



# MINUTES – OPEN SESSION

## SENATE MEETING

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

ECU Boardroom (D2315)

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***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.*

### I. OPENING PROCEDURES

1. Call to Order – T. Kelly, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.
2. Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair noted that the open session agenda was reviewed by the Executive Committee. However, the addition of Business Item 3 (Governance Committee Appointment) was not previously seen by the Executive Committee.

No questions or concerns were raised.

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that Senate approve the agenda, as circulated.  
CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.**

3. Approval of Minutes

A Senator asked for the minutes to be amended to add “to comply with the Senate Bylaw prohibiting the naming of movers of motions” to the sentence “A senator asked if their name could be removed in the minutes under Business item 8 (Enrolment Processes and Procedures).”

In response, N. Himer noted that the issue of naming senators in minutes was raised at the Governance Committee, and that the Committee’s interpretation of the bylaws is that it doesn’t prohibit the naming of senators in the discussion portion of minutes.

A motion was introduced to defer the approval of the November 5, 2025 Senate minutes until the Senate Bylaws are reviewed on the question of the prohibition of the naming of movers:

**Moved/Seconded**

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the approval of the November 5, 2025 Senate minutes be deferred to a future Senate meeting.**

**CARRIED.**

**II. BUSINESS**

1. Chair's Remarks + Report

The Chair introduced Cory Seney-Coletta, who was recently elected as one of two staff senators. Cory serves as the Senior Director, Student Engagement, Retention, and Success in Student Services.

The Chair noted that the second staff senator position has become vacant. Nominations to fill this vacancy, along with the vacancy for a faculty senator from the Faculty of Graduate Studies, will be open in January 2026.

The Chair then reflected on activities and highlights from the Fall term. They noted that the University has been engaged in a significant number of community-facing events and initiatives, particularly in connection with Emily Carr University's 100th anniversary. As part of the anniversary, the City of Vancouver formally issued a proclamation recognizing the University's centennial. The Chair acknowledged the work of faculty, staff, and students who contributed to anniversary programming and events.

The Chair also spoke about advocacy work undertaken at the federal level, noting that Emily Carr University has been working alongside peer art and design institutions across Canada to advocate for the importance of design institutions to the cultural landscape of Canada.

The Chair noted that a partnership with Arts Umbrella was announced in the Fall, and that additional partnerships will follow throughout the 100th anniversary year to demonstrate the ways Emily Carr University engages community.

The Chair then highlighted the Fall Student Art Sale, noting that the event was highly successful and resulted in approximately \$100,000 in student artwork sales. The Chair emphasized the significance of the sale both as a financial opportunity for students and as a way of connecting students' work with the broader community.

The Chair informed Senate that the Province is initiating a post-secondary sustainability review. The Chair noted that the review will be led by former Board Chair Don Avison, and that it is expected to examine the sustainability of public post-secondary institutions in British Columbia. The Chair advised that recommendations from this review are anticipated in Spring 2026. The Chair indicated that Senate will be kept informed as more information becomes available.

2. Vice President, Academic + Provost's Report

D. Achjadi thanked everyone who participated in National Portfolio Day, especially thanking the Student Services team.

D. Achjadi also advised Senate that a festive lunch was being held on campus that day, organized in collaboration with City Services, to celebrate the festive season and foster community connection among students.

D. Achjadi confirmed key dates related to the convocation and the Graduate Exhibition opening. Convocation will be on Thursday, May 14, with the graduate exhibition opening scheduled for Wednesday, May 13. It was further noted that the upcoming graduating class is expected to be relatively large, and that accommodations similar to the previous year (potentially involving two ceremonies) may be required.

D. Achjadi reported that the Foundation Program Review is nearing completion.

3. APPROVAL: Governance Committee Appointment

The Chair noted that as a new Senator, Cory was invited to select a Senate Committee on which to serve. There is currently a vacancy for a staff Senator on the Governance Committee, and Cory has agreed to let his name stand.

**Moved/Seconded**

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that Senate appoint Cory Seney-Coletta to the Governance Committee.**

**CARRIED.**

4. INFORMATION: Nominations Committee Report

The Chair referred to the report form in the agenda package. No questions were raised.

5. APPROVAL: Nominations Committee Recommendations

The Chair referred to the recommendation form in the agenda package.

D. Achjadi noted that the Nominations Committee works closely with the Emily Carr Students' Union to select students to serve on Senate Committees.

**Moved/Seconded**

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, on the recommendation of the Nominations Committee, that Senate approve the new and renewed nominees for appointment to Senate committees.**

**CARRIED.**

6. INFORMATION: Governance Committee Report

The Chair referred to the report in the agenda package

C. Martin, Chair of Governance Committee, provided a highlight of the report.

Topics included:

- A note on naming senators in minutes
- Senate Committee Operating Guidelines, including discussion of the Governance Committee's recommendation to proceed with approval of the updated Guidelines, with the provision on attendance and observers held in abeyance pending further review.
- A recommendation arising from the Nominations Committee, referred to Governance, to review the Terms of Reference for the Nominations Committee and consider whether its responsibilities might be more appropriately situated within another Senate committee's mandate rather than as a standalone committee.

N. Himer referred to the briefing note included in the agenda package on naming senators in minutes. She noted that the Bylaw specifies that the names of movers and seconders are not recorded in minutes. Other than that, the Bylaws do not otherwise prohibit naming a senator in minutes in other contexts (for example, "Senator X raised this point"), although it is not commonly the practice. N. Himer noted that the matter had been reviewed and that minutes were revised accordingly, and indicated members could follow up outside the meeting if they wished to discuss the bylaw provision further.

A concern was raised regarding interpretation of the bylaw language and how it was reflected by the Governance Committee. The Chair acknowledged the concern and noted that further discussion could occur outside the meeting, given time constraints.

#### 7. APPROVAL: Governance Committee Recommendation

The Chair referred to the recommendation form regarding the updated Senate Committee Operating Guidelines.

C. Martin shared the Governance Committee's rationale: the Committee understood that Senate Bylaws indicate standing committees are open, but noted that Emily Carr has an established practice of closed committee meetings. The Committee recognized that any move toward open committee meetings would represent a significant change in practice, and it requires further research into sector practices. It was also noted that implementing open committee meetings would require new administrative supports and processes, including matters such as posting agendas. Given the scale of the potential shift, the Committee recommended holding the attendance/observers provision while continuing the research, but did not wish to delay approval of the updated Operating Guidelines as a whole.

A question was raised regarding whether sector practice should be assumed to reflect good governance practice. The Chair responded that while adopting another institution's practice is not automatic, reviewing sector practices helps inform what is understood as good governance, and that practices must be weighed and adapted to Emily Carr's context.

#### **Moved/Seconded**

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, on the recommendation of the Governance Committee, that Senate approve the updated Senate Committee Operating Guidelines Policy, with the provision on "Attendance and Observers" held in abeyance pending further research on open Senate Committee meeting practices at other universities and best practices in the sector.**

**CARRIED.**

#### 8. INFORMATION: Academic Planning + Priorities Committee Report

The Chair referred to the report form in the agenda package.

J. Turner, Chair of Academic Planning + Priorities Committee, noted the following highlights from the report:

- The Student Conduct Policy and the Student Accommodations Policy timelines were presented for information.

- The Academic Schedule Policy was approved and recommended to Senate.

No questions were raised.

9. APPROVAL: Academic Planning + Priorities Committee Recommendation

The Chair referred to the recommendation form in the agenda package.

K. Verkerk noted that when the Academic Schedule was approved last academic year by Senate, there was an error in the summer semester due to miscommunication during the consultation. What was missing was a 13-week summer semester, when there had only been a Term 1 and a Term 2 scheduled. This was an issue because some courses need to be able to run over the course of the entire summer semester.

**Moved/Seconded**

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, on the recommendation of the Academic Planning + Priorities Committee, that Senate approve the changes to the Academic Schedule for Summer 2026, Summer 2027, and Summer 2028, as circulated.**

**CARRIED.**

10. APPROVAL: Academic Planning + Priorities Committee Recommendation

The Chair referred to the recommendation form in the agenda package.

K. Verkerk noted that an Academic Schedule is required under the University Act. In order to create an Academic Schedule Policy, it must be approved by both Senate and the Board of Governors. It was further noted that this draft policy was created using all the consultation done with the faculties and Senate last year when approving the 4-year Academic Schedule.

No questions were raised.

**Moved/Seconded**

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, on the recommendation of the Academic Planning + Priorities Committee, that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Academic Schedule Policy, as circulated.**

**CARRIED.**

11. INFORMATION: Curriculum Planning + Review Committee Report

The Chair referred to the report form in the agenda package.

A. Jaroszewicz reported on proposed course changes and new course proposals discussed at the Committee.

No questions were raised.

12. APPROVAL: Curriculum Planning + Review Committee Recommendations

The Chair referred to the recommendation form in the agenda package. C. Martin, J. Turner, and A. Abbott provided a brief overview of each of the proposed course changes and new course proposals coming from their respective Faculties.

No questions were raised.

**Moved/Seconded**

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, on the recommendation of the Curriculum Planning + Review Committee, that Senate approve the following:**

**From the Faculty of Culture + Community – Course change proposal as presented:**

FNDT 108 Creative Processes

(changes to description and add learning objectives and outcomes)

**From the Faculty of Art - Course change proposals as presented:**

**CRAM 306 Creative Figurative Sculpture**

(changes to name, credits, description, add learning objectives)

**SCLP 200 Sculpture: Materials and Processes in Spatial Practice**

(changes to description and learning objectives)

**SCLP 210 Sculpture: Making, Meaning, Materials**

(changes to description and learning objectives)

**From the Faculty of Art – new course proposals as presented:**

VAST 2XX Digital Practice - Image and Mediation

VAST 2XX Digital Practice - Form and Fabrication

**From the Faculty of Design + Dynamic Media - Course change proposals as presented:**

**INDD 217 Textile Product Design: Mass Production**

(adding learning objectives and learning outcomes)

**INDD 303 Part Design & Digital Output**

(changes to prerequisites, description and learning objectives, adding learning outcomes)

**INDD 404 New Wood Materials**

(adding learning objectives and learning outcomes)

**CARRIED.**

### 13. INFORMATION: Appeals Committee Report

The Chair referred to the report form in the agenda package.

K. Verkerk reported on the following highlights:

- Upcoming work to develop plain-language appeals materials.
- A revised approach to reporting Appeals Tribunal activity at year-end.

No questions were raised.

### 14. INFORMATION: Financial Awards Committee Report

The Chair referred to the report form in the agenda package.

K. Verkerk noted that the Committee hasn't met in a couple of academic years. The Committee is undertaking a review of its Terms of Reference and processes.

No questions were raised.

### 15. APPROVAL: Senate Approval of Annual Enrolment Numbers

The Chair reminded Senate that a discussion was held at a Senate meeting at the end of May, when a Senator raised a concern about a misalignment with the University Act. The Chair noted that the University has been working since that time to better align its practices.

The Chair further provided context for why the motion specifies that the process would begin with the 2027/28 academic year, noting that the enrolment planning work for 2026/27 has already been completed.

A concern was raised regarding the wording of the motion, specifically the phrase "commencing with the 2027/28 academic year." It was suggested that approving the motion as written could be interpreted as an admission that the University had not been following the University Act. An amendment was proposed to strike this language from the motion.

N. Himer advised against amending the motion. She emphasized that important work is currently underway to align practices with the University Act, and that this work needs to be allowed to proceed in order to appropriately bring enrolment numbers to Senate and the Board of Governors.

A question was raised regarding whether an Admissions Policy is being developed. K. Verkerk noted that she will be working on an Admissions Policy in the new year. She further noted that the Strategic Enrolment Management work underway to develop an Enrolment Plan will include clarification on how enrolment numbers are brought forward to Senate and to the Board.

A concern was also raised regarding the interpretation of the University Act referenced in the motion. It was shared that the Senator would prefer to receive a more formal interpretation of the relevant section of the Act prior to voting on the matter.

Several Senators spoke in favour of the motion as presented, noting that commencing the process with the 2027/28 academic year would provide sufficient time to align enrolment-related processes more thoughtfully with the University Act.

**Moved/Seconded**

**WHEREAS Section 27. 2. (r) of the University Act requires the university to seek the approval of the Senate and the Board to determine enrolment numbers:**

**Powers of the Board**

**27. 2.(r) with the approval of the senate, to determine the number of students that may in the opinion of the board, having regard to the resources available, be accommodated in the university or in any faculty of it, and to make rules considered advisable for limiting the admission or accommodation of students to the number so determined;**

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT the university administration will seek the approval of the Senate in advance of seeking the approval of the Board, to determine enrolment numbers for every academic year, commencing with the 2027/28 academic year.**

**CARRIED.**

**III. NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, January 28, 2026, 9:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned at 10:35 a.m.**

**CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.**