



SUBJECT	Dissolution of the Sustainability and Climate Action Committee
SUBMITTED TO	Governance Committee
MEETING DATE	March 21, 2023
SESSION CLASSIFICATION	Recommended session criteria from Board Meetings Policy: OPEN
REQUEST	Action requested - Recommendation to Board for approval IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT the Governance Committee recommends to the Board of Governors the dissolution of the Sustainability and Climate Action Committee; And, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT, under authority delegated by the Board of Governors, the Governance Committee approves amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Finance Committee as set out in the appendix to the briefing.
LEAD	Byron Thom, Governance Committee Chair
SUPPORTED BY	Karen Hakkarainen, Board Secretary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its meeting of September 20 2022, the Governance Committee approved in principle recommendations forwarded from the Subcommittee to Review the Board's Committee Structure. These recommendations include, among others, the following recommendation regarding the Sustainability and Climate Action Committee:

Sustainability and Climate Action Committee

The Sustainability and Climate Action Committee is a committee with a singular, strategic focus. Consequently, it was suggested that it could be sunsetted and its regular agenda items distributed to other bodies as follows:

- *Responsible Investing Update to the Finance Committee;*
- *Annual Sustainability Report with Climate Emergency Actions to the Board of Governors as part of the Board's oversight of strategic priorities.*

The Subcommittee met on February 15, 2023 and recommended that the Governance Committee take steps to dissolve the Sustainability and Climate Action Committee at its meeting of March 2023. A key rationale for this change is to provide the University with more line of sight to progress and achievements made in climate action and sustainability initiatives by having reporting on these strategic initiatives made at meetings of the Board of Governors rather than at the Committee level.

Consultation took place regarding the dissolution of the Committee with the designated executive liaisons and Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee. The resulting consensus was that the Sustainability and Climate Action Committee could be dissolved, with semi-annual reporting to the Board of Governors on sustainability and climate initiatives and the Finance Committee receiving regular updates on responsible investing.

Amended Terms of Reference for the Finance Committee to reflect this shift in reporting are set out in the appendix to this briefing.

APPENDIX

Amended Finance Committee Terms of Reference



1. MANDATE

- 1.1. Pursuant to section 27(2)(c) of the *University Act*, the UBC Board of Governors (the “**Board**”) has established a standing committee of the Board to address finance-related matters (the “**Finance Committee**”).
- 1.2. The Finance Committee considers matters relating to the financial affairs of UBC other than those matters that are within the mandate of the Audit Committee for the purposes of:
 - 1.2.1. providing recommendations to the Board where Board decisions are required or where the Finance Committee otherwise considers it desirable to make recommendations;
 - 1.2.2. making decisions on behalf of the Board where the Finance Committee has the delegated authority to do so; and
 - 1.2.3. considering any reports submitted for information and responding to any requests from the UBC administration for advice and input;(collectively, the “**Mandate**”).
- 1.3. Appendix A of these Terms of Reference sets out some examples of matters that fall within the Mandate. This list is provided for illustrative purposes only and is not intended to be exhaustive or constrain in any way the definition of the Mandate set out in section 1.2.

2. DELEGATED AUTHORITY

- 2.1. The Finance Committee hereby has the authority to make the following decisions on behalf of the Board:
 - 2.1.1. to set, determine and authorize the UBC administration to collect the fees on behalf of the Board for:
 - 2.1.1.1. instruction, research, and all other activities at UBC, except annual or recurring tuition increases and proposals for international tuition increases applying to incoming students, which require Board approval;
 - 2.1.1.2. non-refundable acceptance deposits paid by international students;
 - 2.1.1.3. extramural instruction;
 - 2.1.1.4. public lecturing, library fees, and laboratory fees;
 - 2.1.1.5. examinations, degrees, and certificates;
 - 2.1.1.6. the use of any student or alumni organizations in charge of student or alumni activities, including the Alma Mater Society and the UBC Student’s Union Okanagan; and
 - 2.1.1.7. the building and operation of a gymnasium or other athletic facilities;
 - 2.1.2. to authorize the UBC administration to pay over on behalf of the Board:
 - 2.1.2.1. the fees collected for a student or alumni organization that the organization may request; and

- 2.1.2.2. the fees collected for a student society or a provincial or national student organization in accordance with the *University Act*;
- 2.1.3. to authorize the UBC administration to impose fees on and collect fees on behalf of the Board from students who are not members of a student society, and remit those fees to the student society in accordance with the *University Act*;
- 2.1.4. to authorize the UBC administration to administer funds, grants, fees, endowments, and other assets on behalf of the Board;
- 2.1.5. to provide for student loans and other forms of financial assistance;
- 2.1.6. to invest money belonging to UBC and which is available for investment, including approving the Statements of Investment Policies and Procedures;
- 2.1.7. to create UBC's budget framework which sets the guiding principles between costs, government funding, and tuition fee levels, and amendments thereto;
- 2.1.8. to provide Board 1 Approval, Board 2 Approval, and Board 3 Approval for IT Projects (as defined in the Capital Projects Policy) valued between \$5,000,000 and \$20,000,000 in accordance with the Capital Projects Policy;
- 2.1.9. to approve Internal Loans (as defined in the Capital Projects Policy) between \$5,000,000 to \$20,000,000;
- 2.1.10. to authorize the UBC administration to:
 - 2.1.10.1. collapse endowments; and
 - 2.1.10.2. vary the documentation governing endowments;
- 2.1.11. to approve changes to the documentation that governs the UBC Faculty Pension Plan;
- 2.1.12. to approve changes to the documentation that governs the UBC Staff Pension Plan, including, without limitation, the Staff Pension Plan's Funding Policy, Governance Policy and Terms of Reference;
- 2.1.13. to approve annually the budget of the University Neighbourhoods Association (UNA).

3. COMPOSITION

- 3.1. In addition to the ex officio members as required by the *Committee Meeting Rules and Practices*, the Finance Committee will have up to nine members, all of whom are to be selected in accordance with the *Board Meeting Rules and Practices* and the *Committee Meeting Rules and Practices* as may be amended from time to time. Those additional members will include:
 - 3.1.1. the Board Vice-Chair;
 - 3.1.2. three elected Governors, one of each from the faculty, staff and student Governors; and
 - 3.1.3. up to five Governors who have been appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

These Terms of Reference were approved by the Board on September 21, 2021.



APPENDIX A
FINANCE COMMITTEE MANDATE

Further to section 1.3 of the Finance Committee Terms of Reference, the following sets out examples of matters that fall within the Mandate:

- a) Board Policies for which responsibility has been assigned to the Finance Committee by the Governance Committee pursuant to its Terms of Reference
- b) annual budgets
- c) actual and budgeted results
- d) tuition fee levels
- e) capital expenditure proposals
- f) debt management policies and recommendations to borrow funds
- g) financial strategies
- h) financial policies and practices for long-term financial sustainability
- i) fiscal strategy
- j) financial statements and annual reports of UBC-controlled, related, or affiliated entities
- k) Annual Debt Report
- l) Capital Planning and Prioritization Process
- m) Endowment Status Report
- n) UBC Faculty Pension Plan Reports
- o) UBC Staff Pension Plan Reports
- [p\)](#) UBC Investment Management Trust (UBC IMANT) Quarterly Portfolio Review
- [q\)](#) [Responsible Investing Updates](#)
- [r\)](#) Student Housing and Community Services Financial & Operational Annual Update
- [s\)](#) general oversight of the implementation and operationalization of the Integrated Renewal Program
- [t\)](#) University Neighbourhoods Association Annual Budget



APPENDIX B*
BOARD POLICIES ASSIGNED TO FINANCE COMMITTEE

Policy	Name
UP3	Disposal of Surplus Equipment and Materials
FM5	Endowment Management
FM1	Late Payment of Fees and Accounts
FM4	Over-Expenditure on Research and Specific Purpose Trust Project/Grants
FM2	Purchasing
LR3	Research Grants as Part Payment During Study Leave
LR5	Research Grants During Periods Other Than Study Leave
FM10	Retained Risk Fund for Major Construction Projects
FM9	Term Invested Fund Management
UP4	Vending Machines on or in UBC Space

* For information only; not included in TOR as approved