



The University of British Columbia
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
MINUTES

Monday, September 26, 2022

8:45 a.m. to 11:26 a.m.

VANCOUVER CAMPUS

Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre Family Boardroom

6163 University Boulevard, 3rd Floor

Approved: December 5, 2022

Chair Ms. Nancy McKenzie

Vice-Chair Mr. Azim Lalani

Vice-Chair Mr. Bill Sundhu

Members Ms. Alison Brewin

Dr. Natalie Chan

Mr. Jessie Dusangh

Ms. Chaslynn Gillanders

Mr. Max Holmes

Dr. Anna Kindler

Ms. Tashia Kootenayoo (*from 9:27 a.m.*)

Ms. Miranda Lam

Dr. Marianne Legault

Professor Mark Mac Lean

Ms. Anthonia Ogundele

Dr. Santa Ono, President and Vice-Chancellor

Hon. Steven Point, Chancellor (*from 9:53 a.m.*)

Mr. Joel Solomon

Mr. Byron Thom

Mr. Kavie Toor

Ms. Nicole Udzenija

Ms. Georgia Yee

Administration

Ms. Marcia Buchholz, Vice-President Human Resources

Dr. Ainsley Carry, Vice-President Students

Ms. Robin Ciceri, Vice-President External Relations

Dr. Lesley Cormack, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Principal, UBC Okanagan

Ms. Jennifer Kain, Chief Assurance & Risk Officer

Dr. Dermot Kelleher, Vice-President Health

Mr. Hubert Lai, K.C., AVP Office of University Counsel

Ms. Heather McCaw, Vice-President Development & Alumni Engagement

Dr. Rehan Sadiq, Provost and Vice-President Academic *pro tem*, UBC Okanagan

Dr. Gail Murphy, Vice-President Research & Innovation

Ms. Karamjeet Heer, Interim Vice-President Finance

Mr. John Metras, Interim Vice-President Operations

Dr. Gage Averill, Provost and Vice-President Academic *pro tem*, UBC Vancouver

Board Secretary

Ms. Karen Hakkarainen

Board Chair Nancy McKenzie called the open session of the September 26, 2022 meeting of the Board of Governors to order at 8:45 a.m. She acknowledged that UBC's Vancouver 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 Chair welcomed faculty, staff and students back to campus for the Winter session. She noted that this would be the last meeting with President Santa Ono before he left for his new position at the University of Michigan. She thanked President Ono for his service to UBC, and wished him all the best in his new role. She noted that work was in progress to find an Acting President, and that a Presidential Search Committee would soon be formed to support the work to find a new President.

The Chair acknowledged the departure of Interim Vice-President Finance Karamjeet Heer at the end of October 2022. She thanked Karamjeet for her leadership during the transition to Workday Finance, and for taking on the Interim Vice-President Finance role earlier in the year.

The Chair welcomed new Governors Marianne Legault, an elected faculty member from the Okanagan campus, and Byron Thom, a newly appointed member.

The Chair noted that Friday, September 30, 2022 was the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, also referred to as “Orange Shirt Day”. She noted the day was established to remember and honour residential school survivors, their families, and communities, and to ensure that public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remained a vital component of the reconciliation process. She encouraged everyone to spend some time in reflection, education and awareness activities, or to visit UBC’s Residential School History and Dialogue Centre to learn more.

The Chair acknowledged the upcoming presentation from the leadership of UBC’s student unions, and noted the value that student perspectives’ and input bring to the Board.

She noted that the Royal Society of Canada had announced that 13 UBC faculty members are among the year's Fellows and Members of the College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists. Ten UBC faculty members were named Fellows of the Royal Society of Canada including:

- Dr. Barbara Arneil (Political Science, UBCV)
- Dr. Jiahua Chen (Statistics, UBCV)
- Dr. Villy Christensen (Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries, UBCV)
- Dr. Nicholas Coops (Forest Resources Management, UBCV)
- Dr. Marcel Franz (Physics & Astronomy, UBCV)
- Dr. Kai Li (Sauder School of Business, UBCV)
- Dr. Steven Miller (Pediatrics, UBCV / BC Children's Hospital)
- Dr. Fabio Rossi (School of Biomedical Engineering / Medical Genetics, UBCV)
- Dr. Margaret Schabas (Philosophy, UBCV)
- Dr. Sunera Thobani (Asian Studies, UBCV)

Three UBC faculty members were named as Members of the College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists:

- Dr. Kimberley Brownlee (Philosophy, UBCV)
- Dr. Eric Li (Management, UBCO)
- Dr. Christoph Ortner (Mathematics, UBCV)

The Chair acknowledged their contributions in the arts, the humanities and the sciences, as well as in Canadian public life.

The Board Chair noted three faculty members of notable distinction:

- In the **research category**, **Professor John Graham** from the School of Social Work in the Faculty of Health and Social Development on the Okanagan Campus. Dr. Graham was named as a fellow of the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare and is the first Canadian to be so inducted. Dr. Graham’s current research focuses on homelessness reduction in small and medium sized cities within and beyond the Okanagan, and offering evidence-based approaches to mitigate and eradicate homelessness across our communities.
- In the **service category**, **Associate Professor Minelle Mahtani** from the Institute for Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice in the Faculty of Arts on the Vancouver Campus. Dr. Mahtani was appointed the university’s first Senior Advisor to the Provost on Racialized Faculty in 2018. She also teaches courses on storytelling and race, using storytelling to highlight issues of equity and inclusion. Dr. Mahtani was honored with a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal and was recently honoured with the Gold Digital Publishing Award for Best Personal Essay

- In the **teaching category**, **Professor Rose Hatala** from the Faculty of Medicine. Dr. Hatala is a general internist and palliative care physician at St. Paul’s Hospital and a Professor in the Department of Medicine. She has extensive front-line experience as a clinical educator for undergraduate and postgraduate learners. Dr. Hatala has been awarded the Faculty of Medicine’s Distinguished Achievement Award for Excellence in Education for a second time; she previously received this recognition in 2013

The Chair concluded her remarks by acknowledging the passing of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the Second, observed on September 19, 2022. She noted that some Board Committee meetings scheduled for September 19 had been deferred as a result, and thanked Board members and the Administration for supporting the rescheduling of Board business.

President and Vice-Chancellor, Santa Ono, began his remarks by sharing his feelings about his departure from the University. He noted that he was honoured to have served as President, praised his Executive team for their work, and thanked the UBC community for their support. He reiterated his commitment to ensuring the Presidential leadership transition would be a smooth one.

1.2 Approval of Agenda

The Board Secretary reviewed attendance and confirmed quorum was in place. The Board Chair asked if any Governor wished to move an item from the consent agenda to the discussion portion of the agenda, no requests were made to move any item.

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

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Governors approves as circulated the Agenda for the September 26, 2022 open meeting of the Board of Governors.

The Board Chair asked if any Governor had an actual, potential, or apparent conflict of interest with any of the agenda items and none were declared.

1.3 Approval of Minutes

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

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Governors approves as circulated Minutes of the June 29, 2022 open meeting of the Board of Governors.

1.4 UBC Student Union Presentations

Presenters: Jakson Pashelka & Cade Desjarlais, Students’ Union of UBC Okanagan (SUO)
 Eshana Bhangu & Dana Turdy, UBC Alma Mater Society (AMS)
 Sam Kenston & Violeta Fabiani, UBC Graduate Student Society (GSS)

The Board Chair introduced presentations from the respective leaders of the UBC Alma Mater Society (AMS), the Students’ Union of UBC Okanagan (SUO), and the UBC Graduate Student Society (GSS). The presenters provided an overview of the governance structure, strategic priorities and goals for each organization. Common themes included housing affordability and living costs, and enhancing health and wellbeing supports for students.

Each union also presented on priorities unique to their constituents:

- The AMS noted their collaboration with the UBC Administration and the Board in the Post-Secondary Funding Formula Review. Areas of focus in that effort included enhancing student life on campus through activities such as extracurriculars, social events, and career development;

- SUO priorities include transportation, disability services, campus security, and improving access to Academic Advising services on the Okanagan Campus; and
- The GSS noted their desire to have the 4-year Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) funding model updated to a 5-year model, and to increase its minimum funding to \$24k, as well as new funding for Master's students.

A Governor asked where the Administration was aligned with student union goals, and in response the presenters noted careers, student health and wellbeing, and affordability as areas of alignment. The presenters noted gaps in alignment in the areas of financial aid for international students, food insecurity, and tuition engagement.

A Governor asked a question about the activities underway or that could be quickly implemented that would address some of the student financial needs that had been raised. In response, the Vice-President Students noted that nearly \$2 million dollars each year is allocated to food insecurity initiatives at UBC, and that one-time funding of \$18 million dollars had been redirected to specific aid for students affected by the COVID pandemic. He added that there is a UBC student financial aid website which offers financial resources and tools for loans, awards, and other sources of financial assistance. The Vice-President Students noted there is work in progress to tailor communications to students so they receive information multiple times throughout their academic year, and avoid overloading them with information at the beginning of the Winter term. He noted that there is funding for faculty to support converting textbook materials to digital form to reduce textbook costs for students. The Provost and Vice-President Academic *pro tem*, UBC Vancouver pointed to open.ubc.ca (a curated collection of resources for faculty and students to learn about open scholarship) as an example of this initiative. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Principal, UBC Okanagan noted that Workday Student functionality will provide students with increased search capability for accessing University services, including financial aid and campus employment opportunities. A presenter suggested considering distributing more food insecurity funding directly to front-line student support services, such as food banks.

A Governor noted that increasing funding minimums for graduate students will have generational impacts for those students with children. The Provost and Vice-President Academic *pro tem*, UBC Vancouver noted that his office is reviewing the approach to the graduate student funding model. A presenter noted that the UBC Okanagan has a Ph.D. funding model that differs from that of the Vancouver campus funding model, and noted the both campuses should be included in such a review.

The Board Chair thanked the student presenters for their time and the productive discussion.

1.5 Report on Vice-President Students Portfolio

Responsible Executives: Ainsley Carry, Vice-President Students

The Vice-President Students introduced a presentation on activities underway in the Vice-President Students (VPS) portfolio advancing the work outlined in its Strategic Plan. He described the engagement process used to create the plan, and its rationale. He provided a broad overview of the VPS portfolio across both campuses, noting the diversity of the student body comprising domestic and international students. He noted that while work has predominantly been focussed on undergraduate students, graduate and international students will be incorporated into the new framework in a way that will address their unique needs. Initiatives across both campuses supporting commitments to equity, diversity, inclusion, affordability, health and wellbeing, career development for students, first year experience, and accessibility were described.

Following the presentation, there was discussion on the following topics:

- A Governor asked how the University would fund the affordability measures requested by UBC's Student Societies. In response, the Vice-President Students noted that the Student Affordability Task Force report listed 10 recommendations which are being examined to determine costs for each one. He noted that there

are areas where efficiencies can be implemented, and there is a subcommittee which has been convened to consider short- and long-term strategies to address matters such as food insecurity, housing affordability, and textbook costs. He also noted the launch of the UBC fundraising campaign which has a goal of raising \$100 million to allocate to issues related to affordability and need-based financial aid for students.

- A Governor suggested there is not enough funding in place that addresses the needs of students in the area of food insecurity, and asked what the Board could do to support increasing the amount currently budgeted. The Vice-President Students noted he would be happy to discuss with the Board the \$1.9 million currently allocated in greater detail to locate and address any gaps, and to consider redirecting funding to food initiatives over indirect funding such as student bursaries. The President noted that there is new, additional funding of \$500k that has been made available to address student food insecurity.
- A Governor asked whether there are external partnerships with grocery vendors that would support addressing food insecurity at UBC. In response, it was noted that UBC partners with the Greater Vancouver Food Bank, that students receive a discount at the local Save-On-Foods grocery store, and vendor discounts on UBC food purchases are being leveraged to pass on those savings to students. In addition, there are meal programs, food pantries, and bursaries in place to support students on campus.
- A Governor asked whether the All Access Dining Plan, which allows UBC Student Housing residents unlimited access to food services, would be expanded to include non-resident students. In response, it was noted that there is a door rate that allows students, staff, faculty, and visitors who are not part of the dining plan to take advantage of All Access Dining. It was also noted the plan would be marketed more broadly once the initial launch for UBC Student Housing residents was fully functional.
- A Governor asked whether there were plans in place to homogenize the delivery of student services on the Vancouver Point Grey campus and the Okanagan Campus. In response, the Administration noted there is a comparable model of student support for both campuses, and how this model is delivered reflects the culture of both campuses.
- A Governor asked whether the Associate Vice-President (AVP) Career Services will oversee both campuses. The Administration confirmed this and noted that, within the Student Services portfolio, AVPs support both campuses toward the same goals while considering implementation strategies that are most appropriate for each based on the campus culture.

The Board Chair thanked the presenters, and noted the importance of a holistic view to student services across both campuses to providing the best student experience.

1.6 Update on the President's Academic Excellence Initiative

Responsible Executives: Gage Averill, Provost and Vice-President Academic *pro tem*, UBC Vancouver
Rehan Sadiq, Provost and Vice-President Academic *pro tem*, UBC Okanagan

The Provost and Vice-President Academic *pro tem*, UBC Vancouver provided an update on the President's Academic Excellence Initiative (PAEI), a program which supports the hiring of additional research professors and their intellectual leadership. He noted the program's importance in expanding UBC's research impact and capacity around its strategic priorities at a time when other universities are financially constrained by the budgetary impacts of the pandemic. He described the progress and challenges of the Accelerate phase of the plan, including how it was affected by the COVID pandemic, and noted that the Campaign phase had begun. He expressed appreciation for the work of the Academic Renewal Working Group (ARWG), and noted the Board would be asked to approve the dissolution of the Working Group at an upcoming meeting as the Group had fulfilled its intended purpose as outlined in its Terms of Reference.

A Governor suggested that continued reporting to the Board on the PAEI hiring initiative would be helpful within the context of broader UBC academic growth and faculty hiring.

A Governor raised a concern that dissolving the ARWG would reduce collaboration between the Senates and the Board. In response, the President noted that the Joint Board and Senate Chairs' meeting would be an appropriate forum for regular reporting out on the PAEI commitments.

The Board Chair noted that the resolution to dissolve the ARGW would be presented to the Governance Committee at its next meeting.

2. PROPERTY COMMITTEE

2.1 Interdisciplinary Collaboration & Innovation (ICI) Building (UBCO) - Board 3 Conditional

The Property Committee Chair introduced a discussion of a Board 3 approval request for the Interdisciplinary Collaboration and Innovation (ICI) Building at the Okanagan campus. She noted that, at the Property Committee meeting of September 20, members had discussed the proposal and were supportive of the ICI building; however, some members raised questions around the financial structure of the project and Administration had been asked to present additional information to the Board on this topic.

The Interim Vice-President Operations informed the Board about funding arrangements for the project where the UBC Okanagan campus would receive an internal loan at a low rate of interest provided from working capital. The Interim Vice-President Finance noted that the Treasury Department would receive 5.75% interest rate on the loan with the interest split between the two campuses (Okanagan at 3% interest and Vancouver at 2.75% interest). This internal loan would be funded out of working capital, a fund that earns 2% interest. UBCO would be responsible for repayment of the principal amount of the loan over a 30-year period. The Okanagan campus would be receiving interest relief on the internal loan because they would be paying a lower rate than usual. It was emphasized that there was no concession being made on the overall interest rate and that the overall cost impacts on the Vancouver campus would be minimal.

Governors expressed strong support for the project, but concern was expressed with regard to the possible precedent setting of UBC funding large capital projects without support from the Provincial government, particularly while are in the midst of undertaking a Provincial Post-Secondary funding review. The President noted that the current economic environment should reduce expectations around government funding for institutions. The Vice-President External Relations suggested the Board Chair could potentially meet with the Minister of Advanced Education to discuss this topic, and she would provide support for such a discussion.

A Governor raised as question as to whether any progress had been made toward securing the \$10 million sought from donors for support of the project. In response it was noted that while no donor funding had yet been achieved, but that this was a fundraising priority and that there are plans in place to fund any potential shortfall.

The President noted the importance of the ICI project for UBC Okanagan to grow and expand, as its success will benefit UBC and the Okanagan Campus in particular.

The Board was updated on progress in the ICI project tendering process. The Administration noted that some aspects of the project would need to be re-tendered, and this may affect the schedule but would not affect the current funding request outlined in the motion.

The following resolutions was moved, seconded and **CARRIED** with one abstention:

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Governors grants conditional* BOARD 3 approval for the Interdisciplinary Collaboration and Innovation (ICI) Building as follows:

- i. approval of the final capital budget of \$115,767,200 for original building scope and \$3,200,000 for separate climate-action-directed utility investments, for a total of \$118,967,200 as well as the operating budget as set out in the Appendices of the submission;**
- ii. approval of final funding sources and financing as set out in the submission;**
- iii. authorization to proceed to award construction contracts; and,**
- iv. approval of final funding release of \$114,967,200.**

*Conditional on construction tenders being received at or below budget based on 80% of tenders.

2.2 Eagle Nest Located in the Wesbrook Neighbourhood

The Property Committee Chair introduced a discussion on the temporary coning of an eagle nest located in the Wesbrook Neighbourhood which had generated concerns from the UBC community as well as from Governors. The Vice-President External Relations provided background and rationale for actions taken to protect eagles and their habitat during construction in the Wesbrook Neighbourhood, as set out in the briefing materials.

A Governor asked whether the Properties Trust (PT) Board held open meetings to allow for community input on their activities. The Administration confirmed that the PT Board meetings are not open to the public, and community consultations arise under advisement from senior university administration, as well as from Campus and Community Planning protocols. A Governor noted the importance of communicating with the local community, and being open and transparent around further activities in the area.

The Chair expressed the Board's support for ensuring eagles are protected, and thanked the presenters for the work being done so the eagles in that area remain part of the UBC community.

CONSENT AGENDA

FOR APPROVAL

An omnibus resolution to approve the following Consent Agenda items was moved, seconded and **CARRIED**:

3. BOARD OF GOVERNORS

3.1 Recommendations from the Council of Senates

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Governors concurs with approvals from the August 8, 2022 electronic approval process of the Council of Senates, which the Council of Senates recommends to the Board of Governors for approval the following Affiliation Agreements:

- i. Degree Partnership Renewal: UBC Peter A. Allard School of Law and Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne**
- ii. Degree Partnership: UBC Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies & Peter A. Allard School of Law and Sydney Law School, University of Sydney**

4. PROPERTY COMMITTEE

4.1 Beaty Biodiversity Centre Addition (UBC Vancouver) Board 2

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Governors grants BOARD 2 approval for the Beaty Biodiversity Centre Addition at UBC Vancouver as follows:

- i. approval to issue the development permit;**
- ii. authorization to proceed to working drawings and tender;**

- iii. authorization to proceed with select tree removal in advance of Board 3; and,
- iv. approval of funding release of \$500,000 for the next stage.

FOR INFORMATION

The Board Chair noted the following items which had been received for information.

5. BOARD OF GOVERNORS

5.1 Correspondence received from the Alma Mater Society (AMS) concerning:

- i.* **Tuition Engagement Approach FY 2023-2024**
- ii.* **Student Representation on Policy Committees**
- iii.* **AMS Council Motion on UBC's Divestment from Companies involved in Palestinian Human Rights Violations**

6. Report from September 2022 Finance Committee Meeting

7. Report from September 2022 Property Committee Meeting

8. Report from September 2022 Audit Committee Meeting

9. Report from September 2022 Executive Committee Meeting

There being no further business, the open session of the September 26, 2022 meeting of the Board of Governors adjourned at 11:26 a.m.