



**SENATE ACADEMIC BUILDING NEEDS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday 18 October 2022 2-3:30 p.m. via Zoom

Attendance: Laia Shpeller (Chair), Adlai Fisher, Ben Fischer, Bhushan Gopaluni, Alex Scott, Jaclyn Stewart, Dana Turdy

Guests: Joanna Proft, Brittany Jang

Regrets: Andre Ivanov, Shaktiraj Kandola, Kate Ross, Richard Topping, Austin Uzama

Senate Staff: Michael Jud

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Senate Academic Building Needs Committee (the “Committee”) was called to order at 2:02 p.m. by Laia Shpeller, Chair.

ITEM 1: AGENDA

The meeting agenda was adopted by general consent.

ITEM 2: MEETING MINUTES OF 18 October 2022

The meeting minutes of 20 September 2022 were adopted as read.

ITEM 3: PRESENTATION – CAMPUS VISION 2050 BIG IDEAS

The presentation was delivered by Joanne Proft, Associate Director, Community Planning, and Brittany Jang, Community Planner.

It was noted that the Campus Vision 2050 process is running in parallel with the development of the UBC-Musqueam relationship agreement. There is a desire to deepen engagement with Musqueam compared with past campus planning processes.

Engagement is being undertaken around five “Big Ideas”:

- The learning city
- More housing and expanded affordability
- Restorative and resilient landscapes
- A community of communities
- Connected campus

A variety of choices will have to be made with respect to building heights, open space, and mixing of academic and neighborhood land. Feedback received will inform development of a draft 30-year vision and land use plan.

Committee members asked the following questions:

Q Regarding the growth rate of student housing, why are you forecasting 20% growth over 10 years while also expecting academic growth of 20% over only a full 30 years?

A The primary reason is that there is significant unmet need for student housing.

Q It was indicated that there is a flexible target of 20% for academic growth over 30 years, is this set by the Board of Governors?

A It was in the terms of reference which were endorsed by the BoG. It is a best estimate due to the high degree of uncertainty. There could be a preference for slower growth adopted in the future, this would be something for BoG to weigh in on.

Q Does the Campus Vision process take into consideration capacity to grow (land, resources, etc.)? The capacity for growth is not unlimited.

A A lot of factors are taken into consideration, including various capacities. Growth targets are informed by available land and other resources.

Q The redevelopment of Thunderbird Parkade was mentioned. Is the long-term plan to redevelop the campus parkades?

A Currently looking at the Health Sciences Parkade and North Parkade for redevelopment. This will be contingent upon improved transit and housing on campus and the extension of the Skytrain to UBC. The Health Sciences Parkade in particular raises issues as individuals with limited mobility need to access the hospital. The decision on which parkade to target for redevelopment will be made in the future.

Q It seems that the focus is mainly on infrastructure, buildings, etc. What about growth in other aspects of the academic mission, is this also part of the current planning exercise?

A The Campus Vision exercise is concerned with the physical campus. Planning for other factors of academic growth is taking place elsewhere in the university. The Okanagan campus has developed a comprehensive plan in the *Outlook 2040* document and similar lines of planning are taking place in Vancouver as well.

Q What is the plan to incorporate Senate and Senate feedback into the process going forward? The Senate has an important role to play as one of the major decision-making bodies at UBC.

A The engagement process is currently designed to be wide-ranging and incorporate feedback from many sources but may not involve as much depth as desired. There are opportunities to deepen engagement with the Senate and will explore this going forward.

Q It was indicated that many new high rises may be constructed on campus Does this create issues and what is being done to address them?

A The prevalence of high-rises can be an issue in terms of community formation. There is emerging research on how to create communities in this context. The planning process will seek to mitigate any issues that can be expected to arise as a result of high-rise construction.



It was noted that projections should be supported with data on demographic trends in the province. The province is experiencing high levels of population growth which may be expected to persist into the future. Current population growth significantly exceeds planned academic growth over the next 30 years. More generally, it would be helpful to more explicitly state the quantitative demographic and other assumptions on which the planning process is based.

It was further noted that the Committee could benefit from learning more about the data which is being fed into the various planning practices around academic space.

Committee members expressed uncertainty around certain aspects of the Committee's mandate. It was pointed out that the University Act requires that the Senate be consulted by the Board of Governors with respect to the management of the university's real property. It is not always clear how this role is best carried out in practice.

It was stated that it may be opportunities for members of the Committee to participate in the Academic Infrastructure Working Group convened by the Provost's Office staff. B. Gopaluni undertook to provide the Committee with more information in the near future.

ITEM 4: ACCESSIBILITY WORKING GROUP

The Committee heard that the university plans to resurrect a university-wide committee to advise on issues pertaining to accessibility. To that end, an Accessibility Working Group will be convened for the purpose of forming a permanent Accessibility Committee. D. Turdy undertook to provide updates on this initiative to the Committee once more is known.

ITEM 5: OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee's next meeting will be held on 15 November 2022 at the usual hour.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:21 pm.