



# VANCOUVER SENATE

## MINUTES OF 16 APRIL 2025

### Attendance

**Present:** B.-A. Bacon (Chair), R. Ng (Secretary), M. Adshade, F. Andrew, G. Averill, E. Baniassad, S. Bates, B. Bhandar, S. Bredin, B. Britton, L. Burr, A. Chui, J. Cool, C. Dai, K. Doering, P. Englezos, A. Esteves, D. Evans, G. Faulkner, A. Fisher, N. Ford, B. Forster, S. Forwell, J. Fox, J. Gilbert, T. Gill, B. Goold, S. Gopalakrishnan, S. W. Graham, P. Harrison, K. Hassib, M. Hirst, M. Hunt, K. Kanji, R. Kozak, S. Lavallee, K. Lo, J. Lorien, M. MacLachlan, S. McGillivray, L. Moss, W. Norman, J. Olson, C. Overall, S. Parker, S. Pelech, J. Phelps, N. Pindell, A. Pratap-Singh, I. Price, L. Raman-Wilms, C. Rawn, M. Reid, K. Rogers, S. Singh, G. Tsiakos, H. von Bergmann, A. Wang, J. Xu, J. Xue, S. Yi-Kieran

**Regrets:** B. Agafitei, C. Crowston, D. Dahl, A. d'Entremont, C. Desjarlais, A. Dulay, C. Godwin, S. Grayston, J. Greenman, J. Hare, A. Ivanov, E. Jenkins, D. Kelleher, R. Kim, D. Kitts, F. Lalji, C. Lim, C. W. Marshall, C. Menzies, M. Prost, J. Rogers, S. Rout, T. Shaikh, R. Spencer, R. Topping, G. Turcotte, A. Uzama, E. Zusman

**Clerk:** C. Eaton

### Call to Order and Territorial Acknowledgement

The Chair of Senate, Dr Benoit-Antoine Bacon, called the eighth meeting of the Senate for the 2024/2025 academic year to order at 6:04 pm and he provided an acknowledgement of the land.

### Senate Membership

#### NEW MEMBERS

The Registrar, Dr Rella Ng, announced the following new and returning members of Senate:

Mark MacLachlan, Dean of the Faculty of Science, to replace Mark MacLachlan, Dean *Pro Tem* of the Faculty of Science, until replaced;

Taran Gill, Student for the Faculty of Applied Science, until 31 March 2026 and thereafter until replaced;

Jacky Xue, Student for the Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration (Continuing), until 31 March 2026 and thereafter until replaced;



Brian Agafitei, Student for the Faculty of Dentistry, until 31 March 2026 and thereafter until replaced;

Dylan Evans, Student for the Faculty of Forestry, until 31 March 2026 and thereafter until replaced;

Judy Xu, Student for the Faculty of Land and Food Systems, until 31 March 2026 and thereafter until replaced;

Cade Desjarlais, Student for the Peter A. Allard School of Law, until 31 March 2026 and thereafter until replaced;

Amy Wang, Student for the Faculty of Medicine, until 31 March 2026 and thereafter until replaced;

Chaeyoung Lim, Student for the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, until 31 March 2026 and thereafter until replaced; and

Alex Chui, Student for the Faculty of Science, until 31 March 2026 and thereafter until replaced.

The President expressed appreciation to all those who had joined Senate.

### **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

Solomon Yi-Kieran  
Kareem Hassib

*That the revised minutes of the meeting of 19  
March 2025 be approved.*

The Clerk noted a revision to the minutes that had been requested by Senator Catherine Rawn.

Approved

### **Business Arising from the Minutes**

#### **JOINT POLICY J-500: *ACADEMIC FREEDOM*:**

Senator Kin Lo reported that the Committees jointly met earlier in the month and was nearing convergence on its work, with the exception of an unresolved issue related to compliance with privacy legislation. He stated that the Academic Policy Committee would need to meet again on that matter before reporting back to Senate.



The President acknowledged the importance of taking the necessary time on issues such as privacy. The President expressed appreciation for the update and noted that the Senate would hear back from the Academic Policy Committee at a future meeting.

Senator Ben Britton asked whether the Academic Policy Committee was aware of an open letter that had been sent to the Senate. He also suggested that the proposed policy be shared with Senate well in advance of the Senate agenda, to allow the maximum time for consultation. He noted that the policy carried significant implications and expressed concern that it could come to a vote on the Senate floor without adequate opportunity for wider engagement.

Senator Kin Lo responded that the Academic Policy Committee was aware of the letter, but he was not prepared to discuss it at that time.

The Clerk clarified that the Senate had not received the letter directly, but that copies had been provided by several individuals. The Clerk stated that the letter had not been officially sent to the Senate.

Senator Brenna Bhandar asked whether it would be possible to circulate the letter, which had garnered over 250 signatures opposing the draft policy, to all Senators.

The Clerk explained that correspondence to Senate is forwarded at the discretion of the Senate Agenda Committee. He noted that the Agenda Committee would consider forwarding the letter, in accordance with standard protocol for public or other types of correspondence.

Senator Bhandar asked if she could speak to the contents of the letter and requested that some of the concerns raised be noted in the minutes.

In response, the President stated that, as it was at his discretion, it would be premature to discuss the letter before the Senate had officially received it. The President suggested waiting until the next meeting for a full review and discussion.

Senator Britton reiterated a second part of his earlier question, asking if the policy could be distributed to Senate well in advance of the Senate agenda to ensure appropriate consultation. He noted that this concern had been raised previously and noted the need for meaningful discussion.

Senator Kin Lo confirmed that it was the Academic Policy Committee's understanding, based on discussions with the Clerk following the last meeting in December, that the policy would be shared with adequate notice.



Senator Brenna Bhandar asked for clarification on the timing of when the draft policy would be circulated and when faculty members would be able to engage with it before a Senate vote.

The Clerk explained that Senate materials are typically uploaded seven days prior to the meeting, usually on the Wednesday afternoon the week before. The materials are finalized by the Agenda Committee ten days before the meeting, on the preceding Friday. Therefore, the earliest the draft policy could be distributed would be Friday afternoon, ten days before the Senate meeting. The Clerk noted that this timeline also applied to any decision to circulate the referenced letter, should it be formally submitted.

The Clerk added that three individuals had submitted various signed copies of the letter over the past week, but no formal request had been made to present the letter to Senate. He stated that he was unsure who was organizing the submission.

In response, Senator Bhandar clarified that she had sent the letter. She explained that she had been asked by her colleagues to ensure that it, along with the signatories, was circulated to all Senators in advance of the meeting. She acknowledged that proper protocol required the letter to be sent to the Agenda Committee for consideration.

The Clerk confirmed that he had received Senator Bhandar's email the previous day and asked whether the version she had sent was the final version, as that was unclear.

Senator Bhandar confirmed that it was.

The President reassured Senators that everyone would see the letter. The President expressed the view that the Academic Policy Committee would likely consider the letter and address its points at the next meetings to allow for a thoughtful and engaged discussion.

The Clerk clarified that the letter had already been provided to both Academic Policy Committees, which would be meeting on Thursday to discuss several matters.

## Remarks from the Chair



The President noted that the Winter Session had come to an end and thanked the community for another year under continued challenging circumstances. He noted the strategic plan refresh, which the University had been working on throughout the year. He mentioned that the refresh had been discussed at nearly every Senate meeting and that it built on five years of progress while responding to rapid changes in the world, such as the pandemic, technological developments like AI, and shifts in politics and higher education.

The President explained that the refresh was organized around three goals: articulating the University's 2050 vision, defining priorities for the next three to five years, and reaffirming commitments to existing plans. He noted that the team was in the articulation phase and developing a narrative for the plan along with an implementation roadmap. He mentioned a community consultation on draft priorities that closed on April 11 and thanked those who participated. He stated that the team was reviewing the feedback and would move into the mobilization phase in May, which would include seeking Senate's endorsement.

He highlighted an initiative by the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies in response to increased interest from American students. The Faculty reopened graduate applications for US students from April 14 to 18, for entry in September 2025 and January 2026. He mentioned that a dedicated landing page was live and that the team was engaging with applicants and partners. He reported a 27% increase in US graduate program applications as of March 1, compared to the previous year, as well as a 20% increase in campus visits.

The President acknowledged the upcoming Federal Government election on April 28. He stated that the University remained neutral but encouraged voting. He reported that the University had partnered with Elections Canada to host special voting locations on both campuses, which had now closed, but noted that advance voting would continue from April 18 to 21. He emphasized the importance of youth participation in voting, noting its potential influence on political decisions.

He concluded his remarks by wishing students well during exams and thanked faculty and staff for their support. He looked forward to graduation and expressed appreciation for the year.

Senator Santokh Singh noted that he observed that young faculty members were also considering relocating to Canadian universities. He asked whether the University had a specific plan or strategy to attract such talent from the US, and whether this was part of the strategic plan.

The President noted that the University had been advocating at the Federal Government-level for a program to support the recruitment of talent across disciplines. He mentioned the potential for a federally funded initiative and noted that hiring at the University was decentralized, allowing Deans flexibility in hiring processes.



The Provost confirmed that funds were necessary to hire talented individuals from the US and agreed with the President's comments about lobbying for government support. He stated that although three Faculties were currently holding off on hiring due to budget constraints, most Faculties were proceeding with recruitment. He noted that current hiring, including for Chairs and Deans, was attracting strong applicants from the US, and he expressed confidence that the University could benefit from the current market even without additional funding.

### **From the Board of Governors**

The President confirmed that materials from the following meetings, as approved by Senate, were subsequently approved by the Board of Governors as required under the *University Act*:

20 November 2024

Awards: New and revised awards

Curriculum: Proposals from the Faculties of Arts and Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (Forestry)

11 December 2024

Awards: New and revised awards

Curriculum: Proposals from the Faculties of Arts and Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (Arts)

Establishment of a Centre: New Centre from the Faculty of Medicine

Suspension of Admissions: Proposal from the Faculty of Applied Science

19 February 2025

Awards: New and revised awards

Curriculum: Proposals from the Faculties of Applied Science, Arts, Forestry, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (Arts, Commerce and Business Administration, Education, Forestry, Medicine), Medicine, and Science, as well as Vantage College

New Program: Bachelor of Science, Major in Data Science, from the Faculty of Science

Undergraduate Enrolment Targets: Undergraduate Enrolment Targets for 2025-2026



## Academic Policy Committee

The Chair of the Senate Academic Policy Committee, Dr Kin Lo, presented.

### REVISIONS TO GENERAL ACADEMIC REGULATIONS: CHANGE IN REGISTRATION

Kin Lo  
Jenny Phelps

*That the Senate approves the amendments to the Campus-wide Policy on Change of Registration, effective 2025S and thereafter, as attached.*

Approved

### REVISIONS TO ACADEMIC REGULATIONS FOR THE FACULTY OF LAND AND FOOD SYSTEMS

Kin Lo  
Alex Chui

*That the Senate approves the amendments to the Faculty of Land and Food Systems Academic Regulations with respect to Academic Standing and Advancement regulations, Additional Period Honours, and Readmission, effective 2025W and thereafter, as attached; and*

*That the Senate approves the amendments to the Faculty of Land and Food Systems academic regulations with respect to Major Declaration and Program Deficiency, effective 2025W and thereafter, as attached.*

Approved

### REVISIONS TO ACADEMIC REGULATIONS FOR THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES: PART-TIME CLASSIFICATION FOR DOCTORAL STUDENTS

Kin Lo  
Jenny Phelps

*That the Senate approves the amendments to the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Classification of Students with respect to part-time doctoral students, effective 2025S and thereafter, as attached.*



Approved

## 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  
Jacky Xue

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

Approved

## Curriculum Committee

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

### CURRICULUM PROPOSAL

*See Appendix B: Curriculum Report*

In response to a request from the proposing Faculty, Senator Rawn requested that the course number HIST\_V 387 be changed to HIST\_V 389.

Catherine Rawn  
Laura Moss

*That the Senate approves and recommends to the Board of Governors for approval the new courses and discontinued program brought forward by the Faculties of Arts and Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (Arts and Pharmaceutical Sciences); and*

*That the Senate approves the new non-credit program certificate and new non-credit program microcertificates brought forward by the Faculty of Forestry.*



Senator Steven Pelech asked about the slate of newly proposed courses, noting that many appeared to be directed studies for undergraduate students. He expressed surprise that these opportunities had not been available before and questioned whether this represented a significant expansion across various programs. He also asked whether students enrolled in these directed studies would be required to take fewer lecture-based courses.

Senator Catherine Rawn responded that the directed studies courses, although listed under various course codes, all originated from the same academic unit, the Department of Central, Eastern, and Northern European Studies. She explained that the department was engaged in an ongoing curriculum review and had identified a gap regarding tailored learning opportunities. As a result, they created appropriate course codes to support faculty-student directed studies experiences, which had seen increasing demand.

Senator Pelech noted that several of the proposed directed studies were at the second-year level, which he found to be unusual.

Senator Rawn agreed that it was uncommon.

Senator Sean Graham noted that the proposed certificates and microcertificates appeared to be delivered entirely online. He inquired about the measures in place to ensure academic integrity, especially given that participants might not be students and could be unaware of the University's expectations regarding quizzes, assignments and the use of AI tools.

Senator Rawn acknowledged the question and clarified that these were non-credit offerings. While they did include assessments, the structure and expectations differed from credit-bearing programs. She indicated that the documentation might not have specifically addressed that point but invited Mr Jorma Neuvonen, a proposal proponent from the Faculty of Forestry, to elaborate.

The President recognized Mr Neuvonen.

Mr Neuvonen explained that the issue of academic integrity was noted within the Faculty. He explained that assignments were directly related to the participants' professional work, allowing students to base their coursework on real-life problems encountered on the job. He noted that this approach had largely prevented significant issues regarding academic integrity.

Senator Graham acknowledged the clarification.



Approved

## Report from the Provost

The Provost, Dr Gage Averill, presented.

### STRATEGIC PLAN REFRESH

The Provost noted that the Senators had received the 25-year vision and an early draft of the priorities for the next three to five years. The Provost explained that the strategic plan refresh remained a significant matter for the campus's academic future. The Provost underscored the importance of alignment with Senate throughout the process to ensure Senators had the opportunity to provide input on the various components of the strategy. The Provost discussed the emerging vision, priorities, and next steps, and welcomed feedback on the long-term vision and initial impressions of the stated priorities.

The Provost clarified that the purpose of the strategic plan refresh was not to replace the existing strategic plan but to establish a set of priorities for the next three to five years, particularly focused on the academic and research mission of the University. The priorities, as presented, would be advanced through annual actions, reviewed and assessed by defined metrics.

The Provost highlighted that this work was central to shaping the University's future and its positioning as a leader in the coming decades. In addressing previous questions, the Provost noted that other major university plans remained active alongside the refresh process. These included the Indigenous Strategic Plan, the StEAR Framework, commitments to diversity, equity and inclusion, and climate and sustainability plans. The Provost described these documents and commitments as core to the University's institutional identity and confirmed that they would remain interwoven with the academic priorities being developed.

The Provost acknowledged the governance structure supporting the refresh and expressed gratitude to the Advisory Committee, Indigenous and Social Equity Advisors, and the Steering Committee Leads. Acknowledgement was also given to the engagement team facilitating university-wide involvement.

The Provost reviewed the timeline and shared that the "listening and context" phase had concluded in December. That phase involved envisioning what the University could become in 25 years and had incorporated input from over 1,600 community members. The Provost mentioned that the draft narrative from this phase was circulated in advance of the meeting and hoped Senators had reviewed it. The resulting vision incorporated sixteen key themes, which had also been the focus of a previous Senate presentation.



Since January, the team had focused on drafting the 25-year vision and defining the strategic priorities for the next three to five years, concentrating on advancing the University's academic and research mission. Initial actions related to these priorities were set for the 2025-2026 academic year. The Provost noted that the full refresh would encompass both the long-term vision and short-term priorities, with a return to Senate in May to seek formal endorsement, followed by a presentation to the Board of Governors in June for further endorsement.

The Provost indicated that between the current meeting and June, further engagement would take place with university leadership and stakeholders, including Senate, to validate the vision and priorities. Feedback would be incorporated into a finalized plan to be presented for formal endorsement. The Provost expressed hope that these final steps would secure broad support and allow for successful implementation.

Senator Ben Britton acknowledged the ongoing integration of other strategies into the new plan as a positive development. He requested a "belt and braces" approach regarding two specific areas. First, he asked whether the statement on academic freedom, described in the earlier strategic plan as a unique value of the Academy that supports the respectful expression of ideas and open discussion without risk of censure, would be retained in the refreshed plan. Second, he raised concerns regarding equity, diversity, and inclusion, noting its prominence in the prior plan and its strategic value within the University and broader societal contexts. He asked whether the new plan would continue to affirm these values clearly and explicitly, given their importance to many members of the UBC community and ongoing global relevance.

The Provost clarified that the current strategic plan, *Shaping UBC's Next Century*, would remain in effect until 2028 and continue to serve as the governing document. The Provost emphasized that the refresh process did not aim to replace or override any part of that plan but rather to focus and expand on certain areas. The Provost confirmed that the University's commitment to academic freedom, as expressed in the strategic plan and various institutional documents, remained fully in place.

The Provost also reaffirmed the institution's ongoing dedication to equity, diversity, and inclusion. The Provost explained that, in addition to the EDI content included in the original plan, the University had followed up with concrete initiatives and committee work that had led to the development of the StEAR Framework. All of these efforts remained active and foundational. The Provost confirmed that the framing piece of the refresh would explicitly reaffirm these commitments to ensure clarity for the University community, especially at a time when such values were facing challenges in other regions. The Provost stated that the University did not take direction from jurisdictions outside Canada and remained resolute in its commitments, particularly with regard to the Indigenous Strategic Plan, Truth and Reconciliation, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples processes.



The President noted support for the Provost's remarks. The President reiterated that *Shaping UBC's Next Century* remained in place and that the current effort was a refresh aimed at filling in certain gaps.

Senator Steven Pelech expressed appreciation that the strategic plan included experiential training and practical skill development aimed at improving employment outcomes for both undergraduate and graduate students. He recalled that during his time as an undergraduate student at the University in the 1970s, lab courses were more prevalent. Over time, he observed a decline in the number of such courses, possibly due to their higher delivery costs. He noted the significant physical expansion at the University but questioned how much of this growth had supported the creation of hands-on learning spaces. He highlighted the lack of fundamental lab training among co-operative education, directed studies, and honours thesis students who had worked in his lab. He noted the need to expand access to practical training facilities and asked whether the strategic plan committed to developing such hands-on lab opportunities.

The Provost confirmed that the 25-year plan aimed to reflect the type of university he described. He noted that the plan included priorities such as increased flexibility for learners and enhanced experiential learning opportunities. He explained that after the current phase of the plan, the next steps would involve outlining specific actions over the summer and into the following fall. He agreed that delivering on these goals would require thoughtful investment of time and resources.

The Provost mentioned several existing initiatives as examples of experiential learning, such as the Emergent Media Lab, where students collaborated with businesses on media solutions, and the Cloud Innovation Centre (KICK), where students worked on cloud-based business challenges. He also referenced newly designed spaces like the School of Biomedical Engineering building, which featured areas specifically intended to support creative student engagement linked to career preparation. While acknowledging the success of these initiatives, he stressed that they had so far operated on a small scale and emphasized the need to expand them more broadly through future strategic actions.

The President noted that he supported the mention of the School of Biomedical Engineering as an example of progress.

Senator Santokh Singh raised concerns about access to support for diverse learners, particularly regarding the mental health of students and faculty. He noted the struggles of international students in accessing basic counselling services and noted that mental health issues had become more prominent during the COVID-19 pandemic. He expressed hope that the strategic plan might address these concerns and asked how the plan would resolve them. Further, he referred to the draft strategic plan's focus on excelling in the development and application of AI. He acknowledged the ambition of advancing AI's potential but also urged the University to consider its potential negative impacts. He emphasized the importance of campus-wide understanding and consultation on AI's ethical implications.



The Provost responded by noting that the current strategic plan already prioritized community health and wellness. He stated that the Office of the Vice-President, Students and the University as a whole had committed significantly more funding to mental health and had been working to expand access to services. He acknowledged the challenge and said it was being monitored through community surveys. He explained that while the refreshed strategic plan focused on academic priorities, there remained considerable overlap with health and wellness efforts, particularly through the work of various health disciplines and UBC Health, which coordinated efforts across multiple faculties.

The Provost then addressed concerns about AI by pointing to the high-level language in the draft plan, which noted ethical application for the benefit of academia and society. He noted that recent additions to the draft included references to the responsible use of emerging technologies. He acknowledged the transformative nature of AI and stated that the University aimed to engage with it ethically and proactively, rather than being left behind or harmed by it. He affirmed that the University intended to deepen its understanding of the ethical challenges and potential misuse of AI, emphasizing that excelling in AI meant excelling in both application and critical evaluation.

Senator Santokh Singh asked about the financial feasibility of these initiatives given current budgetary pressures, such as trade tariffs and broader economic constraints. He asked how realistic it was to expect adequate funding for EDI initiatives, expanded mental health services, and improvements to lab spaces over the next three to four years.

The Provost responded by explaining that the University was pursuing budgetary innovation and seeking cost savings. He mentioned exploring the use of AI to improve efficiency and identifying new revenue streams, including lifelong education programs and global initiatives. He stated that the University aimed to become Canada's most successful university by strategically growing its revenues. He expressed optimism that these efforts would generate the necessary resources and affirmed that the University remained committed to investing in its educational mission, research, and commercialization efforts. He acknowledged the risk involved but remained confident that funding could be secured to support the priorities identified.

Senator Sathish Gopalakrishnan referred to the concerns raised by other senators regarding equity, diversity, academic freedom, and the balance between industrialized certification and meaningful engagement in education. He expressed that education should not just be about certifying students but should focus on shaping them as engaged citizens of Canada and the world. He suggested that the University needs to find ways to focus on smaller groups and more engaged, thoughtful learning experiences. He emphasized that while AI ethics can be discussed abstractly, it is only meaningful when applied in real-world situations, much like ethical courses that do not automatically make one ethical. He noted that building relationships and fostering discussions in small groups were vital to developing critical thinking and ethical engagement. He



also noted the importance of ensuring that academic values were maintained in light of increasing external challenges and shifts toward anti-intellectual viewpoints. He expressed a desire for these discussions to be explicitly incorporated into the strategic plan, particularly regarding applied learning and the broader sense of student engagement.

The Provost responded, agreeing with the sentiment expressed. He emphasized that the University should never become an industrialized certification process. He reaffirmed the institution's mission to provide students with a transformative education that opens up lifelong possibilities and careers, not just preparing them for their first job. He assured that the plan did not lean toward large-scale, industrialized training and that he shared the vision of graduating students who were equipped for meaningful lives and careers. He expressed hope that this focus would continue in the University's approach moving forward.

Senator Kareem Hassib raised a concern that while the strategic priorities focus on the University's academic and research missions, there wasn't enough emphasis on student well-being. He proposed that the University's success in academics and research is fundamentally dependent on the well-being of its students. He noted that elements such as flexible learning and experiential opportunities assume that students have their basic needs met, like access to food and stable housing. He cited rising usage of the AMS Food Bank as evidence of increasing food insecurity, particularly affecting international and graduate students. He also stressed that housing affordability remains a major burden and suggested that student well-being should be a central, visible priority in the plan.

In response, the Provost acknowledged the point and mentioned that while the current draft of the plan does not yet explicitly include student well-being, it could be strengthened. He referred to the University's 2050 vision, suggesting its community-building language could be improved to better reflect well-being and mental health. He also mentioned the concept of planetary health, which links individual and collective well-being with environmental and societal systems, as a possible integrative framework to include in the strategic plan.

The President expressed agreement with these concerns, stating that student mental health is a personal concern for him. He mentioned his hope that the forthcoming Gateway Building will help support mental health on campus. He also noted that the Vice-President, Students is developing a new wellness-focused strategic plan, and he supported the idea of incorporating more explicit references to wellness and well-being in the University's main strategic plan. On affordability, he pointed to ongoing work by the Student Affordability Task Force and emphasized that housing and transportation, while not formally included as core priorities, remain vital issues that the administration is committed to addressing.



Senator Solomon Yi-Kieran expressed appreciation that the plan accommodated previous student concerns related to accessibility. He thanked the team for their work and noted his approval that the second part of the plan addressed student experiential learning. He stated that his comments would echo those of Senator Hassib and other student leaders, particularly in regard to the strategic plan refresh not placing sufficient focus on enhancing the overall university experience. He noted that the student experience was closely linked to the academic dimension of the plan.

Senator Yi-Kieran observed that students were struggling with increasing workloads and mental health issues. He mentioned that students had asked for changes in economic policy and academic teaching. He also noted that support systems such as academic advising and the Centre for Accessibility often faced challenges of being undersupplied and underfunded. He raised the concern that student well-being was fundamentally an academic issue, not only a mental health matter, and suggested that this connection should be made more explicit in the strategic plan. He believed it would be straightforward to incorporate this into the broader goal of enhancing the student experience. He asked whether the plan to enhance student experiential learning opportunities would include expanding programs like Work Learn and co-ops.

The Provost acknowledged that there was significant interest across Senate in embedding student well-being more explicitly within the plan. He stated that there were opportunities to do so. He affirmed the importance of recognizing the academic experience as a fundamental component of overall student wellness and experience and indicated that this perspective could be incorporated into the plan.

Senator Jasper Lorian observed that concerns around student experience, well-being, and EDI had come up consistently. They thanked the President and the Provost for acknowledging that these concerns remained a priority, even if they were not explicitly highlighted in the plan. However, they identified messaging as a key issue. They proposed that by stating the plan focused on the academic and research mission of the University, it risked positioning issues such as student experience, EDI, and reconciliation as separate or secondary.

Senator Lorian disagreed with that separation and asserted that these issues had a significant impact on both teaching and research at the University. They emphasized the need to clearly convey that these elements were not separate from the academic mission. They suggested that the preamble of the plan presented an opportunity to make this integration more explicit. They acknowledged the Provost's comments but stressed that the way the messaging was framed could lead to misunderstanding.

The Provost agreed that messaging played a crucial role and stated that it could improve the way those messages were communicated. He affirmed that they would take that feedback seriously.

Senator Paul Harrison acknowledged the points raised Senator Lorian and expressed his agreement. He suggested that the preamble could be revised to reflect or direct readers to the



broader ongoing plan. He emphasized that the well-being of all members of the University community was important. He noted that student well-being was closely connected to the well-being of faculty members who interact with them.

Senator Harrison noted the importance of prioritizing the well-being of all community members in order to successfully achieve the University's broader goals.

The President expressed agreement.

Senator Santokh Singh noted that as an environmental plant physiologist, he taught plant physiology courses with a focus on environmental concerns. He expressed concern that environmental issues were being removed from many documents globally, especially in southern regions. He emphasized that the University had been a leader in sustainability and hoped that the draft strategic plan would include a clear statement reaffirming the University's commitment to environmental stewardship. He believed that maintaining this stance in the strategic plan would send a strong message, not only to colleagues and those concerned with biodiversity and sustainability, but also to a wider national and international audience. He noted that even if environmental issues were not prominent in elections, the University as an institution should prominently reflect these values in its strategic vision.

The Provost agreed with Senator Singh's concerns, noting the significant impact of climatological and environmental changes, particularly within the Anthropocene. He described these as among the greatest challenges for upcoming generations and for the University. He noted that the University already had a Climate Action Plan and other responses to environmental crises in place. He clarified that while the strategic plan did not specifically highlight environmental issues, these were integrated throughout various priority areas. He mentioned that student experience, learning, and innovation efforts would continue to address issues like species loss, environmental degradation, and extinction. He further explained that partnerships with the private sector, public sector, and NGOs would support climate and sustainability goals. The Provost noted that although specific research areas were not individually named in the plan, environmental challenges remained central to the University's mission and actions.

The President thanked everyone for what he described as a great discussion. He assured the group that all comments had been noted and stated that the meeting had covered most aspects of the plan, including the 25-year vision and the emerging priorities.

He addressed a recurring concern raised during the discussion, clarifying that the new strategic plan would not replace the original plan. He noted that the important work already underway through the *Shaping UBC's Next Century* initiative would continue. He added that the University would be very clear in its communications to reaffirm its ongoing commitments to key priorities such as climate, equity, diversity and inclusion, truth and reconciliation, and the Indigenous



Strategic Plan. He concluded by stating that the university aimed not only to continue this work but to explicitly recommit to it, even as new priorities were introduced.

## Report from the Registrar

The Registrar, Dr Rella Ng, presented.

### 2025 VANCOUVER STUDENT ELECTIONS TO SENATE AND THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Registrar advised Senate that Pursuant to Section 15 of the *University Act*, Taran Gill, Faculty of Applied Science, Jacky Xue, Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration, Brian Agafitei, Faculty of Dentistry, Dylan Evans, Faculty of Forestry, Judy Xu, Faculty of Land and Food Systems, and Amy Wang, Faculty of Medicine, were acclaimed as elected as representatives of students for their Faculties on the Vancouver Campus on the Vancouver Senate for a term ending 31 March 2026 and thereafter until a successor is elected.

The Registrar further advised Senate that Pursuant to Section 16 of the *University Act*, Cade Desjarlais, Peter A. Allard School of Law, Chaeyoung Lim, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Alex Chui, Faculty of Science, were acclaimed as elected as representatives of students for their Faculties on the Vancouver Campus on the Vancouver Senate for a term ending 31 March 2026 and thereafter until a successor is elected.

The Registrar also advised Senate that Pursuant to Section 16 of the *University Act*, Cade Desjarlais and Jasper Lorient, were acclaimed as elected as representatives of students on the Board of Governors for a term ending 31 March 2026 and thereafter until a successor is elected.

## Other Business

Senator Martin Hirst raised a concern that had been communicated to him by several faculty members regarding the ongoing search for the Dean of Medicine. He noted that a recent search for the Dean of Science included an open forum where faculty, students, and the wider university community were able to engage in the process. However, he understood that the search for the Dean of Medicine would not include an open forum, and instead, there would be a single candidate presented. He expressed the importance of transparency in such a significant recruitment process and suggested that this concern needed to be considered.

The Provost responded by clarifying that there would indeed be an open process at the end of the search, with community engagement and presentations by the finalists. He explained that the search was currently at the semifinalist stage, where candidates were meeting with various constituencies within and outside the Faculty of Medicine. The finalists would be selected by the committee, and these candidates would present to the



community. While the Provost hoped that more than one candidate would be presented, the final number would depend on the committee's selection.

The Provost further explained that it had become increasingly difficult to include all semifinalists in public forums. Many candidates for high-level appointments were already in such positions at other institutions, and the moment it became known that they were considering moving to a new university, their current positions were often compromised. This situation made candidates hesitant to participate in public forums unless they felt confident in their chances. He noted that in previous searches, public forums had led to candidates dropping out due to concerns over privacy and confidentiality, despite efforts to ensure secrecy. The Provost apologized for the compromise in this process, acknowledging that the University was balancing the need for transparency with the increasing concern over maintaining the confidentiality of the search.

### **Adjournment**

Seeing no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm.



## Appendix A: Awards Report

### NEW AWARDS – ENDOWED

#### **Dr. Parm Bains and Dr. Satwinder Bains Award in Applied Biology**

Awards totalling \$3,500 have been made available through an endowment established by Dr. Parmjit “Parm” Bains (B.Sc. Agr. 1979, D.Litt.) and Dr. Satwinder Bains (B.A., M.Ed., Ph.D.) for Bachelor of Science students in Applied Biology, majoring in Sustainable Agriculture and Environment who demonstrate leadership in sustainability, climate action and/or food security. Parm and Satwinder purchased a blueberry farm in Abbotsford in 1989 and co-founded Westberry Farms in 1997 to expand their business globally. Parm, CEO for Westberry Farms, has worked with the Ministry of Agriculture and as a consultant. He served as Chair of the Faculty of Land and Food Systems Advisory Board from 2014 to 2024 and received the *alumni UBC Alumni Award of Distinction* in 2024. He holds an honorary doctorate from the University of Fraser Valley (UFV) and has made notable contributions to the blueberry industry, serving as Chair of both the US Highbush Blueberry Council and the BC Blueberry Council. Satwinder, Director of the South Asian Studies Institute at UFV and Associate Professor in Social Cultural Media Studies, has served as a Commissioner on the Agricultural Land Commission, a Director of the BC Farm Review Board and Chair of the Abbotsford Community Foundation and its Agricultural Grants Committee. Her research interests meet at the nexus of South Asian diaspora and intercultural histories in Canada. The awards are made on the recommendation of the Faculty of Land and Food Systems. (First award available for the 2025/2026 winter session).

#### **Sophia Leung Graduate Award in Social Work**

Awards totalling \$1,750 have been made available through an endowment established by Sophia Ming Ren Leung, CM, (B.Sc., B.S.W. 1964, M.S.W. 1966) for outstanding graduate students in the School of Social Work. Financial need may be considered. Sophia was a hospital-based social worker for many years and also served as an activist, consultant, author and Member of Parliament. The awards are made on the recommendation of the School of Social Work, in consultation with the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. (First award available for the 2025/2026 winter session).

#### **Murray McAndrew Memorial Bursary in Engineering**

Bursaries totalling \$1,800 have been made available through an endowment established by family, friends and the community, in memory of Murray McAndrew (1937–2024), for undergraduate students enrolled in an engineering program in the Faculty of Applied Sciences. Preference will be given to students studying Chemical Engineering. Murray (B.A.Sc., 1960,



M.A.Sc. 1962) met his wife Anne while attending UBC. He went on to complete his Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering at Princeton University and enjoyed a rewarding career as a research scientist at Shell, where he remained deeply connected to the laboratory work he loved. A lifelong learner, Murray and Anne shared a passion for the arts and attended Houston's opera, symphony and theatre. In retirement, they spent summers on Pender Island and travelled extensively, embracing a life filled with curiosity, culture and meaningful experiences. This bursary reflects Murray's legacy of academic excellence, his dedication to learning, and his commitment to inspiring future generations of chemical engineers. The bursaries are adjudicated by Enrolment Services. (First award available for the 2025/2026 winter session).

### **Mechanical Engineering Class of 1984 Bursary**

Bursaries totalling \$5,000 have been made available through an endowment established by the Mechanical Engineering Class of 1984 for undergraduate students in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Preference will be given to students in the second year of the program. The Mech Class of 1984 had a wonderful time at UBC - where their motto was work hard, play hard and where they made friendships that have lasted a lifetime. Their time as UBC Mechanical Engineering students prepared them for the ups and downs of their professional and personal lives, allowing them to pay it forward so that others can gain the high quality education, experiences and relationships that made, and continue to make, their lives better. The bursaries are adjudicated by Enrolment Services. (First award available for the 2025/2026 winter session).

### **Heidi U. Pullem Bursary for Financial Advancement and Independence of Women**

Bursaries totalling \$1,750 have been made available through an endowment established by Heidi U. Pullem for women who are domestic students enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program studying law, business, technology, engineering, mathematics or medicine. Heidi, a certified financial planner and businesswoman, established this award in the hope that it will elevate and empower women to pursue studies in fields which she views as leading to long-term financial stability. Her desire is to enable Canadian women to achieve substantial financial security to provide them with options and independence, and for them to make meaningful contributions to society. The bursaries are adjudicated by Enrolment Services. (First award available for the 2025/2026 winter session).

### **Westminster Management Corporation Award in Real Estate**

Awards totalling \$8,800 have been made available through an endowment established by the Westminster Management Corporation for domestic fourth-year Bachelor of Commerce students in the Real Estate option who demonstrate financial need and community involvement. Preference will be given to students who graduated from a high school in BC. Based in



Vancouver, BC, since its inception in 1925, Westminster Management Corporation is a real estate company that is proud to establish this award to mark the corporation's centennial celebration. Over the past 100 years, a number of UBC alumni have served as senior leaders in Westminster Management Corporation, and it is the hope of the corporation's current leadership that this award will support future leaders in the real estate sector. The awards are made on the recommendation of the UBC Sauder School of Business. (First award available for the 2025/2026 winter session).

### **James E. Wing Pharmaceutical Sciences Rural Communities Placement Award**

Awards totalling \$1,750 have been made available through an endowment established by family, friends and the wider community, in memory of James "Jim" E. Wing (1925–2022), for students in the Entry-to-Practice Doctor of Pharmacy program in their experiential education rotations in rural BC. To be eligible, candidates must demonstrate financial need. Preference will be given to students who are Indigenous and/or who identify as Black and/or as a Person of Colour. Jim (B.Sc. 1954) was born and raised in Kamloops, BC, where he went to school with his three brothers and three sisters and worked for his family's businesses in his youth. Upon graduation from UBC, Jim found it to be a challenge to gain employment as a second-generation Chinese immigrant in Vancouver, BC. He began his career as a pharmacist in Dawson Creek, BC, becoming one of the first Asian pharmacists in the province. He remembered this time in rural BC fondly, and eventually returned to Vancouver, BC, for a long career as a pharmacist. Jim's dedication to the pharmaceutical sciences can be traced to losing a leg in childhood in an accident and his subsequent awareness that recent drug developments had saved his life. The awards are made on the recommendation of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences. (First award available for the 2025/2026 winter session).

## **NEW AWARDS – ANNUAL**

### **Canucks for Kids Fund Award in Athletics**

Awards totalling \$10,000, which may range from a minimum value of \$500 each to the maximum allowable under athletic association regulations, have been made available annually through a gift from the Canucks for Kids Fund for student athletes in their first year of eligibility and in any varsity team. Preference will be given to students who are enrolled in the Bachelor of Commerce program. Committed to supporting charities that focus on children's health and wellness, education, social impact programs and the development of grassroots hockey, the Canucks for Kids Fund has granted over \$100 million to organizations across BC. The awards are made on the recommendation of the Athletics Awards Committee. (First award available for the 2025/2026 winter session).



### **Canucks for Kids Fund Entrance Award for Indigenous Students**

Awards totalling \$10,000 have been made available annually through a gift from the Canucks for Kids Fund for First Nations, Inuit and Métis students of Canada entering the Bachelor of Commerce program. Committed to supporting charities that focus on children's health and wellness, education, social impact programs and the development of grassroots hockey, the Canucks for Kids Fund has granted over \$100 million to organizations across BC. The awards are made on the recommendation of the UBC Sauder School of Business. (First award available for the 2025/2026 winter session).

### **Land and Food Systems Professional Programs Award**

Awards totalling \$4,000 have been made available annually through gifts from various donors for outstanding graduate students enrolled in the Master of Food and Resource Economics, Master of Food Science, Master of Land and Water Systems, or Master of Nutrition and Dietetics programs. Preference will be given to students who demonstrate strong cohort leadership and the potential to advance knowledge and solutions in their respective fields. Ordinarily, one student will be selected from each program and each award will be valued at \$1,000. The Land and Food Systems Professional Programs share a strong mission to develop future leaders equipped to address critical global challenges, including advancing food security, promoting sustainable land and resource management, driving innovation in food production technologies, and delivering exceptional client-centered health and nutrition care. The awards are made on the recommendation of the Faculty of Land and Food Systems, in consultation with the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. (First award available for the 2024/2025 winter session).

### **Dr. Dan Small Award for Public Scholars**

Awards totalling \$4,000 have been made available through a gift from Dr. Dan Small (B.A., M.Phil., Ph.D. 2003) for outstanding doctoral students accepted into the Public Scholars Initiative. Dr. Small is a medical anthropologist and research associate in the Department of Anthropology at UBC. He was a co-founder of Insite, North America's first sanctioned supervised-injection facility, and has developed and established other initiatives including employment and support services for marginalized populations, housing and social enterprises. Using his experience in medical regulation and medical student assessment, he has been involved with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC from 2000–2014, and the Medical Council of Canada from 2007–2014. Dr. Small is proud to support UBC doctoral students whose interdisciplinary scholarship is anticipated to address complex challenges facing the public. The awards are made on the recommendation of the Public Scholars Initiative, in consultation with



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

### **Frank Smith Thunderbird Award in Football**

Awards totalling \$2,650, which may range from a minimum value of \$500 each to the maximum allowable under athletic association regulations, have been made available through gifts from UBC Football alumni in honour of Frank Smith, for outstanding members of the UBC Thunderbirds Men's Football team in any year of study. Frank was Head Coach of UBC Football from 1974 to 1994 and is a member of the Canadian Football Hall of Fame, the BC Sports Hall of Fame, the UBC Sports Hall of Fame, and the UBC Football Wall of Honour. In his distinguished coaching career, Frank led UBC Football to two Vanier Cups and five Hardy Cup Canada West conference titles. As of 2025, he holds several UBC Football coaching records including the most seasons coached (21), the most victories (126), the most consecutive victories (22), and the most points scored in one season (466). The awards are made on the recommendation of the Athletic Awards Committee. (First award available for the 2025/2026 winter session).

### **Peliplat Prize in Creative Writing**

Prizes totalling \$2,000 have been made available annually through a gift from Peliplat for outstanding students in the Writing for the Screen and Writing for Television classes in the School of Creative Writing. Ordinarily, one prize of \$1,000 will be given to an undergraduate Major in Creative Writing, and one prize of \$1,000 will be given to a Master of Fine Arts student. Alongside a free database of film and TV, Peliplat's platform brings together a supportive community of writers and content creators. Peliplat opened a North American office in Vancouver, BC in 2024, and is proud to support the next generation of creative talent. The awards are made on the recommendation of the School of Creative Writing and in the case of a graduate student, in consultation with the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. (First award available for the 2024/2025 winter session).

### **Zalusky Award in Men's Volleyball**

Awards totalling \$2,500, which may range from a minimum value of \$500 each to the maximum allowable under athletic association regulations, have been made available annually through a gift from Zarley Zalusky (B.Kin. 2022) for members of the UBC Men's Volleyball team in any year of study who demonstrate exceptional leadership, teamwork and dedication to their team. Financial need may be considered. Zarley, a proud UBC Men's Volleyball alum, received several student awards during his time on the team which supported him throughout his studies. By establishing this award, he hopes to give back to a program that provided him with valuable



lessons beyond volleyball and helped set him up for success after graduation. The awards are made on the recommendation of the Athletics Awards Committee. (First award available for the 2025/2026 winter session).

## **NEW AWARDS – INTERNAL**

### **Diploma in Accounting Graduation Scholarship**

Scholarships totalling \$4,500 have been made available annually by the UBC Sauder School of Business for outstanding graduating students in the Diploma in Accounting Program. Ordinarily, six students will receive a scholarship each year. The awards are made on the recommendation of the Diploma in Accounting Program. (First award available for the 2025/2026 winter session).



## Appendix B: Curriculum Report

### FACULTY OF ARTS

#### *New courses*

**ASIA\_V 383 (3)** Korean History Through Film; **ASIX\_V 342 (3)** Cinematic Monsters of Asia; **CENS\_V 299 (3-6)** Directed Studies; **CENS\_V 499 (3-6)** Directed Studies; **GERN\_V 399 (3-6)** Directed Studies; **GERN\_V 499 (3-6)** Directed Studies; **GMST\_V 399 (3-6)** Directed Studies; **GMST\_V 499 (3-6)** Directed Studies; **HIST\_V 389 (3)** Asian Cities; **NORD\_V 399 (3-6)** Directed Studies; **NORD\_V 499 (3-6)** Directed Studies; **PHIL\_V 104 (3)** Happiness; **PHIL\_V 336 (3)** Big Data, Artificial Intelligence, and Ethics; **PORT\_V 220 (3)** Conversational Portuguese and Lusophone Culture; **RMST\_V 362 (3)** The Brazilian Amazon; **RMST\_V 363 (3)** Brazilian and Portuguese Cultures; **SLAV\_V 299 (3-6)** Directed Studies; **SLAV\_V 499 (3-6)** Directed Studies

### FACULTY OF FORESTRY

#### *New non-credit program certificate*

Certificate in Life Cycle Assessment of Clean Fuels: Non-Credit Program Certificate

#### *New non-credit program microcertificates*

Advanced Life Cycle Assessment of Clean Gaseous Fuels: Non-Credit Program Microcertificate;  
Advanced Life Cycle Assessment of Clean Liquid Fuels: Non-Credit Program Microcertificate

### FACULTY OF GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES

#### Arts

#### *New course*

**LIBR\_V 551 (3)** Computer Programming for Information Professionals

#### Pharmaceutical Sciences

#### *Discontinued program*

Graduate Doctor of Pharmacy