

Langara College Board of Governors
Meeting Minutes
Public Meeting
Thursday, September 25, 2025, 4:30 p.m.
Boardroom B141 and via Zoom

Board Members:

Paula Burns, President and CEO
Willa Choy
Mark Goldberg
Joey Hartman
Stephen Howard
Sophie Jeon
Cindy Lee
Tess MacMillan, Chair, Education Council

Scott Murray, Board Chair
Dawen Nozdryn-Plotnicki
Rose Palozzi (regrets)
Cole Rheaume (via Zoom)
Melissa Roberts
Ali Safdari
Akashdeep Singh
Nick Smith

Employee Resources:

Michael Koke, Vice-President, Administration and Finance
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 (LCAA)

Guests:

Anne Baxter, Director, Enterprise Risk Management
Nipa Bhalla, Manager, Advancement, College Advancement
Adam Brayford, Director, Strategic Communications and Marketing
Dwayne Doornbosch, Director, Facilities
Laura MacKay, Interim Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Community Programs

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. He 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 territory of the Musqueam people. He also acknowledged the Indigenous peoples of all the lands the online participants were calling in from remotely to the meeting. He 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.

In recognition of the upcoming National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, the Board Chair reiterated the importance of the College's continued dedication to advancing Indigenization and reconciliation in our community for the benefit of all students, staff, and faculty. The College recognizes its responsibilities in upholding the name *snəwəyəl leləm* and its relationship with Musqueam, and in continuing to be an important partner.

New Board members C. Lee, D. Nozdryn-Plotnicki, J. Hartman, and S. Jeon were welcomed and invited to introduce themselves.

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

The Board Chair noted that more agenda items had been placed in the consent agenda package and that this practice will continue to allow more time for discussion during Board meetings. Board members may always request that an item be removed from the consent agenda for discussion.

It was moved by M. Goldberg and seconded by N. Smith:

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 June 26, 2025 – Approved

3.2 Board Coordinating Committee - Minutes of Meeting held via E-mail from June 27, 2025 to July 3, 2025 – Approved

3.3 From Audit and Finance Committee

a. Confirmation of Remittances – Acknowledged

b. Langara College Financial Statements to June 30, 2025 – Acknowledged

c. LSU Compliance Letter and Audited Financial Statements as at April 30, 2025 – Acknowledged

d. Annual Insurance Indemnity Confirmation – Acknowledged

e. Five-Year Capital Plan – Approved

f. Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) Report for the Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 2025 – Approved

3.4 From Governance and Nominating Committee

a. Report on the Outcomes of Board and Board Chair Goals and Strategies for September 2024 to August 2025 – Acknowledged

b. Committee Membership Appointments (Cindy Lee, Dawen Nozdryn-Plotnicki, and Sophie Jeon be added to the Audit and Finance Committee, and Joey Hartman be added to the Governance and Nominating Committee) – **Approved**

Carried Unanimously.

4. ELECTION OF BOARD FIRST AND SECOND VICE CHAIRS

The Board Chair turned the Chair's role to President P. Burns at 4:38 pm to hold the elections of the First Vice-Chair and Second Vice-Chair positions.

P. Burns advised that S. Murray was elected as the Board First Vice Chair and S. Howard was elected as the Board Second Vice Chair at the September 26, 2024 Board meeting for a one-year term from October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025. Board members were notified at the June 26, 2025 Board meeting that the elections of the two Board Vice Chair positions would be held at this meeting. A call for Nominations/Expressions of Interest was sent to Board Members via email on August 26, 2025.

4.1 Election of Board First Vice Chair - Expression of Interest from Scott Murray

P. Burns advised that two nominations, both for N. Smith for the Board First Vice Chair position, had been received. She called for any additional expressions of interest or nominations from the floor. There being none, and in accordance with By-Law 201, N. Smith was declared Board First Vice Chair by acclamation for a one-year term beginning October 1, 2025.

4.2 Election of Board Second Vice Chair – Nomination for Stephen Howard

P. Burns advised that a nomination for M. Goldberg for the Board Second Vice Chair position had been received, and that M. Goldberg had also submitted an expression of interest for the position. She called for any additional nominations or expressions of interest from the floor. There being none, and in accordance with By-Law 201, M. Goldberg was declared Board Second Vice Chair by acclamation for a one-year term beginning October 1, 2025.

President Burns concluded the election and handed the meeting back to the Board Chair at 4:41 p.m.

S. Murray thanked P. Burns for conducting the elections, congratulated N. Smith and M. Goldberg, and thanked them for stepping up to take on the Vice Chair roles.

5. PRESENTATION TO DEPARTING BOARD MEMBERS

The Board Chair informed the Board that student-elect Board member A. Singh will be leaving the Board as his term of appointment ends on September 30, 2025, and he has decided not to run for re-election as he will be graduating this year.

The Board Chair thanked A. Singh for his participation and contributions over the past year and presented him with a token of appreciation on behalf of the Board.

A. Singh expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve on the Board.

The Board Chair further reported that the Registrar and Enrolment Services had concluded the annual election for two student representative positions on the Board for a one-year term beginning October 1, 2025. He congratulated A. Safdari on being successfully re-elected to one of the positions and announced that the other winner is Armor Valor Corrales, who had previously served on the Board and this will be his fifth term.

A. Safdari expressed his excitement for the opportunity to continue serving on the Board for another year.

6. LANGARA COLLEGE FOUNDATION ANNUAL PRESENTATION

VP Y. Varachia welcomed the new Board members and briefly outlined recent changes in College Advancement. He advised that, given current pressures and a challenging fundraising environment, he will assume the duties of the vacant Foundation Executive Director role, and the Foundation is shifting its priorities to supporting enrollment, retention, and reducing financial and other barriers for students. He reported securing \$2.6M from the Ministry for nursing expansion, matched by Foundation support for a total of \$5.2M, with a public announcement pending Ministry coordination. He then invited N. Bara to present.

N. Bhalla presented the Langara College Foundation's 2024 Annual Report, highlighting its performance in 2024 and several fundraising initiatives supporting student life, Nursing students, and the Performing Arts program. She also reported a recent gift from the Beedie Luminaries Foundation that will support 26 students to further their studies at Langara over the next two years. She concluded by inviting Board members to the Foundation's upcoming Donor Appreciation event on October 2, 2025.

7. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Board Chair welcomed and acknowledged all guests and visitors. He noted the challenging environment facing the post-secondary sector and expressed appreciation for everyone's continued commitment to the College, the students, and the broader community during this difficult time.

In addition to his written report included in today's agenda package, the Board Chair reported on his recent meeting with other BC Colleges Board Chairs where the group discussed ongoing sector-wide concerns and collective effort to advocate for the importance of the college sector to the BC economy. He also reported on his dialogue with the Langara Faculty Association that took place prior to today's Board meeting. He thanked the LFA President for facilitating the discussion and affirmed the Board's intent to maintain open communication.

8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Burns acknowledged the work of all faculty, staff, and administrators, and thanked everyone for their efforts in supporting students and one another during this exceptionally challenging time. She then referred to her written report included in today's agenda package and highlighted the following items:

- Indigenous Education and Services (IES) recently renamed to Indigenous Engagement and Initiatives (IEI) to reflect its focus on Indigenous engagement.
- IEI and EDI worked together to host several learning activities leading up to the Sept. 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, including opportunities to learn about resistance and cultural revitalization from visitors from New Zealand, as well as faculty presentations on their work with Musqueam on various projects that bring students to the community and on approaches to building relationships with Musqueam.
- The Milestones document, which accompanies the Strategic Framework 2025–2028 and is attached to her President's report, outlines the major milestones the College aims to accomplish over the next three years. She noted that, while work on the Academic Centres has begun, the most important priority at this time is to align the College's course and program offerings with student demand.

9. 2024/25 FACILITIES MASTER PLAN UPDATE

President Burns reminded the Board that a presentation on the Facilities Master Plan had been provided by the Facilities Director, D. Doornbosch, at the June Board meeting.

VP M. Koke added that the intention was not to repeat the presentation, but to fulfill the requirement to bring forward a motion for the Board to accept the 2024/25 Facilities Master Plan Update (March 2025 version) included in today's agenda package. He noted that the motion includes a provision to update all references to the Strategic Plan 2025 in the document to the new Strategic Framework 2025–2028, which was approved at the June Board meeting.

Discussion ensued, and Board members' questions and comments regarding terminology and language usage in the document were addressed.

It was moved by N. Smith and seconded by M. Goldberg:

THAT, the Board approve the 2024/25 Facilities Master Plan Update with the understanding that wherever the Strategic Plan 2025 is referenced, it will be updated to refer to the Strategic Framework 2025–2028 approved at the June 26, 2025, Board meeting, prior to publication.

Carried Unanimously.

10. EDUCATION COUNCIL REPORTS

10.1 Summary Report of Meeting held May 20, 2025

10.2 Summary Report of Meeting held June 24, 2025

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

- The new Diploma in Digital Media and Design, which was approved by the Board in June, will be offered in Spring 2026.
- Continuing Studies has revised its 2D & 3D Technologies Diplomas. The College has exited an agreement with a service provider, and the curriculum is now Langara-owned.
- In preparation for the Workday Student go-live, a long list of courses have been discounted.
- Board Policy 400 was submitted to the Education Council for advice. Further information will be provided when the repeal of this policy is discussed later on today's agenda.

It was moved by M. Roberts and seconded by W. Choy:

THAT, the Summary Reports of the Education Council meetings held May 20, 2025 and June 24, 2025, be received.

Carried Unanimously.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS/APPROVALS

11.1 Audit and Finance Committee (AFC)

The AFC Chair, W. Choy, advised that the Audit and Finance Committee held a meeting on September 15, 2025, and all discussions were reflected in today's Consent Agenda package.

11.2 Governance and Nominating Committee (GNC)

The GNC Chair, N. Smith, reported that the GNC held a meeting on September 11, 2025, and the Committee is bringing forward one information item and one motion for the Board's approval today.

a. Repeal of Board Policy 400 – Vision and Mission

S. McGillivray reported that Board Policy 400 is due for review and has gone through the review process by GNC and by soliciting advice from the Education Council (EdCo) as required by the College and Institute Act. He explained the rationale for recommending this policy be repealed, subject to the adoption of coordinating amendments in By-Law 201 Board Operations and By-Law 203 Powers, Duties and Benefits of the President and CEO, which is essentially because the policy's subject matter is already found in By-Laws 201 and 203. Feedback from the June EdCo meeting was considered and incorporated where appropriate before bringing the recommendation back to EdCo again earlier this week.

T. MacMillan, in her role as the EdCo Chair, shared the concerns raised at EdCo, including disappointment that the consultation with faculty and the LFA, as promised at the June EdCo meeting, did not occur; that removing the policy would eliminate an opportunity for faculty and students to provide feedback on vision and mission statements and strategic planning; and that, while there might be some overlap with other documents, the loss of this feedback mechanism was considered significant. She noted that the detailed feedback will be included in the September EdCo meeting minutes.

The GNC Chair thanked T. MacMillan for bringing forward EdCo's comments and suggested that the policy be brought back to the GNC for further discussion.

It was moved by S. Howard, and seconded by M. Roberts:

THAT, the repeal of Board Policy 400 – Vision and Mission, and the coordinating amendments to Board By-Law 201 (Board Operations) and 203 (Powers, Duties and Benefits of President and CEO) be tabled to a future Board Meeting, pending GNC's further review and recommendations.

Carried Unanimously.

b. Fall Board Retreat

President Burns provided an update on the planning of this year's Fall Board Retreat, noting that the session will be a one-day event without a dinner the night before. She advised that the GNC had discussed the nature of the retreat and the potential use of a facilitator, and she shared the agenda topics, which will include a brief review of Board roles, a discussion on Board governance, and an examination of scenarios related to the College's sustainability. The finalized agenda, along with pre-reading materials, will be sent to the Board in advance.

12. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

There was no report.

13. STAKEHOLDER MEMBER REPORTS

P.G. Aylward introduced herself, noting that she was one of the faculty members who have received notice and will be leaving the College at the end of April. On behalf of the LFA members, she shared concerns about the state of the College, including the increasing number of administrators compared to faculty reductions, the lack of financial transparency and clear communication about the deficit reduction plan, and the urgent need to recruit a provost. She called for a process audit of the College and examine how student success will be measured. She emphasized the need for trust, transparency, and clear communication from the Board and the Executive Leadership Team (ELT).

The Board Chair thanked P.G. Aylward for transparently sharing the concerns of faculty and affirmed the Board and the ELT's intention to support improving communication.

14. VISITOR'S COMMENTS

Faculty member N. Christy added his comments to the concerns addressed by P.G. Aylward and proposed some solutions for consideration. Additionally, there was a suggestion to increase advertising to attract more students.

The Board Chair thanked the faculty members for their comments and suggestions.

15. NEXT MEETING

15.1 Thursday, November 27, 2025

The next Board of Governors meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 27, 2025.

16. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by N. Smith and seconded by M. Goldberg:
THAT, the meeting be adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

Carried Unanimously.

Scott Murray
Chair, Board of Governors

Paula Burns
President and CEO