



# SENATE MINUTES

MONDAY, APRIL 26 2021, 10:00-11:30 AM

Online via Zoom

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Gillian Siddall, Chair	Mimi Gellman
Kajill Aujla	Erick Jantzen
Ruth Beer	Trish Kelly
Kevin Bird	Jorma Kujala
Jacob Brennan	Steven Lam
Cybèle Creery	Kyla Mallett
Hélène Day Fraser	Suzanne Rackover
Keith Doyle	Martin Rose
Heather Fitzgerald	Louise St. Pierre
Cissie Fu	Danielle Zandvliet

Regrets: Mark Igloliorte, Keith Kerrigan, Celeste Martin, Geoff Plant, Charles Simon

Guests: Benita Ceresney, Alia Hijaab Ebayed, Marcia Guno, Lori MacDonald, Emmel Murray, Tiffanie Ting, Ishika Tripathi

Support: Carina Clark, Philippa Mennell, Christen Downie

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## LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

### I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1. Call to Order – Gillian Siddall, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.
2. Thank you to Student Members – The Chair thanked student Senate members Jacob Brennan, Erick Jantzen, Kajill Aujla and Erin Lucey for their contributions and engagement during the Academic Year 2020/2021.
3. Approval of the Agenda as circulated.  
**Moved / Seconded.** **Carried.**
4. Approval of the previous Senate Minutes of March 8, 2021 as circulated.  
**Moved / Seconded.** **Carried.**

## II. BUSINESS

### 1. Report from the Registrar – Senate elections

Kevin Bird, Executive Director, Student Services + Registrar, noted that a number of Senate positions will expire on July 31, 2021. An update was provided on the call for 12 nominees, which closed on April 9, 2021.

- **Faculty Members**
  - **Culture + Community:** One position – No nominations were presented; a second round of nominations will be sought.
  - **Design + Dynamic Media:** Two positions – Eugenia Bertulis and Sophie Gaur were declared elected.
  - **Jake Kerr Faculty of Graduate Studies:** One position – Louise St. Pierre was declared re-elected.
  - **Audain Faculty of Art:** Two positions – Four nominations were presented. Elections will occur on May 10, 11 and 12.
- **Students:** Four positions – Stephanie Schneider and Ishika Tripathi were declared elected; Charles Simon, was declared re-elected. A fourth student Senate member will be named following the May elections.
- **Support Staff:** One position – Danielle Zandvliet was declared re-elected.
- **Alumni:** One position – It was noted results from Alumni are currently unknown.

### 2. Approval of the Master of Digital Media Graduands for 2020-21

The Registrar requested that the Senate meeting be moved in camera for review of Digital Media Graduands and Emily Carr University Graduands for 2020-21.

**Moved / Seconded to move the meeting in camera.**

**Carried.**

*The meeting moved in camera at 10:20 a.m. Benita Ceresney, Alia Hijaab Ebayed, Marcia Guno, Lori MacDonald, Emmel Murray, Tiffanie Ting and Ishika Tripathi left the meeting at 10:20 a.m. The open meeting resumed at 10:29 a.m. Guests returned.*

Senators reviewed the list of candidates.

**Moved / Seconded that Senate approve the candidates as presented to the Senate for the conferral of their jointly credentialed (UBC, SFU, BCIT & ECU) Master of Digital Media Degrees following successful completion of all required coursework.**

**Carried.**

### 3. Approval of the Emily Carr University Graduands for 2020-21

Senators reviewed the list of candidates.

**Moved / Seconded that Senate approve the candidates as presented to the Senate for the conferral of their respective Emily Carr University degrees following successful completion of all required coursework.**

**Carried.**

4. 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 April 12, 2021. There were no questions from Senators about the report.

A Senator requested a change to the CPR Report. It was agreed the sentence “Mimi Gellman would like to see this course as part of HUMN101” will be replaced with “Discussions will continue to look at placing the course in HUMN101”.

5. Academic Planning + Priorities (APP) Report

APP last met on March 29, 2021. There were no questions from Senators about the report.

6. Governance Committee Report – Part I

Suzanne Rackover, Chair, Governance Committee, put forward the following motions regarding changes to Senate Bylaws.

**Moved / Seconded that Senate approve amendments to the Senate Bylaws which include language and style changes as presented.**

**Carried.**

**Moved / Seconded that Senate approve amendments to the Senate Bylaws in reference to Articles IV, V, VI, VII and VIII as presented.**

**Carried.**

The Chair, Governance Committee, referred to the circulated Senate Governance Committee report regarding questions raised during the March 8, 2021 Senate meeting related to concerns with eliminating language about leaves of absence and responsibilities of the Vice Chair once elected if an amendment was made to separate the Vice-Chair role from the VP, Academic + Provost role.

There was discussion. A Senator inquired whether Senators are able to resign their seats if aware they will be going on sabbatical. It was noted that language related to resignation of Senate positions is not clear in the Senate Bylaws, but that a procedure exists regarding resignation of any Senate member. It was further noted that this topic would be a useful addition to the Senate handbook.

**Moved / Seconded that Senate approve amendments to the Senate Bylaws in reference to Article X – Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct as presented.**

**Carried.**

It was noted that legal counsel suggested the entire section regarding Conflict of Interest be revised more extensively in the future.

7. Governance Committee report – Part II

The Chair, Governance Committee, noted that as a result of passing of the motion to amend Article V – Structure of the Senate in the Senate Bylaws, which separates the Vice-Chair role from the VP Academic + Provost, the following motion to amend the Terms of Reference (TOR) for all Senate committees was put forward.

**Moved / seconded that Senate approve the proposed amendments to the following Senate committee terms of reference as presented: 2.1.1 Nominations Committee, 2.1.2 Governance Committee, 2.1.3 Curriculum Planning Review Committee, 2.1.4 Academic Planning Priorities Committee, 2.1.4.2 Financial Awards Committee, 2.1.4.3 International Development Committee, 2.1.5 Appeals Committee, 2.1.6 Senate Budget Committee, 2.1.7 Executive Committee, Aboriginal Advisory Committee.**

**Carried.**

There was discussion. The vast number of committees on which the VP Academic + Provost currently sits was noted. It was further noted that a broad review of Senate committee TORs will be undertaken by the Governance Committee next year to address inconsistencies related to voting privileges of ex-officio positions. An analysis of the number of committees on which the VP Academic + Provost sits may also be conducted during that review.

The Chair thanked the Chair, Governance Committee, and Philippa Menell, University Secretary, for their work in preparing for these motions.

8. Nominations Committee Report.

The Nominations Committee last met on March 19, 2021. There were no questions from Senators about the report.

It was noted that an upcoming meeting of the Nominations Committee will be held on April 30, 2021, with the general community to discuss Senate and Senate subcommittee roles as an educational opportunity.

9. Senate Appeals Committee Report

Kevin Bird, Chair, Senate Appeals Committee, reported that the Senate Appeals Committee met on March 5, 2021. A student's affluence of appeal to be readmitted to the institution was reviewed and the Appeals Committee's TOR was discussed. In response to a Senator's suggestion, the Committee Chair noted the separation of the work of the Senate Appeals Committee and Tribunals, and that the Appeals Committee does not review appeals without the presence of students on the

committee.

#### 10. Financial Awards Committee Report.

Kevin Bird, Chair, Financial Awards Committee, reported that a recommendation for bursary selection, including 95 awards approved for distribution to students, was brought forward at the March 22, 2021 meeting of the Financial Awards Committee by former committee chair Charise Bryan.

#### 11. Research Advisory Committee (RAC) Report

Steven Lam, Chair, RAC, provided an update on the committee's work in preparation of the institution's new Strategic Research Advisory Plan.

- Potential new values have been identified for the Strategic Research Advisory Plan, including how research can be made more inclusive, collaborative, reciprocal and visible, with a strong commitment to ecological urgency and awareness of ECU as a practice-based university.
- RAC is exploring new grant opportunities and types of support the Research office may provide such as support for practicing artists, recognition for the work of faculty, and material conditions to enable research.
- RAC's survey of faculty identified consistencies in responses related to time; faculty desires time for experimentation related to work and new technologies, time to connect with colleagues on collaborative work, time to connect with other universities, and time to connect their work to the world at large.
- RAC survey rates are currently 50%. The goal is 100% completion by faculty.
- RAC will continue this work and development of the Strategic Research Advisory Plan in planned for Fall 2021.
- There is interest in conducting an audit of financial awards.

There was discussion. A Senator raised the amount of research conducted at ECU as part of pedagogy as a case for government to shift the university's designation from a teaching university to a research university. Gillian Siddall, President + Vice-Chancellor, noted this work in helpful for ongoing related discussions with the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training regarding the extent of research that occurs at ECU.

#### 12. Senate Chair's Report

The Chair provided an update on preparations for virtual convocation scheduled for May 14, 2021. It was noted that recordings were conducted recently of the processional into the event, as well as speeches, including those by the President + Vice-Chancellor and Chancellor, and other introductions such as those of honorary doctorate and Emily Award recipients. It was further noted that watch parties are being organized to enable students and faculty to spend time together during the

event, and will be open to all communities across campus. A company has been engaged to prepare slides of students and their respective work as a virtual alternative to students crossing the stage.

An update was provided on the Chief Information Officer search. It was noted that the search is near final and is anticipated to conclude in coming weeks.

The Chair updated Senators on an anti-racism workshop attended by the President's Executive Council and Academic Affairs. It was noted there are plans to explore how this training can be rolled out to the larger community.

The Chair provided an update on plans for Fall 2021. It was reiterated that government has asked all post-secondary institutions in B.C. to commit to on-campus activities in the fall, but that plans remain unclear due to the rate of transmission of COVID-19 variants and unknown efficacy of vaccines to lower transmission rates. It was further noted that the institution continues to plan for flexibility to enable ECU to shift to remote provision of some curriculum delivery. The university will base its safety plans on guidance provided by the B.C. government.

### 13. Senate Vice Chair's Report

The Vice Chair reported that the first set of external visits for academic program review are scheduled for May 2021. It was further noted the reviews the Faculties of Art, Design and Dynamic Media, and Graduate Studies programs entail the external response to areas of self-student processes. External reviews will be held entirely online and include peer reviewers from various institutions. It was noted the rest of ECU programs will undergo review in the fall. Following the cycle of program review, there are plans for policy development in order to be ready for questions anticipated in the Degree Quality Assessment Board quality assurance audit in 2022.

The Vice Chair thanked Teaching + Learning for its work in supporting the university in online teaching and creating a teaching and learning community of practice during the pandemic.

It was noted that faculty hiring is underway; five positions are currently being reviewed, including Photography, Film and Screen Arts, Interaction Design, Communication Design, and non-teaching faculty at Electronic Resources Librarian. All are restricted searches.

The Chair updated Senators on planning for the online Grad Show scheduled for May 2021. It was noted the show will be more dynamic and interactive than last year and will provide students with networking opportunities on the online platform. A limited number of exhibitions and screenings will be available for students to show their work in person, in compliance with COVID safety protocols.

The Chair provided an update on planning for Fall 2021. It was noted that current plans are for approximately 30% online and 70% hybrid curriculum, with flexibility to enable faculty to increase or restrict face-to-face opportunities as COVID restrictions

loosen or tighten. Emphasis will continue to be on ensuring continuity of learning, access and accessibility of students and technical resources, and faculty support.

There was discussion. Senators inquired about the potential return of international students, provision of curriculum, ministerial guidelines for return to the classroom and alumni access to library resources. Planning for uncertainty and the need for flexibility was noted in supporting students and faculty.

### **III. OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **1. Discussion on Senate Schedule 2021-22**

The Vice Chair and University Secretary led discussion on the proposed move of Senate and Senate committee meetings from Mondays to Wednesdays. It was noted this had been requested by a Dean and discussed at Senate and Senate committees.

There was discussion. Several Senators indicated support for a shift to Wednesdays. It was also noted that a change to the Senate schedule may be a challenge for Fall 2021 due to conflicting scheduling of online courses for international students. There was greater willingness by some faculty to participate in Senate committees held on days other than Mondays. A request was made that meetings not be scheduled during lunch breaks. It was noted that any shift in schedules would have an impact on program areas. It was decided that Senate and Senate committee meetings not be moved this Academic Year, but that detailed analysis be conducted for a potential change for the following year.

#### **2. South Asian Students Fundraising**

Mimi Gellman raised for Senators' consideration how ECU may support our Indian students in dealing with the pandemic crisis in India. Counselling and/or potential fundraising efforts were raised as potential supports. There was discussion. The availability of funding for all students via the university's Emily Cares fund was noted. Marcia Guno, AVP Students, noted the university is currently exploring ways to provide supports to our local Indian students and those in India. It was also noted the Students' Union is sharing resources via social media and exploring other ways to respond.

### **IV. INFORMATION**

Unit Plan Presentation

1. The presentation by Steven Lam, Dean, Jake Kerr Faculty of Graduate Studies, was included as a separate attachment.

**VI. NEXT MEETING** – An extraordinary meeting of Senate will be scheduled in the near future to review the nominees for Chancellor. The next regular meeting of Senate will be in

September 2021.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.