



<p><b>Chair</b> Ms. Nancy McKenzie</p> <p><b>Vice-Chair</b> Mr. Raghwa Gopal</p> <p><b>Members</b> Hon. Steven Point, Chancellor (to 9:12 a.m.)          Dr. Santa Ono, President and Vice-Chancellor          Dr. Natalie Chan          Mr. Jessie Dusangh          Ms. Shola Fashanu          Mr. Max Holmes          Dr. Anna Kindler          Dr. John Klironomos          Mr. Azim Lalani          Professor Mark Mac Lean          Ms. Anthonia Ogundele          Mr. Joel Solomon          Mr. Bill Sundhu          Mr. Kavie Toor          Ms. Nicole Udzenija          Ms. Georgia Yee</p> <p><b>Regrets</b> Ms. Alison Brewin          Ms. Chaslynn Gillanders</p>	<p><b>Administration</b></p> <p>Ms. Marcia Buchholz, Vice-President Human Resources          Dr. Ainsley Carry, Vice-President Students          Ms. Robin Ciceri, Vice-President External Relations          Dr. Lesley Cormack Y          Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Principal, UBC Okanagan          Ms. Jennifer Kain, Chief Assurance &amp; Risk Officer          Dr. Dermot Kelleher, Vice-President Health          Mr. Hubert Lai, Q.C., AVP Office of University Counsel          Ms. Heather McCaw          Vice-President Development &amp; Alumni Engagement          Dr. Ananya Mukherjee Reed Y          Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Okanagan          Dr. Gail Murphy, Vice-President Research &amp; Innovation Y          Mr. Peter Smailes, Vice-President Finance &amp; Operations          Dr. Andrew Szeri Y          Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Vancouver</p> <p><b>Board Secretary</b> Ms. Karen Hakkarainen</p>
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Board Chair Nancy McKenzie called the open session of the December 7, 2021 meeting of the Board of Governors to order at 8:42 a.m. She respectfully acknowledged that UBC’s Vancouver Point Grey campus is situated on the traditional, ancestral, unceded territory of the Musqueam people, and that UBC Okanagan is situated on the traditional, ancestral, unceded territory of the Syilx Okanagan Nation.

**1. BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**1.1 Opening Remarks**

The Board Chair thanked those who participated in the Board’s retreat on December 1 and 2, 2021. She noted that there had been excellent discussions at the retreat that reflect the Board’s commitment to continuous improvement. She added that this retreat was the first of several opportunities that the Board will have to reflect on its governance practice.

The Board Chair acknowledged that Governor Sandra Cawley would fulfil her maximum 6-year term in February 2022 and that this would be her last full Board meeting. She noted that Sandra had been a steadfast leader throughout her service on the Board and in her role as Property Committee Chair. She noted Governor Cawley’s commitment to advancing sustainable building design and reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions related to buildings and campus operations. Governor Cawley had also served as Vice Chair of the Board and as interim Board Chair during a Chair transition period.

On behalf of the Board, the Executive and the UBC community, the Board Chair expressed gratitude for Governor Cawley's dedicated and impactful service to the University. Governor Cawley in turn thanked the Board Chair, and noted her appreciation for the learning opportunity and the honour of serving on the Board of Governors.

The Board Chair also thanked outgoing Provost and Vice-President Academic of the Okanagan Campus, Ananya Mukherjee Reed for her service as an executive partner to the Board, noting that this would also be her last full Board of Governors meeting. She noted during her time at UBC, Ananya had been a visionary leader and a strong advocate for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at UBC, promoting a safe and inclusive culture and speaking truth to power.

The Board Chair noted three faculty members of notable distinction:

- In the **research category**, **Michael Rusello**, Professor in the Department of Biology in the Irving K. Barger Faculty of Science on the Okanagan Campus who won the Life Sciences BC "Genome BC Award for Scientific Excellence" was recognized. Professor Rusello was selected for his work explaining how hybridization of population size changes affects diversity, understanding how invasive species establish and spread, and advancing strategies for captive breeding and repatriation.
- In the **service category**, **Valerie LeMay**, Professor of Forest Resources Management in the Faculty of Forestry was acknowledged for being honoured with the 2021 Canadian Forestry Achievement Award. The award recognizes unique and outstanding forestry achievements by individuals in Canada. Dr. LeMay was hired as the first female professor in the Faculty of Forestry at UBC in 1989. Dr. LeMay has taught two generations of forest practitioners at UBC and has won two Killam Teaching Awards.
- In the teaching category, **Robert VanWynsberghe**, Associate Professor of Educational Studies in the Faculty of Education was recognized. Dr. VanWynsberghe has dedicated his career to resolving essential questions about the links among classroom instruction, human action and social change. In recognition of his work, he has been honoured with the Outstanding Post-Secondary Educator Award from the Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication.

The President then provided his opening remarks, beginning with his acknowledgement of the previous day's National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, the thirty-second anniversary of the École Polytechnique massacre. This mass murder was an anti-feminist attack at an engineering school in Montreal in 1989 resulting in the death of 14 women. He noted that the anniversary is an opportunity to reflect that gender-based violence is still a prevalent reality for many women and children in domestic relationships and remember the thousands of women who have not reported their physical or psychological abuse, whether inside or outside the home.

The President then congratulated UBC's two newest Rhodes Scholars — Aditi Sriram and Jesse Lafontaine — who join an impressive list of more than 90 UBC Rhodes Scholars since the university opened its doors. He also congratulated UBC's Academic All-Stars for their achievements, noting that 278 student athletes had achieved Academic All Canadian status between September 2020 and August 2021. This number represents almost 40% of the student athlete population at UBC Vancouver and includes both undergraduate and graduate students from across 11 faculties and schools, in all 26 sports. He added that the hard work, tenacity, and resilience that student athletes had demonstrated over the past year shows in their academic performance and on their field of play.

He advised that on the following day, he would be signing an historic Memorandum of Signing and Indigenous Knowledge Protocol Agreement with the T̓silhqot̓'in Nation on behalf of UBC that would further the relationship between the T̓silhqot̓'in people. The Memorandum demonstrates the two parties' commitments to defining new paths toward reconciliation and recognition of Indigenous self-determination, in the spirit of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the concrete advancement of UBC's 2021 Indigenous Strategic Plan. The Memorandum acts as a reminder of all that has been learned together, and that there is still more to learn in partnership about how to engage in community-based research that is mutually reciprocal and respectful.

The President also noted that it would also be the last meeting that Associate Vice-President, Faculty Planning, Pam Ratner would be attending in that role. He noted that Dr. Ratner had been pivotal in supporting the work of the Board and University throughout the pandemic and thanked her for her service over the years as a faculty member and as an administrator.

## **1.2 Approval of Agenda**

Board Chair Nancy McKenzie asked Governors if they had any real or perceived conflict of interest with any of the items on the agenda to declare. None were declared.

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

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Governors approves as circulated the Agenda for the December 7, 2021 open meeting of the Board of Governors.**

Governor Holmes asked to have his objection to the approval of the agenda recorded in the minutes. Governor Yee abstained.

## **1.3 Approval of Minutes**

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

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Governors approves as amended Minutes of the September 21, 2021 open meeting of the Board of Governors.**

## 1.4 COVID Health and Safety Update

**Responsible Executives:** Santa Ono, President and Vice-Chancellor  
Ainsley Carry, Vice-President Students  
Robin Ciceri, Vice-President External Relations  
Hubert Lai, University Counsel  
Ananya Mukherjee Reed, Provost and Vice-President Academic, Okanagan Campus  
Peter Smailes, Vice-President Finance and Operations  
Andrew Szeri, Provost and Vice-President Academic, Vancouver Campus

**Guests:** Dr. Penny Ballem, Board Chair, Vancouver Coastal Health  
Dr. Michael Schwandt, Medical Health Officer, Vancouver Coastal Health  
Dan Coombs, Member – BC COVID-19 Modelling Group and Professor, Mathematics

The President welcomed and introduced the guests, who had been invited to provide an update on the health and safety conditions with respect to the evolving pandemic. Dr. Penny Ballem commenced the update, noting that she had been responsible for the Province's COVID-19 vaccination program and that British Columbia is a global leader in this area. She informed that, as of a day prior to the meeting, 91.3% of the eligible population, which included children ages 12 and above, had been vaccinated with at least one dose, and that 88% had received two doses. In the Vancouver Coastal Health region, 93% were fully vaccinated against COVID. She noted that not all communities and Health Authorities across the province have the same rate of vaccination, but that all are remarkably well-protected against this virus.

Dr. Ballem added that a key goal for the university and college sector had been for students to return to campus and their optimal learning environment. There had been much work done to ensure with the Provincial Public Health Officer and the Ministries of Advanced Education and Health to lay the groundwork for students, faculty, and staff to return to campuses across the province and pursue their usual activities safely and successfully. She thanked President Ono and his senior staff, as well as other leaders across the province, for their partnership in helping to achieve that goal. She added that while some vaccine hesitancy had been observed in the province, a patient and informative approach toward helping people understand that vaccinations protect others who are vulnerable in the community had helped bring people toward the decision to be vaccinated. She noted that the relatively small number of faculty and staff who remain unvaccinated do not pose a safety risk. She thanked the UBC community and its leadership for their help in achieving remarkably high vaccination rates.

Dr. Michael Schwandt presented next and provided an update on the epidemiology around COVID-19 specific to the post-secondary sector and UBC, looking both at cases of COVID-19 and the status of vaccinations. He noted that there had been an effective partnership between the Health Authorities and UBC both in Vancouver and in the Okanagan. UBC had been very quick to implement public health measures recommended by the Provincial Public Health Officer and had also gone above and beyond these measures in some cases. At UBC, 96.5 % of students, faculty and staff have self-reported being fully vaccinated which represents a remarkably high vaccination rate. In communities with very high vaccination rates such as this, limited transmission has been observed. He added that the University had been undergoing a validation exercise confirming this data and few people have not been able to provide the information required to validate their status when requested.

Dr. Schwandt added that Vancouver Coastal Health monitors specific cases, and during contact tracing individuals may report that they are staff or students of a post-secondary institution. Data collected since September 5, 2021 had indicated that 219 of cases in the region were people engaged in the post-secondary sector, comprising 183 students

and 36 staff among a very large population. This represents two cases per day per 100,000 across the sector in the region. The highest rates were observed in early in September, with declining rates throughout September and October. This shows the effectiveness of measures taken on campuses and of vaccinations.

The President thanked Dr. Schwandt, then went on to note that there are many experts at UBC, and that three of them had been consulted during the course of this pandemic: Dr. Dan Coombs, Dr. David Patrick, and Dr. Sally Otto. He welcomed Dr. Coombs to provide an update from the BC COVID-19 Modelling Group.

Dr. Coombs began by noting that transmission among people on campus seems to be very low, and that his experience on the ground as a Professor in Mathematics aligns with this finding. The Modelling Group strongly believes that this was because of the exceptionally high vaccination rate at UBC and in the Lower Mainland, as well as extraordinary compliance with masking and a general commitment to safety shared by all faculty, staff, and students. He noted that it had been disappointing that at UBC some were not in compliance with the reporting requirement, and added that where individuals were not in compliance, and advised a careful approach toward enforcement that is proportionate with the associated level of risk of non-compliance. He added that UBC could do a better job of communicating to the students, faculty, staff and the community about the rapid testing program and compliance with the rules.

Dr. Coombs then spoke about the new omicron variant, which he noted as an emerging concern. He informed that the BC Modelling Group was monitoring this variant closely, with data coming principally from South Africa. He noted that the risk of severe disease that the Omicron variant posed for vaccinated and unvaccinated people was not yet clear. He added that data suggest the variant is able to spread to some degree among vaccinated people, which was a concern. There would be more information available over the following weeks to better assess the impact of the Omicron variant and this was being monitored carefully by public health officials. He noted that in the UBC context, with high levels of vaccination and a population who takes the pandemic very seriously, the University is coming into this phase of the pandemic in the best possible position.

The President agreed that moving forward, more robust communication was needed, particularly as the conditions continue to evolve with respect to the Omicron variant. Dr. Schwandt agreed that there is early evidence that the new variant is more transmissible than others, but that there was not much evidence yet as to the severity of illness it causes.

Following the guest's updates, the Board Chair opened the floor to questions and comments. Discussion took place on the following topics.

- A question was raised as to whether, with a higher number of cases having been reported in September, another wave could be expected when students return to campus in January, especially considering travel and activities during the holiday season. In response it was noted that UBC has been shown to be more virus-resistant than the rest of the health region and that this resistance is likely to continue. It was further noted that the cases reported in September most likely resulted from exposure prior to the beginning of the term. The concern for a potential for exposures over the holiday period was thought to be valid, although it was noted that most students who are new to the UBC community join in September. It was noted that beyond January 2022, encouragement for those joining the UBC community to be fully vaccinated should continue.

- A question was raised as to whether waning immunity from vaccinations, particularly among younger people not yet able to receive a booster shot, should be a concern for the second Winter term. In response it was noted that the study of waning immunity is highly complex and there had been some Canadian studies suggesting an absence of waning immunity with British Columbia and Ontario data. Waning immunity does not appear to be a severe phenomenon, but continued research is needed. Getting booster doses to those at most risk for severe illness is a key strategy, as is province-wide monitoring. It was noted that boosters had been provided to about half-a-million British Columbians at the time of the meeting, and that those who are seven-and-a-half months from their second dose are being invited to get a booster regardless of their age.
- In response to a question about the key indicators that might inform the University as to how best to respond to the Omicron variant, it was noted that observing trends in other highly-vaccinated jurisdictions would be key, and that a key metric is the reproductive number of new cases per infection. Monitoring through contact-tracing would be helpful for the Health Authorities to understand if they are seeing a change in the virus.
- Access to symptomatic testing on campus was raised as a concern, noting that some might be reluctant to access testing at urgent care facilities for fear of infecting other patients. It was noted that testing may become more of a concern if Omicron and its transmissibility become an issue. In response it was noted that barriers to testing exist in any community, and that the system aims to provide testing sites where the epidemiology suggests they should be placed, and where facilities and staff can provide for their maintenance given available resources. There have been conversations between the Health Authorities and UBC about options for access to rapid testing for asymptomatic screening, and for symptomatic testing. The President noted that UBC will do all it can to collaborate with Vancouver Coastal Health to support a facility for testing symptomatic faculty, staff and students.
- The President reminded the group that the mandatory rapid testing program is operational. He noted agreement with Dr. Coombs that any enforcement measures being contemplated for those who are non-compliant need to be calibrated against the associated risk. He further advised that through conversations with Dr. Sally Otto, he had been advised that it would likely not be prudent to stand down that rapid-testing policy at this time knowing that we are monitoring the Omicron situation.
- A Governor raised a question about the possible impacts and prevalence of long COVID and whether vaccination can help to protect against this condition. In response it was noted that there are varying definitions of long COVID, and that there are challenges in studying these longer-term symptoms. There is excellent data on vaccinations preventing severe COVID at the onset of infection and vaccinations should be protective against long COVID to some extent. However, there is a body of patients who have prolonged COVID symptoms in the absence of having had severe disease. Determining the role of vaccination for preventing long COVID is a matter of ongoing research.

The Board Chair thanked the guests for their updates and their presence, as well as for their support and partnership throughout the pandemic.

## 1.5 Student Athletes Presentation

**Responsible Executives:** Ainsley Carry, Vice-President Students

**Student Athlete Guests:** Hillary Janssens, *UBC Rowing Alumna, Olympic Bronze Medal Winner, Tokyo 2020*  
Garrett Rooker, *UBC Football Quarterback, Academic All Canadian, Rookie of the Year*  
Lauren McNeil, *UBCO Cross-Country, Canada West Silver Medalist, Rookie of the Year*  
Ben Martin, *Director – Day of the Longboat 2021*  
Anisha Sangha, *2019 U Sports Women’s Soccer National Champion*  
Michael Smith, *UBC Men’s Rugby Alumnus, Graduating Male Athlete of the Year 2020*

Vice-President Students Ainsley Carry reminded the Board that UBC has a long tradition of championship athletics and academic excellence. He noted that student athletes represent UBC across the country, at international competitions and represent Canada in the Olympics. He asked Governor Kavie Toor, who also serves in the role of Managing Director of Athletics and Recreation at UBC, to introduce the presenters, a group of current and former student athletes, as well as students who provide leadership in recreation activities at UBC.

Governor Toor noted that the student athletes’ presentations provided an opportunity for the Board and the community to hear directly from our current or former student athletes and recreation leaders. He noted the alignment of the work that takes place in sport with the broader university mission. The vision statement for Athletics and Recreation is: *Inspiring excellence, championing health and sport, and building our community*. He added that sport and physical activity can play a role in promoting excellence, building community, encouraging and inspiring health and wellbeing, and developing amazing people and leaders.

Student athletes described the highlights of their experiences and achievements in sports and recreation. Their presentations emphasized how pursuit of excellence in sport, recreation and academics were complementary in their successes, and toward their engagement with the overall UBC community.

The Board Chair thanked the guests for their incredibly inspiring stories, and for their service and leadership to the community. She offered congratulations for all of their achievements.

## 1.6 Move U Crew Movement Break

Governor Kavie Toor introduced Abishek Kanagasabay and Chelsea Dumasal from the UBC Move-U Crew, who led the meeting attendees in a set of movements as part of a wellness break.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### 2. FINANCE COMMITTEE

Committee Chair Azim Lalani noted that at the November 19, 2021 Finance Committee meeting, UBC IMANT President and CEO Dawn Jia had presented the third quarter investment report, which had been provided in a new format that captured a number of key performance indicators. The Committee had also received an update on the allocation of incremental tuition revenue to COVID-19-related student priorities under the Student Support Initiative, and heard about the progress of the Student Affordability Task Force. The recommendations of the Student Affordability Task Force Report are expected to be received in March of 2022.

At the meeting, the Administration had provided an overview of the 2022-2023 budget process. It was noted that consultation with students about proposed 2022-2023 tuition increases will begin early in 2022. The Finance Committee will preview the 2022-2023 preliminary budget in February.

The Chair noted that the Committee received an update on Integrated Renewal Program (IRP) – Student, which provided the Committee with an overview of the program’s current status, and an overview of progress toward staff recruitment targets and other milestones. The Finance Committee also granted Board 1 and Board 2 approval for the Digital Payments Program. The Digital Payments Program was reviewed by the IT Advisory Council (ITAC) and ITAC will have another opportunity to provide its feedback before the Program returns to the Finance Committee for Board 3 approval.

Under its consent agenda, the Finance Committee approved tuition for a dual Bachelor and Master of Management program option at UBC Okanagan, as well as for the Master of Pharmacy Leadership, and for the Doctor of Philosophy in Genetic and Genomic Counselling. Engineering Undergraduate Society fees and Endowment Variation requests were also approved.

The Chair further noted that the following items were received for information under the consent agenda:

- the Non-Refundable Acceptance Deposit Policy Revision;
- the Non-Refundable Acceptance Deposit for the Master of Design at UBC Okanagan;
- the Endowment Status Report as at September 30, 2021;
- the Integrated Service Centre update;
- an update on Release 1 of the Integrated Renewal Program;
- the Board 4 Post-Completion report for the University Boulevard Parkade;
- and the UBC-Controlled, Affiliated or Related Organizations, Major Campus Tenancies, Off-Campus Properties Annual Report.

A Governor raised a question about the timing of the affordability plan and whether there would be a further opportunity for Governors to provide their feedback on the plan and its potential recommendations before it returns for consideration in March 2022. In response it was noted that a rough draft would be available in early 2022 and could be previewed to the Finance Committee before its March meeting at the Chair’s discretion.

## **2.1 Endowment Asset Mix Review – Reference Portfolio and Spend Rate Recommendation**

**Responsible Executives:** Peter Smailes, Vice-President Finance and Operations

Hubert Lai, University Counsel

Heather McCaw, Vice-President Development and Alumni Engagement

**Guests:**

Dawn Jia (UBC IMANT)

Lisa Pankratz (UBC IMANT)

Committee Chair Azim Lalani noted that at its November meeting the Finance Committee had also considered the Administration's recommendation to approve the investment framework as presented in June, to delegate authority to approve the strategic portfolio to the UBC IMANT Board, and to empower UBC's Vice-President Finance and Operations to vary the spend rate for funds held within the main endowment pool. At the meeting, Committee members had noted that spending rates are reviewed annually, and discussed the expectations for ongoing Board oversight of the investment strategy to be carried out by UBC IMANT.

The Vice-President Finance and Operations noted that this year, the University was looking at a spend rate between of between 3.5% and 4%, depending on the endowment. This will ensure that the University is spending the right amount from each endowment. Some endowments that have quite significant stabilization funds as a result of the markets and can remain at 4%. Newer endowment or those with lower stabilization rates would have a 3.5% spend rate. This will be reviewed annually and reported back to the Board.

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

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Governors approve:**

- i. UBC IMANT Investment Framework as presented at the June 8, 2021 Board of Governors Finance Committee meeting which includes the Reference Portfolio approach with a 70% Global Equity and 30% Fixed Income Reference Portfolio for the Main UBC Endowment Pool;**
- ii. delegation of authority to approve the Strategic Portfolio to the UBC IMANT Board of Directors; and,**
- iii. delegation of authority to the Vice-President Finance & Operations to approve a spend rate within the range of 3.50% to 4.00% for different endowments within the Main Endowment Pool for FY2023.**

## **2. PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

Property Committee Chair Sandra Cawley noted that the Property Committee had met on November 19, 2021 and had considered preliminary Terms of Reference for UBC Vancouver's Campus Vision 2050 process. There it was noted that feedback from Governors will be incorporated along with feedback to be gathered from the community to inform the final Terms of Reference that will be brought back to the Board in mid-2022.

She added that under its consent agenda, the Property Committee had received the following items for information:

- o the UBC Advisory Urban Design Panel Annual Report;
- o the UBC Development Permit Board Annual Report; and,
- o the Board 4 report for the University Boulevard Parkade.

### **3.1 UBC Downtown Kelowna Project Lease and Tenant Improvements**

**Responsible Executive:** Lesley Cormack, Deputy Vice-Chancellor

Peter Smiles, Vice-President Finance and Operations

Ananya Mukherjee Reed, Provost and Vice- President Academic, Okanagan Campus

**Guests:** Aubrey Kelly (UBC Properties Trust)

Property Committee Chair Sandra Cawley advised that at its November meeting the Property committee had received the Administration's recommendation for lease arrangements and tenant improvements for the UBC downtown Kelowna project. Committee members were in support of the project but asked the Administration to set out the process through which the approval request was brought forward in greater detail. As a result, the resolution was amended and put forward to the Property Committee for approval through an electronic vote on December 3, 2021. That resolution had passed and the Committee Chair noted that she was pleased to put forward the amended resolution.

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

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Board of Governors grants approval for the UBC Downtown Kelowna Project as follows:

- i.* approval of project in principle;
- ii.* approval of preliminary program and schedule;
- iii.* approval of location;
- iv.* approval of preliminary Tenant Improvement capital budget of \$50,000,000, to be funded by one-time capital payment of \$27 million and the remainder included in and amortized over the length of the lease;
- v.* approval of lease payments of \$4,000,000 plus approximate operating costs as set out in this submission;
- vi.* approval of funding sources; and,
- vii.* authorization to proceed to working drawings and tender of tenant improvements.

### **3.2 Museum of Anthropology Great Hall Renewal (Routine Capital)**

**Responsible Executive:** Peter Smailles, Vice-President Finance and Operations

Committee Chair Sandra Cawley noted that at its November meeting the Property Committee had been advised that a revised Board 3 approval request for the Museum of Anthropology Great Hall renewal project would be ready in advance of Board of Governors meeting. The Committee agreed to receive the briefing for an electronic vote in the intervening period and that was approved on December 3, 2021.

The Vice-President Finance and Operations advised that the Administration was now in a place where there was a great deal of trust with the construction manager for the project.

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

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Board of Governors grants **BOARD 3 REVISED** approval for the Museum of Anthropology Great Hall Renewal Project (Routine Capital), including the following:

- i.* approval of revised final capital budget;
- ii.* approval of revised project schedule;
- iii.* authorization to proceed to award construction contracts; and,
- iv.* approval of additional final funding release of \$9,544,300, for a total funding release of \$39,900,000.

## **4. EMPLOYEE RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Committee Chair Bill Sundhu reported that at its November 22, 2021 meeting, the Employee Relations Committee had discussed amendments to the Deans Appointment Policy (AP5), where members were updated on changes agreed to by both Senates and the next steps to moving the policy forward for approval.

Chair Sundhu further updated the Board that under its Consent Agenda, the Committee had received for information the President's Approval of appointments of Administrative Associate Vice-Presidents.

#### 4.1 Repeal of Vacations Policy (HR5)

Committee Chair Bill Sundhu reported that at its November 22, 2021 meeting, the Employee Relations Committee approved recommending the repeal of Vacations Policy (HR5) to the Board for approval.

A Governor asked as to what would guide future decisions regarding allocations of the vacation time for groups and individuals for which this is not covered under a collective agreement. In response it was noted that arrangements had been made to make sure that there would be no impacts to these groups as a result of the repeal of the Policy. It was added that these contracts would be reviewed centrally by Human Resources to ensure that that vacation allotments are consistent with practices and expectations across the University.

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

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Governors repeal of Vacations Policy (HR5) effective February 1, 2022.**

Governor Holmes abstained.\*

#### 5. AUDIT COMMITTEE

Committee Chair Jessie Dusangh noted that at its November 14, 2021 meeting, the Audit Committee had received for information under the Consent Agenda a briefing on amendments to its Terms of Reference to align its quorum with the Committee Meeting Rules and Practices.

#### 6. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Governance Committee Vice-Chair Anna Kindler noted that at the November 22, 2021 open session of the Governance Committee meeting, the Committee had approved under its Consent Agenda amendments to the Terms of Reference of both the Audit and Indigenous Engagement Committees to remove reference to a quorum of 35 % and align the rules for quorum with the Committee Meeting Rules and Practices. The Committee had also received for information under its Consent agenda an update to the procedures for collecting annual Acknowledgement and Agreements and Conflict Disclosure Statements under the *Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Guidelines for the Board of Governors*, as well as appointments to the Subcommittee established to review the structure of the Board's Committees.

##### 6.1 Terms of Reference Amendments Audit Committee

Governance Committee Chair Alison Brewin informed that Committee that, at its November 22, 2021 meeting, the Committee had approved recommending that the Board of Governors delegate to the Audit Committee approval of the financial statements of the Neighbours' Fund and amendments through amendments to the Audit Committee's Terms of Reference.

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

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Governors approves the delegation of authority to the Audit Committee to approve the audited financial statements of the Neighbours' Fund, as set out in the amended Audit Committee Terms of Reference attached.**

## 7. INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Board Chair Nancy McKenzie reported on behalf of Indigenous Committee Chair Chancellor Steven Point. She noted that at its November 19, 2021 meeting, the Committee had received a presentation on Indigenous initiatives and programs underway in her Faculty from the Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences at UBC's Okanagan Campus. Highlights included:

- increased student enrollment in the Indigenous Studies program;
- the first of its kind Bachelor of Nsyilxcn Language Fluency and plans for a Bachelor in Native Language Fluency; and,
- the recruitment of a junior Canada Research Chair, who would join the other research clusters in the newly built Interdisciplinary Collaboration Innovation building, looking into the connection between language loss and community health.

The Committee was also informed of discussions taking place at the Indigenous Chancellor's Roundtable, an ongoing series of meetings among Indigenous Chancellors where indigenization efforts and initiatives by universities are being discussed. The British Columbia Song was introduced to the Committee as a medium to bring people together and promote reconciliation, and plans to perform and record it in collaboration with the UBC School of Music were discussed. The Board Chair noted that Chancellor Stephen Point was the composer of this British Columbia song.

## 8. LEARNING & RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Committee Chair Mark Mac Lean noted that at its November 19, 2021 meeting, the Learning and Research Committee had received a presentation on the *UBC Health Strategic Plan* which highlighted the Plan's ambitious goals, which are enabled in part through the distributed model that reaches many areas of the province. The Committee also discussed considerations for contracts for learning technology and ethical considerations within vendor relationships. The Committee also received a presentation on supports and services for students with disabilities and the approach to accommodations in the teaching and learning context.

Under the Consent Agenda, the Committee approved the recommendations from the Senates and received for information the Establishment of New Endowments.

## 9. PEOPLE, COMMUNITY & INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Committee Chair Kavie Toor noted that the People, Community & International Committee had met on November 22, 2021 and had received an update on the work of the President's Task Force on Anti-Racism and Inclusive Excellence where recommendations for the first phase of implementation, communication strategies, and new initiatives were discussed.

The Committee was also updated on proposed amendments to the Naming Policy (GA6). Following discussion, it was determined that the policy was not yet ready for community consultation and required further revisions to address governance, operational, and, equity, diversity, and inclusion concerns. This policy, once revised, is proposed to become a joint Board and Senate policy and so all three governing bodies must agree on the amendments before they can be approved to go forward for consultation.

Under the Consent Agenda, the Committee received for information the Development & Alumni Engagement Progress Report for the second quarter of fiscal year 2022, and a list of notable distinctions and recognitions that have been received by UBC faculty members for their teaching, scholarly accomplishments and community service.

## 10. SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE

Committee Chair John Klironomos noted that at its November 22, 2021 meeting, the Sustainability & Climate Action Committee had received a briefing on the Annual Sustainability Report for fiscal year 2020-2021 detailing activities and strategic priorities in three areas: Teaching, Learning and Research; Operations and Infrastructure; and Community.

The Committee was also updated on actions underway related to the UBC Climate Emergency Task Force Report, including progress toward developing the new climate emergency program; building relationships needed to operationalize climate justice; bringing together faculty and student climate researchers; and, expansion of climate education opportunities.

The Committee received an update on the implementation of UBC IMANT's Responsible Investing Strategy, including progress on Carbon Emissions Measurement and Reporting, UBC's Commitment to Reduced Carbon Equity Fund, and the UBC Endowment Climate Risk Analysis. The Committee was also informed of UBC IMANT's Active Ownership Guidelines which were created as part of its commitment to active ownership as a tool to improve portfolio returns, mitigate risks and push for stronger Environmental, Social, and Governance integration by its managers and the assets in which they invest.

### 10.1 Climate Action Plan 2030

**Responsible Executives:**

- Robin Ciceri, Vice-President External Relations
- Gail Murphy, Vice-President Research and Innovation
- Lesley Cormack, Deputy Vice-Chancellor
- Andrew Szeri, Provost and Vice-President Academic, Vancouver Campus
- Peter Smailes, Vice-President Finance and Operations
- Ainsley Carry, Vice-President Students
- Marcia Buchholz, Vice-President Human Resources

Committee Chair John Klironomos advised that the Sustainability & Climate Action Committee had also considered Climate Action Plan 2030 at its November meeting. The Plan sets comprehensive targets for reducing GHG emissions for each campus, while each campus is at the same time experiencing significant growth. The Plan accelerates reductions in operational and extended GHG emissions, provides opportunities for teaching, learning and research that address the climate imperative through *Campus as a Living Lab* initiatives; and, considers the inequitable impacts of climate change on marginalized communities. At the meeting, questions raised by Governors led to discussions around mitigating the effects of campus expansion through embodied carbon impact adjustments (such as focusing on the types of materials used in new construction), integration with other campus plans, and, use of emerging technology and nature-based solutions in carbon capture.

As the Climate Action Plan (CAP 2030) was being considered for endorsement by the Board of Governors, the Committee Chair turned to the Vice-President External Relations to lead a presentation on the Plan. In the presentation it was noted that throughout the climate emergency there had been a call to action to accelerate GHG reductions for both campuses, and that CAP 2030 entails bold actions to decarbonize campus buildings and infrastructure, as well as areas such as commuting, wasted materials, air travel and food systems. The plans take an integrated approach toward providing opportunities for teaching and learning and research through academic

partnerships and “Campus as a Living Lab” initiatives. It was noted that CAP 2030 was developed through extensive community engagement with significant participation from students and faculty and staff and supported by a number of working groups on both campuses.

Following the presentation, discussion took place on the following topics:

- Ensuring that consultation with the University community gains broader engagement among students and faculty members, and whether existing tools such as the Undergraduate Experiences Survey could be leveraged toward this end. In response it was noted that through the Climate Hub, over 22 student organizations had been actively engaged in the development of the plan and that there was a specific engagement program that was launched with CAP 2030 on both campuses.
- It was noted that an equivalent Climate Action Plan was in development for the neighbourhoods on the UBC Vancouver Campus and that this would be available in 2022.
- It was noted that climate and sustainability initiatives were one of many strategic priorities in the budgeting process. The Administration would continue to look at how funds are being allocated for maximum impact (e.g., savings in the areas of energy and water through methods that also help the environment).
- It was noted that CAP 2030 and the Campus Vision 2050 process will go forward in parallel and that sustainability and climate action are top priorities in the Campus Vision 2050 process. This includes considerations such as green building performance as well as designing communities to encourage behaviours such as increased use of transit.
- In response to a question about internal borrowing rates for sustainable projects, it was noted that there may be ways to incentivize creative ideas among units in a decentralized manner. It was further noted that possible opportunities to borrow outside the university (e.g., through federal programs) were being explored.
- It was noted that communication efforts showcasing CAP 2030 should extend beyond students, faculty and staff to include local, national and global communities. In response it was noted that there is an articulate communication strategy that's being developed for the Plan. It was noted that all new development is being designed for net zero carbon and that the use of embodied carbon is a key strategy.
- Discussion took place about whether funding could be sought from government partners to support the Plan, and how care could be taken to ensure these important initiatives do not encroach upon the ability for the University to deliver its academic mission.
- It was noted that as carbon products continue to increase in price, this represents a liability for the University and that it is prudent for the University to reduce that carbon liability through strategic investments.
- On the subject of advocacy, the President noted that the U15 group of research universities, where he serves as Chair, and UBC's membership in the Universities Canada network provide opportunities for collective advocacy with the Federal Government for resources to support climate action. In addition, UBC helps advocate for the sector provincially. Climate action requires global leadership and UBC has been active in this realm having sent a large delegation to COP 26. UBC also works with cities, and foundations to advance sustainability goals. He added that he recognizes the need for sustained engagement in this area.

The Committee Chair thanked the presenters for their hard work and for their presentation.

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

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Board of Governors endorses as circulated the:

- i.* **UBC Vancouver Climate Action Plan 2030; and,**
- ii.* **UBC Okanagan Climate Action Plan 2030.**

**CONSENT/INFORMATION AGENDA**

**11. BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

The Board Chair noted the following items received for information under the consent agenda:

**11.1 Correspondence received from the Alma Mater Society**

**11.2 Updates to Membership of Standing Committees effective November 16, 2021**

There being no further business the open session of the December 7, 2021 meeting of the Board of Governors adjourned at 11:53 a.m.