



**Vancouver Senate Research and Scholarship Committee**

**MINUTES OF 17 SEPTEMBER 2019 10:00**

**a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

**Via zoom**

**Attendance:** Dr. Guy Faulkner, Faculty of Education (Chair)  
Dr. James Stewart, Allard School of Law (Vice-Chair)  
Dr. Nancy Ford, Faculty of Dentistry  
Dee Goyal, Faculty of Dentistry, Student Senator  
Dr. Rob Kozak, Dean, Faculty of Forestry  
Dr. Merje Kuus, Faculty of Arts  
Dr. Charles Menzies, Faculty of Arts  
Dr. Gail Murphy, Vice-President Research & Innovation  
Dr. Susan Porter, Dean, Faculty of Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies  
Dr. Anubhav Pratap-Singh, Faculty of Land and Food Systems  
Lisa White, Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, Student Senator

**Regrets:** Dr. Robert Boushel, Faculty of Education  
Mr. Ben Fischer, Convocation Senator  
Dr. James Olson, Dean, Faculty of Applied Science  
Dr. Kate Ross, Associate Vice-President Enrolment Services and Registrar

**Guest:** Greg Martyn, Director, Vice-President Research & Innovation Portfolio

**Secretariat:** Aman Breen, Office of the Senate

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**ITEM 1: APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

By general consent, the Committee adopted the Agenda as circulated.

**ITEM 2: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF 12 April 2021**

<p><i>S. Porter</i> <i>D. Goyal</i></p>	<p>}</p>	<p><b><i>That the Senate Research and Scholarship Committee approve the 12 April 2021 meeting minutes as circulated.</i></b></p>
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Approved

### ITEM 3: BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

#### **PWIAS: Committee Response to the Response to the 2020 PWIAS External Review by the PWIAS Interim Director and the Board of Trustees**

Following the last meeting, the report was circulated for feedback, which was positive and supportive of the Committee's recommendations. The Chair was awaiting a response from PWIAS on the development of a governance manual, which has not been received to date.

The Vice-Chair reiterated two key ideas the Committee had adopted during its review of this issue; at different stages of the process, the Committee has considered its mandate and its relationship with the review and how much involvement/oversight the Committee should have. There had been general agreement that the Committee would undertake a careful review and make recommendations to Senate, but would have substantial degree of deference to the external review that has already looked at these issues. The Committee also viewed its role to be to reiterate core governance principles to those involved in this governance dispute. The report before the Committee reflects its role as a catalyst for some positive resolution of this particular situation.

It was noted by the VPRI that oversight of PWIAS rests with the VPRI portfolio and that there is substantial work ongoing to respond to the concerns that have been raised by the community and by the external reviewers. Issues of governance are highly complex and take time to be adequately resolved.

The Chair outlined the recommendations included in the report, and invited questions and comments. Of note were the following:

- A tight timeline for the development of a governance manual may hinder the process as those involved will only be able to give general response which may not be adequate;
- Important to reiterate the need for a democratic governance system within the University, one which upholds the values of academic freedom, collegial governance, transparency etc.;
- Acknowledgement that these issues are also of concern to professional organizations such as the Canadian Association of University Teachers;

On Recommendation 1, the Committee suggested that the deadline be extended from 30 September 2021 to 31 December 2021. In the event that governance framework is not forwarded to the Committee by December 31, the Chair of the Board of Trustees would be asked to update Senate on the timeline for the development of the framework, the challenges being faced in doing so, and what the Board's plans are regarding governance and avenue for dispute resolution.

On Recommendation 2: the governance manual should draw on and specifically reference the key documents listed. These documents outline core principles that should be reflected in the governance manual.

On Recommendation 3: the intent is to ensure that there is an open line of communication between the Committee, the Director of PWIAS and the Chair of the Peter Wall Endowment Board of Trustees for the next two years regarding progress in implementing the new governance framework and manual.

On Recommendation 4: consideration should be given to the appointment of a member of the Committee as an *ex-officio* member of the PWIAS Board of Trustees to allow for an ongoing relationship between Senate and the PWIAS.

In response to a question on Recommendation 4 on whether the appointment of a committee member is due to perceived governance issues or should the Committee consider appointment of a member to each institute or center at UBC. The Chair clarified that the intent is to foster communication between the Committee and the PWIAS Board and some oversight as to progress towards addressing the feedback from the external review.

There was a question on whether this recommendation would set a dangerous precedent by privileging one institute over others, but some Committee members noted that the collapse of the governance structure at PWIAS is itself potentially a dangerous precedent and that there were very few institutes at UBC structured like the PWIAS or have such active engagement from donors.

It was noted that one of the challenges with the PWIAS is that its governing body is a Board of Trustees rather than a Board of Directors, both of which operate in discrete ways; Recommendation 4 seems to be a monitoring function and may not be the best way to facilitate communication, though some degree of external transparency may provide a catalyst to reach some resolution.

The Chair called for a motion as follows:

<i>G. Faulkner</i> <i>J. Stewart</i>	}	<b><i>That the Committee adopt and recommend to Senate that Senate receive the “Committee Report to Senate on the Response to 2020 PWIAS External Review by the PWIAS Interim Director and the Board of Trustees” and approve the recommendations outlined therein.</i></b>
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Approved, 1  
abstention

The Committee discussed whether the report should be presented at the October or November Senate meeting given the presentation of the VPRI annual report. The Chair will confirm the timing with the Senate Agenda Committee

## **Vice-President Research and Innovation Report to Senate**

The Chair thanked VPRI Gail Murphy for preparing the report. The report has been reviewed by the Committee and will be presented at an upcoming meeting of Senate.

### **Indigenous Strategic Plan**

The Committee has discussed the possibility of a joint orientation/workshop for Senate committees on how they can support implementation of the Indigenous Strategic Plan (ISP).

There was general agreement that the most effective way forward for the Committee would be to do a close study of the ISP and identify which aspects of the Committee's work falls under the ISP. The Committee could then consider how to identify operational or policy changes that can actually be implemented. The Committee could then prioritize action items, from those that can be fairly easily instituted to those that require the Committee to work longer term towards implementation.

The Committee then discussed potential intersections between the ISP and other plans such as the Climate Action Plan (CAP) and the Inclusion Action Plan (IAP). Committee members agreed that it was important to identify intersections and then make choices about where the Committee can be most helpful to the governance structure of the University. The Committee should also consider whether policies applicable to its mandate actually further aspects of the ISP. For example, the criteria and process to review/establish centres and institutes should include consideration of how the unit supports or furthers the goals of the ISP; how are the institute being constituted making space for new kinds of units that might better reflect indigenous practices and values? There was general consensus that the Committee's discussions and decision-making should be informed by the goals of the ISP, along with goals articulated in the CAP, IAP and principles of academic freedom. Further, while it is important to consult with members of the indigenous community, such consultation cannot be tokenistic and should recognize the diversity of perspectives within the community.

It was noted that the Committee would benefit from a presentation/orientation on how to support research initiatives and goals of the ISP.

#### **ITEM 4: COMMITTEE MEETING FORMAT: IN-PERSON OR CONTINUE VIA ZOOM**

The Committee discussed whether to continue meeting virtually or transition to in-person meeting, or use a hybrid model that would allow members to choose. There was general agreement that the Committee will continue to meet virtually for the foreseeable future and will likely transition to in-person meetings when Senate does.

#### **ITEM 5: 2021/2022 PLANNING AND PRIORITIES**

The Committee noted that its core principles and role within the research infrastructure of the University should be clearly articulated. A part of the Committee's role can be that of consciousness raising so that any given analysis, such as the PWIAS issue, the ISP, CAP, IAP and principles of academic freedom inform the Committee's deliberations and decisions.

A member questioned whether issues related to transfer of research funding, such as agreements for MITACS funding etc., would be within the purview of the Committee. While this is an issue that the VPRI is working to address, issues related to external funding organizations is not in the Committee's mandate. Issues related to research security and resulting impacts on academic freedom and institutional autonomy, equity of funding across disciplines/research areas etc. are issues for Committee consideration.

The Chair will solicit feedback from members on what they think are important issues for the Committee to consider and develop a list of issues for Committee consideration over the next year.

#### ITEM 6: OTHER BUSINES – 2021/2022 MEETING DATES

Committee meetings will be held on a Friday (mid-month) from 10:00-11:30 a.m. Meeting dates for the 2021/2022 academic year will be circulated following the meeting.

#### ITEM 7: NEXT MEETING

October 2021 meeting date to be confirmed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.