

**Langara College Board of Governors
Meeting Minutes
Public Meeting
Thursday, January 30, 2025, 4:30 p.m.
Boardroom B141 and via Zoom**

Board Members:

Mary Lynn Baum, Board Chair	Scott Murray
Paula Burns, President and CEO	Rose Palozzi
Willa Choy (regrets)	Cole Rheaume (via Zoom)
Armor Valor Corrales	Melissa Roberts
Krishna Dhaliwal	Claudia Salem (via Zoom)
Mark Goldberg (via Zoom)	Akashdeep Singh
Stephen Howard	Nick Smith
Tess MacMillan, Chair, Education Council	

Employee Resources:

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

Constituent Groups:

Allan Bell, Representative, CUPE Local 15/VMECW
Pauline Greaves Aylward, President, Langara Faculty Association (LFA)
Rosi Woodley, Chair, Langara College Administrators Association (via Zoom)

Guests:

Darren Bernaerdt, Dean, Faculty of Arts
Anne Baxter, Director, Enterprise Risk Management
Adam Brayford, Director, Strategic Communications and Marketing
Courtney Fabri, Director, Integrated Planning and Accountability

Visitors:

Noel Genoway, Instructor, Business Management and International Business
Jonathan Steele, Instructor, Business Technology Management
Urvi, Administrative and Project Support Assistant, Strategic Communications & Marketing

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 4:35 pm. She welcomed all guests in attendance and conveyed regrets from those unable to attend. She also thanked the Audio & Video team for setting up the specialized AV equipment required for the Board meeting.

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.

The Board Chair invited Board members to share their personal reflections on what the land acknowledgment means to them and encouraged them to do so at every Board meeting.

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 N. Smith and seconded by K. Dhaliwal:

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 November 26, 2024 – Approved**
- 3.2 Board Coordinating Committee – Minutes of Meeting held December 12, 2024 – Ratified**
- 3.3 Institutional Accountability Plan and Report – 2023/24 Reporting Cycle Approved by the Ministry – Acknowledged**
- 3.4 Confirmation of Remittances – Acknowledged**

Carried Unanimously.

4. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Board Chair reported on the following:

- Hon. Anne Kang, Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, and Sunita Dhir, Parliamentary Secretary for International Credentials and MLA for Vancouver-Langara, visited the College today. They met with President Burns and herself, held separate meetings with the Langara Faculty Association and with CUPE, and interacted with Nursing and Co-Op program students during a campus tour led by a Journalism student.
- She was invited to the opening night of the Studio 58 show *Heathers: The Musical*, but she will attend on another day since tickets for the opening night had already sold out. She encouraged interested individuals to purchase tickets early.

The Board Chair thanked everyone who was involved in the Minister's visit today.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Burns thanked the Board Chair for her report and for participating in the Minister's visit today.

President Burns advised that her President's Report, included in today's agenda package, covered the usual items, providing an overview of ongoing work on strategic priorities, as well as her engagement with the community and government.

She then spoke about some of the realities brought by the challenges the College is facing and referenced the email she sent to the College community yesterday, which provided an update on changes in student enrollment and their impact. She noted that, while there is a clear downward trend across Canada, it is difficult to make accurate predictions due to ongoing policy changes. She recognized that this uncertainty is causing some emotions and reminded everyone to be sensitive and respectful toward each other.

She also spoke about some of the work the College is undertaking to address some of the challenges, including offering early retirement incentives and special assignment agreements targeting areas where enrollment is expected to decline. She noted that some of the processes take time, and the College will continue to have conversations and consultations with LFA and CUPE regarding any impact on employees.

She stressed that the College's purpose is to educate students, which is why the College has been putting more resources into recruitment. This, along with retention, reputation, and community engagement, is where the College's focus needs to be.

Lastly, she advised that the College is developing the FY 2025/26 budget and will look into reducing expenses and aligning our spending with the College's priorities for the future. Vice-Presidents have been asked to review all expenses related to hiring, professional development, conferences, travel, etc. to ensure alignment with the College's priorities. While recognizing that it is a challenging time, she sees 2025 as a year of opportunity, despite the challenges and disruptions.

She noted that the Board will receive further updates on the strategic planning process and have opportunities to ask questions during today's In-Camera meeting.

[Courtney exited the meeting at 4:55 pm.]

6. EDUCATION COUNCIL REPORTS

6.1 Summary Report of Meeting held November 19, 2024

6.2 Summary Report of Meeting held December 17, 2024

Referring to the two Education Council Summary Reports attached to the agenda, T. MacMillan advised that there were not many items to report as the Education Council continues to be in an implementation pause. She noted that the Education Council is awaiting a decision on when implementation may resume, as some programs have an urgent need to make some changes to their curriculum.

She highlighted the revisions made to Policy F1001 – *Regular Studies Credentials and Micro-Credentials*, which no longer requires students to complete the last 40% of their program at Langara, as long as 50% of the program is completed at Langara.

It was moved by T. MacMillan and seconded by R. Palozzi:

THAT, the Summary Reports of the Education Council meetings held November 19, 2024 and December 17, 2024 be received.

Carried Unanimously.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS/APPROVALS

7.1 Audit and Finance Committee (AFC)

The AFC Chair invited M. Koke to present the following item moved forward from the Audit and Finance Committee meeting held on January 13, 2025.

a. Audit Planning Report for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2025

M. Koke referred to the Audit Planning Report attached to the agenda, noting that it serves as the blueprint for the College's fiscal 2025 year-end audit. The report was prepared by KPMG, who presented it to the AFC on January 13, 2025. In general, the report provides a high-level overview of the auditors' assessment for risks associated with the audit and their mitigation strategies.

He then highlighted key points from the report, including that the consistent leadership of KPMG has helped avoid extra work on the College's side, the materiality threshold has increased from \$5 million to \$5.3 million, and no issues have been identified in the risk assessment aside from one high-risk area - the risk of management overriding internal controls, which is a standard audit consideration and not specific to the College. He noted that KPMG and the AFC had an opportunity to have an in-camera discussion at the AFC meeting to address any concerns regarding the risk of fraud, process issues, and significant or unusual transactions. To his understanding, no concerns were raised.

The AFC Chair added that the private conversation was very brief.

It was moved by AV Corrales and seconded by K. Dhaliwal:

THAT, the Board approve the 2024/25 Audit Plan.

Carried Unanimously.

7.2 Governance and Nominating Committee (GNC)

The GNC Chair, N. Smith, advised that the Committee held a meeting on January 16, 2025, and discussed several information and update items, including the schedule for upcoming Board policy reviews, the 2025 Board evaluation, upcoming Board vacancies and potential candidates, and professional development for the Board. No motions are being brought forward to the Board today. The Committee will continue its work on these matters and bring them to the Board when ready.

8. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

AV Corrales reported that he attended a couple of Langara Falcon's games, and the team welcomed the Board's presence.

9. STAKEHOLDER MEMBER REPORTS

P.G. Aylward introduced herself and then spoke about four key areas of concern: the need for a long-term plan to address the decrease in enrollment, data issues, the reality of people losing jobs, and the need for clear communication and empathy regarding job loss.

The Board Chair thanked P.G. Aylward for her update.

10. VISITOR'S COMMENTS

Faculty members N. Genoway and J. Steele added their comments to the concerns addressed by P.G. Aylward.

The Board Chair thanked the faculty members for their comments.

11. NEXT MEETING

11.1 Thursday, March 20, 2025

The next Board of Governors meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 20, 2025.

12. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by AV Corrales and seconded by A. Singh:

THAT, the meeting be adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Carried Unanimously.

Mary Lynn Baum
Chair, Board of Governors

Paula Burns
President and CEO