *University Act*, the same adjustment will be applied to staff and faculty rates to ensure consistency across the university community.

Based on current usage, this adjustment will eliminate the portion of parking costs currently absorbed by ECU, generating approximately \$27,000 annually and reducing reliance on operating funds for non-academic services.

Exchange Application Fee - \$350 charged to all exchange applicants

This fee supports the administrative requirements of the exchange program, including application processing, transcript evaluation, advising time, nomination/placement coordination and partner institution communication. In addition, it provides funding for info sessions, pre-departure orientation, risk management planning, and creating community programming for inbound students.

OneCard Administration Fee - \$25 charged to individuals requesting a refund of balances held on their OneCard. The fee covers administrative costs related to account management and deters frequent account adjustments. This fee is in line with other institutions who provide stored-value cards to their students. This fee will be charged to staff and faculty as well.

SUMMARY

The proposed tuition and fee adjustments reflect a considered update to ECU's rate structure and support a transparent, sustainable approach to funding core academic delivery, infrastructure, and student services. Comparative analysis and benchmarking confirms that, with these adjustments, ECU's combined tuition and mandatory fees remain more affordable than most post-secondary institutions in the province and peer art and design universities nationally.

As Canada's leading university for art and design, ECU operates in an increasingly competitive post-secondary environment. Maintaining this position requires continued investment in learning spaces, equipment, technology, and student supports that reflect current and emerging creative practice, consistent with the priorities set out in ECU's Strategic Plan.

Approval of the recommended tuition and fees will improve ECU's financial position in 2026/27 and, for the foreseeable future, enable ECU to make continued investments and innovations required to remain at the forefront of art and design education.

NEXT STEPS

While the Ministry has confirmed that the recommended fees comply with the requirements within the tuition limit policy, they have requested that ECU complete final student consultations and share outcomes of that process, prior to having the Ministry consultation process completed.

Representatives from ECU administration met with students on January 27 to introduce the recommended fees. Student questions and comments were shared with the Ministry, per their request. While the result of the Ministry consultation process is not available yet, the Ministry has confirmed that they can complete their process before the ECU Board meeting on February 5. Administration will share the results during the Board meeting.

SCHEDULE A: RECOMMENDED TUITION AND FEES, 2026/27**Tuition Fees:**

Undergrad Tuition	Current fee per credit	% Increase	Proposed fee per credit	Increase per credit	Increase - full course load
Domestic Tuition	\$153.94	2%	\$157.02	\$3.08	\$92.40
International Tuition, cohorts before 2023/24	\$671.17	0%	\$671.17	\$0.00	\$0.00
International Tuition, cohorts after 2023/24	\$907.42	6%	\$961.87	\$54.45	\$1,633.50

Graduate Tuition	Current fee per credit	% Increase	Proposed fee per credit	Increase per credit	Increase - 2-year program
Domestic Tuition (MFA), incoming	\$527.42	2%	\$537.97	\$10.55	\$633.00
Domestic Tuition (MFA), returning	\$527.42	0%	\$527.42	\$0.00	\$0.00
Domestic Tuition (MDES), incoming	\$624.17	2%	\$636.65	\$12.48	\$748.80
Domestic Tuition (MDES), returning	\$624.17	0%	\$624.17	\$0.00	\$0.00
International Tuition (MFA), incoming	\$737.39	6%	\$781.63	\$44.24	\$2,654.40
International Tuition (MFA), returning	\$737.39	0%	\$737.39	\$0.00	\$0.00
International Tuition (MDES), incoming	\$856.93	6%	\$908.35	\$51.42	\$3,085.20
International Tuition (MDES), returning	\$856.93	0%	\$856.93	\$0.00	\$0.00

Non-Instructional Fees:

Description	Fee Type	Current fee	% Increase	Proposed fee	Increase	Increase - full course load
Learning Access	per credit	\$10.78	2%	\$11.00	\$0.22	\$6.60
Student Technology	per term	\$117.65	2%	\$120.00	\$2.35	\$4.70
Application (DOM)	flat fee	\$71.40	2%	\$72.83	\$1.43	n/a
Application (INT)	flat fee	\$110.00	2%	\$112.20	\$2.20	n/a
Application (GR)	flat fee	\$100.00	2%	\$102.00	\$2.00	n/a
Course materials	per course	varies	2%	varies	varies	varies
Student Orientation	flat fee		new	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$40.00
Student Support	per term		new	\$238.00	\$238.00	\$476.00
Capital Refresh	per credit		new	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$450.00

Non-Mandatory Fees:

Description	Fee Type	Current fee	Proposed fee	Increase
Parking	per month	\$96.35	\$115.62	\$19.27
Exchange Application	flat fee	\$25.00	\$350.00	\$325.00
OneCard Administration	flat fee	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00

APPENDIX 1

PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Figure 1: 2026/27 Preliminary Budget, as presented to the AFC in November

The preliminary budget projected a preliminary **Operating Fund** deficit of \$3,669,447, as follows:

	Operating Budget
REVENUE	
Grants	
Provincial:	
Base Funding	\$ 20,997,922
One-time funding	-
Annual service payments	3,590,963
Federal	150,326
Tuition	26,911,270
Interest	275,000
Other	969,468
Total revenue	\$ 52,894,949
EXPENDITURES	
Salaries + Benefits	\$ 44,125,204
Other	12,122,681
Scholarships	316,511
Total expenditures	\$ 56,564,396
Projected annual deficit	\$ (3,669,447)

UNDERGRADUATE TUITION

Figure 2: Recommended Undergraduate Tuition per FTE, 2026/27

Tuition per student FTE, or a full 30 credit course load, is illustrated below.

		Tuition per FTE (full course load)		
	% increase	2025/26 Tuition	2026/27 Recommended Tuition	Increase
Undergraduate				
Domestic	2%	\$ 4,618.20	\$ 4,710.60	\$ 92.40
International, cohorts before 2023/24	0%	\$ 20,135.10	\$ 20,135.10	\$ -
International, cohorts after 2023/24	6%	\$ 27,222.60	\$ 28,856.10	\$ 1,633.50

Figure 3: Effect of Tuition Increase on Existing Undergraduate Tuition Fees

Undergraduate students would pay the following amounts above current tuition rates on a per credit, per course and per FTE basis:

		Increases by type		
	% increase	per credit	per 3 credit course	full course load (30 credits)
Undergraduate				
Domestic	2%	\$ 3.08	\$ 9.24	\$ 92.40
International, cohorts before 2023/24	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
International, cohorts after 2023/24	6%	\$ 54.45	\$ 163.35	\$ 1,633.50

Figure 4: Current Undergraduate Domestic Tuition at Comparator Institutions

Despite ECU's specialization and worldclass ranking in art and design education, ECU's domestic tuition fees are considerably lower than other post-secondary institutions in BC and other specialized art and design universities in Canada.

Note: Capilano University's two-year 2D Animation and Visual Development Diploma costs \$29,704 for domestic students for the two-year program.

Institution	Comparable Program	Current DOM Tuition per FTE	vs ECU
BC Institutions:			
Emily Carr University (ECU)		4,618.20	
University of British Columbia (UBC)	BFA	6,079.20	31.6%
University of Victoria (UVic)	BFA	6,414.00	38.9%
Simon Fraser University (SFU)	BFA	6,488.40	40.5%
Specialized Art and Design Universities:			
Alberta University of the Arts	BFA, BDES	6,023.70	30.4%
OCAD University	BFA	6,052.40	31.1%
OCAD University	BDES	7,518.40	62.8%
NSCAD University	BFA, BDES	9,771.52	111.6%

Figure 5: Current Undergraduate International Tuition at Comparator Institutions

International tuition rates at ECU are considerably lower than the comparator PSIs in BC and are competitive with the other art and design universities in Canada, particularly OCADU.

Note: Capilano University's two-year 2D Animation and Visual Development Diploma costs \$63,327 for international students for the two-year program.

Institution	Comparable Program	Current INT Tuition per FTE	vs ECU
BC Institutions:			
Emily Carr University (ECU)		27,222.60	
University of British Columbia (UBC)	BFA Visual Arts	49,548.60	82.0%
University of Victoria (UVic)	BFA Visual Arts	35,448.00	30.2%
Simon Fraser University (SFU)	BFA Visual Arts	36,429.30	33.8%
Specialized Art and Design Universities:			
Alberta University of the Arts	BFA, BDES	21,083.40	-22.6%
OCAD University	BFA, BDES	28,807.80	5.8%
NSCAD University	BFA, BDES	24,083.48	-11.5%

GRADUATE TUITION

Figure 6: Recommended Graduate Tuition per 2-year Program, 2026/27

Graduate tuition is set by cohort, and fees are fixed for the length of the program once a student is admitted. As such, increases are being recommended for incoming students only.

		Full Program Cost - 2-year program		
	% increase	2025/26 Cohort Tuition	2026/27 Cohort Recommended Tuition	Increase per 2-year program
Master of Fine Arts				
Domestic	2%	\$ 31,645.22	\$ 32,278.22	\$ 633.00
International	6%	\$ 44,243.20	\$ 46,897.60	\$ 2,654.40
Master of Design				
Domestic	2%	\$ 37,450.03	\$ 38,198.83	\$ 748.80
International	6%	\$ 51,415.75	\$ 54,500.95	\$ 3,085.20



BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Information Briefing Note

TO:	Board of Governors
FROM:	ECU Senate Kathryn Verkerk, Registrar + Executive Director of Enrolment Natasha Himer, University Secretary
DATE:	February 5, 2026
SUBJECT:	New Academic Schedule Policy
PURPOSE:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Action <input type="checkbox"/> For Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> For Information

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that, on the recommendation of the Governance Committee and the Senate, the Board approves the new Academic Schedule Policy, as presented.

OVERVIEW

The university is in the process of developing and updating several academic policies. This is a multi-year project. A number of such policies fall under the remit of Senate and also require approval by the Board of Governors (the Board) on the recommendation of the Senate (that is, for the Senate to recommend to the Board for approval).

Currently, the university does not have a formal policy or standardized procedures guiding the development of the academic schedule. Therefore, a new Academic Schedule Policy has been developed and is being recommended by the Senate for the Board's approval.

The new Policy outlines dates for key academic events, such as the start and end of semesters, holidays, and assessment periods.

Formalizing the annual academic schedule in the new Policy also enables consistent academic and operational planning and will bring ECU into alignment with requirements set out in the University Act.¹

Further, formalizing practice in the Policy helps to ensure equitable learning environments with consistent instructional time and coordination across university functions (e.g., registration, advising, assessment).

The Policy that is being presented was developed through extensive consultation during the drafting of the academic schedule for Fall 2026 to Spring 2029 last year. This process involved all Faculties, deans, key Senate committees, and the Senate. Student input was provided through participation on the relevant Senate committees. There was also a comparative review completed across BC universities/colleges and AICAD partners that informed development of the new Policy.

The Policy was also presented to the Governance Committee of the Board and the Committee hereby endorses approval of the Policy on the recommendation of the Senate.

Key provisions in the new Policy include:

1. Terminology: Moving from “academic calendar” to “academic schedule” as a first step to align with requirements under the [University Act](#), recognizing that these terms carry distinct meanings.

2. Schedule Establishment:

- Must be finalized and published at least one year in advance.
- Academic year runs September–August.

3. Semester Structure:

- **Fall Semester:** 13 weeks (minimum), begins Tuesday after Labour Day, includes 3-day reading break around Remembrance Day.
- **Spring Semester:** 13 weeks (minimum), begins first Monday in January, includes 4-day reading break after BC Family Day.
- **Summer Semester:** 13 weeks (minimum), begins first Monday in May, 3-5 day reading break between terms 1 & 2 (week 8).
- **Summer Terms 1 & 2:** Each 7 weeks, begins first Monday in May and first Monday after end of term 1.

¹ Subsection 35.5(6)(h) of the University Act requires that the Senate of a special purpose teaching university must advise the Board of Governors, and the Board must seek advice from the Senate, on the development of educational policy for the setting of the academic schedule. This requirement is generally met by having the Board approve Senate’s recommendation on an academic schedule policy.

4. Instructional Days:

- Standard semesters: minimum 60 instructional days.
- Summer terms: minimum 30 instructional days.
- Classes run Monday–Saturday, with makeup days if holidays reduce teaching time.

5. Governance:

- Schedule developed by Registrar.
- Reviewed by Senate Committee on Academic Planning and Priorities.
- Reported to Senate and approved by the Board of Governors.

Other:

- The academic schedule will be published online until ECU develops and launches a formal academic calendar.
- Ongoing annual review and approval process will ensure consistency and compliance.

ATTACHED SUPPORTING MATERIALS

1. New Academic Schedule Policy



Policy Number	4.18
Approval Body	Senate + Board of Governors
Policy Officer	Registrar + Executive Director, Enrolment
Approval Date	2026

4.18 ACADEMIC SCHEDULE

ENABLING LEGISLATION + LINKED POLICIES

University Act

- Section 32.5 (6) The senate of a special purpose, teaching university must advise the board, and the board must seek advice from the senate, on the development of educational policy for the following matters:
- (h) the setting of the academic schedule;

OBJECTIVE

To establish a clear, consistent structure for setting the academic schedule at Emily Carr University of Art + Design (ECU or the University), enabling effective planning for academic programming, institutional operations, community and academic events.

POLICY

The annual Academic Schedule will be established a minimum of one year in advance of the start of each academic year to provide important dates for planning campus term-based course schedules, institutional committee meetings, and other university events according to the following regulations. The Academic Schedule and related important dates and deadlines are published annually on the University website and in the Academic Calendar (once established).

The academic year runs from September to August each year and comprises the following semesters and terms:

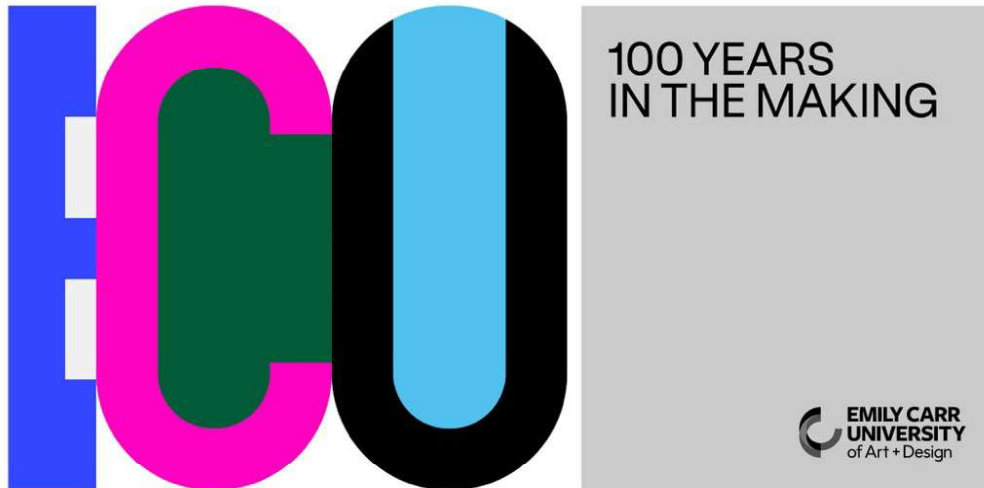
Semester/Term	Start date for classes	Reading break	Minimum weeks of instruction (including statutory holidays and exams)	Minimum instructional days (not including statutory holidays and exams)
Fall semester	Tuesday after Labour Day statutory holiday	3 weekdays adjacent to Remembrance Day statutory holiday, as scheduled by the Registrar	13	60
Spring semester	First Monday in January accounting for at least 2 non-instructional business days between the January 1 statutory holiday and the first day of classes	4 weekdays following BC Family Day statutory holiday	13	60
Summer Semester	First Monday in May	2-4 weekdays following the end of Summer Term 1, before Summer Term 2 begins	13	60
Summer Term 1	First Monday in May		7	30
Summer Term 2	Monday following end of summer term 1		7	30

PROCEDURES

- A. The Academic Schedule is produced by the Registrar + Executive Director, Enrolment.
- B. Standard semesters are established as minimum thirteen instructional weeks in duration, plus the assessment period for fall and spring (minimum 7 days). The number of instructional days that a class meets in a week (Monday to Saturday, inclusive) will be maximized at twelve per term.
- C. Summer terms 1 and 2 are established as 7 instructional weeks in duration and a minimum of 30 instructional days. The number of instructional days of the week (Monday to Saturday, inclusive) will be maximized at 6 per term.
- D. The impact of statutory holidays will be considered when establishing the length of the term.
- E. When maximizing instructional days, make-up days may be required. Make-up days will be scheduled during or at the end of the semester, as required. These will be as scheduled by the Registrar.
- F. Withdrawal dates will be consistently established at the end of Week 10 (standard semester) and Week 4 (summer terms).
- G. A reading break does not reduce the number of weeks within a term.
- H. The Academic Schedule will be published for the upcoming and subsequent academic year(s).
- I. In the academic year prior to its release, the Academic Schedule will be presented in September to the Senate Committee on Academic Planning and Priorities and subsequently reported to Senate and the Board of Governors.

POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed every five (5) years.



Report to the Board of Governors

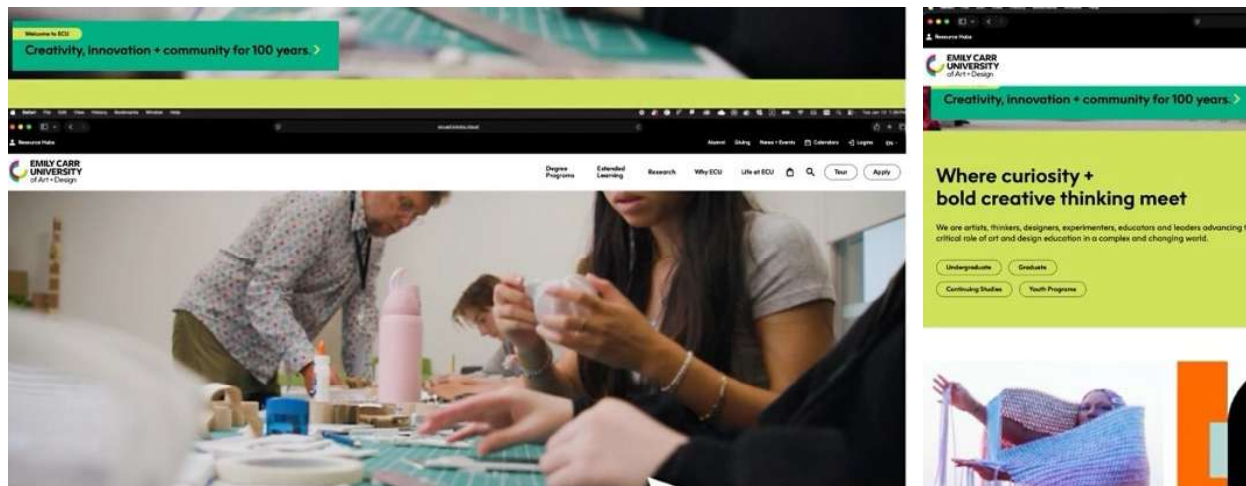
President + Vice-Chancellor

February 5, 2026

Sector Review – Public Post-Secondary

In late November 2025, the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills announced a review of the public post-secondary system, to ensure its long-term stability in light of the current financial crisis hitting the sector, and to assess how it supports the needs of British Columbians and the province's economic growth. This independent review is being led by Don Avison, KC, former B.C. deputy minister and former chair of ECU's Board of Governors. The review is considering governance and operations (to improve overall efficiencies), program delivery (ensuring effectiveness and relevance), and financial sustainability (to address short and long-term goals). This is an important moment for the sector, and ECU is participating to ensure our unique nature, as a provincially-mandated art and design institution, is fully understood. You can find more about the review [here](#).

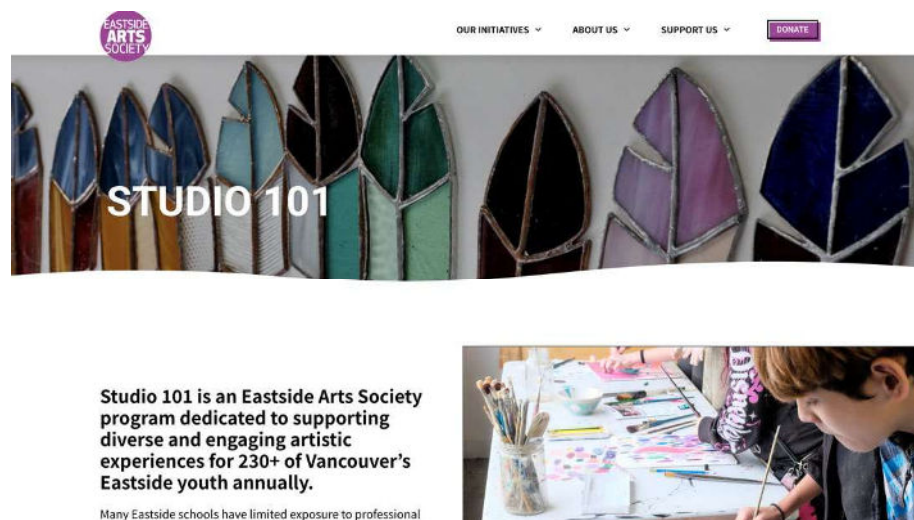
Our New Look – ECU's Website Update



On January 20, 2026 ECU launched its new website, providing a clear and user-friendly experience to enhance its recruitment and storytelling efforts. The site is the result of a 15-month project led by the Communications + Marketing team with support from IT Services and external partners Pixel and Messenger. As the first major update to the university's website since 2017, this project supports a key pillar of the 2024–2030 Strategic Plan by strengthening digital tools focused on enhancing the learning environment and user experience. The launch follows months of consultation and collaboration with faculty and campus partners, working towards a shared goal of improving usability while reflecting ECU's creativity, innovation and community.

In 2025, our website attracted 930,000 visitors from around the world who were interested in learning more about what makes ECU Canada's #1 university for art and design. To help communicate out to our external audiences, we have leaned into immersive storytelling (with bold new photography and videos), simpler navigation, audience resources hubs (to help faculty, students, and staff find the information they need), enhanced visibility for Continuing Studies (including a self-service payment option), and improved accessibility features.

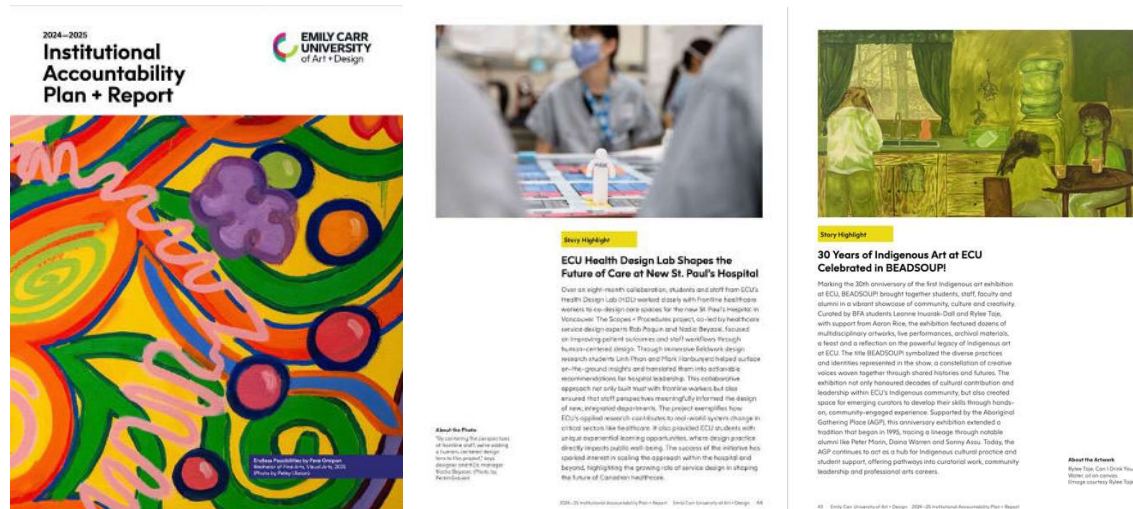
ECU x Eastside Arts Society – Studio 101



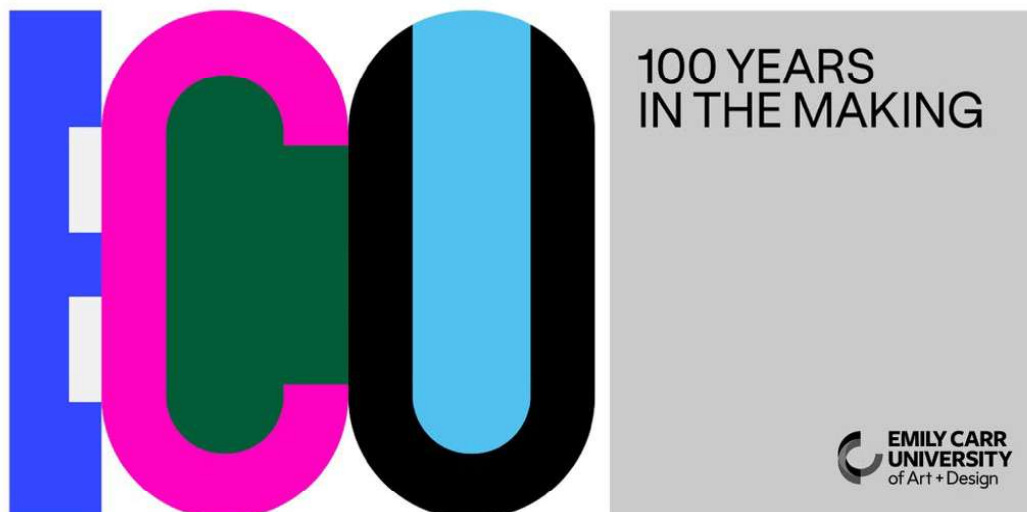
For over a decade, Studio 101 is an Eastside Arts Society program designed to inspire and engage youth from Vancouver's eastside to imagine what it would be like to be a professional artist. The program grew in response to the lack of funding for arts programming in the K-12 sector, and the realization that students from Vancouver's most economically challenged neighborhoods might need extra support in understanding how to follow a creative pathway.

In early December 2025, ECU partnered with the Eastside Arts Society to extend their capacity for this program, by welcoming 78 students (ages 9-13) from Grandview Elementary and Lord Strathcona Elementary to campus. Two of our Continuing Studies instructors engaged students with a hands-on print workshop, while our CS staff and technicians led them through a tour of the print facilities and answered questions about what it was like to pursue a career in visual art. It was a meaningful collaboration for all involved, and conversations are ongoing on how to grow this partnership to increase impact in the 2026-27 academic year. Please click [here](#) for information online.

Institutional Accountability Plan and Report (IAPR), 2024-25



We recently received feedback on the 2024/25 Institutional Accountability Plan + Report from the Labour Market Development and Immigration Division of the Ministry. The link to this document can be found [here](#). The IAPR demonstrates our accountability for the public's investment in post-secondary education and is an important document registering all of the ways in which ECU supports students and BC's broader labour market. ECU's overall performance measure results and success in achieving or substantially achieving nearly all of Ministry-established performance measures was positively noted. We were commended for addressing all of the priorities outlined in our Mandate Letter including: strategic fiscal and operational stewardship, quality assurance and enhanced access to high quality education, safe and inclusive campus environments, labour market alignment and future skills preparedness, and lasting and meaningful reconciliation for Indigenous learners.



Report to the Board of Governors

VP, Academic + Provost

February 5, 2026

Admissions + Recruitment

- ECUAD has been allocated 288 PALs (Provincial Attestation Letters), a significant increase from last year. Current IRCC guidelines only require PALs for new international undergraduate applicants, which will better support reduced timelines for graduate offers.
- The undergraduate recruitment team attended 231 recruitment events in Fall 2025, both in person and online.
- Undergraduate applications initial deadline was January 15, 2026. Thanks to the work of our recruitment team, we have an increase of almost 400 applicants compared to last year, for a total of **1,483 first-year and transfer candidates**. Portfolio submissions were due at the end of January 2026.
- Graduate application deadline was January 19, 2026, with a total of **249 applicants** across programs in MFA and MDes streams.
- Both undergraduate and graduate programs have now fully transitioned to Slate for the application process, allowing the University to better manage communication and touchpoints with applicants and students throughout their journey at ECU.

Food and Community Wellness Initiatives

- The Office of Student Engagement, Retention, and Success supported **weekly food access** during ECUAD events such as orientation, info fairs, exhibition openings, and ECU100 programming.
- In addition, **Emily Carrt** was actioned during two pivotal points, at the beginning of term and during midterms.
- The **Festive Feast**, a collaboration between Student Services, Counselling + Wellness, and ECSU, provided a holiday meal for 156 students in December 2025.
- Student Services reinstated a partnership with ECSU to supply **The Pantry** with groceries on a weekly basis. The Pantry provides free access to non-perishable foods.

- Counselling + Wellness continued their **regular daily food programming** in Fall 2025, with an average of 511 students attending kitchen programming weekly. Programming was extended to include a later block event on Wednesdays from 4pm to 6pm. The feedback from students has been very positive and strong. On average, an additional 98 students came at this time to make simple meals such as grilled cheese sandwiches and soup, fried rice, or scrambled eggs and veggies.
- In Fall 2025, thanks to funding from an external donor, Counselling + Wellness launched the **Meal Prep Project: Cook Once Eat All Week**. Three students were hired to lead 3 workshops that are focused on smart and budget meal planning. To reach students who normally can't attend noon hour events, the sign-up only workshops are hosted from 3:30pm to 5:30pm. Each workshop has 20 people capacity due to space and outlets constraints. This programming will continue into the Spring 2026 term with a new group of students hired to lead the workshops.
- Note that a dedicated session/report to the Board on Food initiatives is being planned for later in 2026, with participation from across the university administration and student body.
- The Writing Centre collaborated with Counselling + Wellness to host **Cookies and Convos** for international students, where students decorate cookies and to meet new people; semi-facilitated/topics with prompts. Please see poster [here](#).
- Counselling + Wellness worked with a local Indigenous tea company to provide 2 workshops with students for **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**, and collaborated with READ Bookstore to showcase Indigenous writers at the event.

Research – Grants Awarded

- **National Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Mobilize Grant:** One new awarded project, for a total of 15 projects awarded to date. **Manuhia Barcham** awarded \$25,000. Project title: *Serenifful App: Applied Research in Serious Game Design and Emotion-Aware Data Interaction for Financial Wellness*.
- **Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Connection Grant:** Caylee Raber, co-applicant on University of Alberta led grant (\$22,920 over one year). Project title: *Co-design Beyond Pandemics: New Models for Research in Design and Health*.
- **Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Institutional Grant (SIG) Explore Grant:**
 - **Gwenessa Lam**, \$4,650.
Project title: *Geologic Divination: Porting in Shamanic Time*.
 - **Laura Kozak**, \$10,000.
Project title: *Prototyping Tableware for Commensality*.
 - **Sarah Shamash** \$10,000.
Project title: *Reimagining the Future: Indigenous Brazilian Cinemas and Earth Justice*.
- **Mitacs Business Strategy Internship (BSI):** Alan Goldman's role as supervisor has been extended for another \$10,000 student internship unit (September 8, 2025 to March 6, 2026) with Peliplat Network Inc. Project title: *Peliplat Growth System for Creators*.

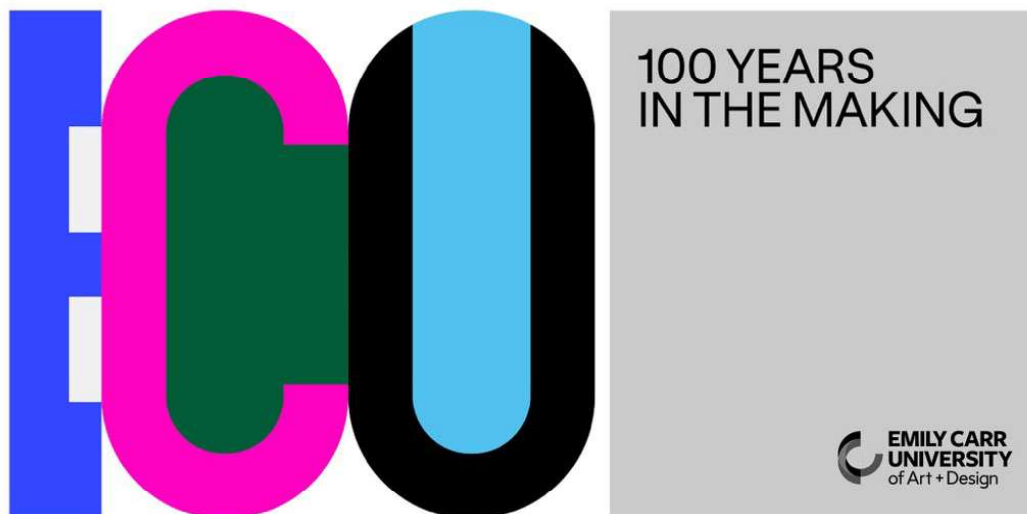
Research – Shumka Centre

- The Centre has received \$250,000 from **Business and Higher Education Roundtable (BHER)** to engage 350 senior undergraduate and graduate students through Fall 2025 - Spring 2026 in innovative curricular Work Integrated Learning opportunities delivered in partnership with the Faculties of Art, Design and Dynamic Media, and Graduate Studies. This is a continuation of Shumka's successful partnership that supported over 130 ECU undergraduate students in innovative Work Integrated Learning programming throughout Fall 2024 - Spring 2025.
- The Centre has received a \$25,000 grant from ECU's **Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) Mobilize** to develop an applied research project co-led by Manuhua Barcham and Cemre Demiralp in partnership with Alaphia Financial Wellness to investigate how serious game design can help foster healthy financial habits through the development of a new app. The project will engage one Undergraduate and one Graduate Student as Research Assistants January - May 2026.
- The Centre hosted two **industry showcase events**: a **Pitch Night** on December 8, 2025 celebrating the work of students enrolled in INTD 318: Creating a Design Startup and the **Design for Startups showcase** on December 11, 2025 celebrating the design research of students enrolled in this program. Collectively, the events received industry attendance from over 20 companies including Jobber, Metalab, Polyform studio and more.
- Cemre Demiralp was featured in [Wavemakers Magazine Volume 3](#) to discuss the innovative ways ECU students receive **professional development support** and to advocate for the critical role artists and designers play in building a resilient, future-ready workforce.
- In Spring 2026, The Centre will be delivering its ongoing programming, **Design for Startups** and **Art Apprenticeship Network**. Design for Startups will support 11 senior undergraduate and graduate design students, whereas Art Apprenticeship Network will support 10 students.
- In partnership with Career Development + Work Integrated Learning, the Faculty of Art and the Faculty of Graduate Studies, the Centre has facilitated an institutional partnership with **Toronto Outdoor Art Fair (TOAF)** for 2026. Marking ECU 100 and TOAF's 65th anniversaries, this partnership will award four Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts students with a travel stipend and mentorship to travel to Toronto to show their art in July 2026 and support an additional five students to show their works online at TOAF's online fair.
- The Centre started conversations with **National Research Council - Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC IRAP)** to continue its successful partnership in delivering Design for Startups programming for another two years (2026 - 2028).

Partnerships

- **Arts Umbrella partnership update**: 4 students officially registered in the ECU Pathway Option from across Drawing & Painting, Architecture and Clay Sculpture.
- Assoc. Professor Helene Day Fraser mentored 9 Industrial Design Students to participate in the **Slow Fashion: Circular Textiles, Sustainable Fibre Research Cluster** in partnership with UBC. A set of annual public events called Slow Fashion Season “presents research and inspiring finished pieces that hope to encourage real change towards more sustainable

fashion”. The events planned for Slow Fashion Season 2026 include a live slow fashion show at the Museum of Anthropology at UBC (March 12), an exhibition of the runway creations at the Hatch Gallery (March 16-27); an exhibition of research and installations at the AHVA Gallery (February 25-March 20); a research symposium (March 14); and various skill building workshops and student challenges (throughout January-March).



Report to the Board of Governors

Interim Vice-President, Finance + Administration

February 5, 2026

Finance

- The university's Auditors prepared and presented their Audit Planning Report ("the Report") to the Audit + Finance Committee ("AFC") on January 22, 2026, where it was accepted. The Report outlines the proposed approach for the audit of the university's financial statements and supports the AFC's oversight responsibilities.
- The budget development process is ongoing and will be substantially completed by early March. The final budget will be presented to the Board for approval on March 26, 2026.

Facility Operations

Reporting for months October, November, and December 2025.

Maintenance Activity

- All 279 scheduled preventive maintenance tasks were completed during this period. Activities included servicing the main electrical vault, HVAC systems, roads and grounds, fire and life safety equipment, sprinkler systems, exit lighting, appliances, access control and panic duress systems, elevators, and the wireless network. Additional scheduled work was performed on pest control, painting, and waste and recycling services.
- 218 service requests were completed, addressing items such as lighting control changes, event setup, housekeeping, access control, telecommunications, plumbing and drainage, and waste management.

Waste Diversion

- During the reporting period, 37.3% of waste removed from the facility was diverted from landfill and recycled.

Campus Activity

- Throughout the Fall term, Facilities continued to support staff and students by managing campus furniture, event setups, access card administration, parking, and locker assignments.
- Implementation of the new access control software has commenced, with completion anticipated by the end of January.