

EDUCATION COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON

Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at 13:00
Room B141

Members:

Antonella Alves (Vice-Chair)
Joshua Antonio
Patty Aroca-Ouellette
Darren Bernaerd
Vanessa Brown
Paula Burns*
Spencer Dane
Sandra Enns

Minutes: Susan Smith*

Nora Franzova
Brent Kennedy
Bhumika Laller
Tanya Lewis
Tess MacMillan (Chair)
Prabhleen Madaan
Debbie Schachter
Allison Sullivan
Ann Syme
Sunita Wiebe

Resource*:

Connie Chong
Arnie Clark
Sam Issari
James Nickason
Emily Scarlett

Guests*: Stewart McGillivray

*non-voting
absent (ital.)

Regrets: B Kennedy, A Syme

1. CALL TO ORDER / WELCOME / ELECTION UPDATE

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m. upon declaration of a quorum.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

T MacMillan acknowledged the meeting's location on the unceded traditional territory of the Musqueam First People, who have given Langara College the name *snəwəyəł leləm, house of teachings*.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

IT WAS MOVED by D Bernaerd, seconded by P Aroca-Ouellette, that the agenda be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

4. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Education Council bylaws (Sec.5), Council members were provided an opportunity to declare a conflict of interest related to any item on the meeting agenda. No conflict was declared by any member in attendance.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

IT WAS MOVED by T Lewis, seconded by N Franzova, that the minutes of the meeting held June 24, 2025 be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

A) **BOARD POLICY – for discussion**

- Briefing Note (revised)
- Policy 400: Vision and Mission

T Lewis reiterated the concerns voiced at the last meeting and noted that these and the commitment to undertake further review and consultation did not appear to have been addressed. She also noted the lack of input available to students and faculty, and expressed concern that the proposed new phrasing of the Board bylaws concentrates the power for developing Langara's strategic plans in the hands of the President. S McGillivray explained that while consultation with Education Council is required, in this case the feedback did not result in further revision of the proposal which will move forward to the Board of Governors for final review.

A) POLITICAL SCIENCE
a) Program Change

IT WAS MOVED by S Enns, seconded by P Aroca-Ouellette, that the updated learning outcomes for *the Associate of Arts Degree in Political Science* be approved by Education Council.

B) LIBRARY & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
a) Program Change

IT WAS MOVED by S Enns, seconded by A Alves, that the revised curriculum for the *Diploma in Library and Information Technology* be approved by Education Council.

MOTION CARRIED

b) Course Change

- i) LIBR 1219 – Field Work I
- ii) LIBR 2419 – Field Work II

IT WAS MOVED by S Enns, seconded by S Dane, that the updated prerequisite statement for *LIBR 1219 – Field Work I* and *LIBR 2419 – Field Work II* be approved by Education Council.

Minutes of the Education Council Meeting held on September 23, 2025

C) IDS - ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

a) **Program Change**

The proposal removes references to curriculum requirements that are not specific to the Environmental Studies specialization. T MacMillan explained that this change was triggered by recent changes in English course requirements at UBC Vancouver. Removing specific English and other general courses will enable students to choose whatever university-transferable courses they need for their program, e.g. communications and science literacy courses are now accepted by many other institutions for fulfilling English requirements.

MOTION CARRIED

D) MATHEMATICS & SCIENCES

a) Program Change

i) Associate of Science Degree

In response to changes at UBC that affect the transferability of courses that can be used to satisfy the English requirements of the Associate of Science Degree, three program notes are being added to provide additional guidance on program completion and course transferability. These notes will address the potential transferability of CMNS and SCIE courses to fulfill English requirements, the recommendation to consult with a Langara Advisor, and utilization of the BC Transfer Guide.

IT WAS MOVED by N Franzova, seconded by D Bernaerdt, that the revised program notes for the *Associate of Science Degree* be approved by Education Council.

It was noted that Registrar and Enrolment advises students by email of science requirements and the information is also available on the website. All students are encouraged to understand the requirements for achieving their education goals.

MOTION CARRIED

b) Course Change

i) SCIE 1113 – Intensive Science Literacy

The proposal updates course content, learning outcomes, and weighting of assessments to align with changes in UBC's version of this course, which is required for all students entering a BSc at UBC.

IT WAS MOVED by N Franzova, seconded by A Alves, that the revised course content, learning outcomes, and evaluation methods in *SCIE 1113 – Intensive Science Literacy* be approved by Education Council.

It was noted that the highly detailed course content information in the updated version is required for articulation purposes.

MOTION CARRIED

E) COMPUTER SCIENCE

a) **Program Change**

i) Associate of Science Degree in Computer Science

The proposal removes references to requirements that are not specific to the Computer Science specialization. As in the above proposals, this update was triggered by recent changes in English course requirements at UBC. Removing specific English and other general courses will enable students to choose whichever university-transferable courses they need for their program, e.g.

communications and science literacy courses are now accepted by many other institutions for fulfilling English requirements. This change will not affect current students, as the updated requirements still fall within the existing general requirements of the Associate of Science Degree.

IT WAS MOVED by P Aroca-Ouellette, seconded by S Dane, that the revised curriculum statement for the *Associate of Science Degree in Computer Science* be approved by Education Council.

MOTION CARRIED

F) BIOLOGY

a) Course Change

- i) BIOL 1115 – General Biology I
- ii) BIOL 1215 – General Biology II

The proposal adjusts prerequisites so that the two courses can be taken in either order to provide better flexibility for students. Students will be able to enter into either course using high-school level prerequisites, and BIOL 1215 can be used as a prerequisite for BIOL 1115.

IT WAS MOVED by N Franzova, seconded by T Lewis, that the revised prerequisites for *BIOL 1115* and *BIOL 1215* be approved by Education Council.

MOTION CARRIED

- iii) BIOL 2260 – Introduction to Plant and Animal Physiology

The revision adds BIOL 1115 as a prerequisite for this course in addition to BIOL 1215. Currently students with the prerequisite of BIOL 1215 would have already taken BIOL 1115; however, a revision (above) will allow BIOL 1115 and BIOL 1215 to be taken in either order. To ensure students have taken both courses, the revised prerequisite for BIOL 2260 is "A minimum 'C' grade in BIOL 1115 and 1215; or permission of the instructor."

- iv) BIOL 2315 – Biochemistry

The proposal adds “a minimum ‘C’ grade in any second-year biology course” to the list of possible prerequisites for this course. This change will provide an alternative pathway into the course for students who did not achieve the minimum grade requirements in BIOL 1115 and BIOL 1215.

IT WAS MOVED by N Franzova, seconded by T Lewis, that the the revised prerequisites for *BIOL 2260* and *BIOL 2315* be approved by Education Council. Minor corrections were made in the wording for prerequisites of *BIOL 2315*.

MOTION CARRIED

- v) BIOL 2350 – Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy
- vi) BIOL 2370 – Microbiology I
- vii) BIOL 2415 – Cell Biology

The minimum grade for the prerequisite option of “any second-year biology course” is changed from “C+” to “C” to align with the requirements of BIOL 2315.

IT WAS MOVED by N Franzova, seconded by T Lewis, that the prerequisite change in *BIOL 2350*, *BIOL 2370*, and *BIOL 2415* be approved by Education Council.

MOTION CARRIED

G) CONTINUING STUDIES

a) **New Course**

- i) LEAP 0300 – LEAP 3 – Pre-Pathways
- ii) LEAP 1100 – LEAP 4 – Pathways

The two new courses replace LEAP 5-6 and LEAP7-8 as part of the restructuring of the Langara for Academic Purposes (LEAP) program.

C Chong explained that the original LEAP program consisted of a series of 8 courses which are now combined into 4 courses. LEAP 1 and 2 have already been approved. Even though the LEAP program is being phased out, existing students still need these courses to complete the program, after which intake will be suspended.

8. POLICY

A) NEW POLICY

a) F1013: Grading

D Bernaerdt explained that Langara College does not currently have a grading policy. The proposed new policy documents the grading system, grade points, percentages, and notations that are used to formally report student activity on an official transcript. The goal is to support consistent, transparent, and equitable grading across the College and will be used by both Regular Studies and Continuing Studies.

IT WAS MOVED by D Bernaerdt, seconded by S Wiebe, that the new policy *F1013: Grading* be approved by Education Council.

D Bernaerdt noted that most other institutions have a grading policy. This new policy will ensure consistency and transparency in grading using a standard grading scale that was developed through a survey of BC's major post-secondary institutions and thorough consultation with the Langara community.

Following a question from P Aroca-Ouellete, a discussion was held regarding the implications of the "N" (no credit) grade when included in a student's CGPA. It was noted that students are advised to continue attending classes even if they are struggling past the withdrawal date, as a distinction is made between F and N grades, and abandonment has implications for student loans. There is an appeals process available to students where applicable.

The document will be edited to add a reference to the Appeal of Final Grade (Policy E2006) in Section 5 (Regulations/Procedures) of the policy.

MOTION CARRIED

B) REVISED POLICY

a) E2008: Academic Standing

Moved to next meeting due to lack of time.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

A) BLOCK TRANSFER AGREEMENT

- a) MOU between Alexander College and Langara College
- b) MOU between Columbia College and Langara College

Moved to next meeting due to lack of time.

B) MEMORANDUM: Program intakes

a) Reinstatement of the Diploma in Gerontology for Fall 2026 intake

A memorandum from the Interim Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Community Programs was presented in accordance with the Board of Governors' Program Suspension and Cancellation Policy and Procedures. The Diploma in Gerontology is a two-year, 62-credit program that equips graduates with the skills and knowledge needed for program development, administration, and management to effectively support older adults. Due to a lack of student applications, the intake for the program was suspended for Fall 2025. However, given the expanding elderly population and the need for careers in Gerontology, the faculty is recommending the program be reinstated effective for the Fall 2026 semester.

S Enns explained that reinstating the program will help to gauge interest by allowing applicants to contact the department. She also noted a pilot project with Recreation Studies that will provide an opportunity for Gerontology graduates to work with Coastal Health. Better efforts in recruitment and marketing may also be needed to support the Gerontology program.

Questions were raised regarding the reinstatement of a program for the purpose of communicating with students, and it was recommended that additional data be gathered to determine the program's viability.

T MacMillan noted that this memorandum was presented to Education Council for information in accordance with established procedures, and that feedback will be provided from Council to the Board of Governors.

b) Suspension of the PDD in Web and Mobile App Design and Development for Summer 2026

D Bernaerdt explained that this post-degree diploma program has been severely impacted by the decline in international student enrolments which caused the number of applicants to drop from nearly 300 in 2023 to 58 in 2025. Study permit approval rates have also plummeted with fewer than 40% being approved. As a result, the program is no longer sustainable and will be suspended. The department is planning to rebuild the program as a regular diploma to attract more domestic students.

T MacMillan noted that this memorandum was presented to Education Council for information in accordance with established procedures, and that feedback will be provided from Council to the Board of Governors.

C) REGISTRAR and ENROLMENT

- a) Updates to English Language Requirements and Proficiency Assessments
- b) International Language Academy of Canada (ILAC)
- c) Memorandum: Correction to Certificate in Early Childhood Education (Full-time) Curriculum Notes
- d) GAC Summary Report May-August 2025

Moved to next meeting due to lack of time.

D) 2026 EDCO SUBMISSION SCHEDULE

The 2026 schedule of submission deadlines and meeting dates was approved by consensus.

E) Extraordinary Meeting November 4

T MacMillan informed Council that an extraordinary meeting would be held on November 4, 2025 to accommodate a large package of proposals for the Nursing program.

H) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.