



The University of British Columbia
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
MINUTES

Tuesday, January 31, 2023
 1:00 p.m. to 1:35 p.m.

VIDEOCONFERENCE
 Approval: March 31, 2023

Chair	Ms. Nancy McKenzie	Administration
Co-Vice-Chair	Mr. Azim Lalani	Dr. Gage Averill, Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Vancouver
Co-Vice-Chair	Mr. Bill Sundhu	Ms. Marcia Buchholz, Vice-President Human Resources
Members	Ms. Alison Brewin	Dr. Ainsley Carry, Vice-President Students
	Interim President Deborah Buszard	Ms. Robin Ciceri, Vice-President External Relations
	Dr. Natalie Chan	Dr. Lesley Cormack, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Principal, UBC Okanagan
	Mr. Jessie Dusangh	Ms. Jennifer Kain, Chief Assurance & Risk Officer
	Ms. Chaslynn Gillanders	Dr. Dermot Kelleher, Vice-President Health
	Mr. Max Holmes	Mr. Hubert Lai, K.C., AVP Office of University Counsel
	Dr. Anna Kindler	Ms. Heather McCaw, Vice-President Development & Alumni Engagement
	Ms. Tashia Kootenayoo	Mr. John Metras, Interim Vice-President Operations
	Ms. Miranda Lam	Dr. Gail Murphy, Vice-President Research & Innovation
	Dr. Marianne Legault	Mr. Yale Loh, Interim Vice-President Finance
	Professor Mark Mac Lean	Dr. Rehan Sadiq, Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Okanagan
	Ms. Anthonia Ogundele	
	Hon. Steven Point, Chancellor	Board Secretary
	Mr. Byron Thom	Ms. Karen Hakkarainen
	Mr. Kavie Toor	
	Ms. Nicole Udzenija	
	Ms. Georgia Yee	
Regrets	Mr. Joel Solomon	

Board Chair Nancy McKenzie called the open session of the January 31, 2023 meeting of the Board of Governors to order at 1:00 p.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 opened the meeting by welcoming returning students to the second term of the Winter session. She reminded everyone that a full cycle of Committee and Board meetings would occur in March, June, September and then also in November/December. She acknowledged Governors Mac Lean and Toor who completed their terms on the Board at the end of February. She thanked both members for their sharing their expertise and experience in their service to the Board. She noted that the meeting would be the last Board meeting where Yale Loh would be joining as Interim Vice-President Finance and John Metras as Interim Vice-President of Operations. She thanked both Yale and John aptly stepping into these interim roles and leading these portfolios during this transition period.

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 open session of the January 31, 2023 Board of Governors meeting.

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 Report from Presidential Search Committee Chair

Chancellor Steven Point, Chair of the Presidential Search Committee reported that the Presidential Search Committee had met on January 12, 2023. Following on that meeting, a broadcast message was distributed to the University community on January 17, 2023 that included a link to a survey seeking input on the opportunities and challenges facing UBC and its next president over the next five years and the qualities and characteristics that the community would like to see in the next president. Chancellor Point added that a number of forums had been scheduled in February to provide an opportunity for community input on the search. The Board Chair thanked the Chancellor for his update and encouraged members of the University community to participate in these consultations.

1.4 Update from Interim President

The Board Chair introduced Deborah Buszard, Interim President and Vice-Chancellor, who provided an update on the first few months of her term. She noted that through many conversations had with faculty, staff, parents, and alumni she had heard how proud people are of the UBC's high quality of education and research, and appreciation for UBC's engagement with major global issues such as climate change.

She added that the broader community also expects UBC to be open and forthright about difficult topics such as recent issues around Indigenous identity. She drew attention to a message had to the Vancouver Campus sent on the behalf of herself and Provost Gage Averill on this subject, which was posted on the President's website. Steps were being taken to arrange opportunities to engage with the Indigenous community on this matter.

She noted that the following faculty members had been designated as UBC Killam Professors for 2022/23, and that this is the highest honour that the University can bestow upon a faculty member:

- Nemy Banthia, Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Applied Science
- Dominic Mclver Lopes, Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts
- Natalie Strynadka, Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Faculty of Medicine

The Interim President also recognized Mathematics Professor Sujatha Ramdorai had been awarded the Padma Shri, India's fourth highest civilian honor, which is the equivalent to the Order of Canada. She also recognized that Zoology Professor Dolph Schluter had been awarded the Crafoord Prize in Biosciences by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

The Interim President then provided a presentation updating the Board on the first few months of her term. She noted that UBC's Strategic Plan, Shaping the Next Century was launched in 2018. 2023 marks the half-way point for implementing this 10-year plan, and she drew attention to the plan's stated purpose of "pursuing excellence in research, learning and engagement."

On the topic of research, the Interim President noted that investment in research had risen eightfold, from about \$100 million in 1996/97 to almost \$800 million in 2021/22. She added that although UBC has the second highest number of faculty among Canada's top research universities, UBC ranks fourth out of five in research funds per faculty and is still far behind the University of Toronto in tri-agency and Canada Foundation for Innovation funding. She noted that research should be a priority for UBC if it is to maintain its standing as one of Canada's top research universities.

The Interim President noted that the Forward UBC campaign is one of the ways to ensure UBC remains one of Canada's best universities. She shared that because of the generosity of donors and engagement of alumni, as of December 31, 2022 \$1.39 billion had been raised on a goal of \$3 billion. She noted a recent major gift to support multiple sclerosis research and care to be shared with Vancouver General Hospital and the UBC Hospital Foundation. She also noted the launch of the Forward Thinkers alumni UBC webinar series and the campaign's efforts to prioritize the Student Affordability Initiative to help provide students with financial support.

Following the presentation, the Board Chair asked the Interim President about the skills, competencies that UBC should seek in its next President. The Interim President responded that the next President should be someone who will bring all the skills of leadership and an understanding of the complexity of post-secondary education in Canada in the 21st century. She noted her hopes that UBC would find someone with vision and enthusiasm and who is prepared to think in new and different ways to help the university see a future that it may not yet imagine.

A Governor asked the Interim President about the University's priorities in equity, diversity and inclusion with respect to ableism and accessibility. In response the Interim President noted that equity, diversity and inclusion priorities of UBC reflect the values and vision of the University, and ensuring that decisions are made in an inclusive manner. She noted that many positive conversations about disability and accessibility were happening around the University about how the University's plans for accessibility will fit with the Province's expectations and that more will be shared as the plan moves forward.

CONSENT AGENDA

FOR INFORMATION

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

2. BOARD OF GOVERNORS

2.1 Board and Committee Meeting Dates 2024

2.2 Correspondence Received from the AMS

There being no further business, the open session of the January 31, 2023 meeting of the Board of Governors adjourned at 1:35 p.m.