



# SENATE MINUTES (OPEN SESSION)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2025, 10:00 am – 11:00 am  
ECU Boardroom (D2315)

## **PRESENT:**

Amory Abbott, Diyan Achjadi, Haig Armen, Lyana Ayesha Azneil, Shawn Choi, Helene Day Fraser, Mimi Gellman, Beth Howe, Adriana Jaroszewicz, Mark Johnsen, Vanessa Kam, Trish Kelly (Chair), Justin Kramchynsky, Justin Langlois, Celeste Martin, Sara Osenton, Alex Phillips, Mia Roxas, Jaiden Su, Jacqueline Turner, Kathryn Verkerk

## **REGRETS:**

Laszlo Hollander, Michaela Kwiatkowski, Carleen Thomas

## *LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT*

### **I. OPENING PROCEDURES**

1. Call to Order – T. Kelly, Chair, called the open session of the Senate to order at 10:16 a.m.
2. Adoption of the Agenda

#### **Moved/Seconded**

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that Senate approve the agenda as circulated.  
CARRIED.**

3. Approval of Minutes

A Senator raised a question regarding the sequence of agenda items in the May 14, 2025 meeting minutes, asking whether business item 9 (Senate and Senate Committee Schedule for 2025/26) occurred business item 8 (Enrolment Processes and Procedures).

It was agreed that approval of the minutes would be postponed until the order of these two agenda items is confirmed.

#### **Moved/Seconded**

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that Senate approve the May 14, 2025 Senate open session meeting minutes as circulated.**

**POSTPONED**

## II. BUSINESS

### 1. Chair's Remarks + Report

The Chair reported that a new B.C. Minister of Post-Secondary and Future Skills was appointed over the summer, and a new Mandate Letter for Emily Carr University was issued. A copy of the Mandate Letter was distributed to Senators.

The Chair noted that beginning October 1, 2025, Emily Carr University is celebrating its 100th anniversary—an exciting opportunity to re-introduce the University to the community and the world.

The Chair outlined the priorities of the **ECU 100 campaign**, including:

- **Storytelling + Visibility:** Sharing 100 years of creativity through digital campaigns, exhibitions, and media features that highlight the work of students, faculty, and alumni, as well as ECU's history.
- **Alumni Engagement:** celebrating alumni achievements, inviting them into centennial events, and sharing their stories as a reflection of ECU's influence and legacy.
- **Donor + Partner Engagement:** Strengthening philanthropy through ECU 100 sponsorships and fundraising initiatives, while activating new industry, cultural, and community partnerships.
- **Government + Community Relations:** positioning ECU as a leader in practice-based education and as a vital contributor to BC's and Canada's cultural and creative economy.

The Chair noted the following events happening during Fall 2025 celebrating ECU 100:

- **September 5:** Welcome Week Community Event
- **September 11:** ECU 100 Exhibition Opening, Libby Leshgold Gallery
- **September 12 – November 16:** ECU 100 Exhibition, *En Route: mobile forms of art and education*.
- **October 10:** ECU 100 Open House
- **October 16:** In Conversation: Ian Wallace x Dr. Trish Kelly
- **October 22:** Speaker Series: A Conversation with John Vaillant

The Chair also noted that, as part of the ECU 100 celebrations, a new University website will be launched to enhance functionality, project ECU's story more effectively, and center the University's work in a more vibrant way.

The Chair thanked Continuing Studies for the teen programming offered over the summer and commended the Graduate Studies and the Low-Residency program for successfully bringing this year's cohort together and presenting an exceptional exhibition.

Finally, the Chair recognized that AGP staff and community members built a tipi this summer through a tipi-building workshop, as the AGP serves as an important space for meetings, gatherings, and community protocol.

### 2. Vice President, Academic + Provost's Report

D. Achjadi reported a strong start to the academic year, noting the work of the Student Services team, including Interim Dean Jacqueline Turner, in

organizing the Foundation Orientation. They shared that 348 new students attended Foundation Orientation, which included workshops such as Introduction to Emily Carr, Introduction to Critiques, a library workshop, and a discussion panel with peer tutors from the Learning Centre, helping students start the year on a stronger footing.

D. Achjadi reported that the University welcomed 72 new graduate students this Fall, which includes 41 MFA and 31 MDes students.

D. Achjadi shared that a new special topics course is being offered for the first time, taught by Honorary Doctorate recipient Chief Janice George and Buddy Joseph, focusing on Coast Salish weaving.

D. Achjadi reported that search processes are beginning for the Dean of the Audain Faculty of Art and the Dean of Culture + Community, with Search Committees now being formed and both searches expected to conclude by the spring.

D. Achjadi shared that Academic Affairs has been working to build partnerships. They highlighted one partnership that C. Martin has been developing with the Latin American Film Festival, which will include the Vancouver premiere of Vessels, a short animated film by Cuban artist Yaimel López, to be screened at Emily Carr University's Reliance Theatre on October 6.

D. Achjadi reported that the Libby Leshgold Gallery has been collaborating with Continuing Studies and a contemporary art gallery to develop a professional practice program across the city.

D. Achjadi shared that Continuing Studies has partnered with Studio 101, providing access and opportunities for approximately 84 teens to use on-campus facilities. They added that work continues on developing the Head Start Program in collaboration with local school districts.

D. Achjadi reported that the Libby Leshgold Gallery is also partnering with Western Front and The Birdhouse to host a series of performances in the coming months.

### 3. Election for Vice Chair of Senate

K. Verkerk issued three calls for nominations.

J. Langlois nominated D. Achjadi, and D. Achjadi accepted the nomination.

With no other nominations received, D. Achjadi was acclaimed as the Vice Chair of Senate.

#### **Moved/Seconded**

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that Senate appoint Diyan Achjadi as the Vice Chair of Senate for a one-year term beginning at the September 2025 Senate meeting and ending at the September 2026 Senate meeting.**

**CARRIED.**

#### 4. Appointments to Senate Committees

##### **Nominations Committee**

###### 1 Staff Senate Member

- No Staff Senate Members were present during the Senate meeting.

###### 1 Faculty Senate Member

- J. Langlois nominated H. Armen, and H. Armen accepted the nomination.
- H. Armen was acclaimed.

##### **Governance Committee**

###### 1 Administration Senate Member

- Helene Day Fraser nominated J. Langlois, and J. Langlois respectfully declined the nomination.
- C. Martin nominated A. Abbott, and A. Abbott accepted the nomination.
- A. Abbott was acclaimed.

###### 1 Student Senate Member

- J. Su nominated themselves for the 1 Student Senator Member position.
- J. Su was acclaimed.

###### 1 Faculty Senator

- M. Gellman nominated M. Johnsen, and M. Johnsen accepted the nomination.
- M. Johnsen was acclaimed.

##### **Curriculum Planning + Review Committee**

###### 2 Faculty Senate Members

- Helene Day Fraser nominated H. Armen, and H. Armen accepted the nomination.
- Helene Day Fraser nominated B. Howe, and B. Howe accepted the nomination.
- H. Armen and B. Howe were acclaimed.

#### 5. Administrative Appointments Policy

A. Tees reported that the Board of Governors has tasked the administration with revising the Policy 8.9 (Hiring) and its accompanying procedures, Policy 8.9.1 (Procedures for the Recommendation + Selection of Senior Academic + Administrative Personnel) and 8.9.3 (Procedures for the Recommendation + Selection of Vice Presidents). While the policy falls under the jurisdiction of the Board, the University Act requires that both the Board and Senate approve its procedures:

*"27(2)(f) with the approval of the senate, to establish procedures for the recommendation and selection of candidates for president, deans, librarians, registrar and other senior academic administrators as the board may designate"*

A. Tees clarified that this policy revision will not address the selection of the President, which is governed by a separate policy. The current revision focuses on all other positions covered under this clause of the University Act.

By way of background, A. Tees reported that the Board Governance Committee tasked Human Resources with conducting a sector scan on hiring

processes and decision-making. The proposed revisions were developed based on the results of the sector scan, feedback from external legal counsel.

A. Tees stated that the intent of the policy revision is to provide clearer language on interim appointment processes and more robust re-appointment processes for fixed-term appointments (Deans, Vice-Presidents, and Associate Vice-Presidents in academic areas).

A Senator asked whether Senate will have input into the composition of Search Committees. A. Tees confirmed that Search Committees will be detailed in the procedures, and that Senate will have an opportunity to review.

A Senator asked about the timeline for approval of the policy and procedures. A. Tees stated that the goal is to bring the policy forward for Senate approval by the end of the calendar year for it to be approved by the Board of Governors early next calendar year.

A senator asked whether the policy will include grandfathering provisions for existing appointments. A. Tees responded that individuals with existing contracts will be considered “grandfathered,” and that the revised policy will apply to vacancies on a go-forward basis.

[Secretary’s note: the question is beyond the remit of the Senate as it relates to existing employment contracts].

N. Himer noted that the policy and procedures may first come forward to the Senate Governance Committee before being presented to Senate.

**III. OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was raised.

**IV. NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, November 5, 2025, 9:30 a.m. —11:20 a.m.

**V. ADJOURNMENT** – the meeting adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

**Moved/Seconded**

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned.**

**CARRIED.**