SENATE MINUTES – OPEN SESSION

Wednesday, April 9, 2025, 9:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.
ECU Boardroom / *Online via Zoom webinar

ATTENDANCE

Adriana Jaroszewicz	Eknoor Matharoo (non-voting)
Alex Philips	Micaela Kwiatkowski
Beth Howe	Mimi Gellman
Cameron Cartiere	Ishita Arora
Celeste Martin	Haig Armen
Diyan Achjadi (Vice-Chair)	Kathryn Verkerk
Helene Day Fraser	Mark Johnsen
Jacqueline Turner	Saanvi Bhat
Justin Langlois	Shawn Choi
Kyla Mallett	Stuti Gulati
Laszlo Hollander	Vanessa Kam

Regrets: Carleen Thomas, Trish Kelly, Anoushka Nair

Guests/Support: Natasha Himer (University Secretary), Sonia Orlu (Senate Support), Gabriel Liosis (Senate Administrative Coordinator), Alex Muir (Technical Support)

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1. Call to Order – Kyla Mallett, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m.

2. Agenda Approval

   Alex Phillips proposed adding two items to the agenda:
   - A motion to improve the functioning of the Senate Budget Committee
   - A discussion item on section 27(2)(r) of the University Act regarding Senate's role in enrollment numbers

   There was discussion about whether to add these items, with some Senators expressing their view that it would timely to discuss at the April meeting and some others feeling that the items could be addressed at the May meeting, and as it was recommended by the Senate Executive Committee

that the Senate Budget Committee discussion could be taken up then and with members of the Finance team and the Senate Chair present.

A friendly amendment was accepted to add both items for discussion only.

Moved / Seconded that the Agenda of the April 9, 2025, Senate meeting be approved as amended.

CARRIED.

3. Past Minutes

Moved / Seconded that Senate approve the Minutes of the Senate Meeting of March 5, 2025, as amended.

CARRIED.

II.   BUSINESS

1. Vice President Academic + Provost's Report

Natasha Himer provided updates on behalf of the President and Provost.

N. Himer announced K. Mallett's appointment as the new Provost at NSCAD and offered congratulations on behalf of ECU.

K. Mallett was recognized for 23 years of service, her co-leadership in strategic planning, significant contributions to curricular development, and efforts in building community partnerships. Multiple Senators expressed appreciation for her collegiality and leadership.

N. Himer also welcomed Gabriel Liosis as the new Senate Administrative Coordinator and a round of introductions was facilitated by the acting Chair.

2. INFORMATION: Convocation and Grad Show

Convocation will take place on May 8 with two ceremonies to accommodate the large cohort. Senators were encouraged to RSVP to participate as part of the platform party.

The Grad Show will feature work from 324 students. Mark Johnsen shared highlights of the important work and planning efforts underway.

3. INFORMATION: Academic Planning + Priorities Committee Report

Jacqueline Turner, Chair, referred to the committee report in the meeting materials. There were no questions on the report.

4. INFORMATION: Curriculum Planning + Review (CPR) Committee Report

Cameron Cartiere, Chair, referred to the committee report in the meeting materials. There were no questions on the report.

5. APPROVAL: Curriculum Planning + Review Committee Recommendations

Faculty of Art Proposals: K. Mallett explained the proposed changes are part of an ongoing effort to update and refine the core curriculum in the Faculty of Art.

Design and Dynamic Media Proposals: Celeste Martin noted that the proposed changes focused on refining course descriptions and learning outcomes, with ongoing work to align with CPR form requirements. Additionally, DDM is working closely with the Teaching and Learning Center to improve the clarity of learning outcomes.

Moved / Seconded that Senate, on the recommendation of the Curriculum Planning and Review Committee, approve the following as presented:

1. **Faculty of Art – New Course Proposals:**
   - **CRAM 3XX From Ground to Table**
   - **PRNT 3XX (requesting 316) Print IV Intermediate Relief or Etching Processes**

2. **Faculty of Art – Course Change Proposals:**
   - **DRWG 308 Drawing: Studio**
     (changes to prerequisites, description, add learning objectives)

   - **DRWG 321 Drawing Practices: Topic**
     (changes to prerequisites, add learning objectives)

   - **ILUS 306 Illustration Practices: Topic**
     (add learning objectives)

   - **PHOT 316 Studio Photography**
     (change to prerequisites, description, and learning objectives)

   - **PHOT 323 Photography Practices: Topic**
     (change to prerequisites, add learning objectives)

   - **PNTG 310 Painting: Advanced**
     (changes to prerequisites, description, add learning objectives)

   - **PNTG 315 Painting Practices: Topic**
     (changes to prerequisites, description, add learning objectives)

   - **PRNT 310 Topics in Advanced Etching + Lithography**
     (changes to name, prerequisites, description, repeatable, add learning objectives)

- **PRNT 322 Book Media: The Book As Object**
  (changes to name, prerequisites, description, add learning objectives)

- **SCLP 302 Sculpture Practices: Topic**
  (changes to prerequisites, description, add learning objectives)

- **SCLP 310 Making and Thinking Through Sculpture**
  (change to description, add learning objectives)

- **VAST 305 Art+Text Studio**
  (change to description, add learning objectives)

- **VAST 320 Visual Arts Thematic I**
  (add learning objectives)

3. **Faculty of Design + Dynamic Media – Course Change Proposals:**
   - **FMSA 200 Film + Screen Arts Core I**
     (changes to description and learning objectives)

   - **FMSA 201 Editing I**
     (changes to description and learning objectives)

   - **FMSA 205 Cinematography I**
     (changes to learning objectives)

   - **FMSA 210 Film + Screen Art Core II**
     (changes to description and learning objectives)

   - **FMSA 220 Acting Essentials**
     (changes to description and learning objectives)

   - **FMSA 221 Analogue Practices**
     (changes to description and learning objectives)

CARRIED.

6. DISCUSSION: Senate Budget Committee

   A detailed and lengthy discussion was held regarding the functioning of the Senate Budget Committee, prompted by a motion brought forward by Alex Phillips.

   The following is a summary of reflections and opportunities for improvement that were expressed regarding the Senate Budget Committee and the recent discussion and presentation on the budget:

   - Many Senators would like more time to review financial documents, where possible.
   - Some Senators would like more detail and/or explanatory notes to financial information. An example given was the "Other" category.

- Some Senators would welcome more visual presentation of information; it was felt that could make the information more accessible
- Many Senators feel that they would benefit from more financial training and that this would enable Senators to provide more meaningful input and/or ask questions in Senate Budget Committee discussions. Some Senators would like more clarity on the role of Senate. While many understand the advisory role of Senate, they would like to better understand the academic implications of budget decisions—how budgetary allocations affect teaching quality, research capacity, and student support services—rather than micro-managing operational line items.
- Some Senators raised further thoughts on the issue of accessibility and echoed that they would like to see more visual representation of information and made suggestions such as glossary handouts, annotated visual aids.
- May Senators are interested in how they can provide alternate recommendations before budgets are passed to the Board of Governors.

N. Himer confirmed that the May Senate meeting would include a dedicated segment for discussion the Senate Budget Committee practices, with participation from the Finance team. Additionally, the Senate Governance Committee is currently reviewing practices across peer institutions and to identify potential recommendations on Senate Budget Committee composition, training, and processes.

7. DISCUSSION: Section 27(2)(r) of the University Act

Senator Phillips introduced the topic, referencing the following provision under subsection 27(2)(r) of the University Act. The provision was shown on screen for all Senators and is excerpted below.

Powers of board

(2) Without limiting subsection (1) or the general powers conferred on the board by this Act, the board has the following powers:

(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[.]

Senators Phillips noted that it is not clear how this statutory provision has been interpreted and implemented at ECU. A few Senators offered their interpretations of the provision.

In response, Kathryn Verkerk explained that this area is on the radar of the administration and ECU's historical practices are being reviewed. She shared that developing an admissions policy has been prioritized; there is active work underway on enrollment management strategies; this area and Senate's engagement with regards to enrolment has been identified for review and conversation with the Academic Planning and Priorities (APP) committee of Senate.

Senators were responsive to hearing that there will be policy and process development in this area. A few Senators made note of their particular interest in seeing that there is a balancing of resources/resource constraints with any potential institutional growth, consideration for infrastructure capacity, and program-level impacts.

N. Himer also contextualized this issue as part of broader policy work needed at the institution, again with reference to recent policy work such as on program review and on admissions, as noted by the Registrar.

8. INFORMATION: Presentation on ECU Policy Framework

This item was deferred to a future meeting due to time constraints.

III.   OPEN FORUM

No issues were raised.

IV.   NEXT MEETING – May 14, 2025

V.   MOTION: ADJOURN – The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m.