

VANCOUVER SENATE

MINUTES OF 11 DECEMBER 2024

Attendance

Present: B.-A. Bacon (Chair), R. Ng (Secretary), F. Andrew, G. Averill, E. Baniassad, S. Bates, S. Bredin, B. Britton, J. Cool, C. Crowston, C. Dai, K. Doering, A. Dulay, P. Englezos, A. Esteves, D. Fontana, N. Ford, S. Forwell, J. Gilbert, B. Goold, S. W. Graham, J. Hare, P. Harrison, K. Hassib, M. Hirst, M. Hunt, A. Ivanov, X. Jiang, K. Kanji, D. Kelleher, D. Kitts, R. Kozak, S. Lavallee, K. Lo, J. Lorien, M. MacLachlan, C. W. Marshall, C. Menzies, L. Moss, J. Olson, S. Parker, S. Pelech, J. Phelps, N. Pindell, A. Pratap-Singh, I. Price, D. Qi, L. Raman-Wilms, C. Rawn, Ka. Rogers, Ky. Rogers, T. Shaikh, S. Singh, G. Tsiakos, G. Turcotte, J. Xue, S. Yi-Kieran, E. Zusman

Regrets: M. Adshade, J. Al Rahmani, B. Bhandar, L. Burr, D. Dahl, A. d'Entremont, C. Eaton, G. Faulkner, A. Fisher, B. Forster, J. Fox, C. Godwin, S. Gopalakrishnan, S. Grayston, J. Greenman, G. Guo, E. Jenkins, R. Kim, F. Lalji, S. McGillivray, W. Norman, C. Overall, M. Prost, M. Reid, J. Rogers, S. Rout, S. Sherif, R. Spencer, R. Topping, A. Uzama, H. von Bergmann, W. Zhu

Clerk: J. Iverson (Acting)

Call to Order

The Chair of Senate, Dr Benoit-Antoine Bacon, called the fourth meeting of the Senate for the 2024/2025 academic year to order at 6:01 pm.

Minutes of Previous Meetings

Jasper Lorien

Solomon Yi-Kieran

That the minutes of the meeting of 20 November 2024 be approved.

Approved

Remarks from the Chair

The President noted that it is the last Senate meeting of the calendar year. He wished students good luck on exams and thanked Faculty members and staff who are supporting students during the exam period.

Fall graduation ceremonies were held in November. About 3,000 students crossed the stage in ten ceremonies, which capped off UBC's largest ever graduated class with almost 15,000 students. The President thanked Senators who attended the ceremonies. Two honorary degrees

that were approved by Senate last year were conferred to Dr Bartha Maria Knoppers and Dr Sarah Polley. The new Chancellor, Judy Rogers, was also formally installed.

The recipients of the inaugural wall legacy awards were recently announced. The President highlighted that this is \$4 million dollars annually given to researchers, including graduate students and Faculty members. There were almost 40 recipients for these awards this year. The President congratulated the recipients.

The President stated that it has now been his first full year at UBC. He expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve at such a remarkable institution. He stated that in 2024, UBC celebrated a record-breaking year for research funding, and by a significant margin at \$893 million. He congratulated all researchers and Deans for their hard work.

The President noted that there were geopolitical tensions and crises to federal policy changes impacting international students this year. He stated he is impressed by the continued resilience of the UBC community and its commitment to its values.

The strategic plan refresh is still underway. This fall, there were many consultations and pop up sessions held, as well as an online survey. The President thanked Senators that took part in the consultation in early December. In total, 1,700 individuals have participated in the consultation. The project team is now working on developing themes out of the information that was gathered, which will be discussed in the new year. In early 2025, work will start on considering more specific objectives and actions largely focused on UBC's academic mission.

The President thanked the Senate team for their support and wished everyone a restful holiday break.

Senator Singh thanked the President for his detailed report. He expressed fear for the financial situation of UBC in the future due to inflation, international student restrictions, and tariffs from the US. He asked how these will impact UBC.

The President responded that the 2024/2025 budget is balanced and on track in the third quarter of the year. The budget for the next year will be a little bit tighter because of the international student cap, but UBC is still doing better than most universities in Canada. The reduction in applications is only 10-20%. International student tuitions accounts for 30% of our budget. Overall, the reduction is relatively modest. UBC has been able to adjust progressively over the years to this situation. It is unlikely that any kind of additional support will come to the university from the provincial or federal government.

The Provost, Dr Gage Averill, stated that he expects a lot of collaboration from the province in terms of making a process to grant provincial letters of attestation, which are required for international students to get their visas. This collaborative relationship will help greatly. Due to the international student cap and political issues, the difference between the 2021 budget and now is \$45 million a year. The Provost commended the

Faculties and administrative units on both campuses for pulling back on expenditures to allow for a balanced budget this year, and for a close balanced budget in the coming year. The Provost stated that this does not conflict with UBC's strategic plan and that we can be creative and imaginative about the future while being careful with finances. However, the Faculty of Arts, the Faculty of Applied Science, and the UBCO campus are experiencing more severe budgetary impacts.

The President emphasized that the \$45 million gap per year is about 1.5% of the budget.

Senator Pratap-Singh asked if UBC's research relationships with other countries are affected, particularly those in turmoil, such as Russia and India.

The President referred to a list of concerns on research security risks published over a year ago, particularly with China, Russia, and Iran. He stated that this has caused less disruption than expected, which is also the position of the U15. These are dealt with on a case-by-case basis. It continues to be a concern, but has not been an impediment to UBC's research enterprise as a whole. The President stated that he can follow up with the Vice-President, Research and Innovation, to provide an update on this at a future Senate meeting.

Academic Policy Committee

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

CHANGES TO ACADEMIC REGULATIONS FOR THE FACULTY OF PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

Kin Lo
Catherine Rawn

That Senate approve changes to the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, academic regulations with respect to supplemental examinations, effective 2025S and thereafter.

Senator Lo stated that this proposal clarifies when supplemental exams would not normally be granted by the Student Progress Committee. Without the additional wording, it was unclear when or how much latitude that committee had in granting supplemental exams.

Senator Yi-Kieran asked if these changes are codifying the current practices in the Faculty, or if there are changes being made to the practices. Will this make it harder for students to access supplemental assessments?

Senator Lo responded that currently, the practice involves the committee. The wording is to close the expectations gap between the committee and the students who are potentially seeking supplemental exams. If students are far away from what is described in the proposal, then it does not give them false hope.

Senator Lavallee noted that this is being brought in a summer session. She asked if this is a change of conditions for study for students who are currently in the program.

Senator Lo responded that in general, the Senate does change academic regulations while students are in their programs. This is not backward looking and will not apply to courses in progress already in the Winter Session. It will apply going forward in the Summer Session.

Senator Qi asked if there will be any eligibility considerations for hardships or circumstances, such as mental health issues, besides what is already highlighted for supplemental assessments.

Senator Lo stated that it says ‘supplemental assessments will not normally be granted.’ The word ‘normally’ is used there to allow for extenuating circumstances where a concession might be granted in consideration of mental health issues or other similar issues.

Approved

Kin Lo
Catherine Rawn

*That Senate approve changes to the Faculty of
Pharmaceutical Sciences, Bachelor of
Pharmaceutical Sciences, academic regulations
with respect to Length to Completion of Degree,
Including Part-time Study, effective 2025S and
thereafter.*

Senator Lo stated that this proposal adds additional language to clarify that the maximum length of study of eight years applies to students who are studying on a part-time basis. The wording was in place already, but was not as clear beforehand.

Senator Rawn asked about the change of GPA to 3.0 from an overall B average on page 22 of the docket. She stated that she thought letters were used and not GPA.

Senator Raman-Wilms responded that this change just brings further clarity that it is 73%.

Senator Harrison asked if this is just the new terminology consistent with Workday Student.

Senator Lavallee noted that in the grades policy for Senate, a B average starts at 72%, not 73%, so it should probably not have been adjusted.

Senator Lo explained there was a processing error at some point based on the rationale submissions for the proposed change. He recommended excluding this smaller change because it was not considered by the Committee.

Senator Raman-Wilms supported taking this back to the Committee for clarification.

Senator Pelech suggested this change might have been included because we are also getting transcripts from other institutions that may be using a GPA score.

The President stated to vote for this motion based on the understanding that the Academic Policy Committee will review the language and grading structures.

Approved

CHANGES TO ACADEMIC REGULATIONS FOR THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE AND POST-DOCTORAL STUDIES

Kin Lo
Jenny Phelps

That Senate approve changes to the Faculty of Graduate and Post-Doctoral Studies academic regulations with respect to Transfer Credit and Laddered Credit, effective 2025S and thereafter.

Senator Lo stated that the proposal mainly concerns laddered credits, but there are consequential changes to the transfer credit section of the calendar as well. It introduces the concept of ladder credits and defines when they would be accepted and applied to a Masters degree.

Approved

NEW POLICY J-500: ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Kin Lo
Paul Harrison

That Senate approve Policy J-500: Academic Freedom.

Senator Lo stated that the review of this policy started in 2019 under the leadership of Senator Harrison. A working group was formed at that time to tackle this issue in response to a number of events on campus that were described as controversial speakers. From the first working group, a first draft of the policy was proposed and circulated for consultation. Subsequently, there were over a thousand submissions to that consultation, so a second working group was formed to analyze the feedback. This second working group consisted of members of the Academic Policy Committees from both campuses and revised the draft that resulted in the proposal today.

The President emphasized that this a new joint policy between the Vancouver and Okanagan campuses. He reminded Senators that in accordance with the protocols for system-wide

academic policy development set in 2006, that amendments to new joint policies should not be made. If either Senate desires a revision, it should be referred back to the relevant committees.

Senator Menzies asked for clarification on the following: since the public consultation in 2022, this policy has not been circulated for another round of public consultation.

Senator Lo confirmed that is correct. The working group analyzed the feedback, and then the two Academic Policy Committees reviewed the proposal.

Senator Menzies expressed concern that the proposal has not gone for another round of review in the community. This revision has significant changes compared to the previous one that was put out for community consultation. Clause 2 of the policy suggests it takes precedence over all policies. This cannot supersede the collective agreement. The collective agreement has the weight of law that takes precedence over this particular policy.

Senator Lo responded that policies and the collective agreement are separate. The policy does not substitute for what is agreed to in the collective agreements.

The Provost noted that conflict should be avoided between controlling documents.

Senator Menzies replied that his understanding is that the labour law and provisions of the collective agreement actually do take precedence over this, unless it's not depending on how it's defined. This needs more time for clarity and confirmation.

Senator Menzies stated that in Clause 3, the last line may limit the academic freedom accorded to individual members. This seems to contradict the idea that academic freedom exists for all members, but the Senate is apparently reserving itself the power to limit the academic freedom of a particular member. Clause 6 states that those who enjoy academic freedom must be willing to demonstrate that there are opinions and ideas that are either supported by a body of established knowledge, or arise from scholarly activity. He expressed concern over what constitutes an established body or knowledge. He also noted that other academic freedom policies include the capacity to critique governance structures beyond teaching and research, and to critique governance practices and administration. This proposal appears to be narrowly focused on academic endeavours. He suggested deferring this proposal to the January Senate meeting for more time to reflect.

The President agreed that there should be harmony between policy and the collective agreement.

Senator Lo replied in regards to Clause 3, that the exception needs to be that any body who is charged with a particular authority over academic matters always has the residual right to make decisions within its realm of authority. It is not in accordance with governance to establish a policy in which the Senate has no further jurisdiction over that

policy. The Senate always has the residual right to limit the application of any policy, including academic freedom. In Clause 6, the reference to ‘a body of established knowledge or arise from scholarly activity,’ is included to protect members who have countervailing views that are perhaps not in the established knowledge. In regards to the CAUT, this was not something that the working group or committees explored, and it was not explored in the 1977 statement.

Senator Lavallee asked for clarity regarding an apparent contradiction between Clause 2, where the Senate policy takes precedence over all other policies of the University, and Clause 5, where it states this policy does not limit the application of other university policies. Establishing precedence over other policies is limiting the application of those other policies.

Senator Lo responded that the end of Clause 2 is important, as it states precedent over all of the policy of the University with respect to academic freedom. In Clause 5, it is stated that the requirements of other policies must be satisfied. Clause 2 needs to be interpreted in the context that it is with respect to academic freedom; when it intersects with other policies, then those other policies do need to be considered.

Senator Singh asked if there has been input from other people, such the Faculty, administration, or the OUC.

Senator Lo responded that the OUC has been part of the process since the first working group in 2019. They have been part of the process since then, including during the public consultation. They also reviewed drafts from the second working group. The first working group also had other members of the University, such as the Ombuds Office and Equity and Inclusion.

Senator Hassib stated that upon reading the procedure section of the policy, it seems to be written in the case that if someone feels like their academic freedom has been infringed upon, they can report it to the Office of the Senate, and apply. As part of the process there would be an ad hoc committee to conduct an inquiry to see if the policy was breached. Does this work in reverse? Is there a procedure for someone to put forward an application for infringement of the other policies listed?

Senator Lo replied that since those other policies are not academic policies, Senate and its committees would not have jurisdiction over these matters.

The President asked if there is urgency in approving this policy at this particular time.

Senator Lo responded no.

The Provost thanked the Academic Policy Committee for their hard work on this for the past three years. This proposal is an improvement but there are a number of issues. He suggested that

this be referred back to the Academic Policy Committee and to have them report back in February.

Gage Averill
Charles Menzies

That J-500: Academic Freedom be referred back to the Academic Policy Committee.

The Provost emphasized that we need to ensure that the recourse processes fit with other university processes. We also want to make sure that the extension to staff does not create issues for the University.

Senator Britton recognized that many of the issues that have been raised do merit review by the Committee. He noted a challenge with the reference to the collective agreement. We are subjected to the timeline of the collective agreement for substantive changes. The existing collective agreement that stands is not fit for purpose. He suggested the Senate set its academic policy, and instruct with the support of the OUC, to enable this to be effectively feathered into the process for the collective agreement and subsequent actions thereafter. He expressed concern over involving a third party in this, which creates a perpetual stalemate with regards to changes. He recognized the benefits of sending this proposal back to the Committee, but stated that Senate should effectively use its power to drive the conversation on behalf of the academic mission of the University, along with understanding and appreciation of the hard work and contributions of the collective agreement holders.

Senator Harrison supported Senator Britton's comments that it is the job of Senate to set academic policy. The fact that the current statement on academic freedom that is in the calendar was incorporated into the collective agreement should not stop us from changing academic policy. Senate should act and not wait.

Senator Menzies agreed with Senator Britton and Senator Harrison in terms of Senate setting policy, but stated that if there is a contradiction, we need to know about it. This is not urgent and it is prudent to defer.

Senator Pratap-Singh expressed concern about making changes, and then the proposal having to go back to the Okanagan Committee again, which can create a back and forth. He suggested holding a special joint meeting of the two Committees, and of the two Senates to pass this.

Senator Lo stated that traditionally, when we refer back to the Committee, it is with respect to some specific issue, with potentially some revision that is anticipated in the interim. Is the motion to postpone to bring this back to the February Senate meeting, as opposed to referring back to the Committee?

The Provost clarified that his motion was to refer back to the Committee for discussion of a very delimited set of issues, including the role of staff, established knowledge, and its relation to other agreements.

Senator Phelps reminded the Provost of Senator Menzies' concern about whether critique of university administration comes under the definition of scholarly activity. She stated that the draft policy would benefit from a definition of scholarly activity.

Approved

Senator Graham asked about the definition of members of the community. There is a category of associate of the University: the adjunct professors who are not employed by the University, but are affiliated with the departments. Are they captured by the definition? Does the category of post-doctoral fellows or staff include research associates?

Senator Lo responded that research associates are covered under staff. Under the applicability section, the policy is applicable to all members while they are engaged in academic pursuits, such as engaging in research for the University. Under number three of the membership section, 'holders of teaching appointments,' adjunct professors who are teaching are covered. Under number five, 'anyone contractually obligated to comply with this policy,' adjunct professors are covered if they are not teaching.

Senator Shaikh asked if there is any scope to add wording around responsibility from academic freedom.

Senator Lo stated that the working groups and committees deliberated this. The policy at its core is about academic freedom. If something infringes upon other rights other than academic freedom, then those rights should be pursued through other avenues.

The President stated that further questions should be sent the Senate Office, and they will be forwarded to the Academic Policy Committee for consideration.

Admissions Committee

The Vice-Chair of the Senate Admissions Committee, Senator Kevin Doering, presented.

MASTER OF HEALTH LEADERSHIP AND POLICY IN SENIORS CARE: SUSPENSION OF ADMISSIONS

Kevin Doering
Mark MacLachlan

That Senate approve the suspension of admission to the Master of Health Leadership and Policy in Seniors Care effective for the 2025 Winter Session and thereafter, and the associated Calendar entry.

Senator Doering stated that this recommendation comes from a review conducted by Professor Hugh Arnold, which found a need to suspend this program due to low application rates and enrolment numbers. Some factors identified contributing to this relate to competition from similar programs, financial barriers for students, and a lack of online and flexible delivery

formats. The intention behind this is that the suspension will allow the school to re-evaluate the program structure, delivery, and market alignment, and hopefully come back in the future.

Senator Singh asked if there was any drop in the number of intakes into the program.

Senator Doering replied that consistently low application and enrolment numbers are the motivation for the proposal.

Senator Rawn noted that the rationale states numbers have been decreasing since 2019.

Approved

Awards Committee

The Vice-Chair of the Senate Awards Committee, Dr Julie Cool, presented.

NEW AWARDS AND CHANGES TO EXISTING AWARDS

See Appendix A: Awards Report

Julie Cool
Suzie Lavallee

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.

Approved

Curriculum Committee

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

CURRICULUM PROPOSALS

See Appendix B: Curriculum Report

Catherine Rawn
Jasper Lorien

That the Senate approve the new courses brought forward by the Faculties of Arts and Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (Arts).

Approved

Nominating Committee

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

COMMITTEE ADJUSTMENTS

Ben Britton
Jasper Lorien

That Taushifa Shaikh be appointed to the Senate Academic Policy Committee until 31 March 2025 and thereafter until replaced, to replace Dredyn Fontana;

That Jacky Xue be appointed to the Senate Admissions Committee until 31 March 2025 and thereafter until replaced, to replace Kyle Rogers;

That Dredyn Fontana be appointed to the Senate Agenda Committee until 31 March 2025 and thereafter until replaced, to replace Jasper Lorien;

That Grant Guo be appointed to the Senate Committee on Appeals on Academic Standing until 31 March 2025 and thereafter until replaced, to fill a vacancy;

That Jasper Lorien and Maddie Reid be appointed to the Senate Committee on Appeals on Academic Standing until 31 March 2025 and thereafter until replaced, to replace Kai Rogers and Taushifa Shaikh;

That Solomon Yi-Kieran be appointed to the Senate Awards Committee until 31 March 2025 and thereafter until replaced, to replace Taushifa Shaikh;

That Kareem Hassib and Maddie Reid be appointed to the Senate Curriculum Committee until 31 March 2025 and thereafter until replaced, to replace Giovanna Markman and Jacky Xue; and

That Jacky Xue and Solomon Yi-Kieran be appointed to the Senate Library Committee until 31 March 2025 and thereafter until replaced, to replace Kyle Rogers and Taushifa Shaikh.

Research & Scholarship Committee

Dr Robert Kozak presented on behalf of the Chair of the Senate Research & Scholarship Committee.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EDWIN S. H. LEONG CENTRE FOR HEALTHY AGING

Robert Kozak
Martin Hirst

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the establishment of the Edwin S.H. Leong Centre for Healthy Aging (ELCHA) as a Category 1 Research Centre within the Faculty of Medicine.

Senator Kozak stated that the Committee has reviewed the proposal from the Faculty of Medicine and received two presentations from the proponents on a wide range of topics, including academic subject matter, the financial viability and sustainability of the proposed institute, and a proposed governance structure. The Faculty of Medicine is now seeking Senate approval as per Policy V-5.

Dr. Michael Kobor, Dr. Kimberly Schmidt, and Margaret Lin gave a presentation on the ELCHA that provided an overview of the history, structure, and priorities of the centre, a rationale for it becoming a Category 1 Research Centre, and details on its strategic alignment with UBC and the BC Ministry of Health.

Senator Pelech stated it is great that there is an interdisciplinary program underway, but that we just approved the suspension of administration for the Master of Health Leadership and Policy in Seniors Care from the nursing program. He expressed concern about what kind of enrolment there would be for this interdisciplinary program. He asked if in their surveys if they have actually contacted their collaborators or people that are in the program to see whether or not they will be willing to take their students to this interdisciplinary program instead of the programs they're currently in.

Dr Kobor responded that they have done some surveys with their members. Tomorrow there is a meeting with twelve Faculty members to put together a proposal for a program in health ageing and neuroscience that would support this program in part.

Margaret Lin noted that this healthy aging program will have a broader inclusion than the program suspended.

Senator Graham stated that this proposal is impressive and he will support it. He asked why there are very few associates from the Faculty of Science on the list of associates, given the fundamental insights on aging that come from comparative biology and evolutionary biology.

Dr Kabor responded that their list is not updated yet and that there are several people who recently joined from zoology. There is more room in the future for more associates from the sciences.

Senator Pratap-Singh congratulated the team on their strong proposal. He suggested the possibility of launching micro credentials as well as non-credit courses for the general community.

Senator Lorien asked if there is any intent to expand the small summer undergraduate research program or create some year-long positions.

Dr Schmidt replied that the summer student research award program positions are paid. Increasing this would depend on funding but they are hopeful that they can create other opportunities. For example, they are looking to develop a direct studies course.

Approved

Tributes Committee

The Chair of the Senate Tributes Committee, Dr John Gilbert, presented.

EMERITUS APPOINTMENTS

See Appendix C: Emeritus Report

Senator Gilbert noted the correction to Dr Susan Porter's Emeritus title to 'Dean Emeritus of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.'

John Gilbert
Sue Forwell

That the attached list of individuals for emeritus status be approved and that, pursuant to section 9(2) of the University Act, all persons with the ranks of Professor Emeritus, Associate Professor Emeritus, Associate Professor of Teaching Emeritus, and Dean Emeritus be added to the Roll of Convocation.

Approved

Annual Report from the University Librarian

The University Librarian, Dr Susan Parker, thanked Senator Baniassad and Senator Burr for their feedback on this report and thanked the Provost, the Vice-President, Academic, library staff, students, Faculty, and the Senate for their support. Dr Parker presented highlights from the report.

This year the UBC Library finalized its three-year Equity and Inclusion Action Plan, based on the principles of the UBC Inclusion Action Plan. The library also entered its second year of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Scholars in Residence Program. In 2023, an Indigenous reference training workshop was developed to address the growing need and demand for Indigenous reference help across the library.

From January to December 2023, at least 19 librarians across both campuses provided nearly 1,100 consultations related to knowledge synthesis, more than about 400 hours of their work. A centralized web page with resources and intake forms is being built and will fully launch in 2025.

In May 2023, the library's conservation space hosted conservator Chloe Lucas for a two-day workshop on archival photograph identification, conservation, and preservation. The UBC Library also hosted Yan Li, a librarian and rare books conservator from Fudan University in China for a 100 day stay at UBC to work on materials in the Asian Libraries collections.

This year the library supported a landmark open access project called First Folios Compared by contributing the digitized version of its first folio to a collection of 47 unique digital folios from 23 global locations. The digitized version of the first folio has also supported an innovative project called Shakespeare XR, led by UBC's Emerging Media Lab and the Department of Theatre and Film. Shakespeare XR imagines and reimagines Shakespearean characters across different media from augmented reality, AI, and so on.

The UBC Library, UBCO Library, and UBC Centre for Teaching, Learning, and Technology, hosted a virtual showcase in March, introducing Faculty, staff, and students to many open educational resource projects.

The library announced a new partnership with the Canadian Certificate in Digital Humanities, so that the eligible workshops offered by UBC Library Research Commons now count towards completion of the certificate.

This was the second year of the UBC Undergraduate Library Research Prize, with prizes of \$2,000 and \$1,000. Four students received these in May. The prize now has an endowment which further secures its future.

The library was pleased to partner with the First Nations House of Learning on an open house to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the First Nations House and that of the X̱wi7x̱wa Library, which began construction in 1992.

A UBC Library innovation grant funded a workshop on finding ways to lower carbon emissions. The library also developed a two-page framework for Faculty and staff to help guide the decision-making process for work-related air travel.

In partnership with the Vancouver Black Library, the UBC Library was funded through the UBC Community Engagement Partnership, Recognition, and Exploration Fund.

A new mosaic design by Musqueam artist Mac Paul was unveiled at the First Nations Longhouse. It was a collaboration between the Equity and Inclusion Office and the Campus and Community Planning Office, with support from the First Nations House and X̱wi7x̱wa Library.

The UBC Library received a \$5,000 grant from UBC Connects at Robson Square to partner with Word Vancouver Reading and Writing Festival, which allowed them to host free and accessible programming at Robson Square. Woodward Library launched a Lego station on their main level with the goal of inspiring creativity and open innovation.

The library continues to expand and enhance its print, digital, and special collections, with currently 4 million ebooks and 5.7 million physical items. UBC researchers now have access to an extensive list of new digital archives, databases, ebooks, and print resources through the library thanks to funding provided by the UBC President's Academic Excellence Initiative.

The UBC Library Rare Books and Special Collection staff worked to make the Wallace B. Chung and Madeleine H. Chung collection more accessible for Chinese speaking researchers and community members. The team translated archival descriptions from English into Chinese for this collection, which relates to early BC history, history of Chinese people in North America, and the Canadian Pacific Railway. The team also partnered with the Paper Trail Project team to create an easily accessible digital archival collection of Chinese immigration certificates.

The UBC Library Rare Books and Special Collection team partnered with YWCA Vancouver to catalog and preserve more than 125 years of YWCA records dating back to the organization's origin in the region. This is funded with a grant from UBC's Community University Engagement Support Fund and will make records freely available to the public and research communities.

The acquisition of several rare Japanese manuscripts and calligraphy works as part of the library's Japanese collections was supported by the David Graham Memorial Fund. In May 2024, the library's video about this collection was recognized with an award for Best Production at the Association of Research Libraries Video Film Festival.

The landmark Malcolm Lowry manuscripts collections, one of UBC's oldest keystone research collections, was relaunched. It spans more than 6 metres of textual records, over a thousand photographs, and a variety of audiovisual materials.

The library launched a collaborative exhibition of photographs from the Uno Langmann Family Collection of British Columbia photographs, consisting of more than 20,000 rare and unique early photographs ranging from the 1850s to the 1970s.

For the fiscal year 2023-2024, the library online access system had 102,000 unique visitors, representing an increase of more than 20,000 users. On average, people are accessing its resources 56 times each year. In-person visits reached 2.7 million this year, increasing above last year's 2.4 million visits. The website visits reached 8.6 million visits.

The Chung Lin Gallery opened in fall 2023, providing a new and highly visible learning space with displays and interactive and digital exhibits from the Wallace B. Chung and Madeleine H. Chung collection, and the Phil Lind Klondike Gold Rush collection. These collections have both been designated as a national treasure by the Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board.

There have also been upgrades to AV and computer equipment in laboratories. UBC's Asian Library has also completed two major renovations to improve seating.

Erin Fields and Kayla Larson contributed to the National Advocacy Framework for Open Educational Resources in Canada. Last year, the library's RDM team provided 886 research data support interactions for UBC researchers.

For the fiscal 2023-2024 year, the library spent 40% of its budget on collections and 43% on salaries. This year the library spent 81% on electronic resources and 19% on print resources. 84% of the library's collections budget went towards purchases for materials invoiced to the US in US dollars. Due to the exchange rate with the Canadian dollar, this resulted in the library's loss of 15% buying power. The library has negotiated cost avoidance in various ways.

The library will exhaust its existing budget surplus by the end of the fiscal year 2025-2026 and has experienced a drop in funding for services.

Sue Forwell
Ben Britton

That the time to adjourn be extended fifteen minutes.

Approved

Senator Hassib asked about the financial pressures the library is facing, especially in regards to collections. The relationship of the Canadian dollar to the US dollar has been in freefall. There is also the possibility of tariffs. He asked if Dr Parker is anticipating either a smaller surplus or a reduction in expenditures. If the latter, what would be the first services that would be on the chopping block?

Dr Parker responded that the library is using its surplus funds to help cover some of these anticipated collection costs and will continue to do so. They would consider shortening hours of different libraries and use OpenAthens data to identify things that are not very well used or minimally used.

Senator Kanji asked how much is necessary in the current and next fiscal year to restore previously reduced services? In the long term, what sort of percentage cut in the collection would occur over the years if changes are not made? In comparison to other university research libraries, what do UBC's expenditures look like?

Dr Parker responded that we would need between \$50,000-\$80,000 to supplement student employee ranks up to where we had been previously. The amount is contingent on what inflation does and what the exchange rate does. There is no hole in the collections budget that is a set amount; it is really an erosion in our buying power. We would look at data as said previously, or reduce print buying if there is tariffs on it. We might have to look at our agreements with the big five publishers. The library has the lowest amount of dollars for the library expenditure among the U15. Our cuts are relatively small compared to our competitors.

Other Business

Senator Paul Harrison presented a motion on institutional neutrality.

MOTION ON INSTITUTIONAL NEUTRALITY

Paul Harrison
Sue Forwell

Whereas the University exists to provide a welcoming forum for the exploration of ideas by its members, and

Whereas if the University were to make statements on political issues that do not directly impinge on its fundamental mandate, the rights of individual members could be inappropriately limited, and

Whereas a number of leading universities have considered and adopted a formal policy of institutional neutrality,

Be it resolved that the Vancouver Senate establish an Ad Hoc Committee on Institutional Neutrality; and

Direct the Nominating Committee to recommend to Senate the membership of an Ad Hoc committee by its January meeting; and

That the Ad Hoc Committee report to Senate by April 2025 with a recommendation on the advisability of UBC adopting a policy of institutional neutrality.

The President emphasized that this motion is about the creation of a committee, not about the substance of institutional neutrality, as that will be for the committee to consider.

Senator Harrison echoed that the merits of the idea of institutional neutrality will be the task of the ad hoc committee, and it would include voices that are skeptical as well as supportive. He referred to a section on the Provost's website labelled Guidance for Ongoing Collegial Discussions:

“We should maintain an atmosphere where scholars feel free to express divergent viewpoints. UBC must remain institutionally impartial and inclusive on matters that extend beyond its immediate purview. Statements that could compromise the perception of institutional neutrality and inclusivity should not be made in a way that might reasonably be perceived as being made on behalf of UBC, its Faculties, departments, institutes, or any other constituent units of UBC.”

Senator Harrison noted that this is all UBC currently has for official reference. It could be the basis for an official policy. The motion would create the process for determining whether UBC would benefit from the creation of such a policy.

Senator Moss suggested that there should be a clear definition of what institutional neutrality is, who constitutes the institution, what is considered political, etc. She expressed concern that this could be a way to limit academic freedom. According to Part 12 of the University Act Clause 66, “a university must be non-sectarian and non-political in principle.”

Senator Harrison replied that a policy on institutional neutrality is a way of strengthening academic freedom. It is not a way of silencing dissent, but allowing for it to be heard. The issue of institutional neutrality is to draw attention to Clause 66 to make sure people understand that it is part of our fundamental operating structure.

The President reminded Senators to focus on the possible creation of the committee, whose task it will be to examine those very points.

Senator Graham asked what problem would this solve? He also expressed concern about academic freedom and is not convinced it will strengthen it. Are there external pressures pushing for this particular statement? Could this have unintended consequences limiting the University's ability to speak up about things that we are expert in, and be used as a tool to wedge external issues into the University?

Senator Harrison replied that these are great questions that should be explored by an ad hoc committee.

Kareem Hassib
Ben Britton

That the time to adjourn be extended fifteen minutes.

Approved

Senator Britton stated that the Nominating Committee has a history of creating ad hoc committees on behalf of the Senate, and effectively those committees can act to form informed opinion, such that it can be brought back for debate at a later stage. This has been done in the past. These subcommittees can be formed of membership from the Senate and from other members of the University community, and subject with external input as advised. It will be subject to the committee as what its constituency of this grouping would be, and that is an important aspect for Senate to think about when trying to direct the creation of a potentially contentious ad hoc committee. We are imagining eight people with external members; this would be decided by upon by the Nominating Committee.

Senator Kanji asked if this motion has been debated at the Nominating Committee?

Senator Harrison responded that it was not taken to a committee, and that it was his right as a senator to give notice of motion.

Senator Lorien suggested discussing this motion at the beginning of the next Senate meeting.

Senator Hassib supported referring this to the next meeting. He stated that he is uncomfortable voting on the creation of an ad hoc committee when the nature of its key definitions is unclear.

Jasper Lorien
Taushifa Shaikh

*That the motion on institutional neutrality be
postponed to the January 2025 Senate meeting.*

Approved

Adjournment

Seeing no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Appendix A: Awards Report

NEW AWARDS – ENDOWED

Gayle J. E. Harris Memorial Award in Library and Information Studies

Awards totalling \$1,750 have been made available through an endowment established by Barb Hart Harris (B.A. 1957, M.Ed.), in memory of her daughter Gayle J. E. Harris (B.A., M.L.I.S. 1999), for domestic M.L.I.S. students who have encountered social and/or economic barriers to accessing a graduate-level education. Preference will be given to students who demonstrate a commitment to public and/or community service. After graduating from UBC, Gayle worked as the Children’s Librarian at the Whalley Branch and its replacement, the Surrey City Centre Library, for 20 years. Gayle was passionate about serving the literacy development needs of the diverse Whalley community and was instrumental in bringing early literacy programming to Surrey Libraries. She was particularly proud of her role as the organizer of the Surrey Libraries’ Young Adult Writing Contest, which she expanded over 14 years. During her time at UBC, Gayle received a number of bursaries and awards that supported her education and rewarded her for academic achievement. The bursary that Gayle received as she transitioned into the second- year of the M.L.I.S. program is the specific motivation for Barb to establish this award in Gayle’s memory, in order to support students who have experienced their own barriers to accessing education. The awards are made on the recommendation of the School of Information, in consultation with the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. (First award available for the 2025/2026 winter session).

A. Keith Mitchell Award in Public Law

Awards totalling \$2,500 have been made available through an endowment established by Farris LLP, family and friends, in memory of A. Keith Mitchell (1945–2021), for outstanding second- or third-year J.D. students who demonstrate an interest in public law. Preference will be given to students involved in student government, lobbying, moot participation, and/or clerkship.

Financial need may be considered. Keith (B.A. 1967, LL.B. 1971) was a Managing Partner of Farris from 1994–2007 and Chair from 2007–2017. He had a broad practice where he advised many of the leading companies, institutions and individuals in BC over almost 50 years in law. Keith cherished his family and was enthusiastic about politics, books and travel, and was a devoted UBC alumnus, where he served as a member of the Dean’s Advisory Council at the

Peter A. Allard School of Law. The awards are made on the recommendation of the Peter A. Allard School of Law. (First award available for the 2025/2026 winter season).

George Ernest Murray Centennial Scholars Award

Renewable entrance awards totalling \$22,450 have been made available through an endowment established by the estate of John Mallory Murray (B.A.Sc. 1944), in honour of his father George Ernest Murray, for outstanding domestic undergraduate students entering

university 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 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).

Elsie E. (Perry) Paterson Award in Nursing for Indigenous Students

Awards totalling \$3,500 have been made available through an endowment established by Douglas D. Paterson, in memory of his mother Elsie E. (Perry) Paterson (1905–1995), for First Nations, Inuit or Métis students of Canada in a graduate program in the School of Nursing who demonstrate a commitment to culturally safe care. After her early life and education in Nova Scotia, Elsie moved to the West Coast and found profound meaning and fulfilment in her work as a nurse with First Nations communities, primarily on the West Coast of Vancouver Island. During her career and beyond, she was a strong advocate for the health and wellbeing of the communities she served and expressed an enduring appreciation for the relationships she was able to forge through the nursing profession. As well as honouring Elsie's life and career, this award is being established to ensure financial barriers are removed wherever possible for Indigenous students to enter the nursing profession. The awards are made on the recommendation of the School of Nursing, in consultation with the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. (First award available for the 2025/2026 winter session).

Marilyn Pomfret Memorial Award for Women in Athletics

Awards totalling \$1,750, which may range from a minimum value of \$500 each to the maximum allowable under athletic association regulations, have been made available through an endowment established by Lynda Hamilton, in memory of Marilyn Pomfret (1932–2019), for outstanding women varsity athletes in any year of study who demonstrate leadership. After a nine-year tenure as a high school educator, Marilyn (B.P.E. 1954) returned to UBC to teach, coach and serve as the Women's Athletic Director from 1963 to 1969 and again from 1972 to 1986. During her eleven years as the Head Coach of UBC's women's volleyball team, she guided her team to three Western Canadian championships and two CIS titles, including UBC's

first in women's volleyball. Marilyn's many accolades include being inducted into the British Columbia Sports Hall of Fame and the UBC Sports Hall of Fame, receiving a UBC Alumni Association Achievement Award and being named a YWCA Woman of Distinction. This award has been established to recognize and celebrate Marilyn's remarkable legacy of advancing opportunities for women in sports: her efforts to lobby for increased funding, her

mentorship of countless athletes and administrators and her collaboration with nationwide athletic directors to introduce national championships for women's university sports. The awards are made on the recommendation of the Athletics Awards Committee. (First award available for the 2025/2026 winter session).

Sandra Sengara Centennial Scholars Award for Women

Renewable entrance awards totalling \$15,000 have been made available through an endowment established, in memory of Sandra Sengara (1953–2023), for outstanding domestic undergraduate women entering university 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 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). Sandra attended the York House School in Vancouver and went on to become a philanthropist who supported local charities. The awards are made on the recommendation of the Centennial Scholars Entrance Award Committee. (First award available for the 2025/2026 winter session).

NEW AWARDS – ANNUAL

Climate Adaptation, Resilience and Empowerment Scholarship

Scholarships totalling \$79,484 have been made available annually through a gift from the Fondation David R. Graham for outstanding students who hold French citizenship and are enrolled in the Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs program in the Resources, Energy, and Sustainability stream. Ordinarily, each scholarship will be valued at \$39,742. The Climate Adaptation, Resilience and Empowerment (CARE) Program supports the next generation of climate-conscious global leaders who have the knowledge, skills and experience to generate hands-on solutions to address the climate crisis. The awards are made on the recommendation of the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs, in consultation with the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. (The first award is available for the 2025/2026 winter session.)

IT/IQ Tech Recruiters Thunderbird Award

Awards totalling \$2,000, which may range from a minimum value of \$500 to the maximum allowable under athletic association regulations, have been made available annually through a

gift from IT/IQ Tech Recruiters for third- or fourth-year student athletes, in any varsity team, who demonstrate an exceptional work ethic, leadership and teamwork. Preference will be

given to Bachelor of Commerce students and/or Bachelor of Arts students. Founded in Vancouver, BC in 2002, IT/IQ Tech Recruiters is an award-winning Technology and IT recruitment partner for employers and professionals across Canada. This award has been established in the hope that recipients will pursue opportunities in the professional sales industry. The awards are made on the recommendation of the Athletics Awards Committee. (First award available for the 2024/2025 winter session).

Nurani Family Award in Dental Hygiene

A \$2,500 award has been made available annually through a gift from Dr. Nooredin Nurani for a graduating Bachelor of Dental Science student who demonstrates community service and leadership in the dental hygiene community. Dr. Nurani, a refugee from Uganda, is a practicing Dentist in Atlanta, GA and is establishing this award to support the next generation of dental hygienists who are active in their respective communities. The award is made on the recommendation of the Faculty of Dentistry. (First award available in the 2024/2025 winter session).

UBC Pipeline Integrity Institute Award in Pipeline Engineering

Awards totalling \$11,500 have been made available annually through a gift from select partners of the Pipeline Integrity Institute (PII) for outstanding undergraduate and graduate students in the Faculty of Applied Science who complete at least one pipeline elective course in the Integrated Engineering Program. PII partners Fortis BC, Trans Mountain, Enbridge and Michels Canada have established this award to support students in pipeline engineering, reflecting their commitment to nurturing talent and ensuring the industry's future through a focus on safety and innovation. Awards are made on the recommendation of the Faculty of Applied Science, and in the case of a graduate student, in consultation with the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. (First award available for the 2025/2026 winter session).

Dr. Saida and Firoz Rasul Award in Dental Hygiene

A \$2,000 award has been made available annually through a gift from Dr. Saida Rasul OBC and Firoz Rasul for a graduating Bachelor of Dental Science student who demonstrates community service and involvement in the dental community. Saida, recipient of the Order of British Columbia in 2015 and the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012, and Firoz have established this award to celebrate the community contributions made by the next generation of aspiring dental hygiene professionals. The award is made on the recommendation of the Faculty of Dentistry. (First award available in the 2024/2025 winter session).

Peter Scott Scholarship in Geography

Scholarships totalling \$2,000 have been made available annually through a gift from Peter Scott (B.A. 1989, B.Ed. 1992) and Karen Kruse for graduate students in the Department of

Geography studying hydrology or fluvial geomorphology. This award honours Peter's lifelong experience with geography as a student, teacher and world traveller. Peter and Karen established this award to support students who are engaged in the vital study of water systems and landscape formation to cultivate a deeper understanding of pressing environmental challenges. The awards are made on the recommendation of the Department of Geography, in consultation with the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. (First award available for 2025/2026 winter session).

PREVIOUSLY APPROVED AWARDS WITH CHANGES IN TERMS OR FUNDING SOURCE

Endowed Awards

6544 – Syd Vernon Graduate Student

Award Rationale for Proposed Changes

Revising the Canadian citizens criteria to domestic students to make the criteria more inclusive and also removing the award cap in the description.

Current Award Description

Awards totalling \$20,000 are offered through an endowment established by the Syd Vernon Foundation and administered by the Vancouver Foundation. The Syd Vernon Fund for the Disabled, established in 1989, honours the memory of Sydney Edward Vernon, founder of Auto Marine Electric Ltd and a pioneer of the automotive aftermarket parts industry in Canada. This Fund supports charitable organizations for the betterment of persons with mental, physical or sensory disabilities. The Fund also supports the advancement of education for those persons committed to working with people with disabilities and their families. The awards are available to UBC graduate students who are Canadian citizens, with demonstrated commitment to the disability areas described above, through courses selected, personal experience, past or current employment and/or volunteering that involves working directly with people with developmental disabilities. Minimum individual award is \$2,000 up to a maximum of \$3,500. Awards are made on the recommendation of the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

Proposed Award Description

Awards totalling \$20,000 **have been made available** ~~are offered~~ through an endowment established by the Syd Vernon Foundation and ~~administered by~~ **held at** the Vancouver Foundation **for domestic students who demonstrate commitment to supporting people with developmental disabilities through research undertaken, courses selected, past or current**



employment and/or volunteering. The Syd Vernon Fund for the Disabled, established in 1989, honours the memory of Sydney Edward Vernon, founder of Auto Marine Electric Ltd and a pioneer of the automotive aftermarket parts industry in Canada. This Fund supports charitable organizations for the betterment of persons with mental, physical or sensory disabilities. The Fund also supports the advancement of education for those persons committed to working with people with disabilities and their families. ~~The awards are available to UBC graduate students who are Canadian citizens, with demonstrated commitment to the disability areas described above, through courses selected, personal experience, past or current employment and/or volunteering that involves working directly with people with developmental disabilities.~~

~~Minimum individual award is \$2,000 up to a maximum of \$3,500.~~ **The A**wards are made on the recommendation of the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.



Appendix B: Curriculum Report

FACULTY OF ARTS

New courses

GEOG_V 491 (3) Global Ocean: Geography, Sustainability, and Governance; **HIST_V 301 (3)** Global Medieval Heritage and Policy; **PERS_V 380 (3-9)** Topics in Modern Persian Language, Literature and Culture; **PERS_V 480 (3-9)** Topics in Classical Persian Language and Culture

FACULTY OF GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES

Arts

New courses

LIBR_V 515 (3) Information Visualization and Visual Analytics; **LIBR_V 567 (3)** Scholarly Communication and Knowledge Mobilization



Appendix C: Emeritus Report

First & Middle Name	Last Name	Faculty	Rank/Title	Emeritus title
Michael	Allard	Medicine	Professor	Professor Emeritus of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Douglas Andrew	Bonn	Science	Professor	Professor Emeritus of Physics and Astronomy
Aimee Louise	Creagh	Applied Science	Associate Professor of Teaching	Associate Professor of Teaching Emeritus of Chemical and Biological Engineering
Ronald	Gibson	Medicine	Clinical Associate Professor	Clinical Associate Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry
John	Hepburn	Science	Dean	Dean Emeritus of Science
LeAnn	Howe	Medicine	Professor	Professor Emeritus of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Kerry	Jang	Medicine	Professor	Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry
David	Kendler	Medicine	Clinical Professor	Clinical Professor Emeritus of Medicine
Clifford Neil	Kitson	Medicine	Associate Professor	Associate Professor Emeritus of Dermatology and Skin Science
Agnes Yuet Ying	Lee	Medicine	Professor	Professor Emeritus of Medicine
A. Donald	Milliken	Medicine	Clinical Professor	Clinical Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry



Susan	Porter	Graduate Studies	Dean	Dean Emeritus of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
Cheryl A.	Segaric	Applied Science	Associate Professor of Teaching	Associate Professor of Teaching Emeritus of Nursing
Elizabeth	Simpson	Medicine	Professor	Professor Emeritus of Medical Genetics
Paul	Thiessen	Medicine	Clinical Professor	Clinical Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics
David P.	Wilkinson	Applied Science	Professor	Professor Emeritus of Chemical and Biological Engineering
Joanne	Wright	Medicine	Professor	Professor Emeritus of Pathology and Laboratory