

Langara College Board of Governors
Meeting Minutes
Public Meeting
Thursday, March 21, 2024, 4:30 p.m.
Boardroom B141 and via Zoom

Board Members:

Mary Lynn Baum, Board Chair
Paula Burns, President and CEO
Armor Valor Corrales (regrets)
Krisha Dhaliwal
Mark Goldberg
Stephen Howard
Michal Jaworski
Tess MacMillan, Chair, Education Council (regrets)
Raza Mirani (regrets)

Scott Murray
Rose Palozzi
Cole Rheaume (via Zoom)
Melissa Roberts
Claudia Salem (regrets)
Nick Smith
Sophie Won (regrets)
Urvi ‘

Employee Resources:

Michael Koke, Vice-President, Administration and Finance
Pouyan Mahboubi, Provost and Vice-President, Academic
Stewart McGillivray, Advisor, Strategic Priorities, President's Office
Yusuf Varachia, Vice-President, External Relations and Community Engagement

Constituent Groups:

Sophie Bennett, Representative, CUPE Local 15/VMECW (via Zoom)
Joanne Rajotte, Representative, Langara College Administrators Association

Guests:

Darren Bernaerdt, Dean, Faculty of Arts, and Delegate of Education Council Chair
Anne Baxter, Director, Risk and Internal Control (via Zoom)
Eileen Chin, Director, Financial Services
Eva Lau, Associate Director, Financial Planning & Analysis
Jamie Mah, Langara College Journalism Student and Reporter, The Langara Voice
Debbie Mohabir, Secretary-Treasurer, CUPE Local 15 (via Zoom)
Sarah Leung, Langara College Journalism Student and Reporter, The Langara Voice

Recorder:

Alice Hsu, Executive Assistant to the President

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

There being a Quorum present, the Board Chair called the meeting to order at 4:36 pm. She introduced S. McGillivray, the new Advisor, Strategic Priorities in the President's Office, welcomed all guests in attendance including D. Bernaerdt who attended the meeting in place of T. MacMillan and two student visitors J. Mah and S. Leung, and conveyed regrets from those unable to attend.

The Board Chair acknowledged that Langara College is located on the traditional and unceded territory of the Musqueam people. She also acknowledged the Indigenous peoples of all the lands the online participants were calling in from remotely to the meeting. She acknowledged the importance of the lands that we each call home. We do this to reaffirm our commitment and

responsibility to reconciliation, and to the importance of our relationships with First Nations and Indigenous peoples.

2. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

In accordance with *Board By-Law 200: Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest*, Board Members were provided an opportunity to declare conflicts of interest for any agenda item that would relate to the ongoing business of the institution. With none disclosed, the meeting proceeded.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA/CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by M. Roberts and seconded by M. Goldberg

THAT, the Langara College Board approve the agenda, and approve and acknowledge the items and motions on the Consent Agenda:

- 3.1 Minutes of Meeting held January 25, 2024 – Approved
- 3.2 Financial Statements to December 31, 2023 – Acknowledged
- 3.3 Confirmation of Remittances – Acknowledged

Carried Unanimously.

4. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Board Chair reported on the following:

- She received a letter from Hon. Lisa Beare, the new Minister, Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills. Subsequently, she had an introductory call with the Minister on March 12, 2024 and was able to speak about some items that are important to the College. A hard copy of the Minister's letter was distributed to the Board and the Executive Leadership Team members at the table for information.
- She reminded everyone that April 12, 2024 is the deadline to complete the College's 2024 Mandatory Cybersecurity Awareness Training.
- She responded to an email from a Langara Voice reporter who asked for clarification about the College Board's ability to provide oversight on issues related to the Langara Students' Union (LSU). She noted that the Voice recently published an article about the LSU, and a copy of her correspondence with the Voice reporter could be found attached to her Chair's written report included in the agenda package. She also noted that student Voice Reporter J. Mah would comment on this during the Visitor's Comments at the end of the meeting.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President spoke on the following topics related to the 2023/2024 strategic priorities:

- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Framework: She advised that the College has launched its first EDI Framework – a commitment toward a more inclusive campus. VP Varachia and J. Mason were the Executive leads, who worked closely with the EDI Director Joy Walcott-Francis and consultants from HRx (now called Inclusivity) on this project. The EDI Office held an Open House on March 20, 2024 and the implementation works have begun.
- Indigenization Plan: She referred to the memo attached to the agenda for this topic and advised that Graeme Joseph, Executive Director, Indigenous Initiatives and Services, will be leading a working group to develop an Indigenization Action Plan for the next three years. The key focus will be on building relationships. VP Varachia has been working closely with

the Musqueam, who advised that it is best to prioritize the projects that require collaboration and focus on one project at a time.

- International Education Action Framework: She advised that the Framework aims to ensure a well-rounded experience for our international students, not just academics, She noted that the Action Framework document included in the agenda package has not been widely shared with the College community but has been shared with the Ministry staff who are responsible for international education for their feedback and they did not raise any concerns.

The President advised that there are other strategic priorities for 2023/2024 and she plans to provide highlights of what has been achieved this year for other strategic priorities at the next/May meeting. The timing will coincide with her annual performance evaluation. She also plans to speak about the process for the next strategic planning at the May meeting as the existing Strategic Plan ends in 2025.

Last, the President reported that she joined VP Varachia and Connie Chong, Dean of Continuing Studies for a trip to Singapore to visit four institutions. The primary focus was on micro-/stackable credentials and lifelong learning.

Discussion ensued and board member questions were answered.

The President added that learning and professional development is also one of the 2023/2024 strategic priorities and the Organizational Development team has been offering some Professional Development series on Appreciative Practice (three sessions) and Enhancing Indigenization (four sessions). All the sessions that had been held were well-attended.

6. EDUCATION COUNCIL REPORTS

6.1. Summary Report of the Meeting held January 23, 2024

6.2. Summary Report of the Meeting held February 27, 2024

On behalf of the Education Council Chair T. MacMillan who was unable to attend today's meeting, Dean Bernaerdt highlighted the following items from the January 23, 2024 and February 27, 2024 Education Council Summary Reports attached to the agenda:

- Education Council Implementation Pause- The Education Council will have a pause on the implementation of curriculum proposals between its June 2024 and January 2026 meetings to avoid errors and inconsistencies while transitioning from Banner to the new Workday Student Information System.
- New learning outcomes have been added to two English programs: Associate of Arts Degree in Creating Writing, and Associate of Arts Degree in English, based on the outcomes of a recent program review.
- Two new courses Writing Lives I and II have been created specifically for creating memoirs in the Writing Lives program. Discussions ensued and Board members' questions were answered.

Discussion ensued and board member questions were answered.

It was moved by M. Roberts and seconded by R. Palozzi

**THAT, the Summary Reports of the Education Council meeting held
January 23, 2024 and February 27, 2024 be received.**

Carried Unanimously.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS/APPROVALS

7.1 Audit and Finance Committee (AFC)

The AFC Chair S. Murray presented the following items moved forward from the Committee.

a. Fiscal 2024/25 Operating Budget and Capital Acquisitions Budget

M. Koke thanked all the people in the College community who were involved in the budget process, particularly the Financial Planning and Analysis team and the leadership in that area: E. Chin, E. Lau and Kenneth Wong, Manager, Financial Planning & Analysis.

M. Koke provided highlights of the F2024/25 budget and noted that the College took a different approach from most other institutions in response to the government's latest changes to international students. By doing a better job in retaining our international students and with the tuition increase approved at a previous meeting, we did not reduce much of our tuition revenue.

M. Koke advised that an update on the Risk Register will be presented to the Board at the May meeting.

He also advised that in our conversation with the Ministry, Langara is seen as a financially responsible and financially sound institution. The College has also received preliminary approval to reserve some restricted surplus.

It was moved by M. Jaworski and seconded by M. Goldberg

**THAT, the FiY20scal 2024-25 Operating Budget and Capital Acquisitions
Budget be approved.**

Carried Unanimously.

b. Langara College Foundation – Transfer of Funds

M. Koke advised that this is an item brought forward every year regarding the money the College transfers to the Langara College Foundation, typically at the end of our fiscal year. He noted that Scholarships and Bursaries for Indigenous Students and Scholarships and Bursaries for Domestic Students are new this year and Y. Varachia added that these are incentives to attract talented students.

It was moved by M. Jaworski and seconded by M. Goldberg

**THAT, the Board authorize a contribution in the amount of
\$2,913,380 to the Langara College Foundation as at March 31, 2024,
as follows:**

**(a) Matching Donations \$200,000 for the 2024 fiscal year of the
Foundation, and**

THAT, the College indicate that these funds are for the sole purpose of matching donations received by the Foundation;

(b) Building Legacy Fund \$1,197,930 for future Langara College capital projects at the Foundation's discretion;

(c) International Education Development Fund \$515,450

(d) Scholarships and Bursaries for Indigenous Students \$750,000

(e) Scholarships and Bursaries for Domestic Students \$250,000.

Carried Unanimously.

7.2 Governance and Nominating Committee (GNC)

The GNC Chair S. Howard presented the following items moved forward from the Committee.

a. Board Evaluation Update

S. Howard advised that the GNC has established a working group, composed of ML Baum, R. Mirani, C. Rheaume and himself, to move this project forward. The Working Group met on February 13, 2024 and February 29, 2024 and presented their proposal to the GNC at its meeting held on March 6, 2024. The GNC has accepted the Working Group's recommendation to proceed with partnering with Kwela Leadership & Talent Management again for this year's Board evaluation as Kwela had done a couple of our previous Board evaluations. S. Howard noted that the survey questions will be reviewed and updated to ensure we will collect the right information. The target timeline is to start the process in May and have it concluded by September this year. GNC will have a more thorough review of the Board evaluation process for 2025 and will discuss the possibility of bringing this work in-house.

b. Board Policy Review

P. Burns advised that she proposed a new approach for the Board policy review process to the GNC, who supported her recommendation to have the management do the reviews first and recommend amendments to the GNC as opposed to the past practice that started the process with having all GNC members to review and submit their recommended edits to the Board Executive Assistant to compile.

8. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

There was no report.

9. STAKEHOLDER MEMBER REPORTS

There was no report.

10. VISITOR'S COMMENTS

The Board Chair invited J. Mah to make comments related to the LSU as he had requested and approved by the Board Chair prior to the meeting.

J. Mah advised that he was attending as a representative of the Langara Voice, along with his colleague S. Leung, hoping to get the College Board's comments on the ongoing student complaints related to the LSU Operations.

J. Mah elaborated on the complaints the Voice has been receiving from Langara students and he circulated his speaking notes at the table for reference.

The Board Chair thanked the students for taking the time to attend today's Board meeting and bringing the concerns to the Board's awareness. She reiterated that the College Board does not have an oversight role in terms of the LSU operations, nor does the College management. She advised that she will have further discussions with the Board and the Executive Leadership Team members at today's In-Camera meeting.

11. NEXT MEETING

11.1 Thursday, May 23, 2024

The next Board of Governors meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 23, 2024.

12. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by S. Howard and seconded by S. Murray
THAT, the meeting be adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Carried Unanimously.

Mary Lynn Baum
Chair, Board of Governors

Paula Burns
President and CEO