



MEMORANDUM

Date	November 26, 2024
To	Board of Governors
From	Anna Kindler, Chair, Learning & Research Committee
Subject	Chair’s Report to Board from Learning & Research Committee November 20, 2024 Open Session

The Learning & Research Committee met in open session on November 20, 2024. Items approved by the Committee under delegated authority, discussed, or received for information at that meeting are listed under the open Consent Agenda for the December 5, 2024 Board of Governors meeting.

The Committee discussed the following information briefings:

- *10 Years of the Educational Leadership (EL) Stream at UBC: An Impact Study*

The Committee received a presentation summarizing the conclusions of a study examining the impact of 10 years of Educational Leadership stream at UBC. The study results provided evidence that the introduction of the EL Stream has positively influenced teaching quality, curriculum innovation and broader student experience, significantly contributing to UBC’s ability to succeed in its educational mission. It also revealed, however, that with lingering perceptions of disparity in the esteem accorded to EL roles compared to research roles, there is a need for continuing efforts to elevate the status and supports for education-focused roles. The 10 recommendations from the study suggest specific goals and actions for UBC to enable the EL stream to reach its full potential in support of both: our research and teaching excellence.

- *AI @ UBC*

The Committee received a presentation on UBC’s contributions to artificial intelligence (AI) research in Canada, focusing on the Center for Artificial Intelligence Decision-making and Action (CAIDA). The presentation underscored UBC’s capacity to become a leader in this field, including the interdisciplinary nature of the University’s research and scholarship in AI; it suggested concrete ways forward towards the achievement of this goal.

The presentation generated valuable discussion that underscored the importance of AI to UBC’s strategic initiatives and included strong support from the President and the Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Vancouver for UBC to reflect this priority in the Strategic Plan refresh process, currently under way. The commitment to move forward with initiatives that will confirm the University’s national and international leadership role in this program area included plans for the development of a Bachelors of AI program, which would be the first of its kind in Canada.



With authority delegated by the Board of Governors, the Committee approved the following items under the Consent Agenda:

- *Recommendations from the Okanagan Senate – September 2024: Awards*
- *Recommendations from the Vancouver Senate – October 2024: Curriculum and Awards*
- *Recommendations from the Okanagan Senate – October 2024: Awards, Curriculum and establishment of the FortisBC Smart Energy Research Chair*

The Committee received the following briefings under the Consent Agenda for information:

- *Notable Distinctions*
- *Establishment of New Endowments*
- *Report on Revision by the President to Procedures Associated with the Killam Professors Policy (LR6)*
- *Amendments to the Learning & Research Committee Terms of Reference*
- *Committee Action Items Status Report*