

**Langara College Board of Governors
Meeting Minutes
Public Meeting
Thursday, March 20, 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 (regrets)
Willa Choy	Cole Rheaume
Krishna Dhaliwal	Melissa Roberts
Mark Goldberg	Claudia Salem (via Zoom)
Stephen Howard (regrets)	Akashdeep Singh
Tess MacMillan, Chair, Education Council	Nick Smith (via Zoom)

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 (regrets)
Pauline Greaves Aylward, President, Langara Faculty Association (LFA)
Rosi Woodley, Chair, Langara College Administrators Association (via Zoom)

Guests:

David Anderson, Dean, Faculty of Science
Anne Baxter, Director, Organizational Risk and Internal Control (via Zoom)
Darren Bernaerdt, Dean, Faculty of Arts
Adam Brayford, Director, Strategic Communications and Marketing
Kirsten Chan, Director, Financial Services
Spencer Dane, Division Chair, Creative Arts & Industries
Kenneth Wong, Associate Director, Financial Planning & Analysis

Visitors:

Approximately 65 members of the College community were present, some via Zoom

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 4:31 pm. She welcomed all guests in attendance and conveyed regrets from those unable to attend.

The Board Chair acknowledged that Langara College is located on the traditional and unceded

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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. Hearing no responses, the meeting proceeded, and the Board Chair encouraged members to share their reflections at future meetings.

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. Goldberg and seconded by S. Murray:

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 30, 2025 – Approved**
- 3.2 Financial Statements to December 31, 2024 – Acknowledged**
- 3.3 Confirmation of Remittances – Acknowledged**

Carried Unanimously.

4. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Board Chair referred to her written report attached to the agenda and highlighted the following:

- The Studio 58 show, *Heathers: The Musical* (which was also a Monthly Donor Recognition Event), and the 2025 Writer in Residence event with Jasmine Sealy were both very well attended. She offered her congratulations on the success of both events.
- BC Colleges Board Chairs met on March 4 and shared the challenges all colleges are currently facing, as well as the difficult decisions they had to make.

In addition to her written report, she also shared the following update:

- She attended a webinar offered by the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB) titled '*How to Be an Effective Board Chair in Turbulent Times.*'
- The College was conducting a mandatory Cybersecurity Awareness Training for all employees. She encouraged all Board members to complete the training as well to stay informed.

The Board Chair invited questions from Board members. With none raised, the meeting proceeded.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Burns referred to her President's Report attached to the agenda and reported on the following:

- Applied Research Day: She attended this event earlier today. External partners were invited to a reception prior to the poster event, which was a new addition this year. The poster event featured 40 booths, doubled from the previous year. She acknowledged the outstanding work done by the Applied Research Centre Director Kelly Sveinson.
- Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM) Plan: It is attached to the President's Report. The SEM Plan outlines strategies for student recruitment, success, and retention. While it is linked to the College's strategic framework, it is important for the plan to stand as its own document. There will be a communications plan to roll this out.
- Enhance Indigenization: Several projects are underway, including work on branding. VP Varachia has been meeting with the Musqueam Advisory Committee, formed as part of our Memorandum of Agreement with Musqueam, to share ideas and gather their input.
- Future Focused Langara: The framework will guide the College over the next three years, with the centre model as a core component. This will be discussed further at today's in-camera meeting, and a draft of the framework is included in the in-camera agenda package.
- Community Engagement and Government Relations: She and VP Varachia have been putting more effort into strengthening our relationships with the government and the community, including attending Surrey and Burnaby Boards of Trade events to tell Langara stories.
- Current Situation Update: She acknowledged the visitors who joined today's meeting in the Boardroom and via Zoom from another meeting room to express their feelings and concerns about job losses. The College had to make some difficult decisions due to decreased enrolment leading to significant loss in revenue, faculty work and work in general. The College continues to explore every possible avenue to mitigate these losses and has many meetings with the Langara Faculty Association (LFA). Langara is not alone in facing these challenges. It is important to remember that we exist for our students, learners and the community we serve, and the College remains committed to strengthening recruitment and retention strategies to position Langara for long-term success.

P. Burns answered questions raised by Board members.

6. PROGRAM CANCELLATION

6.1 Cancellation of the Bachelor of Performing Arts

Provost P. Mahboubi provided background information and the reasoning for discontinuing the Bachelor of Performing Arts program. This request was brought to the January 28, 2025 Education Council meeting and a motion to discontinue the program was passed at the meeting.

Discussions ensued and Board members' questions were answered. It was agreed that a clearer process needs to be established to enable the Education Council to better fulfill its advisory role to the Board, as required by the College and Institute Act.

[C. Rheume joined the meeting around 4:52 p.m.]

It was moved by S. Murray and seconded by A. Singh:

THAT, the Board approve the College to discontinue the Bachelor of Performing Arts program effective immediately.

In favour – 9
Against – 0
Abstained – 1
Carried

7. EDUCATION COUNCIL REPORTS

7.1 Summary Report of Meeting held January 28, 2025

7.2 Summary Report of Meeting held February 25, 2025

T. MacMillan referred to the two Education Council Summary Reports included in today's agenda package and highlighted the following items:

- January 28th meeting - Discontinuing Inactive Regular Studies Courses: Many courses have been formally discontinued in accordance with Langara's Calendar Policy, as they have been inactive for five or more years.
- February 25, 2025 meeting - Pearson Test of English (PTE): This test will now be accepted by Langara as proof of English language proficiency. It is recognized by many other institutions, offers more test locations, and provides students with easier access.

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

THAT, the Summary Reports of the Education Council meetings held January 28, 2025 and February 25, 2025, be received.

Carried Unanimously.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS/APPROVALS

8.1 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 March 3, 2025.

a. 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.

It was moved by M. Goldberg and seconded by K. Dhaliwal:

THAT, the Board authorize a contribution in the amount of \$1,582,342 to the Langara College Foundation as at March 31, 2025, as follows:

- (a) Building Legacy Fund: \$1,114,742 for future Langara College capital projects at the Foundation's discretion; and**
- (b) International Education Development Fund: \$467,600.**

Carried Unanimously.

b. Fiscal 2025/26 Operating Budget and Capital Acquisitions Budget

M. Koke thanked all the people in the College community who were involved in preparing the 2025/26 budget under some difficult circumstances.

Before presenting the 2025/26 budget, M. Koke provided an update on the 2024/25 budget, which is now expected to end with a small deficit of approximately \$2 million, due to a significant decrease in international student enrollment, as opposed to the previously anticipated break-even.

He then provided highlights of the 2025/26 budget, including the differences in revenue compared to the 2024/25 budget and the projection of a \$13 million deficit. He noted that the College had undertaken some cost reduction measures and across-the-board cuts to reduce the deficit.

He also noted that this is an interim step as normally the College is not allowed to run a deficit. The deficit budget is subject to the Ministry's approval, so the College should avoid running a deficit three years in a row.

It was moved by A. Singh and seconded by M. Goldberg:

THAT, the Fiscal 2025-26 Operating Budget and Capital Acquisitions Budget be approved.

Carried Unanimously.

8.2 Governance and Nominating Committee (GNC)

The GNC Chair, N. Smith, advised that the Committee held a meeting on March 6, 2025, and is bringing one policy item forward to the Board today for approval.

a. Revised and Renamed Board Policy 470 – Enterprise Risk Management

N. Smith noted that the AFC was significantly involved in reviewing the policy and invited S. McGillivray to speak to the proposed revisions.

S. McGillivray referred to the briefing note and the revised and renamed Board Policy 470 – Enterprise Risk Management included in today's agenda package, and provided a high-level overview of the policy revisions aimed at ensuring an effective and robust enterprise risk management program at the College.

The review process was initially driven by the Enterprise Risk Management Director A. Baxter, and the revisions enhanced the Board's risk awareness through more frequent reporting.

S. Murray thanked S. McGillivray, A. Baxter, and N. Smith for their work within a very short turnaround between the two committees. The additional changes, based on the AFC's feedback, have further strengthened the policy to ensure that both the Board and the AFC fulfill their risk oversight responsibilities, covering both short- and long-term risks.

It was moved by C. Salem and seconded by C. Rheume:

**THAT, the Board approve the revised and renamed Board Policy
470 - Enterprise Risk Management.**

Carried Unanimously.

9. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

P. Burns provided an update on the Langara College Foundation Board meeting held on February 26, 2025, which included a review of investment performance, reported to be strong. The awards budget was also discussed. The Foundation disbursed \$1.25 million to students, which is an increase of 13% from the previous year. Funding for program initiatives also saw an increase of approximately 2%. Overall, the Foundation Board was pleased with the Foundation's performance to date, recognizing its importance in supporting the College.

10. STAKEHOLDER MEMBER REPORTS

P.G. Aylward introduced herself, acknowledged the faculty members in attendance, and expressed appreciation for the accommodation that allowed overflow faculty to join the meeting via Zoom from another room. She then addressed several concerns stemming from the College's financial situation, including reductions in faculty and CUPE members, data inconsistencies regarding the number of faculty affected, loss of institutional knowledge, lack of recognition for the loss of the Regular in Temporary faculty members, and reduced sections for them.

She also expressed concerns about the number of management and administrative positions, the size of their salary budgets, and the level of spending on professional development and travel. Additionally, she shared concerns about the consultation process for the future strategic framework, the restructuring process associated with the proposed centres model, and the consultation process for developing the Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM) Plan. She recommended that the College undertake an independent analysis to learn from the experiences of other institutions that have tried similar centre models.

P. Burns thanked P.G. Aylward and expressed appreciation for her passion and the research she had conducted. She acknowledged that some data, particularly timely data, is not always easy to collect at Langara. She would pass on the feedback for the SEM Plan to ensure that the necessary consultation is done.

The Board Chair also thanked P.G. Aylward for her passion and the time she spent on data analysis. She noted that the Board takes its fiduciary responsibility extremely seriously and will take the concerns expressed under advisement and into consideration. She thanked P.G. Aylward for being a strong advocate for the LFA members.

11. VISITOR'S COMMENTS

Faculty members N. Christy, G. Goldberg, and T. Stevenson added their comments to the concerns addressed by P.G. Aylward.

The Board Chair thanked the faculty members for their comments, and all visitors for attending.

12. NEXT MEETING

12.1 Thursday, May 22, 2025

The next Board of Governors meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 22, 2025.

13. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by S. Murray and seconded by M. Goldberg:
THAT, the meeting be adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Carried Unanimously.

Mary Lynn Baum
Chair, Board of Governors

Paula Burns
President and CEO