



The University of British Columbia  
**BOARD OF GOVERNORS**  
**MINUTES**

Friday, May 15, 2020  
1:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
ONLINE VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE

**Chair** Mr. Michael Korenberg  
**Governors** Mr. Lindsay Gordon, Chancellor  
Dr. Santa Ono, President and Vice-Chancellor  
Ms. Alison Brewin  
Ms. Sandra Cawley  
Mr. Jessie Dusangh  
Ms. Chaslynn Gillanders  
Mr. Raghwa Gopal  
Mr. Max Holmes  
Dr. Anna Kindler  
Dr. John Klironomos  
Mr. Azim Lalani  
Professor Mark Mac Lean  
Ms. Jeanie Malone  
Ms. Nancy McKenzie  
Mr. Jassim Naqvi  
Ms. Andrea Reimer  
Mr. Joel Solomon  
Mr. Bill Sundhu  
Mr. Kavie Toor  
Ms. Nicole Udzenija

**Administration**  
Ms. Marcia Buchholz, Vice-President Human Resources  
Dr. Deborah Buszard  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Principal, UBC Okanagan  
Dr. Ainsley Carry, Vice-President Students  
Ms. Robin Ciceri, Vice-President External Relations  
Ms. Jennifer Kain, Chief Assurance & Risk Officer  
Dr. Dermot Kelleher, Vice-President Health  
Mr. Hubert Lai, Q.C., University Counsel (*Regrets*)  
Ms. Heather McCaw, Vice-President Development & Alumni Engagement  
Dr. Ananya Mukherjee Reed  
Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Okanagan  
Dr. Gail Murphy, Vice-President Research & Innovation  
Mr. Peter Smailes, Vice-President Finance & Operations  
Dr. Andrew Szeri, Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Vancouver  
**Board Secretary** Ms. Karen Hakkarainen

Board Chair Michael Korenberg called the open session of the Board of Governors meeting to order. He thanked everyone for attending this special meeting on the Friday before the long weekend and welcomed guests joining by both Zoom and the livestream video.

Mr. Korenberg respectfully acknowledged that the lands on which UBC campuses are located and from which Governors and others were joining the meeting include the ancestral and unceded territories of the Musqueam, the peoples of the Okanagan Nation, and other First Nations.

Following a roll call by Board Secretary Karen Hakkarainen, Mr. Korenberg acknowledged that this meeting marked a turn from the initial response to the pandemic toward planning for the future, including Winter Term 1. A letter that had been sent by the Government of British Columbia to all Board Chairs of post-secondary institutions has been posted with the meeting materials. The letter notes the importance of post-secondary institutions in the province with a desire to plan for classes in the fall, in a hybrid construct with online and in-person modalities incorporated into the plan. The Chair noted that delivering programming in a hybrid format

may be more complicated than if the institution was rolling out plans for online only classes. He cited the significance of provincial and federal responses toward this effort, noting in particular a significant announcement made earlier in the day by the federal government for funding and research. Mr. Korenberg acknowledged the significant leadership provided by UBC from the President and everyone in the advocacy group, which has been positively received and reacted to by governments.

The Chair observed that it is clear from the weekly reports to the Board on the COVID-19 response that the projections that the administration has begun to develop demonstrate that the pandemic will have a material financial impact on the university. This will mean that financial and capital resources must be carefully managed. The Chair noted the Board's role in these allocation decisions and stated that the Board will continue to discuss the university's response to the pandemic at its regular June meeting and a special meeting of the Board in July, which will be convened to deal with the university's 2020-21 budget approval.

The Chair noted the stressful conditions for all members of the university community and extended the Board's appreciation for the work being done to respond to the circumstances.

## **1. Update on COVID-19**

### **i. Update from the President**

President Ono began by thanking the Board and Board Chair for their recent message of gratitude sent out to the UBC Community, which was well-received and appreciated.

The President reported that since the previous update provided to the Board at its April meeting, the decision was made to offer Summer Term 2 online. In reaching this decision, the safeguarding of the community's health was paramount and the decision is in line with the guidelines provided by the Provincial Public Health Officer and the Health Authority. For the Fall Term, UBC will primarily offer larger classes online, with selected smaller classes offered in-person and in compliance with safety measures in place at that time. UBC will remain focused on providing the highest quality of instruction possible in all formats. Each Faculty will wish to apply its own program delivery model and the administration is currently working closely with the Faculties on these plans. .

There are three programs that have been deployed to support students, and . First, a President's Student Emergency Fund has been developed which consists of Provincial, donor and AMS funding and provides a significant pool of funds to support students. The second

initiative is an enhanced bursary program with a rapid online application process. Lastly, a new emergency fund has been established to cover salary shortfalls for research trainees and research staff where projected funding from granting agencies, industry or foundations has been interrupted. New funding from MITACS is also available to support impacted graduate students and more programs may be developed in the futures as needs are defined

The President reported that earlier in the day the federal government announced \$450 million to support research that might have been impacted by the pandemic. This is in addition to a previously announced \$291 million. An additional \$9.9 billion has already been allocated to support students. With respect to the UBC campus, remote work arrangements will remain in place until further notice for faculty and staff, graduate students, student workers and postdoctoral fellows.

Over the past month, the President and his team have been actively engaging governments to work cooperatively to respond to and manage the crisis and position the university-sector toward the recovery and regular discussions with both levels of government are yielding positive outcomes. At the federal-level the discussions focus on support for the research enterprise and what role the federal government can play in supporting international students. For instance, decision to provide greater flexibility for work permits for international students is a positive and helpful step. At the provincial level, attention is turning toward restart plans at the sector level within government. Ainsley Carry, Vice-President Students and Philip Barker, Vice-Principal Research, sit at the province's sector table and will ensure UBC's leadership role in shaping the sector-level plans. At the Board's June meeting the administration will provide an update on the university's comprehensive government relations strategy.

The President reported that an update from the Climate Emergency Task force will be delivered to the Board in June and a full report will be provided in November.. Six themes are emerging from the consultation processes currently underway: 1) teaching, learning and research; 2) administration and investment; 3) community support and engagement; 4) campus operations; 5) commuting; and, 6) advocacy and partnerships. The Task Force has continued its work despite the pandemic and communications asking for engagement have been distributed. The Task Force is hosting digital dialogues in the latter half of May and the President encouraged those taking part in the Board meeting to engage in those important conversations. More information, including how to participate in the consultations can be found on [www.climateemergency.ubc.ca](http://www.climateemergency.ubc.ca).

The President thanked the Board for their time and concluded his remarks.

The Board Chair thanked the President and asked that governors reserve questions and comments until after the next speaker. He acknowledged that the IT Advisory Committee had received reports that notwithstanding the remote working situation, progress continues apace toward the launch in November of the new HR and Finance systems and congratulated the teams involved on the progress that has occurred since the team has been working remotely.

## **ii. UBC Medical Staff and the Public Health Response**

The Board Chair welcomed Dermot Kelleher, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Vice-President, Health. Dean Kelleher noted that the Victoria Day weekend marks the move into Phase 2 of the province's pandemic response and UBC can look back with pride at what its faculty have been able to contribute to the response. He noted a recent New York Times interview of Peter Berman, Head of the School of Population and Public Health where Dr. Berman articulated the strengths of the public health system.

Den Kelleher reported that within the public health system, members of the UBC community are on the front-lines of the outbreak and have made important contributions toward public safety. This includes faculty, alumni, and trainees in Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Social Work, Midwifery, Physical and Occupational Therapy, and Dietetics. Student contributions include working on modeling of the pandemic with the Centre for Disease Control. There are people in hospitals dedicated to providing life-saving care and many are UBC faculty. Dr. Bonnie Henry who has done an extraordinary job as Provincial Health Officer leading the response to the pandemic and we can all be grateful for the outcomes achieved. In addition, he mentioned David Patrick, Director for the Centre for Disease Control; Blake Gilks, Chief Medical Officer for PHSA, and Maureen O'Donell, Professor in Paediatrics who has been Vice-President of PHSA for the Centre for Disease Control. These individuals and many more have played a substantial role in keeping our numbers down. Beyond public health and into the wards and intensive care units our faculty are there as well. He noted a number of faculty members from across the health disciplines playing a key role in responding to COVID.

Thinking back a few months, it is clear that with a novel virus everyone is learning. A learning health-system where research and education are integrated into practice is critical. Research, in this sense, is also a front-line activity and is essential to help navigate the crisis. A clinical-research coordination initiative between UBC and PHSA has been struck to try to filter the barrage of research requests coming into the system. This has grown to include SFU, the Ministry and the other Health Authorities and is valuable to coordinate clinical research. Importantly, as we look to the future, mental health issues will come to the surface as an additional area for psychiatric and social responses from both a research and management

perspectives. It appears that there are no acute implications for pregnancy as of yet, but the long-term effects are yet unknown; research into this is being conducted. Contributions are also being made in other disciplines. For example, students in Medical and Biomedical Engineering developed a new prototype for a ventilator in a matter of weeks.

Amidst all of this, plans to recommence the educational aspects of health at UBC are underway with the plan to recommence clinical clerkships in July and plans to welcome new students in the fall. Each discipline has developed a plan as to how they are going to do this; each one with a hybrid or blended approach. Hands-on transmission of knowledge is critical in health education and this must be incorporated for plans for the Fall. With that the Vice-President Health closed his remarks once again recognizing the outstanding efforts of everyone across UBC health in response to the pandemic. He noted that the special message of thanks sent by the Board Chair to the health faculty, staff and staff was warmly received and greatly appreciated.

The Chair thanked Dr. Kelleher for his comments and for his assistance in preparing that message to those UBC people in the health areas, who have played a special role in the University's response.

The Board Chair concluded the open session, noting that further discussion would be undertaken in closed session. He thanked those who joined via livestream and wished all health and safety through the COVID-19 pandemic.