



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

Thursday, June 29, 2023

9:26 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.

**OKANAGAN CAMPUS**

UNC200 University Centre, 3272 University Way

Approved: September 27, 2023

<b>Chair</b>	Ms. Nancy McKenzie	<b>Administration</b>
<b>Co-Vice-Chair</b>	Mr. Bill Sundhu	Dr. Gage Averill, Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Vancouver
<b>Members</b>	Ms. Eshana Bhangu	Dr. Ainsley Carry, Vice-President Students
	Ms. Isabella Bravo	Ms. Robin Ciceri, Vice-President External Relations
	Interim President Deborah Buszard	Dr. Lesley Cormack, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Principal, UBC Okanagan
	Dr. Natalie Chan	Mr. Frank Laezza, Vice-President Finance & Operations
	Mr. Kareem Hassib	Ms. Heather McCaw, Vice-President Development & Alumni Engagement
	Dr. Anna Kindler	Dr. Gail Murphy, Vice-President Research & Innovation
	Ms. Miranda Lam ( <i>arrived at item 1.4</i> )	Dr. Rehan Sadiq, Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Okanagan
	Dr. Marianne Legault	<b>Board Secretary</b>
	Dr. Charles Menzies	Ms. Karen Hakkarainen
	Ms. Anthonia Ogundele	
	Hon. Steven Point, Chancellor	
	Mr. Matthew Tan	
	Mr. Byron Thom	
	Ms. Nicole Udzenija	
<b>Regrets</b>	Ms. Alison Brewin	
	Mr. Jessie Dusangh	
	Ms. Chaslynn Gillanders	
	Mr. Azim Lalani, Co-Vice-Chair	

Board Chair Nancy McKenzie called the open session of the June 29, 2023 meeting of the Board of Governors to order at 9:26 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 Board Chair opened the meeting by congratulating the spring graduates of the University of British Columbia (UBC), noting the accomplishment of reaching this significant educational milestone as a cause for celebration. She encouraged graduates to apply the knowledge gained at UBC in their future endeavors, and anticipated that graduates’ actions and ideas would continue to positively impact the world. A special mention was made regarding the inaugural graduates of the Bachelor of Nsyilxcn Language Fluency program at the UBC Okanagan campus, marking a historic achievement as Canada's first bachelor's degree focused on Indigenous language fluency. She noted the exceptional education, ground-breaking research, and strengthened community relationships achieved at UBC Okanagan, and expressed gratitude towards all individuals contributing to the success of the campus.

The Board Chair provided an update on the recent annual Board retreat, which aimed to enhance governance practices by addressing new Governor onboarding, strategic oversight, diversity, succession planning, and collaborative governance. She noted the session was productive, leveraged insights from past retreats, and she thanked Governors and UBC Executive for their participation.

In recognition of Pride Month, the Board Chair acknowledged the importance of celebrating and supporting the LGBTQ2+ community while advocating for inclusivity and dismantling discrimination. She emphasized the significance of embracing diversity and using Pride Month as an opportunity to stand together in creating an inclusive culture, aligning with UBC's objectives. She also noted that June is Indigenous History Month, a time to honor Indigenous peoples' rich histories, cultures, and contributions. She stressed the importance of acknowledging historical injustices, amplifying Indigenous voices and stories, and fostering respect and understanding while working towards reconciliation and the preservation of cultural legacies on Indigenous lands.

Three distinguished faculty members from the UBC Okanagan campus were acknowledged:

- Dr. Eric Li, an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Management, was recognized for his membership in the College of New Scholars, Artists, and Scientists by the Royal Society of Canada. His research focuses on social enterprise, innovation, health promotion, and marketing. He has previously received awards such as UBCO Researcher of the Year and the Principal's Research Chair in Social Innovation for Health Equity and Food Security.
- Dr. Mohamed Shehata, an Associate Professor in the Irving K. Barber Faculty of Science, was highlighted for his work in Computer Science, particularly in Aerial Visual Extended Surveillance. He serves as the Editor in Chief for the IEEE Canadian Journal of Electrical and Computer Engineering and received the IEEE Presidents' Make a Difference Award for his volunteer contributions to advancing the engineering profession.
- Dr. Claire Yan, an Associate Professor of Teaching in the School of Engineering, was commended for her dedication to innovative outreach, bridge programs, and open education resources in the fields of thermofluids and energy. She received the UBC Okanagan Provost Teaching Excellence and Innovation Award for her impactful teaching methods that make engineering accessible and beneficial for students.

The Board Chair expressed gratitude and recognition for these faculty members, as well as for others whose contributions have recently been acknowledged in research, scholarship, teaching, and other academic areas.

The service of Governors Marianne Legault and Nicole Udzenija was acknowledged as both would conclude their terms on August 31st, making this their final regular Board meeting. Their exceptional contributions and dedication to their roles were highlighted. The introduction of UBC's new Comptroller, Helen Yung, was also noted, as she joined the Finance team earlier in the month. Gratitude was extended to Matt Boydston for his service as Acting Comptroller. This concluded the Board Chair's opening remarks.

The Interim President and Vice-Chancellor began her remarks by noting National Indigenous Peoples Day, and underscoring the Okanagan campus's significant role as a model for Canadian universities for its work in Indigenous engagement and reconciliation, and showcasing the success that was possible through partnerships. She noted the Indigenous language program, a collaboration involving En'owkin Centre (the educational arm of the Syilx people), Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, and UBC Okanagan as an example. This initiative exemplifies the campus's efforts to extend UBC's influence beyond its immediate boundaries. She highlighted other impactful partnerships, such as educational collaborations with Okanagan College and research associations with interior universities. These alliances address critical domains like forest health, fire, and disaster preparedness, showcasing UBC's broad-ranging impact beyond its campus.

She acknowledged the Vice-President Research and Innovation's efforts in achieving advancement in global research rankings where UBC climbed seven places in the QS World University Rankings, reaching 34th place from its previous position at 47th. She noted this reflected UBC's ongoing commitment to and leadership in sustainability and climate action, and the importance of international research partnerships and collaborations.

The Interim President and Vice-Chancellor provided an update on UBC's budget recommendations to the Provincial Government highlighting three key aspects of those recommendations:

1. building upon investments to strengthen the Province's talent pipeline and enhance post-secondary education access;
2. leveraging UBC's health and medical education programs to train future health workers, especially for underserved areas, aligning with ongoing collaborations; and,
3. investing in academic and research infrastructure to support transformative learning, research, sustainability, and priorities in healthcare, innovation, and economic development.

She acknowledged Government support through the BC Knowledge and Development Fund, including backing for the UBC skytrain extension and additional student housing spaces, totaling over \$1.1 billion.

## **1.2 Agenda Approval**

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 approved as circulated the Agenda for the open session of the June 29, 2023 Board of Governors meeting.**

The Board Chair asked Governors to declare any actual, potential, or apparent conflict of interest with any of the agenda items. None were declared.

## **1.3 Consent Agenda**

The Board Chair asked whether Governors noted any errors or omissions in the Minutes of the March 31 and April 14, 2023 meeting of the Board, which were included among other items forwarded by Committees for approval under the consent agenda. No errors or omissions were noted.

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

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Governors approves the resolutions forwarded for approval under the Consent Agenda, as presented in the Appendix.**

The Chair noted that the Board also received under the consent agenda for information an updated list of members of the Board's standing committees, as well as written reports from the Chairs of the Employee Relations, Finance; Governance; Indigenous Engagement, Learning and Research; People, Community and International; and Property Committees about their meetings held June 14 and 15, 2023.

## **1.4 International Students and Careers Pilot**

**Presenters:** **Lesley Cormack, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Principal, UBC Okanagan**  
Dale Mullings, Associate Vice-President Students, UBC Okanagan  
Philipp Reichert, Director, Global Engagement  
Gabriel Tan, recent UBCO graduate

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Principal, UBC Okanagan (UBCO) introduced a presentation on the launch of a new set of services focused on providing supports for international students on the Okanagan campus in the area of career development. It was noted that while there are more study permits issued in Canada than in previous years, certain institutions, including York, McGill, University of Guelph, University of Victoria, Simon Fraser University, and UBCO, are experiencing reductions in international student enrollment. Recognizing the motivations of international students, often tied to seeking education for permanent residency and economic contribution, was emphasized. It

was noted that despite a high retention rate for international students after graduation in British Columbia, their conversion to permanent resident status is low. The new program, involving career and industry specialists along with an immigration consultant, strives to alleviate challenges faced by international students transitioning into the workforce, foster career development and industry connections, and help both domestic and international students through comprehensive support.

During discussion, it was noted that the success of the four-year pilot program would be gauged through collaboration with the O-PAIR office for UBC's perspective and by using national surveys by the Canadian Bureau for International Education to evaluate student experience and benchmark UBC's performance. The Okanagan campus, like the Vancouver Campus, has high first-choice international applicant retention rates, and success would also be shown by increasing these rates and attracting more first-choice applicants.

### **1.5 Strategic Plan Dashboard**

**Presenter: Interim President Deborah Buszard**

The Interim President and Vice-Chancellor provided an update on priorities and progress related to UBC's strategic plan, established in 2018, which outlines a 10-year strategy for the University, as set out in the briefing. She noted that many items listed were already completed or in progress, reflecting substantial work accomplished over the past five to six years. She advised that an equity admissions program had been removed from consideration due to the presence of successful alternative admissions programs, including the Access Program. Various initiatives were highlighted, including the President's Academic Excellence Initiative and climate action and sustainability efforts. The ongoing implementation of Workday and progress on the review of the University budget model to ensure funding is available for university priorities across both campuses were highlighted.

During the meeting, concerns were raised about the status of the Musqueam and UBC relationship agreement and the partnership with the Okanagan Nation. The Administration noted that the Musqueam agreement negotiations were progressing well but that the Musqueam had requested more time to consider the Land Use Plan. The delay in the renewal of the Okanagan Nation Alliance's Memorandum of Understanding with UBC was attributed to capacity issues, changes in leadership in some bands, and external pressures on their community.

A question was raised about the lack of information on the dashboard regarding consultations with other First Nations beyond the Musqueam. It was clarified that consultations with 15 Nations began in October and have concluded with 13 Nations. Consultations with Musqueam and Squamish are ongoing.

During the meeting, questions were raised about the UBC Okanagan Transportation Plan (the "Plan") and climate action and sustainability efforts. The Administration noted dependence on transit as a challenge, as BC Transit has been unable to increase bus service due to the need to electrify their fleet. Funding constraints also affected the Plan's progress. Issues with bus service stopping early in the evening and limited parking availability on the campus were raised. It was noted that talks with BC Transit for improvements are ongoing and that a sensor-based parking system to optimize parking availability during peak times was being implemented. The need for a comprehensive and sustainable transit solution for the region was emphasized, with political and regional complexities being recognized.

It was agreed that the Strategic Plan Dashboard lacked focus on the University's core activities of teaching, learning, scholarship, and research, and amendments to better reflect the academic mission and evolving priorities and concerns should be considered for future iterations of the Dashboard.

### **1.6 Climate Action Plan 2030 Implementation Updates: UBC Vancouver and Okanagan Campuses**

**Presenters: Robin Ciceri, Vice-President External Relations**  
**Frank Laezza, Vice-President Finance & Operations**  
**Gail Murphy, Vice-President Research & Innovation**



**Gage Averill, Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Vancouver**  
**Lesley Cormack, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Principal, UBC Okanagan**

The Vice-President External Relations introduced a presentation providing an update on the implementation of the Climate Action Plan 2030 (the “Plan”), as set out in the briefing.

The presentation showcased UBC's successful 40% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions since 2007, despite an increase in its physical growth and number of full-time students. UBC Okanagan's focus on low-carbon energy, green buildings, transportation, and climate risk management was highlighted, emphasizing comprehensive campus resilience and climate engagement.

During the discussion, questions were raised about the transportation challenges in the Okanagan region, which involved balancing investing in parking infrastructure for car-dependent commuters and promoting cycling and alternative modes of transportation. The establishment of a Sustainable Transportation Office was highlighted as a positive step towards capacity for data analysis and advocacy for better transit options. The importance of addressing the over 50% of campus GHGs attributed to commuting to the Okanagan campus was emphasized.

A question was raised about UBC's approach to adopting climate technologies amidst the climate crisis and how best to strike the balance between innovation and cost-effectiveness. It was noted that UBC is a leading research university that collaborates extensively with industry, government and non-profit partners to understand and adopt cutting-edge technologies to address the effects of climate change and promote sustainability. It was noted that achieving an 85% reduction in UBC Vancouver's GHG emissions by 2030 would require financial investments, and both upfront costs and long-term benefits of capital investments would need to be considered in the decision-making process.

Efforts to reduce embodied carbon (such as from building demolition) and address extended emissions, such as the carbon footprint of institutional food services, was also discussed.

### **1.7 Tuition | Bachelor of Applied Science in Computer Engineering, UBC Okanagan (Amended)**

The Board Chair asked if Governors had any questions about the resolution to correct the tuition for international students where a previous resolution approved by the Finance Committee had included an error. No questions were raised.

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

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Governors that the motion adopted by the Finance Committee on June 14, 2023 to set tuition for the Bachelor of Applied Science in Computer Engineering at UBC Okanagan is amended to change the per-credit tuition amount for international students from: \$207.92 (year 1) and \$1,560.43 (years 2 to 5) to: \$1,560.43 (years 1 to 5).**

### **1.8 Provincial Mandate Letter 2023-2024**

The Board Chair introduced the Provincial Mandate Letter 2023-2024 (the “Letter”), an annual communication from the Provincial government, for discussion. She noted that, upon approval, she would sign the letter and submit it to the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills. She noted that the letter is divided into two sections: the first addresses general priorities for all public entities, while the second focuses on priorities specific to the post-secondary education sector.

During discussion, it was acknowledged that while the Letter sets out minimum expectations of the Provincial Government, UBC could set higher goals. It was also emphasized that UBC's academic independence should be maintained.

The following resolution was moved, seconded and **CARRIED** with Governor Menzies abstaining:

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Board of Governors authorizes the Board Chair to sign, on behalf of the Board of Governors, the 2023-2024 Mandate Letter from the Province of British Columbia, Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills.

## **2. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

### **2.1 Delegation of Authority for Approval of Fees and Curriculum for Non-credit Credentials**

Governance Committee Chair Byron Thom introduced the recommendation arising from the Governance Committee's June 15, 2023 open meeting to delegate fee approval for non-credit credentials to the Provosts and Vice President Academic of the appropriate campus, and curriculum approval to the Curriculum Committees of the UBC Okanagan and UBC Vancouver Senate, as appropriate. He noted that approval of these delegations of authority would necessitate consequential amendments to the Finance Committee's Terms of Reference, and that these amendments were included in the resolution presented. The Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills' emphasis on the need to respond to market demands for education was highlighted as part of the rationale behind the request for the delegation which is expected to speed up the approval process for non-credit credentials at UBC.

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

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

- i. the delegation of approval of fees for non-credit credentials, as set out in the Vancouver Senate Policy V-129; to the Provost and Vice-President Academic for the Vancouver Campus;**
- ii. the delegation of approval of fees for non-credit credentials, as set out in the Okanagan Senate Policy O-129, to the Provost and Vice-President Academic for the Okanagan Campus;**
- iii. the delegation of approval of curriculum for non-credit credentials, as set out in the Vancouver Senate Policy V-129, to the Vancouver Senate Curriculum Committee;**
- iv. the delegation of approval of curriculum for non-credit credentials, as set out in the Okanagan Senate Policy O-129, to the Okanagan Senate Curriculum Committee; and,**
- v. amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Finance Committee as set out in the Appendix to the briefing,**

**with reports of approved credentials to be provided to the Board on an annual basis.**

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### **ACTION ITEMS**

None arising.

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### **CONSENT AGENDA – FOR APPROVAL**

The following items on the consent agenda were approved:

## **3. BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

### **3.1 Minutes of Previous Meeting – March 2023**

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Board of Governors approves as circulated Minutes of the March 31, 2023 open meeting of the Board of Governors.



### **3.2 Minutes of Previous Meeting – April 2023**

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Board of Governors approves as circulated Minutes of the April 14, 2023 open special meeting of the Board of Governors.

## **4. AUDIT COMMITTEE**

### **4.1 UBC Consolidated Financial Statements as at March 31, 2023**

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Board of Governors approves the audited UBC Financial Statements for the year ending March 31, 2023 as circulated.

## **5. EMPLOYEE RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

### **5.1 Delegation of Authority for Appointments**

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Board of Governors approves of delegation of authority for appointments of teaching and non-teaching staff as set out in sections 2.1 through 2.3 of Board Appointments Policy (AP3) for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

## **6. FINANCE COMMITTEE**

### **6.1 Statements on Responsible Investing**

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Board of Governors approves of the following:

- i.* the Statements on Responsible Investing (the “Statements”) in the form attached to the briefing as Appendix 1, effective June 30, 2023;
- ii.* the repeal of the Endowment Responsible Investment Policy version 2.0 (April 2014), effective June 30, 2023; and,
- iii.* the confirmation that the Finance Committee may approve amendments to the Statements under its delegated authority set out in Section 2.1.6 of its Terms of Reference.

## **7. LEARNING & RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

### **7.1 Guidelines for UBC Staff as Shareholders**

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Board of Governors approves the Guidelines for UBC Staff as Shareholders in the form attached as Appendix 1 to the briefing, as contemplated by section 10.1 of the Procedures associated with the Technology Equity Policy (LR8).

## **8. PEOPLE, COMMUNITY & INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE**

### **8.1 Proposed Policy Amendment: Naming Policy (GA6)**

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Board of Governors approves of amendments to the Naming Policy (GA6) in the form set out in Appendix 1, effective July 7, 2023.

## **9. PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

### **9.1 Proposed Policy Amendment: Residential Environmental Assessment Program (REAP Version 3.3)**

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Board of Governors approves amendments to the Residential Environmental Assessment Program (REAP) in the form set out in Appendix A to the briefing, consistent with UBC’s Green Building Action Plan and the Board of Governors’ Land Use Policy (UP12).

### **9.2 Renewal of Jack Bell Building for the School of Social Work Board 2, UBC Vancouver**

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Board of Governors grants BOARD 2 approval for Renewal of the Jack Bell Building for the School of Social Work (Routine Capital) at UBC Vancouver as follows:

- i.* approval of the revised capital budget;
- ii.* approval to issue the development permit;
- iii.* authorization to proceed to working drawings and tender; and,
- iv.* approval of a funding release of \$2,000,000 for the next stage.

**9.3 UBC Five-Year Capital Plan 2024-2025 to 2028-2029**

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Board of Governors approves the UBC Five-Year Capital Plan 2024-2025 to 2028-2029 for submission to the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills.

**CONSENT AGENDA - FOR INFORMATION**

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

**10. BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**10.1 Standing Committee Membership as of May 18, 2023**

**11. EMPLOYEE RELATIONS COMMITTEE: REPORT FROM JUNE 2023 MEETING**

**12. FINANCE COMMITTEE: REPORT FROM JUNE 2023 MEETING**

**13. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE: REPORT FROM JUNE 2023 MEETING**

**14. INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE: REPORT FROM JUNE 2023 MEETING**

**15. LEARNING & RESEARCH COMMITTEE: REPORT FROM JUNE 2023 MEETING**

**16. PEOPLE, COMMUNITY & INT'L COMMITTEE: REPORT FROM JUNE 2023 MEETING**

**17. PROPERTY COMMITTEE: REPORT FROM JUNE 2023 MEETING**

There being no further business, the open session of the June 29, 2023 meeting of the Board of Governors meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.