



# VANCOUVER SENATE

## MINUTES OF 19 APRIL 2023

### Attendance

**Present:** President D. Buszard (Chair), R. Ng (Secretary), J. al Rahmani H. Amin, F. Andrew, G. Averill, S. Bates, L. Burr, I. Caguiat, V. Chitnev, M. Coughtrie, C. Crowston, D. Dahl, J. Dierkes, P. Englezos, G. Faulkner, B. Fisher, N. Ford, J. Fox, J. Gilbert, S. Gopalakrishnan, S. Grayston, J. Hare, P. Harrison, K. Hassib, A. Ivanov, C. Jaeger, X.T. Jiang, K. Kanji, D. Kelleher, R. Kozak, C. Krebs, K. Lo, M. MacDougall, M. MacPhee, S. Matsui, C. Menzies, J. Olson, S. Parker, H. Petraschuk, S. Pelech, N. Pindell, A. Pratap-Singh, I. Price, S. Razia, L. Shpeller, S. Singh, K. Smith, R. Spencer, Jac. Stewart, Jam. Stewart, M. Tan, S. Thorne, G. Tsiakos, G. Turcotte, A. Uzama, H. von Bergmann, R. Yada, H. Zerrieffi.

**Regrets:** M. Aronson, Boushel, J. Bulkan A. Collier, A. Dulay, A. Fischer, S. Forwell, C. Godwin, J. Greenman, A. Greig, A. K. Khosla, M. Kuus, H. Leong, D. Li, C. Marshall, S. Nicolaou, S. Point, S. Porter, A. Scott, M. Stewart, R. Topping, A. Zhao.

**Clerk:** A. Breen

**Guests:** P. Gerber, S. Jarvis-Selinger, L. King, M. Quayle, G. Reynolds

### Call to Order

The Chair of Senate, Professor Deborah J. Buszard called the eighth regular meeting of the Senate for the 2022/2023 academic year to order at 6:10 pm.

### Senate Membership

#### Student Members

The Registrar, Ms. Rella Ng, welcomed all incoming Student Senators serving on Vancouver Senate from 1 April 2023 until 31 March 2024 and thereafter until replaced. One representative elected from each faculty, two from the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and five members at-large.

- Laia Shpeller, Faculty of Applied Science (Continuing)
- Ian Caguiat, Faculty of Arts



- Hubaib Amin, Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration
- Tony Xiutong Jiang, Faculty of Forestry (Continuing)
- Joseph Al Rahmani, Faculty of Land and Food Systems
- Kai Rogers, Peter A. Allard School of Law
- Katherine Feng, Faculty of Science
- Siddharth Rout, Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
- Kareem Hassib, At-Large
- Mathew Ho, At-Large
- Kamil Kanji, At-Large (Continuing)
- Davey Li, At-Large
- Sultana Razia, At-Large

It was noted a call for nominations to fill the remaining vacancies will be issued shortly.

### **Nominating Committee – Student Members**

There was a call for nominations for two (2) student members of Senate to serve on the Senate Nominating Committee until 31 March 2024 and thereafter until replaced. Nominations are due by 4 pm on 30 April 2023. An election will be held in advance of the May meeting of Senate, if needed.

### **Nominating Committee – Faculty Representative and Convocation Member**

There was a call for nominations for 1 Faculty senator and 1 Convocation senator to fill vacancies on the Senate Nominating Committee until 31 August 2023 and thereafter until replaced. Nominations are due by 4 pm on 30 April 2023. An election will be held in advance of the May meeting of Senate, if needed.

### **Vice-Chair of Senate**

There was a call for nominations for Vice-Chair of Senate for a term of no more than one (1) year pursuant to Section 37(1)(a) of the University Act. Should there be more than one candidate, an election will be held in advance of the May meeting of the Senate.

### **Minutes of the Meeting of 30 March 2023**

The meeting attendance was corrected to confirm that Senator Grayston was in attendance.

Claudia Krebs  
Kamil Kanji

}

*That the Minutes of 30 March 2023 be adopted as amended.*

Approved

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



None

## Remarks from the Chair and Related Questions

The President provided a land acknowledgement and welcomed attendees to the meeting.

The Chair noted UBC's Board of Governors approved the 2023/24 budget. The approved balanced budget reflects the strong, financial stewardship of the institution, while supporting the University's academic mission in teaching, learning and research, as well as the commitment to have positive, social and economic impacts in British Columbia and beyond. The 2023/24 budget prioritizes investments that advance UBC's academic mission, as well as its commitments to equity, diversity and inclusion, to the Indigenous Strategic Plan, to crucial supports for students and the University's continuing response to the climate emergency.

Dr Buszard noted that UBC strives to be a research-intensive university for Canada and the world, a leading innovator in teaching and learning, a champion of the student experience and among the top ten public universities around the world. This year's financial plan will continue to support this endeavor while ensuring the University continues to become a more diverse, inclusive and equitable community. Over the past year, there has been a close examination at what is essential for the future of the campus and how land use planning can assist in achieving these goals. This led to the development of a draft 30-year Campus Vision (Vision), that outlines how the physical campus may evolve over the next 30 years. The draft 30-year Vision was presented at the previous Senate meeting and is available for community review. Valuable feedback has been received from the community through online surveys and several engagement events, including in-depth workshops held between 17 January and 7 February 2023. The next steps will be to analyze and carefully consider feedback and to update the draft plan, before UBC's Board of Governors provides its final consideration.

Additionally, the University has sought community updates to the Housing Action Plan (HAP) and the Land Use Plan (LUP). The HAP outlines how the University uses its land and financial resources to improve housing choices and affordability for its community, while the LUP contains the policies required to realize the goals for the 30-year vision.

Dr Buszard mentioned at the previous Senate meeting, the President and the Provost attended a listening session with Indigenous staff, faculty and a few students in March 2023 where they received valuable feedback. The President continues to have important and helpful conversations with Indigenous colleagues across campus, and she and the Provost will continue their conversations with the Indigenous staff, faculty and students at a second session scheduled on 20



April 2023 at the First Nations Longhouse. Dr Buszard noted that she and the Provost look forward to the second session and are committed to further dialogue and guidance.

Finally, the President congratulated Dr. Bhushan Gopaluni on his appointment as Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President, Faculty Planning, commencing 1 May 2023.

### **Report from the Presidential Search Committee**

On behalf of the Chancellor and Chair of the Presidential Search Committee, Senator Kozak presented an update. The Committee met on 5 April 2023 and welcomed another guest speaker, a senior University administrator, to assist with deepening the Committee's understanding of the role of a University President. At the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Committee also reviewed feedback from a second Presidential search survey aimed at equity deserving groups.

On March 22, a UBC Broadcast message was distributed notifying the campus community that the position was posted online at Boyden website and on UBC's Board of Governors website. As a reminder, Senator Kozak noted that suggestions for potential candidate, can be sent to Brent Cameron at [ubcpresident@boyden.com](mailto:ubcpresident@boyden.com). The Committee is at the stage where names of potential applicants are being gathered through the executive search process. He noted the Committee has not yet received the potential candidates list.

The President asked if there is a timeline for the search.

Senator Kozak responded that the Committee anticipates the selection of a President by the Fall 2023.

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

The President confirmed that the following matters sent to the Board of Governors from the Senate were approved as listed:

#### **16 November 2022**

Curriculum proposals from the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies  
(Medicine)

Revised 2023-2024 Enrolment Targets for the Bachelor of Midwifery and the Master  
of Science, Medical Genetics

#### **14 December 2022**



Curriculum proposals from the Faculties of Arts, and Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (Arts)

New and revised awards

### 15 February 2023

New programs and curriculum proposals from the Faculties of Applied Science, Arts, Commerce and Business Administration, Forestry, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (Applied Science, Arts, Education, Forestry, Land and Food Systems, Medicine, and Science) and Science

New and revised awards

2023-2024 Winter Session Enrolment Targets

Suspension of admission to the Bachelor of Science in Forest Bioeconomy Sciences and Technology, Bachelor of Science in Forest Science, Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources Conservation, Bachelor of Science in Wood Products Processing, and Bachelor of Science in Forestry programs

### 15 March 2023

New programs and curriculum proposals from the Faculties of Commerce and Business Administration, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (Applied Science, Arts, Forestry, and Medicine) and Pharmaceutical Sciences

New and revised awards

Establishment of the Fred Kaiser Chair in Power Conversion and Sustainability

Disestablishment of the Drug Research Institute (DRI)

### Candidate for a Degree

The Chair of Senate called for the following motion:

Deborah Buszard                      }  
Robert Kozak

*That the candidate for the degree as recommended by the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies be granted the degree for which they are recommended, effective 19 April 2023, and that a committee*



*comprised of the Registrar, the dean of the relevant faculty, and the Chair of the Senate be empowered to make any necessary adjustment*

Approved

### Academic Policy Committee

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

#### TERM SCHEDULING FOR 2023 WINTER SESSION TERM 1

Kin Lon	}	<i>That the Senate designate Thursday, October 12, 2023 as a “Make-up Monday” for purposes of academic scheduling. Classes normally scheduled for this day (i.e., Thursday classes) are cancelled, and replaced by the classes that are normally scheduled for Monday.</i>
Paul Harrison		

Senator Lo noted that for 2023W1 Mondays are disproportionately affected by the holidays that fall on that day, or, are observed on that day and the imbalance of the hours of instruction on this Monday will persist in 2024W1. It was also noted that the disparity creates issues not only in terms of equity in the total number of hours of instruction across different courses, but also difficulties in course management for multi-section courses that meet on different days, with common assessments such as midterm exams.

Senator Jaeger advised while she appreciates the issue being highlighted, the proposal shifts the issue to another day and noted that some faculties have already completed scheduling large first year classes and suggested more notice ought to have been provided before faculties and programs begin scheduling classes.

Senator Menzies commented that some students with full-time and part-time work might not be able to attend class, due to the inflexibility of their work environment. While this might seem to be a small issue, more marginalized and economically impacted students might be adversely impacted. Senator Menzies expressed an interest to stay the course than trying to remedy in this way.



Senator Stewart expressed general support to remedy the imbalance in Monday teaching days, and advised that the Faculty of Science normally tries to minimize Monday scheduling. She added that for Science courses or lab heavy courses, it would be better if the make-up day came at the end of the term on a partial week that would normally not have been used for labs. Having a make-up day in the middle of the term might cause more disruption to the schedule rather than helping it.

Professor Lo noted there are 14 teaching days on Thursdays scheduled for 2023W1, which is one more than expected, and two more than in the past two years.

Senator Stewart responded that sometimes labs must be scheduled on more than one day per week and it would be quite disruptive for students if labs normally scheduled for 12 October 2023 are cancelled.

Senator Santokh Singh commented that Thursdays are busy for most biology labs and advised the proposed cancellation of courses normally scheduled for October 12<sup>th</sup> would interfere with the number of courses that are lab-oriented. He added that he was not in support of the proposal.

Senator Pelech asked whether there is any overlap of courses normally scheduled on a Monday/Wednesday/ Friday with courses normally scheduled on a Thursday (deemed as the proposed October 12<sup>th</sup> make-up day) and, if so, whether it would make sense to designate a make-up day for those courses normally scheduled on the Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup> statutory holiday at the end of the 2023WI term instead.

Senator Lo clarified that the motion states that classes normally scheduled on Thursdays are cancelled, and replaced by the classes that are normally scheduled for Monday, which does not result in any overlap.

In response to a question from Senator Price, Senator Lo confirmed that programs with standard timetables such as Health Sciences are exempt from the proposal.

Senator Hare noted that graduate level courses in the Faculty of Education offered on Mondays do not have the same teaching hours as those taught on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays are afforded.

The Registrar noted that the proposal applies to those courses that are utilizing general teaching space.

Senator Menzies asked if communications will be forthcoming from the Registrar's Office to students and faculty regarding the proposed schedule change.



The Registrar responded that a comprehensive communication plan will inform instructors who teach on Mondays and Thursdays, and students will be notified at the time of course registration for the 2023 Winter Session.

Approved

### Admissions Committee

The Chair of the Senate Admissions Committee, Prof. Carol Jaeger, presented.

#### RENEWAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – UBC PETER A ALLARD SCHOOL OF LAW AND CHULALONGKORN UNIVERSITY (THAILAND) FACULTY OF LAW

Carol Jaeger  
Gage Averill

} *That the Senate approve the renewed terms of the affiliation between the University of British Columbia Peter A. Allard School of Law and Chulalongkorn University, as set out in the “Memorandum of Understanding (2022) Between Faculty of Law, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand (CU Law) and Peter A. Allard School of Law, The University of British Columbia, Canada (formerly UBC Law) (Allard Law).*

Senator Menzies noted that his understanding was that the consideration of this motion would be deferred until a report to Senate by the Vice-Provost, International, as requested at the February meeting of the Senate. He questioned whether the oral presentation by the Professor Rumea Ahmed at the March Senate meeting to be a ‘report,’ adding that he did not believe that the formal conditions of submitting a report to Senate have been met.

Professor Jaeger responded that the Vice-Provost, International *pro tem*’s oral presentation at the 15 March Senate meeting constituted a report to Senate.

Senator Menzies stated that he had asked for clarification from the Senate Staff if the Vice-Provost’s presentation was being deemed a report and did not receive any indication from the Senate Office that this was the case.



Professor Buszard asked Senator Menzies if he was suggesting that the report from the Vice-Provost, International *pro tem*, to Senate should have been a written report rather than a verbal report.

Senator Menzies stated that his interpretation of ‘report’ is a written report rather than an oral presentation.

Professor Buszard commented that a report can be verbal or written and that a report to Senate was made to the Senate from the Vice-Provost, International *pro tem*.

The Provost commented that an oral report meets the reporting requirement to Senate and noted that the Vice-Provost, International *pro tem* had stated that the University has not yet created an ethical framework for the development and maintenance of international affiliations and partnerships. Senator Averill added that consultations are underway towards developing the requisite framework, and that his office is awaiting the deployment of a CRM in the 2023 Summer Session to track the partnerships.

Senator Harrison commented that in his interpretation of reporting requirements to Senate, the Vice-Provost, International *pro tem*’s presentation at the 15 March Senate meets the reporting requirement to Senate. While the report was not satisfactory in addressing Senate’s previous concerns around student exchange programs offered in jurisdictions with academic freedom issues, this renewal of a long-standing Allard School of Law MOU excludes student exchange programs. He confirmed his support for the renewal of the MOU at this time and noted that a more thorough response to the issues highlighted by the Senate with respect to international partnerships and regional academic freedom and human rights issues should be brought back for further discussion at Senate.

Senator Dierkes stated while he does not want to unduly delay the renewal of the Allard agreement, he will abstain from voting. In his assessment, the presentation by the Vice-Provost, International *pro tem* did not address Senate’s concerns regarding the University’s approach to entering into affiliation agreements. He reiterated his continued interest in having a discussion regarding a policy or framework for the types of institutions UBC should affiliate, rather than the consideration of such issues when considering a specific proposal.

The Senate recognized Professor Graham Reynolds from the Allard School of Law, who provided background regarding the MOU. In the late 1990’s, the Faculty of Law at Chulalongkorn University, Thailand (CU Law) set out to create a flagship, internationally recognized degree program (LLM and Business Law) and partnered with a number of universities to develop and deliver the program. MOU’s were signed in 2003, 2007, 2013 and 2017. Professor Reynolds



noted that the 2013 MOU was approved by Senate. In 2019 there was a shift from multi-party agreements to bi-lateral agreements to provide additional flexibility. The bi-lateral partnership was paused during the earlier phases of the pandemic. He further noted the MOU renewal proposal does not create nor commit UBC to the creation of student exchanges or joint degree programs. Any student exchange or joint degree program contemplated with CU Law would be dealt with under a separate agreement that would be subject to a separate Senate review. There is no intention at this time to propose student exchange nor joint degree programs with CU Law or Chulalongkorn University, Thailand (CU).

Senator Pelech asked if it is common practice for students from partner institutions to receive scholarships as opposed to prospective students from institutions and/or regions without agreements with UBC wanting to study at Allard School of Law's graduate program.

Professor Reynolds responded that 2010 was the last instance that an award was offered to a CU graduate student attending Allard School of Law and invited Dean Pindell to comment more broadly on MOU's offering awards.

Senator Pindell stated that the Allard School of Law considers financial incentives for prospective students wanting to study at the School and may contemplate full scholarships. He noted it is common practice for MOU's to offer scholarships for students from institutions associated with the MOU's and further elaborated that Allard School of Law is thinking anew about approaches going forward.

Senator Ho asked if the Vice-President, International *pro tem*'s oral presentation on 15 March to Senate could be provided to Senate in a written version and asked if a motion was required for this request.

Professor Buszard responded that a request will be made to the Vice-President, International, *pro tem* if the oral presentation can be distributed in a written version and noted that a motion is not required for this request.

Senator Menzies asked if an honorarium arrangement with CU Law and Peter A. Allard Law is necessary in associating UBC with the promotion of the rule of law with institutions in countries with academic freedom and human rights issues.

Dean Pindell emphasized it is important to promote the rule of law, precisely in countries that have these challenges, alongside institutions that are not only willing to move forward and have the influence to promote and expand the rule of law and academic freedom.



Senator Rogers stated he did not support the proposal, noting that it does not involve students. If the University is entering into such agreements, they must include students, noting that there are many regions globally that have better academic freedom and human rights records with which UBC can affiliate.

Professor Buszard acknowledged Senator Rogers for the feedback and noted that these kinds of arrangements are not required to include students.

The Provost noted the University has more than 300 agreements around the world and there are ongoing discussions throughout the University on issues related international partnerships. He added that UBC is recognized as one of the most international university in North America as cited by the Times Higher Education survey. With this international recognition, there is an expectation for the University to engage with the world, including countries that have the same level of attention to human rights as Canada but also with institutions in regions where UBC can support and promote the rule of law.

Approved

Senator Menzies asked that his abstention be recorded in the minutes.

### Awards Committee

*See Appendix A: Awards Report*

The Chair of the Senate Awards Committee, Senator Sally Thorne, presented.

### NEW AWARDS AND CHANGES TO EXISTING AWARDS

Sally Thorne	}	<i>That 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.</i>
Xiutong Tony Jiang		

Approved

### Joint Report of the Admissions and Curriculum Committees

The Chair of the Senate Curriculum Committee, Dr Claudia Krebs, presented. Dr. Krebs provided additional context that the Senate had previously approved the Master of Pharmacy Leadership in support of Ministerial approval; however, Ministerial approval was not received



and the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (Pharmaceutical Sciences) is resubmitting the content of Pharmacy Leadership as a graduate diploma.

#### GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN PHARMACY LEADERSHIP

Claudia Krebs	}	<i>That the Senate approve the new Graduate Diploma in Pharmacy Leadership, and its related revised courses and deleted program (Master of Pharmacy Leadership), brought forward by the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (Pharmaceutical Sciences), effective for 2024 Winter Session and thereafter.</i>
Gage Averill		

Approved

#### Curriculum Committee

*See Appendix B: Curriculum Report*

The Chair of the Senate Curriculum Committee, Dr Claudia Krebs, presented.

#### CURRICULUM PROPOSALS

Claudia Krebs	}	<i>That the Senate approve the new courses, new program, revised courses, and revised programs brought forward by the Faculties of Arts, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (Applied Science, Arts, Law, and Science), Pharmaceutical Sciences, and the Peter A. Allard School of Law.</i>
Robert Kozak		

Approved

#### POLICY V-129: NON-CREDIT CREDENTIALS

Claudia Krebs	}	<i>That Policy V-129: Non-Credit Credentials be approved, effective 1 September 2023.</i>
Simon Bates		

Senator Krebs stated that the policy now aligns approval processes with the requirements of the *University Act*, and builds on and formalizes current practices. She noted that Senate has recently



approved policies related to diploma programs and academic-credit certificate programs. The proposed policy is the final installment in a suite of three related policies and is intended to create a similar framework for non-credit programming.

It was recognized the University already offers a variety of non-credit credentials, and that such programming is expected to grow, especially in response to market demands. The *University Act* does not distinguish between credit and non-credit offerings. While Senate has always been responsible for approving noncredit programming, there has not previously been a policy framework governing such programs. This policy does not extend Senate's authority, but rather, fills this policy gap by formalizing categories of non-credit credentials and their associated establishment criteria and approval processes. The policy delegates the authority to approve some types of non-credit credentials to the Faculties in order to streamline the approval process, where appropriate.

Senator Pratap Singh commended the Senate Curriculum Committee's work on the development of this policy, noting that it will allow Faculties to better meet and respond to the increasing demand for non-credit program micro credentials and for the University's outreach to students beyond the traditional systems of education. The policy will allow Faculties to be more nimble in responding to market needs.

Senator Krebs confirmed that the policy only applies to future programming, and current programming will remain as is.

Approved

### **Nominating Committee**

The Chair of the Senate Nominating Committee, Dr Paul Harrison, presented.

### **APPOINTMENTS TO THE PRESIDENT'S ACADEMIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON A UBC INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY AND THE PRESIDENT'S ACADEMIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WALL RESEARCH AWARDS AND WALL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS**

Senator Harrison noted an amendment to the second motion to replace Sue Grayston with Guy Faulkner.

He also reminded Senators of the email notification sent to Senators earlier in the day seeking nominations for two positions on an Advisory Committee for the Appointment of an Associate Vice-Provost, Health.



The President also commented on the importance of serving on Senate and committees and encouraged senators to consider serving on additional committees and to encourage their peers to consider serving on Senate and committees.

Paul Harrison  
Charles Menzies

} *That Romina Hajizadeh, Sathish Gopalakrishnan, Robert Kozak and Christopher Marshall be recommended for appointment to an Academic Advisory Committee on a UBC Institute for Advanced Study; and*

*That Guy Faulkner, Holly Patrashuck, Anubhav Singh and Julian Dierkes be recommended for appointment to an Academic Advisory Committee on Wall Research Awards and Wall Research Fellowships.*

Approved

## Tributes Committee

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

### UBC ACADEMIC DRESS – INDIGENOUS STUDENTS

John Gilbert  
Claudia Krebs

} *That Senate approve the adornment of mortarboard caps by graduands to reflect their Indigenous identity through the use of decorative traditions for graduation ceremonies in 2023.*

Senator Gilbert recognized UBC's Director of Ceremonies and Events, Ms Liz King's, stewardship of this request request by graduands to reflect their Indigenous identity for graduation ceremonies in 2023.

Senator Pelech asked if we were to receive requests from other international groups or Canadian groups from other ancestral backgrounds for modifications to their mortarboard caps at graduation, will those requests be considered.



Senator Gilbert asked that Senate recognize Ms King, and invited her to address questions and provide context. Ms King stated that the current academic regalia guidelines, which have been in force for approximately twenty-four years, have a provision permitting Indigenous students to wear their traditional regalia either with or in place of academic regalia. It was noted this provision currently excludes alterations and adornments to the regalia. Ms King acknowledged the two separate adornment and alteration requests open the discussion for a suite of additional requests which will be considered in a thoughtful manner in consultation with colleagues and others.

Dean Hare stated her strong support for proposed change, as Indigenous students and peoples have a distinct history and relationship to the University and to the lands in which it is situated. She added that the motion is in line with the adornments of the President and Chancellor's regalia and reflects a growing change within post-secondary institutions North America.

The Provost concurred with Senator Hare's sentiment and acknowledged that the University's relationship with Indigenous students is unique and spoke in favour of the motion.

Senator Menzies affirmed Senator Hare's comments that Indigenous students and peoples have a distinct history and relationship to the University that stands apart from either international students and settler students from other nations or communities. He noted the important clarity provided in the background information of the guidelines, which defines who is being granted this particular modification request, emphasizing that the use of the term 'Indigenous' applies inclusively to members of status and non-status First Nations, and treaty and non-treaty First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples in Canada, in accordance with section 35(2) of the Canadian Constitution.

Senator Thorne endorsed the motion and acknowledged the importance of recognizing that this is a request that originates from two distinct programs; one at each campus with both programs being specific to Indigeneity.

Senator Hassib asked whether the motion could be extended beyond the proposed 2023 graduation ceremonies.

Ms King responded that broader issues are being thoughtfully considered and noted that the guidance from the consultations applied to the 2023 graduation year in the interests of the current request, which will enable students from the Bachelor of Nsyilxcn Language Fluency at UBC Okanagan to adorn mortarboard caps for their 8 June 2023 graduation ceremony.



The President noted that the request is from the first graduating class from Nsyilxcn Language Fluency program and recognized the cultural value of beading work in celebration. She noted that she has seen many students wear their culturally appropriate headdresses and veils and while academic traditions are important, the current request is a very important exception, which she fully supported.

Approved

### Reports from the Provost

The Vice-President Academic and Provost, Dr Gage Averill and Vice-President Finance and Operations, Mr Frank Laezza, presented.

#### 2023-2024 BUDGET PRESENTATION

The Vice-President Academic and Provost acknowledged the President's opening remarks concerning the 2023/24 budget, noting its commitments to the many important strategic objectives of the University as well as to advancing teaching and learning and research objectives. Senator Averill further noted that the 2023/24 budget was the first budget unanimously approved by UBC's Board of Governors in recent memory. He acknowledged the contributions of the Budget Working Group, consisting of members from the Offices of the Vice-President, Academic, Finance and Operations, Students and the Finance and Operations team, along with the Board of Governors.

The Provost welcomed, and asked that Senate recognize, Vice-President Finance and Operations, Mr Frank Laezza, to the Senate.

Mr Frank Laezza, thanked the Provost for the warm welcome and presented highlights of the 2023/24 UBC budget.

Projecting consolidated annual revenues of \$3.6B, includes \$2.5B from the University's core operations. While the University anticipates a consolidated surplus of \$85M for 2023/24 arising from UBC's Endowment, unrestricted research funding and the net investment in capital adjustments, similar to 2022/23, this surplus is restricted in nature and is not available for general operating purposes.

Faculties are facing budget pressure in 2023/24 given inflation pressure and other increased costs. Overall, central support units are showing a reserve build-up, primarily due to funding within the Academic Excellence Fund (AEF) and the Presidents Academic Excellence Initiative (PAEI),



which is ring-fenced for new faculty renewal and strategic investments. This is somewhat offset by inflationary pressures, critical unfunded positions and a 1% one-time funding reduction.

Total planned 2023/24 domestic student enrolment (graduate and undergraduate) is 36,761 FTE for UBC Vancouver and 8,156 FTE for UBC Okanagan, leading to a slight planned decrease of 690 FTE overall compared to the prior year. It was noted this decrease reflects a return to enrolment targets that aligns closer to provincial targets, factoring in teaching space constraints and available teaching resources, compared to slightly elevated enrolment during the pandemic.

Total planned 2023/24 international student enrolment (graduate and undergraduate) is 14,229 FTE for UBC Vancouver and 2,350 for UBC Okanagan, reflecting a slight growth of 221 FTE.

The Provost added that the slight decrease in overall student enrolment for last year was attributable to two factors: a backlog of student visa permit processing by the Canadian government and an increase of small, private post-secondary institutions making offers to international students. These factors impacted all research oriented post-secondary institutions in Canada. He noted that in the past two to three years, there has been a downturn in students selecting fewer courses in aggregate, leading to lower FTE's.

Mr Laezza commented that he, the Provost and UBC's Board of Governors Chair will begin an outreach process for feedback from the 2023/24 budget process and will be working with the Finance Committee to set some key performance indicators (KPIs) and guidelines in support of the 2024/25 budget process.

The Provost noted there will be very limited incremental operating funding in 2023/24 and going forward for the next few years. Discretionary spending across the University is being carefully balanced among fulfilling multi-year commitments (eg. debt servicing of the Integrated Renewal Program (IRP) and major capital projects); continuing investments in strategic priorities as outlined by the President; and ensuring that the University's resources and infrastructure are sustainable in the long-term (eg. self-funded salary increases, inflation on non-labour expenditures, routing maintenance of existing infrastructure and seismic upgrades).

Strategic investments and commitment priorities for the next fiscal year include new and continuing investments in recruiting and retaining exemplary students, faculty and staff; world-class research infrastructure; and providing an excellent student learning experience, both inside and outside the classroom.

UBC Vancouver 2023/24 incremental funding for priorities 1 highlights include:

- Academic transformation and research excellence: includes a \$450K increase in 4-year fellowships for graduate students; over \$2M to support Library collections and to counter currency exchange rates and increased publisher fees; research start-up support in



Medicine, Forestry, and Pharmacy; support for interdisciplinary, community-oriented student research; nearly \$3M to support new learning spaces and a new UBC Farm building for Land and Food Systems; \$1M to fund the BioHub and Bio Centre support for LNP/mRNA; and a program for UBC Okanagan faculty with research collaborations with UBC Vancouver faculty

- Indigenous Reconciliation, Justice and Engagement: includes \$2M for grant funding awarded by the Office of Indigenous Strategic Initiative (OISI -previously awarded); increased funding for the Indigenous Collegium; salary support for the new Indigenous Land Stewardship program (Forestry); over \$500K to fund post-doc. and bridging fellowships for Indigenous and Black emerging scholars; \$450K for Learning Exchange; \$525K to sustain Indigenous curricular support in CTLT.

UBC Vancouver 2023/24 incremental funding for priorities 2 highlights include:

- Student priorities: includes \$270K for open educational resource (OER) support and awards; \$800K for food security; the previously mentioned increase in graduate student support; and \$1M to support broad-based personal portfolio reading for undergraduate admissions; provide an additional year of support to Jump Start for faculty instruction.
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion: includes an increase in staffing for the Former Youth in Care; an Executive Director for the Equity and Inclusion Office; additional staffing in immigration support for faculty, staff and students; the previously mentioned fund for post-doc and bridging for Indigenous and Black emerging scholars; and \$453K to support the Centre for Asian Canadian Research and Engagement.
- Climate Action: includes \$400K for the Climate Action Plan; support for the Social Ecological Economic Development Studies (SEEDS) Sustainability Program; 1.5 additional positions for the Sustainability Hub; \$1M in climate solutions funding; and \$595K to address Climate Emergency Taskforce priorities.

UBC Vancouver 2023/24 incremental funding for priorities 3 highlights include:

- Operational Excellence: includes \$1.3M to stabilize positions on the Operational Excellence Team; 2 new positions in the Office of the University Counsel; 1 in Human Resources, 1 in the Government Office; and 1 in Event Management to increase capacity; support for PAIR (Planning and Institutional Research) on both campuses to enhance data gathering and analysis; nearly \$300K to sustain the Campus Vision 2050 to plan for UBCV's future; \$2.4M to stabilize the Integrated Service Centre for IRP/Workday.
- Sustainment, Risk and Compliance: includes \$390K for increased learning technology innovation, sustainment, and security and an additional \$1.5M for license costs in IT; \$1.6M for PrISM (cybersecurity) sustainment; nearly \$1.5M for critical emergency response infrastructure; \$2M recurring for Workday subscriptions; nearly \$0.9M for commodity rate increases and nearly \$5M to meet the deficit and shortfall of insurance premiums.



The President welcomed Mr Laezza, and thanks the Provost for his stewardship of the budget process.

Senator Santokh Singh noted that the number of students dealing with mental health issues has been increasing over the last few years and that students are finding it difficult to find the help they need. He added that learning is only possible if UBC effectively supports these students.

The President encouraged Senate to invite the Vice-President, Students to give a presentation on student supports at a future Senate meeting. The President added that the availability of online counselling services during the pandemic enabled students to obtain mental health support in a confidential and timely manner and further noted there was an increase in the volume of students utilizing this online support.

Senator Spencer expressed his gratitude for the helpful and informative report and asked if the 2023/24 budget presentation could be distributed in a written version.

The President noted that the budget presentation was previously shared at the UBC Board of Governors meeting on 14 April 2023 and is available from the Board of Governors website.

Senator Ho asked what the \$272K allocation for open educational resource (OER) supports.

Senator Bates responded that it supports the continuation of funding that has been running for 4 years to provide grant opportunities for faculty members either to develop new OER, adapt existing OER, or incorporate OER into course designs.

Senator Harrison expressed his appreciation for the budget report and presentation, but noted that there is no mention of additional support of Senate as a governance body or the operational excellence mandate. He added that there will be consideration of additional funding for the Senate Office to help Senate do the work it is charged with in a much more efficient way. Currently, the Office is overburdened and needs more resources.

The President stated that she is aware of resource constraints, which will be considered in the triennial review of Senate, which is currently underway. She acknowledged the need to secure additional support for both the Senate and Board secretariats.

Dr Buszard shared that at UBC Okanagan, the draft budget is shared with the Okanagan Senate much earlier in the budget process; senators have the opportunity to advise and provide feedback on the budget well in advance of what is presented to the Board of Governors. Adopting a similar timeline in Vancouver would be helpful.



## **Report from the Registrar**

The Registrar, Ms Rella Ng, presented

### **2023-2023 TRIENNIAL ELECTION RESULTS and 2023 VANCOUVER STUDENT SENATE AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS ELECTIONS**

The Registrar cited the second set of 2023-2026 triennial election results, as well as the results of the 2023 Student Senate and Board of Governors elections. She noted that a number of vacancies remain and second call for nominations for Faculty and Convocation representative was issued earlier in the week.

The President noted the importance of serving on the University's governing bodies, and expressed her gratitude to those who serves on the Senate and the Board of Governors.

## **Adjournment**

Seeing no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.