



MINUTES – APPROVED

BOARD OF GOVERNORS — OPEN SESSION

Thursday, March 26, 2026
3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.
ECU Boardroom D2315 and *MS Teams

ATTENDANCE:

Board Members:	Saanvi Bhat, Student-elected Board Member Ashley Chung, Student-elected Board Member Brenda Crabtree, Board Member Trish Kelly, President + Vice-Chancellor Steve Kinsey, Board Member Mary Macaulay, Board Member Lorcan O’Melinn, Acting Board Chair, Board Vice-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:	Alla Gadassik, Faculty-elected Board Member Mimi Gellman, Faculty-elected Board Member Carleen Thomas, Chancellor
Employee Resources:	Diyan Achjadi, Vice-President, Academic + Provost Mark Douglas, Interim Vice-President, Finance + Administration Natasha Himer, University Secretary and Executive Director, Governance Kayla Stuckart, Executive Director, Communications, Marketing + Public Affairs Adrian Tees, Associate Vice-President, Human Resources Alexander Muir, Technical Support
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 3:26 p.m.

The Acting Chair 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.

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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 February 5, 2026

3.3. Q3 Forecast

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board, on the recommendation of the Audit + Finance Committee, ratifies the Q3 Forecast for the fiscal year 2025/26 as submitted to the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills.

4. BUSINESS AND PRESENTATION

4.1. Chair's Remarks

The Acting Chair highlighted the focus of the meeting on the approval of the 2026/27 Budget.

4.2. President's Remarks

The President + Vice-Chancellor, T. Kelly, noted the following matters for information:

- **Spring convocation reminder**
- **Public post-secondary sector review** – The report is expected to be released in April 2026.
- **QS top universities standings 2026** – ECU is ranked #30 globally and #11 in North America among art and design universities.
- **Current and upcoming events** – Upcoming alumni and current student events were highlighted, including the Macaulay + Co exhibition opening (March 26), E. J. Hughes documentary showing (March 26), MFA Thesis Exhibition (March 28—April 9), and BFA open studios (March 26—March 27).

4.3. Suspension of Intake

The Vice-President, Academic + Provost, D. Achjadi, presented the proposed suspension of intake for new students of the BMA Major in New Media and Sound Arts (NMSA), BFA in

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Photography (PHOT), and BFA in Critical and Cultural Practices (CRCP), noting the matter has undergone many consultation steps, was presented to the Senate and has also been reviewed by the Audit + Finance Committee (“AFC”).

In response to a question, D. Achjadi confirmed that work is underway on integrating and preserving hyperspecialized practices through the main curriculum.

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

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board, on the recommendation of the Audit + Finance Committee, approves the suspension of intake of new students to the BMA Major in New Media and Sound Arts (NMSA), the BFA in Photography (PHOT), and the BFA in Critical and Cultural Practices (CRCP), effective March 27, 2026, until further notice.

4.4. 2026-27 Budget Presentation

L. O’Melinn provided introductory comments, noting the extensive review of the budget by the AFC and the Board, and consideration of various internal and external factors including rising costs, evolving demographics, sector challenges, enrolment uncertainty, and deficit mitigation strategies.

T. Kelly added that the budget has evolved from an initial operating deficit of \$3.6 million to the current balanced budget with a modest operating surplus. T. Kelly emphasized that the Administration is committed to build on improvements in the consultation process going forward and commended the steps taken this year.

The Interim Vice-President, Finance + Administration, M. Douglas presented the 2026/27 All Funds Budget, highlighting:

- The budget development cycle and consultation process
- An overview of each fund, including targets and assumptions for the operating fund
- Context and challenges
- Key investments in 2026/27
- Deficit mitigation strategies
- Risks and emerging pressures
- Future sustainability measures

During discussion, the Board expressed appreciation for the accessibility of the information and the care taken to community consultations.

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

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board, on the recommendation of the Audit + Finance Committee, approves the 2026/27 All Funds Budget as presented by Administration, with a \$1,105,339 surplus, including an operating fund surplus of \$27,474.

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5. REPORTS

5.1. President + Vice-Chancellor's Report

T. Kelly presented a written report regarding the following matters:

- **Centennial year midpoint** – An update on initiatives and upcoming activities.
- **President's speaking events**
- **Indigenous Alumni Exhibition** – Details on the exhibition curated by Leanne Inuarak-Dall and Vance Wright, with support from Daina Warren and the Aboriginal Gathering Place, featuring 55 artists from Indigenous alumni, current students, staff, and faculty.

The Board received the report for information with no questions or comments.

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

D. Achjadi presented a written report and provided verbal updates regarding the following matters:

- **Libby Leshgold Gallery Exhibition** – Details on the March 26 exhibition opening featuring the work of Taiwanese artist Hong-Kai Wang.
- **Admission processes** – A status report on the commencement of admission offers.
- **Curriculum review** – An update on review of ECU curriculum and academic programs.

The Board received the report for information with no questions or comments.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Governors was confirmed as scheduled on June 4, 2026.

7. CONCLUSION AND IN CAMERA SESSION

With no further business, the Open Session of the March 26, 2026 Board of Governors meeting concluded at 4:05 p.m. and the Board proceeded to a brief in camera session.