



Vancouver Senate

THE FIRST SPECIAL MEETING OF THE VANCOUVER  
SENATE  
FOR THE 2023/2024 ACADEMIC YEAR

**MOMDAY, 3 JUNE 2024**

**12 Noon to 1:15 PM**

**VIA ZOOM**

- 1. Call to Order and Territorial Acknowledgement – Dr Benoit-Antoine Bacon**
- 2. Recommendations from the Senate Agenda Committee for this Meeting – Kamil Kanji**  
(approval) (NB: Requires 2/3rds in favour)
- 3. Remarks from the Chair – Dr Benoit-Antoine Bacon** (information)
- 4. Discussion of the Ongoing Violence in Israel and Palestine and Consideration of a Motion Regarding Cutting or Suspending Academic Ties with Israeli Government Entities (Including Public Universities) – Dr Brenna Bhandar and Jasper Lorien**
  - a) Background Documents Submitted in Response to the Call for Meeting (information)
    - i. Footnotes for the proposed motion
    - ii. Materials from Maya Wind, UBC Anthropology
    - iii. Materials from Neve Gordon, Queen Mary University of London
    - iv. Materials from UBC Faculty and Staff of the Jewish Academic Alliance of BC
    - v. Materials from Tel Aviv University
    - vi. Materials from Alan Jacobs, UBC Political Science
    - vii. Materials from Guy Stecklov, UBC Sociology
    - viii. Materials from Karen Gelmon, UBC Medicine
    - ix. Materials from Michael Hayden, UBC Medical Genetics
    - x. Materials from Naama Koreh, UBC Exchange Student
    - xi. Materials from the Association for Jewish Studies



- xii. Materials from Gregg Gardiner, UBC Mediterranean and Near Eastern Studies
  - xiii. Materials from Francis Andrew, UBC Convocation Member
  - xiv. Materials from Stephen Pelech, UBC Neurology
- b) Motion proposed by Senator Bhandar (approval)

*Whereas the Vancouver Senate has twice previously voted to cut or suspend ties with universities suspected of being connected to violations of human rights and breaches of international law;*

*Whereas the International Court of Justice (ICJ) found, on 26 January 2024, that Israel's actions in the Gaza Strip constitute a plausible risk to the rights of Palestinians to be protected from genocide as per Article III of the Genocide Convention, of which Canada is a signatory;*

*Whereas the ICJ, on 24 May 2024, ordered Israel to immediately halt its military offensive and all other actions in the Rafah Governorate, because "the humanitarian situation [in Rafah] is now to be characterized as disastrous";*

*Whereas the Prosecutor for the International Criminal Court has stated that "Israel has intentionally and systematically deprived the civilian population in all parts of Gaza of objects indispensable to human survival", that this constitutes a "common plan to use starvation as a method of war and other acts of violence against the Gazan civilian population...";*

*Whereas, according to the Independent Experts of the United Nations Human Rights Council, Israel has destroyed civilian educational infrastructure including every university in the Gaza Strip (in whole or in*



*part), libraries, archives, schools, heritage sites, and museums, leaving at least 625,000 students with no access to education;*

*Whereas, according to the Independent Experts of the United Nations Human Rights Council, Israel’s “systematic and widespread destruction of housing, services and civilian infrastructure represents a crime against humanity”;*

*Whereas, according to the Times of Israel, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem suspended Dr. Shalhoub-Kevorkian for speaking against the actions of Israel and, according to Adalah’s Report to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education, hundreds of students in Israel have had disciplinary proceedings taken against them for private social media posts critical of Israel, constituting a violation of academic freedom;*

*Whereas Tel Aviv University, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology have all stated that they have direct ties to the Israeli military, including joint centres, military technology development programs, and/or military training programs;*

*Be it resolved that the Vancouver Senate approve and recommend to the Council of Senates and Board of Governors, as appropriate, the suspension of academic agreements (including but not limited to research agreements and student/faculty mobility agreements) with Israeli government entities, including public universities, for faculties of the Vancouver campus of UBC until further notice. This resolution shall not be taken to affect the academic freedom of individual faculty members to participate in individual research or funding agreements; and*



*Be it further resolved that the Vancouver Senate condemns the actions committed by Hamas on October 7th and supports the ICC investigation into those actions, as well as all peaceful efforts to advocate for the release of the remaining hostages.*

## **5. Adjournment**