



VANCOUVER SENATE

MINUTES OF 19 MARCH 2025

Attendance

Present: B.-A. Bacon (Chair), R. Ng (Secretary), M. Adshade, J. Al Rahmani, F. Andrew, G. Averill, S. Bates, S. Bredin, B. Britton, L. Burr, J. Cool, C. Crowston, D. Dahl, C. Dai, A. d'Entremont, P. Englezos, A. Esteves, G. Faulkner, A. Fisher, D. Fontana, N. Ford, B. Forster, S. Forwell, J. Fox, J. Gilbert, B. Goold, S. Gopalakrishnan, S. W. Graham, P. Harrison, K. Hassib, M. Hirst, A. Ivanov, X. Jiang, K. Kanji, D. Kelleher, D. Kitts, R. Kozak, F. Lalji, S. Lavallee, K. Lo, J. Lorien, M. MacLachlan, C. W. Marshall, S. McGillivray, C. Menzies, L. Moss, S. Parker, S. Pelech, J. Phelps, N. Pindell, I. Price, M. Prost, D. Qi, L. Raman-Wilms, C. Rawn, M. Reid, Ka. Rogers, Ky. Rogers, S. Sherif, S. Singh, R. Spencer, R. Topping, G. Tsiakos, G. Turcotte, A. Uzama, S. Yi-Kieran

Regrets: E. Baniassad, B. Bhandar, K. Doering, A. Dulay, C. Godwin, S. Grayston, J. Greenman, G. Guo, J. Hare, M. Hunt, E. Jenkins, R. Kim, W. Norman, J. Olson, C. Overall, A. Pratap-Singh, J. Rogers, S. Rout, T. Shaikh, H. von Bergmann, J. Xue, W. Zhu, E. Zusman

Clerk: C. Eaton

Call to Order and Territorial Acknowledgement

The Chair of Senate, Dr Benoit-Antoine Bacon, called the seventh meeting of the Senate for the 2024/2025 academic year to order at 6:00 pm and he provided an acknowledgement of the land.

Minutes of Previous Meetings

Jasper Lorien
Solomon Yi-Kieran

*That the minutes of the meeting of 19 February
2025 be approved.*

Approved

Business Arising from the Minutes

The President noted that the Academic Policy Committee had planned for the Academic Freedom policy to be included in the agenda, however, it was still awaiting consideration of some recommendations from the Office of the University Counsel. The President mentioned that the policy should return on the April agenda for approval.



Remarks from the Chair

THANKS TO STUDENT SENATORS COMPLETING THEIR TERMS

The President expressed gratitude on behalf of the Senate and the University to the student members whose terms were ending on March 31, except for Maddie Reid from the Faculty of Education, who would remain until October. He read the names of the student members. The President expressed appreciation for their contributions, emphasizing that the Senate's work would not be possible without the input of students.

GENERAL REMARKS

The President noted that the introduction of tariffs from the United States, along with the ongoing global economic uncertainty, had contributed to an unstable international situation. The President stated that it was too early to determine the direct impact of these tariffs on the University, but that the University was monitoring the situation closely and maintaining a fiscally cautious approach.

The agenda for the evening included an in-camera discussion of the proposed 2025-2026 university budget, which would be presented to the board next week. The President highlighted that the University was facing a challenging fiscal context, a situation shared by all post-secondary institutions in Canada. He explained that international student policy changes, heightened competition in the sector, and global economic pressures were affecting international student enrolment. The relationship with India was identified as a significant factor in this issue. Additionally, the inflationary cost pressures on existing operations had led the University to adopt a more conservative approach to financial planning, focusing on careful decision-making.

The University's academic and operational units were said to be actively managing resources, with an emphasis on long-term planning to ensure financial sustainability. The focus moving forward would be on advancing the core mission of teaching, learning, and research. Despite the fiscal pressures, the President expressed optimism about planning for a balanced budget for 2025-2026 and thanked everyone who contributed to the budget planning process.

The President also mentioned that the University's strategic plan refresh was timely, given the current fiscal challenges. The refreshed plan would guide the University for the next three to five years, defining priorities and actions to remain responsive to the community's needs and ensure its academic, social, and financial success in an evolving global and local context.

The President briefly noted that events that were part of the Vancouver Whistler Invictus Games had taken place on campus the previous month, with swimming events held at the UBC Aquatic



Centre. The President expressed inspiration from witnessing the athletes' recovery journeys and thanked the volunteers who helped make the event a success.

Senator Singh acknowledged that the 2025-2026 budget forecast appeared to be balanced at the moment but inquired whether the current information about the tariffs, both from the USA and Canada, was sufficient for the University to make decisions on how the tariffs might impact the budget. He further asked if more information was needed regarding the tariffs set to take effect on April 2nd and whether there might be additional budgetary pressures from the government that could affect the amount of funding the University would receive.

The Provost responded that there had been unexpected variances in both the previous and current years. In the previous year, decisions by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada had been made after tuition levels were set, which resulted in a lower than anticipated revenue from tuition. This year, they had expected a lower final count of revenue from tuition as well. Despite these challenges, the Provost noted that the University's budget had enough resiliency to adapt. While the direct effects of the tariffs were expected to be relatively small, the Provost acknowledged that the second-order effects were harder to predict.

Awards Committee

The Chair of the Senate Awards Committee, Dr Larry Burr, presented.

NEW AWARDS AND CHANGES TO EXISTING AWARDS

See Appendix A: Awards Report

Larry Burr
Joseph Al Rahmani

That the Senate approve the new and revised awards as listed, that they be forwarded to the Board of Governors for approval and that letters of thanks be sent to the donors.

Senator Pelech noted the discussion from the last meeting of Senate regarding one international student in the dental medicine program. He was expressed confusion about the details, as he understood that the Faculty of Dentistry originally planned to admit a larger number of students but had to reduce the intake due to capacity limitations. He noted that the current awards documentation suggested the possibility of expanding the program to admit more international students, which led him to ask for clarification.

Dean Esteves responded that there were no plans to admit additional international students. She explained that the program typically admitted one to two international



students per year, depending on eligibility. This practice had been ongoing for years, with funds accumulated from tuition paid by international students, which had not been specifically allocated for the Faculty until now. She confirmed that the creation of the awards was a result of this accumulated funding. Looking ahead, she stated that the program would likely continue to admit one or two international students per year, with a maximum of eight seats available for international students in total. She also mentioned that there were existing awards for domestic students and explained that the funding for international students would be in line with those awards.

Approved

The Clerk reminded the assembly of the proper procedure for voting online.

Curriculum Committee

The Chair of the Senate Curriculum Committee, Dr Catherine Rawn, presented.

CURRICULUM PROPOSAL

See Appendix B: Curriculum Report

Catherine Rawn
Marina Adshade

That the Senate approves and recommends to the Board of Governors for approval the new course brought forward by Enrolment Services.

Senator Menzies asked for clarification, whether the course was being created due to a technical error relating to Workday.

The Registrar clarified that it was not a technical error but rather a limitation in the system.

Approved

JOINT SENATE POLICY J-126: DEGREE, DIPLOMA, AND CERTIFICATE NAMES AND PARCHMENTS

Catherine Rawn
Simon Bates

That the Senate approves Policy J-126: Degree, Diploma, and Certificate Names and Parchments, effective 1 April 2025.



Senator Pelech noted that he was on the Academic Policy Committee and believed he had not reviewed the document. He inquired whether the decision for a certificate to be printed in an Indigenous language was determined by the program itself or if it was at the request of the student.

Senator Rawn responded, stating that this policy fell under the terms of reference of the Senate Curriculum Committee. Therefore, it had not passed through the Academic Policy Committee but through the Curriculum Committee. She explained that the Indigenous language aspect applied to the degree title itself. She added that, to her knowledge, there were several degree programs with Indigenous languages in the title.

Senator Pelech clarified that he did not have an issue with the matter but emphasized that it should be at the discretion of the student. He explained that some students might prefer to have their degree in English. He asked if students had the option to request the degree in either the Indigenous language or in English.

The Clerk responded by clarifying that it was not a case of translation. The degree names, in this context, only included an Indigenous word for the language itself. For example, the Bachelor of Nsyilxcn Language Fluency included a word that had no English translation.

Approved

Joint Report of the Admissions and Curriculum Committee

The Chair of the Senate Curriculum Committee, Dr Catherine Rawn, presented.

Larry Burr
J. Al Rahmani

That the Senate approves and recommends to the Board of Governors for approval the new sub-specialization and discontinued program brought forward by the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (Medicine).

Senator Pelech noted the typical requirement of four years for the Ph.D. program. He clarified that in general, Ph.D. programs allow students to graduate earlier, especially if they enter with a Master's degree, as he believed was anticipated for this program. He suggested that it might be better to say it "typically takes 4 years" rather than "typically requires 4 years" to improve the wording. He also pointed out that many students in the program would have already completed a



Master's in genetics and would be able to take other courses. However, he noted that a core course, MEDG_V 596 was required.

Dr Alison Elliott agreed to adjust the wording from “required” to “typically” for the four-year timeline, as suggested. Dr Elliott clarified that the Ph.D. program in genetic counseling was thesis-based, not a clinical doctorate, and while four years was typical, she was open to the wording change. She further explained that MEDG_V 596, which focused on advanced topics in genetic and genomic counseling research, was designed as a comprehensive look into various areas of genetics. This course was particularly relevant for individuals who had completed the M.Sc. in Genetic Counseling at the University. Dr Elliott highlighted that MEDG_V 596 would cover genetic counseling research, decision-making, ethical issues, and health implementation science. She also emphasized that, in alignment with the University’s Indigenous Strategic Plan, it was required for students in this course to complete either the PHSA San’yas Anti-Racism Indigenous Cultural Safety Training or the UBC Indigenous Cultural Safety Program, UBC 23 24.

Senator Graham stated that after reviewing the document, he had questions regarding the curriculum, as it appeared to be summarized and not fully detailed. He questioned whether the program was primarily research-focused rather than being aimed at training practitioners. Senator Graham clarified that while he assumed the program focused on research, he was concerned about the potential effects of research on clinical practice. He further expressed concern that genetics, being quite mathematical, presents challenges when communicating complex concepts, such as false positives and false negatives, to patients. He pointed out that such concepts, which often require Bayesian thinking, are difficult to communicate.

He referenced a bullet point in the document regarding the ability to communicate but questioned whether the document specified to whom these communication skills were intended. He asked whether the curriculum was designed to teach communication with colleagues or with members of the public. Additionally, he asked about the role of mathematics in the curriculum, questioning the importance of a strong understanding of math either as a prerequisite or as part of the program itself.

Dr Elliott explained that to be eligible for the program, applicants must already be genetic counselors. She emphasized that the mathematical concepts related to genetics, such as Bayesian thinking, are integral to their training, which enables genetic counselors to effectively practice and communicate these complex ideas both to patients and colleagues.

Senator Graham noted the topic of Indigenous data sovereignty. He noted that this issue has gained attention in the medical field and expressed his belief that it has not yet been fully



addressed, though it will be very important in the future. He asked if the curriculum would account for these concerns.

Dr Elliott acknowledged its importance. She mentioned that one of the program's letters of support came from Dr Laura Arbour, a Professor in the Department of Medical Genetics and the project lead for the Silent Genomes Project, a Genome Canada-funded project that focuses on Indigenous data sovereignty. Dr Elliott assured Senator Graham that Indigenous data sovereignty would be a key topic covered in the program, specifically in the course MEDG_V 596. She further noted that their department was in the process of recruiting an Indigenous genetic research lead, who would oversee research related to Indigenous concerns, including data sovereignty.

Senator Hirst inquired about the restrictions on where the degree would be offered. He noted that medical genetics is available in Vancouver and several institutes. He also mentioned that the Silent Genome Project involves medical geneticists at BC Cancer, the Genome Sciences Centre, and on campus. He inquired about the language stating that the degree would primarily be offered at BC Children's Hospital and BC Women's Hospital, wondering if there was a specific reason for this and whether it could be pitched more broadly.

Dr Elliott explained that she understood the pan-Canadian importance, particularly in relation to the Indigenous component and the Silent Genomes Project. She added that most researchers in genetic counseling are based at the BC Children's Hospital or BC Women's Hospital but clarified that the degree was not restricted to those locations. She also mentioned that the location would not limit potential thesis topics.

Approved

Nominating Committee

The Chair of the Senate Nominating Committee, Dr Ben Britton, presented.



Ben Britton
Charles Menzies

That HsingChi von Bergmann and Joseph Al Rahmani be appointed to the Provost's Working Group on Global Engagement and Partnerships;

That Jan Hare, George Tsiakos and Jasper Lorien be appointed to the President's Advisory Committee for the Selection of a Senior Advisor and Associate Vice-President, Indigenous Affairs;

That Anubhav Pratap-Singh and Chunping Dai be appointed to the Senate Admissions Committee until 31 August 2026 and thereafter until replaced, to fill vacancies; and

That Bruce Forster be appointed to the Senate Awards Committee until 31 August 2026 and thereafter until replaced, to replace Chris Overall.

The Clerk noted that there was still one vacancy on the President's Advisory Committee. The Clerk mentioned that no expressions of interest has been received. The Clerk added that if anyone was interested, they could express their interest now or let the Clerk know by tomorrow.

Approved

Senator Britton mentioned that the appointments to standing committees for Senators were being reviewed. He explained that Senators typically sit on two or more committees of the Senate. He noted that there would be a few more adjustments in this cycle and thanked everyone for their diligent hard work on all the standing committees.

Report from the Provost

The Provost, Dr Gage Averill, presented.

STRATEGIC PLAN REFRESH

Vice-President Research and Innovation Dr Gail Murphy noted that the review was at a pivotal point in the process of setting priorities for the University, which would guide the next three to five years towards the University's long-term Campus Vision 2050. She reminded the Senate that the first step in the process had been a visioning exercise to imagine what the University should look like in 2050. The current step involved determining the priorities for the near term,



with a focus on setting a path that would lead the University in the right direction, although the full vision would not be realized immediately.

Dr Murphy stressed that the refresh was not meant to replace existing Faculty-level or institutional plans but to augment areas that may not have received enough focus. The refresh would primarily focus on the academic and research missions of the University. She added that metrics would be defined along the way to track progress.

Dr Murphy presented the process timeline, noting that it began last spring, with a team reviewing pressures on post-secondary institutions and understanding the status of various Faculty plans. She mentioned that the Senate was now at the stage of reviewing the priorities, and the next step would be to come back to the Senate with a narrative next month, followed by seeking endorsement of the plan in May.

Dr Murphy referenced several institutional plans, highlighting that these would continue alongside the refresh. She clarified that these ongoing plans were not being replaced, but their activities were being considered in the development of the new priorities.

Dr Murphy showed 16 themes that had emerged from the 2050 visioning. The heat map illustrated where existing plans intersected with the themes, with the areas of opportunity for focus shown in light blue. She noted that the themes of research excellence and teaching and learning excellence were key areas of focus.

Dr Murphy explained that the next task was to identify the priorities, noting that this phase involved hard work. She provided an example of what a priority could look like, such as leading in AI. She explained that such a priority would involve a number of actions over the next three to five years, including infrastructure development to support teaching and research in AI.

Dr Murphy emphasized that while the priorities were being discussed, these were not yet finalized. She mentioned that the priorities had already been shared with multiple bodies and academic leaders, and feedback had been gathered from student leaders. The Senate's input was considered one of the most important parts of the process. She presented the priorities in bold, explaining that the Senate's feedback would help refine and finalize them.

The President thanked Dr Murphy for her presentation and opened the floor for comments and questions.

Senator Drédyn Fontana raised a question about how the narrative of the strategic plan would be integrated into the existing plans across the campuses, particularly the Faculty plans. He pointed out that with changes in international student enrolment affecting Faculty budgets and the focus on the academic mission, it seemed important to align the Faculty missions with the overarching narrative of the University's strategic plan.



The President responded by acknowledging that cascading the University's goals throughout the Faculties was an essential part of the process. He noted that action plans would allow faculties to bring forward their existing work and adapt it to align with the broader goals of the University. These actions would be tracked annually to measure progress.

The Provost added that all Faculty plans developed in the past five years had been done in alignment with the University's strategic plan, and this refresh would be similarly built on top of that foundation. He suggested that the strategic plan refresh and the Faculty plans could be interwoven in a way that would be mutually supportive, creating a productive flow of ideas and actions between the Faculties and central plans.

Senator Sean Graham mentioned the ongoing conversation at the University and across Canada about the need to better translate research into real-world impact. He noted that substantial investment at the Federal Government-level had been directed towards this goal, but some believed that it had come at the expense of fundamental research. He questioned whether fundamental research would be neglected in this approach, emphasizing that interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary, and cross-disciplinary research all relied on strong foundational research. He suggested that to maintain strength in these areas, fundamental, discovery-based research must be supported.

Senator Graham then expressed concern about the potential risks associated with the integration of AI and emerging technologies across various sectors. He raised the idea that some might view AI as potentially civilization-ending, although he acknowledged that this might be an extreme perspective. He questioned whether enough attention was being given to the risks associated with embracing such technologies, and whether the identification and mitigation of these risks were explicitly addressed.

Dr Murphy responded by assuring Senator Graham that the priorities discussed were not intended to shift the focus away from fundamental research. She agreed that fundamental research forms the foundation for interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary, and multidisciplinary work, especially in addressing complex global issues. Dr Murphy acknowledged the concerns raised during consultations about the rapid adoption of new technologies. She emphasized that the approach to emerging technologies would not be purely technological but would also consider social implications, climate impacts, and risks, as Senator Graham had highlighted. She mentioned that they were working on refining the wording to ensure that the approach would be thoughtful and reflective of the broader implications of embracing these technologies, including their impact on civilization.

Senator Steven Pelech expressed concerns that were echoed by Senator Graham. He asked about the 16 themes listed by level of planned activity. He inquired whether there was an opportunity



to quantify the comments that had been collected, particularly in relation to the overall priorities in these areas.

Senator Pelech mentioned that the chart appeared to focus on highlighting areas with more planned activity. He pointed out that teaching, research, and student experience were fundamental, especially in terms of preparing students for careers after graduation. He noted that these areas seemed to be lower priorities in comparison to those marked in dark blue, and he sought clarification on this.

Dr Murphy responded by explaining the rationale behind the heat map, noting that it was designed to reflect two main points. First, it aimed to show that there had been a bottom-up analysis of the data from the 1,691 participants and 5,900 data points. Second, it illustrated the alignment of these themes with existing institutional and Faculty plans. She clarified that the darkest blue areas represented activities already ongoing, while the lighter blue areas indicated where planned activity was less evident. She explained that the focus of priorities was on addressing these lighter blue areas, but acknowledged that many priorities spanned across multiple themes, making the visual representation difficult.

Senator Pelech mentioned that he would have preferred to see a summary of the priorities as identified by those who had been consulted. He understood the challenge in analyzing the data, but he felt that the chart did not convey a clear sense of the overall desires or interests of the individuals who provided feedback.

Dr Murphy directed Senator Pelech to additional descriptions of the themes, as articulated by those involved in the first phase of consultation. She suggested that these descriptions might provide more insight into the feedback.

Senator Pelech acknowledged Dr Murphy's suggestion but noted that the descriptions were separate from one another. He indicated that it would have been more useful to see a summary in relation to the 1,691 individuals who had been consulted.

Senator Catherine Rawn mentioned that she read the document through the lens of the Senate Curriculum Committee Chair and the Faculty Curriculum Chair, positions she had held over the past seven years. She also previously served as the Chair of a departmental curriculum committee. With this background, she approached the discussion on advancing decolonization and reconciliation. She acknowledged that much activity was already taking place, especially within the curriculum committees. She referred to the academic and research priorities and actions for the short and medium term, observing that about a third of the sub-recommendations and sub-plans seemed to be curriculum-related and would pass through multiple layers of curriculum committees before reaching the Senate. She highlighted that this was not a criticism of the plan but raised a concern about the implementation resources, particularly regarding Senate staff. She expressed appreciation for the final recommendation about improving



institutional agility related to internal processes, including curriculum change, admissions, and recruitment, but pointed out that such changes would fall under the Senate Curriculum Committee's purview. She noted, however, that there was not enough capacity to implement these changes while managing the ongoing workload. She emphasized that the document's proposals could add to the current volume of work and wanted to bring attention to the workload involved in making these changes, especially for staff and committee members.

Dr Murphy acknowledged Senator Rawn's concerns. She mentioned that consideration was being given to what the implementation process might look like, including how to balance agility, nimbleness, and workload issues. She noted that the intention was to design an implementation approach that worked within existing processes. Dr Murphy agreed that feedback would be essential to make the process workable, emphasizing that without this, the team could become overwhelmed by the weight of the changes. She acknowledged the need for realism in how quickly various actions could be implemented.

Senator Charles Menzies made an observation and raised a question that built upon the previous comments made by Senator Rawn. He stated that he had two points to address. First, he expressed concern about the practicality of the plan. He noted that there seemed to be numerous requests for additional work from individuals who were already overwhelmed with their current responsibilities. He pointed out that, despite having a balanced budget and a legislative requirement to avoid a deficit, the financial shortfall in some Faculties was more severe than in others. Senator Menzies attributed part of this issue to the reliance on international student fees to cover funding gaps. He emphasized that the plan required a significant amount of additional work but did not provide sufficient resources, such as funding, time release, or staff support, to ensure successful implementation. He questioned whether the plan would be effective or if it would simply transform the appearance of the University's work without achieving any meaningful progress. He noted that unless proper support was provided, the plan would be no different from past strategic initiatives that ultimately fell short.

Senator Menzies raised a second observation, regarding the overall direction of the plan. He suggested that the plan was based on a globalizing, expansionist mindset, focused on constant progress and growth. Senator Menzies questioned whether this was the right approach, suggesting that perhaps it was time to focus on the things that had proven effective rather than embracing new initiatives without considering their real-world implications. He suggested that the plan reflected a broader ideological commitment to continuous discovery, which may not be the solution to the pressing problems of the modern world. Instead, he advocated for a slower, more thoughtful pace of change, one that valued the wisdom and practices embedded in long-standing traditions and knowledge.

Dr Murphy explained that the priorities outlined in the plan had emerged from a bottom-up process, involving input from various levels within the institution. She clarified that the plan was not imposed from the top down but was reflective of what had been communicated by different parts of the university community. Dr Murphy acknowledged



that there were already ongoing initiatives related to the plan. She suggested that resources could be found to support faculty in implementing new initiatives without requiring them to take on additional, unmanageable work.

Senator Simon Bates explained that workshops related to new technologies and pedagogies had been running for over two years. He emphasized that these workshops were consistently the highest attended sessions offered by CTLT, indicating strong interest from faculty members. He clarified that the goal was not to expect every faculty member to become an expert in new tools but rather to offer support and resources to help them integrate these tools into their courses where appropriate. Senator Bates noted that even experts in fields like computer science were struggling to keep up with the pace of change in technology. He noted the importance of retaining the challenge of learning, even as new tools made certain aspects of teaching more frictionless. He stated that it was up to individual faculty members to determine whether and how these tools should be used in their teaching.

Senator Ben Britton expressed that it would be a delight if Dr Murphy could join the Senate as a member but acknowledged that having her as a guest was equally appreciated.

Senator Britton noted the Canadian Foundation for Innovation, which supports major infrastructure funding to foster regrowth, new opportunities, and provide training and educational resources. He emphasized that the case studies presented at the event highlighted cross-disciplinary aspects, which were also evident in the report that was shared with the Senate.

Senator Britton suggested that there could be small adjustments to the campus strengths to incentivize cross-campus and faculty opportunities. He explained that those working from the ground up to build infrastructure investments often face challenges in facilitating cross-Faculty discussions and establishing incentives. He proposed that creating structures to support the translation of ideas between different groups could help improve the success of significant grant proposals. This, in turn, would support the collective mission of all members. He suggested that facilitating these opportunities would strengthen the relationships between the Vancouver and Okanagan campuses.

Dr Murphy responded by reminding the group about the mobility grants available to encourage interaction between the two campuses, at least on a research basis.

Senator Jenny Phelps spoke about the first priority of increasing flexibility for learners. She acknowledged and supported the concept of offering more flexible academic pathways. She noted that students wanted their learning to be personalized to their situations and ambitions. She also highlighted that this would become increasingly important as the university aimed to reach a more diverse group of learners, especially those working to upskill.



Senator Phelps expressed appreciation for the specific focus on flexible pathways aimed at supporting students interested in addressing global challenges. She mentioned that many students wanted to use their education to make a positive impact. She recognized synergies between the priorities of experiential learning opportunities, discovering and innovating for impact, and partnering for purpose.

Senator Phelps urged caution when thinking about developing these flexible pathways. She emphasized the importance of being thoughtful, realistic, and consultative, particularly regarding the administrative and systems burdens that come with increased flexibility. She pointed out that the University had a high volume of learners and programs, which required a certain level of structure, predictability, and standardization to ensure that workloads and systems remained functional and manageable. She also noted that the staff complement was under significant pressure, with the University currently undergoing an efficiency drive.

Senator Phelps cautioned that flexibility needed to be well-structured and manageable. She explained that what some people referred to as “administrative bloat” was actually the result of the high degree of heterogeneity across programs and departments and differing ways of doing things. She acknowledged that there was often a lack of appetite for standardization, though this was sometimes for good reasons. She remarked that flexibility and efficiency could sometimes be at odds with each other.

She stated that while she was conceptually supportive of flexible programming, it needed to be approached strategically and with a broad understanding of the academic and administrative resources required for its success.

Dr Murphy thanked Senator Phelps.

Senator Laura Moss expressed her appreciation for the aspirational aspect of the document, emphasizing its strategic nature. She stated that she would like to see the limitations of AI represented. Senator Moss mentioned that they had heard both the benefits and limitations of AI from faculty members, particularly regarding academic misconduct and the fact that AI is a constantly evolving issue. She pointed out that many colleagues do not embrace emerging technologies due to the added workload and the unpredictable nature of AI. Senator Moss suggested that the document should recognize these limitations, as it seems to overlook the real challenges. She shared her experience from a meeting the previous day, where instructors discussed strategic ways to address AI use by students in the classroom, highlighting the rapid growth of reliance on technologies.

Dr Murphy acknowledged Senator Moss’s point, confirming that they had been working on incorporating language that addresses these concerns.

Senator Santokh Singh raised a question regarding the priorities listed in the document, particularly focusing on priority number two, which involved expanding student experiential



learning opportunities, and priority number five, which focused on expanding research opportunities. He noted that undergraduate students had been facing limitations due to a shortage of professors and limited courses available to them. Senator Singh shared his experience of providing such opportunities in his lab and courses for the past 25 years but stressed that scaling these opportunities was a significant challenge. He explained that these activities were expensive, particularly in the lab, and required considerable time from professors and instructors. Senator Singh suggested that while these priorities were important, more work was needed to clarify how to scale them and whether sufficient funding would be available to support this aspect.

Dr Murphy responded by noting that they had been working on consolidating research opportunities into other categories in an effort to streamline the priorities. She acknowledged Senator Singh's points, emphasizing the importance of looking at experiential learning both within and outside the classroom. Dr Murphy highlighted that students had expressed a strong desire to gain career development skills as they prepared to leave university.

Senator Solomon Yi-Kieran expressed appreciation for the focus on students being a top priority in the strategic plan, especially in terms of access, experiential learning, and research. However, he raised a concern regarding the section about increasing flexibility for learners. He noted that while the plan mentions access for students at different life stages and locations, it lacks specific language addressing students with disabilities or those with different levels of need. He inquired if the goal was to improve accessibility for students with disabilities at the University and whether the current wording adequately reflected this, or if changes would be needed.

Dr Murphy responded, explaining that the wording was being edited to ensure that the plan reflects the inclusion of diverse learners. She mentioned that they were revising the language to focus on "diverse learners" instead of specifying particular pathways, to address the concerns raised.

Senator Kamil Kanji expressed appreciation for the focus on traditional academic priorities. He highlighted the importance of expanding the focus to include the overall student experience, such as access to food security initiatives, housing supports, and other ancillary services. He suggested that incorporating these aspects into the strategic priorities would ensure that the University meets its commitments to support students academically and beyond.

The President noted the importance of housing and transportation priorities. He mentioned the ambition for student housing and other housing initiatives on campus, as part of the Campus Vision 2050, and the goal of bringing the Skytrain to the University. However, he questioned whether this should be part of the current strategic plan refresh or be addressed separately.



Dr Murphy added that student leaders had expressed the need to think holistically about students' experiences, including accessibility to the University, affordability, and support both in and out of the classroom. She assured that these aspects were being deeply considered in the planning process.

Senator Paul Harrison expressed his appreciation for the process so far and the enthusiasm of those involved, but noted that he was missing a clear vision of how the University would stand out in 2050. He stated that while there were many good ideas, he did not yet see the overarching vision that would position the University as a leader in the future.

Dr Murphy responded that the narrative for the strategic plan would be revealed in April, offering more clarity on the vision for Senate to review.

The President acknowledged that the next Senate meeting would likely feature the vision for the University's future. He thanked everyone for their contributions to the discussion and commended the quality of the process, emphasizing that there were still two months to finalize the plan.

Other Business

APPOINTMENT TO PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Senator Ben Britton, the Chair of the Nominating Committee, confirmed that in response to the call for expressions of interest to serve on the President's Advisory Committee for the Selection of a Senior Advisor and Associate Vice-President, Indigenous Affairs, Senator Sean Graham expressed interest in serving.

Ben Britton
Mark MacLachlan

That Sean Graham be appointed to the President's Advisory Committee for the Selection of a Senior Advisor and Associate Vice-President, Indigenous Affairs.

Approved

MOTION ON INSTITUTIONAL NEUTRALITY

Senator Paul Harrison explained that after further consideration and consultation with several colleagues, he and his colleagues had concluded that the issue could be better addressed in other venues. He also stated that Senate could use its valuable time to focus on more pressing matters.



He mentioned that the Provost had posted a statement titled “Guidance on Ongoing Collegial Discussions,” which addressed the essence of institutional neutrality. The Provost had also indicated a willingness to consider suggestions for strengthening the statement, providing one venue for pursuing this matter. Senator Harrison further noted that the Senate needed to prioritize important issues, such as finishing the consideration of a revised policy on academic freedom, which he hoped would come to the Senate next month.

He expressed concern about rapidly emerging threats to academic freedom, both in teaching and research, from political forces outside of Canada, and potentially from within. He also noted the importance of responding effectively to the numerous recommendations in the report on the *External Review of the Vancouver Senate*, which had been presented to the Senate a year ago.

With general consent, Senator Harrison withdrew his motion.

The President thanked Senator Harrison for his comments.

IN CAMERA – Provost and Vice-President, Academic – Dr Gage Averill

2025-2026 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Adjournment

Seeing no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.



Appendix A: Awards Report

Daniel C. Lee and Family Award in Law

Awards totalling \$2,000 have been made available through an endowment established by Daniel C. Lee (Lǐ Chāng Hóng) (B.B.A., J.D.) and Tianyi Song (B.Com.), CPHR, in honour of Daniel's parents Peter Lee and Bi Juan Li, for J.D. students entering their second year, who are the first in their family to attend law school. Preference will be given to students with an interest in immigration law. Daniel is a partner at Fasken, practicing corporate immigration law. He was recognized as one of the Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers by Canadian Lawyer Magazine for his volunteer work and contribution to the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET), which helps Ukrainians fleeing conflict, immigrate to Canada. This award recognizes the silent support his parents and family provided throughout his educational journey, enabling Daniel to become the first in his family to earn a Juris Doctor degree. He hopes to inspire students to strive for excellence and pursue their dreams. The awards are made on the recommendation of the Peter A. Allard School of Law. (First award available for the 2025/2026 winter session).

George McWhirter Award for Poetry Translation into English

Awards totalling \$1,750 have been made available through an endowment established by George and Angela McWhirter for undergraduate students majoring in Creative Writing or Master of Fine Arts students specializing in Creative Writing who have completed an outstanding translation of a published work of poetry into English. The translated work must be from poetry in languages other than English. Preference will be given to students in literary translation courses or workshops offered by the School of Creative Writing. This award celebrates George McWhirter winning the Griffin Poetry Prize in 2024 for his translation into English of *Self-Portrait in the Zone of Silence* by the Mexican poet, Homero Aridjis. The awards are made on the recommendation of the School of Creative Writing, and in the case of graduate students, in consultation with the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. (First award available for the 2025/2026 winter session).

Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences Prize

Two prizes of \$875 each have been made available through an endowment established by an anonymous donor, along with matching funds from the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, for the top student in each of the graduating classes of the Entry-to-Practice Doctor of Pharmacy program and the Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Sciences program. The awards are made on the recommendation of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences. (First award available for the 2024/2025 Winter Session).



NEW AWARDS – ANNUAL

Chemistry Graduate Summer Student Research Award

Awards totalling \$2,000 have been made available annually through gifts from faculty members, staff members, emeriti and alumni within the Department of Chemistry for graduate students studying chemistry who are engaged in summer research and do not hold other major awards (e.g. NSERC). The awards are made on the recommendation of Department of Chemistry, in consultation with the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. (First award available for the 2024/2025 Summer session).

Dr. Jill McEwen Memorial Award in Emergency Medicine

A \$5,000 award has been made available annually through a gift from the McEwen Family Charitable Trust, in memory of Dr. Jill McEwen, for an outstanding fourth-year M.D. student who demonstrates an interest in emergency medicine. Dr. McEwen served as Director of the Undergraduate Medical Education program for the Department of Emergency Medicine for 35 years, expanding UBC's emergency medicine clerkship rotation across the province to expose students to diverse clinical settings. She was Assistant Dean for UBC's M.D. Undergraduate Program (2013–2016) and contributed significantly to curriculum renewal. A longstanding member of the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians (CAEP), Dr. McEwen served on its board of directors, was CAEP President and in 2019, received CAEP's highest honor, the President's Award, for her contributions to the field. The award is made on the recommendation of the Department of Emergency Medicine. (First award available for the 2024/2025 winter session).

Rabiei Family Centennial Scholars Award

Renewable entrance awards totalling \$160,000 have been made available annually for outstanding students of Iranian heritage entering an undergraduate program directly from secondary school or transferring from another post-secondary institution. Recipients are academically qualified and would not be able to attend UBC without financial assistance. In addition to academic merit, consideration is given to qualities such as leadership skills, community service and recognized extra-curricular achievement. Subject to continued good academic standing, the awards will be renewed for a further three years of study or until the first undergraduate degree is obtained (whichever comes first). The awards are made on the recommendation of the Centennial Scholars Entrance Award Committee. (First award available for the 2025/2026 winter session).

Douglas E. Rickson Award in Forestry

Awards totalling \$4,000 have been made available annually through a gift from Suyin Lee, in memory of Douglas E. Rickson (1933–2022), for undergraduate students studying forest



resource management or forest operations and who are in good academic standing. Financial need may be considered. Doug earned a Bachelor of Science in Forestry from UBC in 1956, and a Master of Forestry from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1991. After seven years with the B.C. Forest Service, he joined Canfor in 1964 as a forester. He later advanced to Chief Forester, then Vice-President and Chief Forester of Canadian Forest Products Ltd., and eventually Vice-President and Chief Forester of Canfor Corporation, where he also served as an officer of the Corporation and a member of the President's Committee. The awards are made on the recommendation of the Faculty of Forestry. (First award available for the 2025/2026 winter session).

Roper Greyell LLP Award in Law

Awards totalling \$5,000 have been made available annually through a gift from Roper Greyell LLP for outstanding J.D. students entering second-year who demonstrate an interest in workplace law through their studies, work, volunteer experience or extracurricular activities. Ordinarily, one student will receive the award each year. Roper Greyell LLP is a specialty boutique law firm focused on workplace law, including employment and labour matters. Roper Greyell is establishing this award to support and inspire future legal professionals who are committed to advancing the practice of workplace law. The awards are made on the recommendation of the Peter A. Allard School of Law. (First award available for the 2025/2026 winter session).

Spur Innovation Centre Award in Computer Science

Awards totalling \$5,000 have been made available annually through a gift from Spur Innovation Centre for graduate students in the Department of Computer Science undertaking research related to artificial intelligence and/or quantum computing. Based in Waterloo, ON, Spur Innovation Centre is a company focused on technological advancement and innovation. The awards are made on the recommendation of the Department of Computer Science, in consultation with the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. (First award available for the 2025/2026 winter session).

W. J. Stankiewicz Memorial Award in Political Science

Awards totalling \$40,000 have been made available annually through a gift from the estate of Dr. Marketa Goetz-Stankiewicz (1927–2022), in memory of Dr. W. J. Stankiewicz (1922–2006), for outstanding graduate students in the Department of Political Science. Dr. Stankiewicz, a political philosopher, was a professor at UBC from 1957 until his retirement in 1987. His academic work included several books on democracy, foreign policy, institutional change in Poland, ideologies and the importance of political theory. He married Dr. Goetz-Stankiewicz, who was a professor emerita in the Department of Central, Eastern and Northern European Studies at UBC, in 1965. The awards are made on the recommendation of the Department Political Science, in



consultation with the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. (First award available for the 2025/2026 winter session).

Dr. Y-Dang Troeung Memorial Award

Awards totalling \$2,000 have been made available annually through gifts from friends, family and colleagues, in memory of Dr. Y-Dang Troeung (1980–2022), for outstanding undergraduate students in the Faculty of Arts studying race and migration. Preference will be given to students engaged in critical refugee studies and/ or histories, theories and cultural expressions of the Global South. Born in a refugee camp after her family fled Cambodia, Dr. Troeung (B.A., M.A. Ph.D.) immigrated to Canada with her family. After completing her Ph.D. in English Literature, she began her academic career as an assistant professor at City University in Hong Kong before joining UBC as an assistant professor with the Department of English Language and Literatures in 2018. Her research spanned transnational Asian literatures, critical refugee studies, global south studies, and critical disability studies. Drawing from personal experience, she authored the multi-award-winning scholarly book *Refugee Lifeworlds: The Afterlife of the Cold War in Cambodia* and her memoir *Landbridge: Life in Fragments* which stands as a courageous work of life writing. This award is a tribute to Dr. Troeung’s enduring legacy, celebrating her scholarly contributions and her dedication to student mentorship. The awards are made on the recommendation of the Department of English Language and Literatures. (First award available for 2025/2026 winter session).

NEW AWARDS – INTERNAL

Doctor of Dental Medicine Achievement Award for Continuing International Students

Awards totalling up to the full cost of tuition have been made available annually for continuing international students in the Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.M.D.) program. Recipients must have previously completed at least 24 credits towards their degree or meet the requirements of the DMD Program, demonstrate academic achievement and engagement with their program. The awards are distributed on a one-time basis and cannot be renewed. The awards are made on the recommendation of the Faculty of Dentistry in consultation with the International Student Initiative. (First award available for the 2025/2026 winter session).

Doctor of Dental Medicine Major Entrance Scholarship for International Students

Renewable scholarships totalling up to the full cost of tuition have been made available annually for outstanding international students entering the Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.M.D.) program. Recipients must demonstrate exceptional academic achievement and promise, and extracurricular and community involvement. The scholarships are renewable for up to three years (first-year award plus three additional years) or until the program is completed (whichever is the shorter period), provided the student continues to meet the continuing student standing requirements of the Faculty of Dentistry and maintains their status as an international student in Canada. The



awards are made on the recommendation of the Faculty of Dentistry in consultation with the International Student Initiative. (First award available for the 2025/2026 winter session).

Doctor of Dental Medicine Continuation Award for International Students

Awards totalling up to the full cost of tuition have been made available annually for international students enrolled in the Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.M.D.) program who fail to meet the renewal criteria for the Doctor of Dental Medicine Major Entrance Scholarship for International Students and have experienced circumstances that affected their academic performance in the previous Winter Session. The awards are made on the recommendation of the Faculty of Dentistry in consultation with the International Student Initiative. (First award available for the 2025/2026 winter session).

Doctor of Dental Medicine Entrance Scholarship for International Students

Scholarships totalling up to the full cost of tuition have been made available annually for outstanding international students entering the Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.M.D.) program. The awards are distributed on a one-time basis and cannot be renewed. The awards are made on the recommendation of the Faculty of Dentistry in consultation with the International Student Initiative. (First award available for the 2025/2026 winter session).

PREVIOUSLY APPROVED AWARDS WITH CHANGES IN TERMS OR FUNDING SOURCE

Endowed Awards

8781- Swaraj K. Chattopadhyay Memorial Bursary in Medicine

Rationale for Proposed Changes

The donor would like to add “Professor” to mentions of her husband in the title and award description. The University Legal Counsel have confirmed that we can change the award title, but the name of the fund will remain unchanged.

Current Award Title: Swaraj K. Chattopadhyay Memorial Bursary in Medicine

Current Award Description

Bursaries totalling \$4,000 have been made available through an endowment established by Gayatri Chattopadhyay, in memory of her husband, Swaraj K. Chattopadhyay (1933-2020), for students entering the M.D. program. Mr. Chattopadhyay was born in India. After receiving a B.Sc. in Biology from the University of Calcutta and a M.Sc. in Biology from the University of Rangoon, he moved to the United States to complete an M.S. in Biochemistry and Microbiology



at the University of Cincinnati. Mr. Chattopadhyay's specialty was cancer research, and he held academic positions at Amta College in West Bengal, India, the University of Texas, and Rutgers University, where he worked as a Professor from 1974 to 2000. Mr. Chattopadhyay retired as Professor Emeritus at Rutgers. He published on cancer research extensively, and was involved in the journal Cancer Biochemistry Biophysics for over twenty years. This bursary was established to honour Mr. Chattopadhyay's professional career as a scientist and his contributions to cancer research. The bursaries are adjudicated by Enrolment Services.

Proposed Award Title: Professor Swaraj K. Chattopadhyay Memorial Bursary in Medicine

Proposed Award Description

Bursaries totalling \$3,500 have been made available through an endowment established by Gayatri Chattopadhyay, in memory of her husband, Professor Swaraj K. Chattopadhyay (1933-2020), for students entering the M.D. program. Mr. Professor Chattopadhyay was born in India. After receiving a B.Sc. in Biology from the University of Calcutta and a M.Sc. in Biology from the University of Rangoon, he moved to the United States to complete an M.S. in Biochemistry and Microbiology at the University of Cincinnati. Mr. Professor Chattopadhyay's specialty was cancer research, and he held academic positions at Amta College in West Bengal, India, the University of Texas, and Rutgers University, where he worked as a Professor from 1974 to 2000. Mr. Professor Chattopadhyay retired as Professor Emeritus at Rutgers. He published on cancer research extensively and was involved in the journal Cancer Biochemistry Biophysics for over twenty years. This bursary was established to honour Mr. Professor Chattopadhyay's professional career as a scientist and his contributions to cancer research. The bursaries are adjudicated by Enrolment Services.

Annual Awards

8064 - F B Dickinson Memorial Bursary

Rationale for Proposed Changes

The donor has increased their gift and would like the bursary to be given to multiple recipients. Changes have been made to bring the award description into alignment with current writing practices.

Current Award Title: F B Dickinson Memorial Bursary

Current Award Description



A \$200 bursary is provided by the Credit Union Foundation of British Columbia in honour of the memory of Farley B. Dickinson who conceived and instigated the Foundation's formation. He was one of the founders of the Credit Union Central of B.C., C.U. & C. Health Services Society, and Credit Union Deposit Guarantee Insurance Fund of B.C., serving these organization as well as representing B.C. credit unions internationally. The bursary is awarded to a needy undergraduate student in the Accounting & Information System Management option of the Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration.

Proposed Award Title: Farley B. Dickinson Memorial Bursary

Proposed Award Description

~~A \$200 bursary is provided by~~ Bursaries totalling \$1,000 have been made available annually through a gift from the Credit Union Foundation of British Columbia, in honour of the memory of Farley B. Dickinson, for Bachelor of Commerce students with a specialization in Accounting, who conceived and instigated the Foundation's formation. He Farley was one of the founders of the Credit Union Central of B.C., C.U. & C. Health Services Society, and Credit Union Deposit ~~Guarantee~~ Guarantee Insurance Fund of B.C., serving these organization as well as representing B.C. credit unions internationally. ~~The bursary is awarded to a needy undergraduate student in the Accounting & Information System Management option of the Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration.~~ The bursaries are adjudicated by Enrolment Services.

1594 - John A H Duffie Bursary

Rationale for Proposed Changes

The donor has increased their gift and would like the bursary to be given to multiple recipients. Changes have been made to bring the award description into alignment with current writing practices.

Current Award Title: John A H Duffie Bursary

Current Award Description

A \$300 bursary has been made available by the Credit Union Foundation of British Columbia through a bequest from John Duffie. The bursary is made available to undergraduate students who are beginning or continuing studies in the Department of Economics or the Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration. The recipient must be a Canadian citizen and a resident of British Columbia. The award is made by Enrolment Services on the basis of financial need.

Proposed Award Title: John A. H. Duffie Memorial Bursary



Proposed Award Description

~~A \$300 bursary has been made available by~~ Bursaries totalling \$1,000 have been made available annually through a gift from the Credit Union Foundation of British Columbia, through a bequest from John Duffie, for ~~The bursary is made available to~~ domestic undergraduate students who are beginning or continuing studies in the Department of Economics or in the UBC Sauder School of Business Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration. The recipient must be a Canadian citizen and a resident of British Columbia. The award is made by Enrolment Services on the basis of financial need. The bursaries are adjudicated by Enrolment Services.

7989 – Credit Union Foundation Entrance Bursary for Native Canadians

Rationale for Proposed Changes

The donor has increased their gift and would like the bursary to be given to multiple recipients. Changes have been made to remove outdated language pertaining to Indigenous students and bring the award description into alignment with current writing practices.

Current Award Title: Credit Union Foundation Entrance Bursary for Native Canadians

Current Award Description

A \$500 bursary is offered from the Credit Union Pioneers Memorial Fund of the Credit Union Foundation of British Columbia to a First Nations Canadian student from the Province of British Columbia entering their first year in the Peter A. Allard School of Law. The award is made on the recommendation of the First Nations Law Committee.

Proposed Award Title: Credit Union Foundation ~~Entrance~~ Bursary for ~~Native Canadians~~ Indigenous Students

Proposed Award Description

~~A \$500 bursary is offered from~~ Bursaries totalling \$1,000 have been made available annually through a gift from the Credit Union Pioneers Memorial Fund of the Credit Union Foundation of British Columbia to ~~for First Nations, Inuit or Métis students of Canada~~ First Nations Canadian student from the Province of British Columbia entering their first year of the J.D. program in the Peter A. Allard School of Law. The award is made on the recommendation of the First Nations Law Committee. The bursaries are adjudicated by Enrolment Services.

2742 - R J McMaster Bursary



Rationale for Proposed Changes

The donor has increased their gift and would like the bursary to be given to multiple recipients. Changes have been made to bring the award description into alignment with current writing practices.

Current Award Title: R J McMaster Bursary

Current Award Description

One bursary of \$600 is offered by the Credit Union Foundation of British Columbia from R.J. McMaster Memorials & Bequest Trust, originally established by Davis & Company as a tribute to one of the pioneer leaders in the development of credit unions in Canada. The bursaries are to be awarded to students in the Peter A. Allard School of Law who are Canadian citizens and are residents of B.C. Academic record of the candidates will be a consideration.

Proposed Award Title: R. J. McMaster Memorial Bursary

Proposed Award Description

~~One bursary of \$600 is offered by~~ Bursaries totalling \$1,000 have been made available annually through a gift from the Credit Union Foundation of British Columbia from R.J. McMaster Memorials & Bequest Trust, originally established by Davis & Company, for domestic J.D. students. The award was established as a tribute to one of the pioneer leaders in the development of credit unions in Canada. ~~The bursaries are to be awarded to students in the Peter A. Allard School of Law who are Canadian citizens and are residents of B.C. Academic record of the candidates will be a consideration.~~ The bursaries are adjudicated by Enrolment Services.



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Appendix B: Curriculum Report

ENROLMENT SERVICES

New course

UGTU_V 001 (0) Continuous Enrolment for Tuition Instalment