



**SENATE ACADEMIC BUILDING NEEDS COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday 15 March 2022 2-3:30 p.m. via Zoom

**Attendance**

**Senators:** Laia Shpeller (Chair), Anisha Sandhu (Vice-Chair), Andre Ivanov, Shaktiraj Kandola, Alex Scott, Jaclyn Stewart

**Guests:** Joanne Proft, Brittany Jang, Gerry McGeough, John Metras, Barbara Gordon

**Regrets:** Adlai Fisher, Ben Fischer, Kate Ross, Richard Topping, Austin Uzama

**Senate Staff:** Michael Jud

**Call to Order** The meeting of the Senate Academic Building Needs Committee (the “Committee”) was called to order at 2:05 p.m. on 15 March 2022 by Laia Shpeller, Chair.

**Agenda** The March 15, 2022 meeting agenda was adopted by general consent.

**Meeting Minutes** The meeting minutes of February 15, 2022 were approved by general consent.

**Campus Vision 2050** The Committee welcomed the following guests to discuss the Campus Vision 2050 project:

- Joanne Proft, Associate Director, Community Planning
- Brittany Jang, Community Planner
- Gerry McGeough, Director Planning and Design

Campus Vision 2050 is a comprehensive 2.5 year public planning process aimed at updating two key land use policy documents on the Vancouver campus. It is envisioned as both a land use planning process and a public engagement process with opportunities to build new relationships with various segments of the campus community. It is an aspirational, high-level vision which will be implemented in a regulatory sense via the campus land use plan.

Campus Vision 2050 will address a broad spectrum of matters of public interest including the spatial layout of campus, areas where growth will be permitted or not permitted, ecology and sustainability, and issues arising from other policy initiatives such as the Housing Action Plan.

The Committee was given an overview of the project’s governance, advisory committee structure, and both internal university stakeholders and broader community stakeholders who will play a role in the planning process. The

Committee was told that community engagement has thus far taken place largely online, and a great deal of feedback has already been submitted focusing on themes such as affordability and accessibility.

The planning process will be informed by key assumptions around UBC's future academic needs, taking into account anticipated enrolment targets, building needs, and related matters. It is expected that the campus will see further residential development, leading to more infrastructure and amenities and a continued flow of development revenues into the endowment.

**Q** The discussion touched on fundamental principles such as "affordability". At what point in the process will there be a concrete definition of such concepts as affordability?

**A** The team plans to undertake further consultation to understand what this and other concepts mean to the UBC community. The plan also contains a number of related processes. The Community Advisory Committee will form a sub-committee to explore the issue of affordability. This topic offers opportunities for community/stakeholder voices to be heard.

**Q** How can SABNC be of assistance in this process? What can the Committee do to help make things faster or more efficient?

**A** Engaging with faculty members can be challenging, so assistance and advice in that area is helpful. It would also be helpful to establish regular check-in with SABNC.

The Committee was asked to comment on how they see the Campus Vision 2050 process intersecting with the mandate of the Committee. It was stated that there is very considerable overlap given that most of the campus consists of academic space. It would be helpful to have a representative from the C+CP team attend Committee meetings in order to facilitate information sharing and provide feedback. It was also stated that the Committee may wish to engage with other Senate Committees around certain issues and bring topics to the full Senate for discussion, and this may inform the Committee's input on certain aspects of the Campus Vision 2050 process.

The Committee undertook to review the stated principles of the Campus Vision 2050 process at the Committee's April 19 meeting and subsequently provide feedback to the C+CP team.

**Facilities Capital  
Planning  
Prioritization**

The Committee welcomed the following guests to discuss the Facilities Capital Planning Prioritization process:

- John Metras, Vice-President, Facilities
- Barbara Gordon, Acting Director, Capital Planning & Strategic Priorities

The Facilities Capital Planning Prioritization process is intended to ensure an up-to-date assessment of the university's capital priorities for internal planning and potential allocation of internal funding. The university also provides an annual shortlist of top priority projects for five-year capital planning to the provincial government for potential funding.



The Committee heard an overview of the criteria employed in project prioritization, comprising both university strategic priorities and operational performance and risk mitigation factors. Based on these criteria, the updated five-year capital plan is proposed to include the following projects:

1. Chemistry Building
2. ICI Building (UBC Okanagan)
3. Math Building
4. Medicine One
5. Applied One

**Q** In the project prioritization scheme, why is it that the magnitude of a project does not seem to weigh in the prioritization process?

**A** The team has sought to employ a needs-based perspective. Consider the example of the Faculty of Medicine- there is a significant need for expensive wet lab facilities. The university does not want to deprioritize projects at this stage due to anticipated costs. The quantitative issue has come up and the executive can take it into account in their decision-making.

**Q** The anticipated completion date of the new Math Building used to be 2026. Has it been pushed back?

**A** It is now 2028. These are notional delivery dates based on when approval may potentially be received. There is also typically many years required to bring a project to fruition once funding and approval are received, so the timelines reflect that.

**Q** Now that we are emerging from the pandemic, how has the experience of COVID-19 altered our trajectory, if at all?

**A** The experience of COVID-19 has got us thinking about whether we can be using our space more efficiently via online learning for example. But many functions absolutely require on-campus presence, e.g. the chemistry labs. But pandemic learnings are being taken into account in the design of new buildings, with more focus on hybrid-learning capabilities.

**Q** The top 5 projects are all related to science disciplines. There does not appear to be any arts representation. Is that something which is considered?

**A** It ultimately comes down to need. Arts has been working with the team to complete upgrades to existing buildings with regular capital funding.

## Annual Report

The Committee will submit an annual report for presentation at the May 18 meeting of Senate. The Committee agreed that it would be desirable for the report to capture the Committee's high-level takeaways from each presentation and how these may inform follow-up actions. The report will be prepared by the Chair with the assistance of Senate Staff.

**Committee Meeting of May 17** The Committee agreed to cancel the meeting of May 17, owing to the fact that the final Senate meeting of 2021-22 takes place on May 18 and the Committee's business for the year will therefore be complete by then.

**Next Meeting** The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Tuesday April 19, 2022 at 2:00pm – 3:30pm.

**Adjournment** The meeting adjourned at 3:26 pm.