



Board of Governors
LEARNING & RESEARCH COMMITTEE
MINUTES

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024
9:03 AM to 10:24 AM

VIDEOCONFERENCE
Approved: June 10, 2024

Chair Dr. Anna Kindler
Vice-Chair Mr. Matthew Tan
Members in Attendance President Benoit-Antoine Bacon
Dr. Natalie Chan
Dr. Charles Menzies
Dr. Philipp Reichert
Mr. Byron Thom
Regrets Ms. Isabella Bravo
Hon. Steven Point, Chancellor
Interim Board Chair Bill Sundhu
Board Secretary
Ms. Karen Hakkarainen

Designated Executive Liaisons
Dr. Gage Averill
Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Vancouver
Dr. Gail Murphy, Vice-President Research & Innovation (*Regrets*)
Dr. Rehan Sadiq
Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Okanagan
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
Mr. Hubert Lai, K.C., University Counsel

Committee Chair Anna Kindler called the open session of the March 12, 2024 Learning & Research Committee meeting to order at 9:03 a.m., and respectfully acknowledged the ancestral and unceded territories of the Musqueam and of the Syilx Okanagan Nation upon which UBC campuses are located.

The Board Secretary reviewed attendance and confirmed quorum.

1. Approval of Agenda

The Chair asked if Committee members would like to request amendments to the Agenda. No requests were made.

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

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Learning & Research Committee approves as circulated the Agenda for the open session of the March 12, 2024 Learning & Research Committee meeting.

The Chair asked if Committee members had any actual, potential or apparent conflicts of interest to declare with respect to any of the items on the Agenda. No declarations were made.

2. Consent Agenda

The Chair asked if Committee members had noted any errors or omissions in the Minutes of the previous meeting, circulated under the appended Consent Agenda. None were raised.

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

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Learning & Research Committee approves the resolutions forwarded under the open Consent Agenda, as presented in the Appendix.

The Chair noted that four briefings were circulated under the Consent Agenda for the Committee's information: recommendations from the November 23, 2023 meeting of the Okanagan Senate, recommendations the Council of Senates approved by e-vote in December 2023, the Establishment of New Endowments briefing, and a new information briefing providing the status of 2023 action items identified by the Committee.

3. 2023-2024 Annual Enrolment Report

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

The Administration presented highlights of the 2023-2024 Annual Enrolment Report, as set out in the circulated briefing.

The Committee raised the issue of declining retention rates for enrolled Indigenous students. The Administration advised that additional funding has been allocated to the First Nations House of Learning and to the Indigenous pedagogy unit of the Centre for Teaching & Learning, and that UBC Vancouver staff are consulting with counterparts on the Okanagan Campus to understand more about how the lessons learned from the Okanagan's successful Indigenous Programs & Services department might provide additional opportunities to enhance supports offered to Indigenous students on the Vancouver campus.

The Committee Chair asked the Administration to provide, at a future meeting, a briefing providing information about actions being undertaken by the University to improve retention rates for Indigenous students at both campuses.

4. Enrolment Management

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

The Administration presented highlights of the Enrolment Management briefing, as set out in the circulated material.

The Committee asked how UBC's results in terms of the proportion of qualified applicants who end up enrolling at UBC compare to results at comparable national and international research universities nationally and internationally. In response, the Administration advised that direct comparisons are difficult, as universities generally do not share yield data publicly. In addition, enrolment processes and timelines vary widely across institutions.

The Administration advised of steps that have been taken to approach enrolment from a system-wide perspective, including joint Okanagan-Vancouver enrolment planning meetings and the establishment of a single admissions team for both campuses. Over the next year, the Administration will review UBC's admission processes with the goal of identifying additional opportunities for enhanced strategic enrolment planning. The Committee Chair asked the Administration to provide, at a future meeting, some analysis on the impact of UBC's current merit-based awards on the yield of admitted students, and international students in particular.

5. Discussion of 2024-2025 UBC Enrolment Targets February 2024 Okanagan Senate and Vancouver Senate Recommendations

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

The Committee Chair raised the issue of the unfunded graduate enrolment as projected by the circulated 2024-2025 UBC Enrolment Targets briefing. She asked the Administration to consider the University's capacity to effectively support graduate programming within the envelope of available government funding and to brief the Committee on the strategy/sources for resourcing the programs moving forward, as part of the budget review currently under way, and to pursue opportunities for increasing government support for graduate programs on both campuses.

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

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that, with authority delegated by the Board of Governors, the Learning & Research Committee concurs with approvals from the 21 February 2024 meeting of the UBC Vancouver Senate, which the Senate recommends to the Board of Governors for approval: Curriculum, Awards, New Programs, and 2024-2025 Undergraduate Enrolment Targets.

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

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that, with authority delegated by the Board of Governors, the Learning & Research Committee concurs with approvals from the 29 February 2024 meeting of the Okanagan Senate, which the Okanagan Senate recommends to the Board of Governors for approval: Awards, 2024-2025 Enrolment Targets, and Curriculum.

6. Tuition Engagement Approach FY 2025-2026

Responsible Executives: Ainsley Carry, Vice-President Students
Gage Averill, Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Vancouver
Rehan Sadiq, Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Okanagan
Frank Laezza, Vice-President Finance & Operations

The Administration provided a summary of the tuition engagement approached planned for FY2025-2026, and advised that consultation with students in the upcoming academic year would be undertaken in alignment with the requirements of the Tuition Consultation Policy (LR4). The consultation process will seek feedback from elected student leaders with respect to the needs and concerns of their constituents. The broader student body will be provided with updates and opportunities to provide feedback via a UBC website.

The Committee raised questions about engagement with elected student leaders about the planned approach to tuition engagement. The Administration advised that over the past three years, as the annual schedule of educational and listening sessions has been established, elected student leaders have been advised that the new approach will support a revised approach to consultation.

The open session of the March 12, 2024 Learning & Research Committee meeting adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

ACTION ITEMS

Item #3: 2023-2024 Annual Enrolment Report

The Committee Chair asked the Administration to provide, at a future meeting, a briefing detailing the actions being taken to improve UBC's retention of Indigenous students at both campuses.

Item #4: Enrolment Management

The Committee Chair asked the Administration to provide, at a future meeting, some analysis on the impact of UBC's current merit-based awards on the yield of admitted students, and international students in particular.

Item#5: Enrollment Targets

The Committee Chair requested a briefing, at a future meeting, on the long term plans/strategy to resource graduate programs, as part of the budget review process, in the context of the unfunded graduate enrollment to ensure continuing excellence in graduate education

CONSENT AGENDA – FOR APPROVAL

The following items were approved under the Consent Agenda:

7. Minutes of Previous Meeting

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Learning & Research Committee approves as circulated Minutes of the open session of the November 20, 2023 Learning & Research Committee meeting.

8. Recommendations from the December 2023 meeting of the Vancouver Senate

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that, with authority delegated by the Board of Governors, the Learning & Research Committee concurs with approvals from the 13 December 2023 meeting of the UBC Vancouver Senate, which the Senate recommends to the Board of Governors for approval: Awards and Curriculum.

9. Recommendations from the December 2023 meeting of the Okanagan Senate

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that, with authority delegated by the Board of Governors, the Learning & Research Committee concurs with approvals from the 14 December 2023 meeting of the UBC Okanagan Senate, which the Senate recommends to the Board of Governors for approval: Awards.

10. Recommendations from the January 2024 meeting of the Okanagan Senate

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that, with authority delegated by the Board of Governors, the Learning & Research Committee concurs with approvals from the 25 January 2024 meeting of the Okanagan Senate, which the Okanagan Senate recommends to the Board of Governors for approval: Awards and Curriculum.

CONSENT AGENDA – FOR INFORMATION

The following items were received for information under the Consent Agenda:

11. Recommendations from the November 2023 meeting of the Okanagan Senate

12. Recommendations from the Council of Senates – November 2023

13. Establishment of New Endowments

14. Status Report | Action Items Tracked in 2023