Langara College Board of Governors
Meeting Minutes
Public Meeting
Thursday, May 28, 2026, 4:30 p.m.
Boardroom B141 and via Zoom

Board Members:
Paula Burns, President and CEO
Willa Choy (via Zoom)
Armor Valor Corrales
Mark Goldberg (regrets)
Joey Hartman
Sophie Jeon
Cindy Lee (regrets)
Tess MacMillan, Chair, Education Council
Scott Murray, Board Chair
Dawen Nozdryn-Plotnicki
Rose Palozzi
Cole Rheaume (regrets)
Melissa Roberts
Ali Safdari
Nick Smith

Employee Resources:
Marg Heldman, Interim Provost and Vice-President, Academic
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 (via Zoom)
Nipa Bhalla, Manager, Advancement
Adam Brayford, Director, Strategic Communications and Marketing
David Cresswell, Senior Digital Experience Advisor
Laura MacKay, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences & Community Programs
Greg Melnechuk, National Representative, CUPE Local 15
Dylan Schellenberg, Shop Steward, CUPE Local 15/VMECW (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 4:32 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.

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

J. Hartman proposed adding an actions recap item to the beginning of future meetings to track action items arising from public and in-camera sessions. The Board agreed to incorporate this going forward.

It was moved by D. Dawen Nozdryn-Plotnicki and seconded by R. Palozzi:

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

3.1 Minutes of the Meeting held March 26, 2026 – Approved

3.2 Notice of Election and Call for Nominations/Expressions of Interest – Board Chair – Acknowledged.

3.3 From Audit and Finance Committee
- **a. Langara College Financial Statements to February 28, 2026 – Acknowledged**
- **b. Confirmation of Remittances – Acknowledged**
- **c. Forced Labour Report for year ended March 31, 2026 – Approved**

3.4 From Governance and Nominating Committee
- **a. Launch of 2026 Annual Board Evaluations – Acknowledged**
- **b. Appointment of Board Liaison to the Langara College Foundation – Approved**

3.5 2026/27 Board Meeting Calendar

Carried Unanimously.

4. STAKEHOLDER MEMBER REPORTS

4.1 CUPE Local 15

D. Schellenberg, Shop Steward of CUPE Local 15, provided highlights of CUPE's written report included in today's agenda package. He outlined recent reductions in CUPE and LFA positions and associated impacts on student-facing services, including counselling, student support programs, and administrative functions. He also raised concerns regarding differences in consultation processes between administrative and unionized staffing changes. He further noted the consolidation of admissions-related units during the Workday transition, resulting in reduced staffing and increased service backlogs, and expressed concerns about the impact on the student experience.

Discussions ensued, and P. Burns responded to Board members' questions regarding staffing reductions, admissions workload and resourcing, and ongoing operational improvements, and noted opportunities for continued dialogue between CUPE, People and Culture, and Student Services.

4.2 Langara Faculty Association (LFA)

P. Greaves Aylward, President of the LFA, presented the LFA report. She thanked the Board for establishing the Institutional Sustainability Task Force and followed up on previously presented data regarding changes in salary expense allocation between faculty and administration, noting that additional information previously requested had not yet been received.

She raised concerns regarding the College's handling of the April 2026 layoff period, including leadership availability and post-layoff work arrangements. She also urged continued support for people-centred leadership and a collaborative relationship with faculty.

Discussions ensued, and P. Burns and Y. Varachia responded to Board questions regarding faculty work arrangements, operational workload related to system transitions, admissions backlogs, and student experience data and indicators.

The Board Chair thanked D. Schellenberg and P. Greaves Aylward for their reports. He reminded Members of the importance of maintaining the distinction between governance and operational matters while ensuring concerns are appropriately addressed.

5. LANGARA COLLEGE FOUNDATION ANNUAL PRESENTATION

Y. Varachia provided an update on the Langara College Foundation. He thanked Board members and staff for attending the National Nursing Week event and highlighted the significance of the $11 million funding announcement supporting nursing programs. He advised that the Foundation's Executive Director position is vacant, with those responsibilities assumed by him, and that the Foundation is realigning its advancement and alumni strategies with the College's current priorities, with a stronger focus on student support and enrolment.
He noted that the Foundation's fundraising efforts will be organized around three broad priority areas: student financial support, student experience and well-being, and Indigenous initiatives. He added that the Foundation has raised more funds than in previous years and remains focused on distributing funds to students. He then invited N. Bhalla to give a presentation.

N. Bhalla presented the Foundation's 2025 Annual Report, highlighting $1.8 million distributed in awards and bursaries (up from $1.2 million the prior year), over 1,200 students assisted, 991 scholarships awarded, and 21 new awards created.

Discussions ensued, and Y. Varachia and N. Bhalla responded to Board questions regarding fundraising variability, Indigenous-designated awards, student financial need and supports, bursaries and scholarships, and governance matters related to the process for Foundation Board appointments.

6. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Board Chair welcomed Marg Heldman back to Langara and thanked Board Members who attended recent College events, particularly the nursing expansion announcement.

7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Burns noted that her written report was included in the agenda package. In addition, she reported receiving an invitation to the 50th anniversary of the Musqueam Declaration, Langara's recognition at the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade's Reconciliation in Action event, and her attendance at the CICan Conference, where discussions focused on federal and provincial labour market alignment strategies. She further noted ongoing work across the College on new programming, micro-credentials, and transfer partnerships across faculties.

Discussions ensued, and P. Burns and Y. Varachia responded to Board members' questions regarding enrolment numbers and trends, study permit approval rates, and processing times between application and offer.

8. PROGRAM ITEMS

8.1 Program Suspension: Certificate in Social Service Worker (Gerontology)

M. Heldman introduced L. MacKay, noting her recent appointment as Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences & Community Programs on a permanent basis, and invited her to speak to this program suspension item.

L. MacKay advised that the Certificate should have been suspended alongside the related diploma program in the prior year, noting the program currently has no enrolled students and graduated only nine students over a six-year period. She noted the absence of any provincial regulatory requirement for gerontology-related employment as a contributing factor to low demand.

T. MacMillan, Education Council Chair, confirmed that the suspension was brought to the Education Council on April 21, 2026 and received very little comment as the department also supported the decision. She noted that there was some sadness expressed that, despite the need for professionals in gerontology, the credential has not been sustainable. She further noted discussion about potential future redevelopment or alternative delivery models, and emphasized the importance of supporting community needs in any future consideration of the program.

Discussions ensued. L. McKay, M. Heldman, and M. Roberts responded to Board members' questions about the impact of the lack of provincial regulation and the process by which low-enrolment programs are identified and brought forward for suspension.

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

> **THAT, the Board approve the College to suspend admissions to the Certificate in Social Service Worker (Gerontology) program, beginning with the Fall 2026 intake.**

Carried Unanimously.

9. EDUCATION COUNCIL REPORTS

9.1 Summary Report of Meeting held March 24, 2026
9.2 Summary Report of Meeting held April 21, 2026

T. MacMillan referred to the two Education Council Summary Reports included in today's agenda package and highlighted a new industry-driven micro-credential in High Performance Liquid Chromatography (chemistry) and a new first-year pathway course in environmental science. She also noted that Education Council will be recruiting a new assistant, as the current incumbent is relocating to another province.

It was moved by M. Roberts and seconded by AV Corrales

THAT, the Summary Reports of the Education Council meetings held March 24, 2026 and April 21, 2026 be received.

Carried Unanimously.

10 COMMITTEE REPORTS/APPROVALS

10.1 Audit and Finance Committee (AFC)

W. Choy, Committee Chair, advised that the Committee met on May 11 and reviewed the financial statements, remittances, and Forced Labour Report, all of which were included in the Board's Consent Agenda. She turned the floor over to M. Koke and D. Cresswell for the following agenda items brought forward from the Committee.

a. Workday Implementation Update

D. Cresswell gave a presentation on the Workday ERP transformation – Student Information System update, covering project status, implementation milestones, testing activities, change management, benefits realization, and the use of AI within the program. He noted that the program comprises multiple integrated workstreams supporting the student information system, with focus on Move to Production 1 (MTP1), which will go live on June 1, 2026 with admissions functionality, while full system implementation (MTP2) is planned for March 2027. He outlined progress through design and build, multiple end-to-end testing cycles, user confirmation sessions, and structured go/no-go gates, including a recent soft go-live approval confirming readiness for production. He further noted that over 350,000 student records have been migrated from Banner into Workday, and that change management and user adoption are central to success, supported by extensive training and engagement activities. He also described the development of a benefits realization framework with defined domains, metrics, and quarterly reporting, and highlighted exploratory use of AI to support implementation efficiency, risk reduction, and cost management, within policy and contractual constraints.

Discussions ensued and D. Cresswell answered Board members' questions regarding the team's confidence level heading into go-live, contingency planning for go-live timing, and the approach to managing scope and configuration decisions within the Workday platform in the context of avoiding unnecessary customization, controlling costs, and maintaining program discipline.

b. Cashflow Update

M. Koke provided a brief update on the College's cash flow position, noting that the overall situation remains largely unchanged since the previous update in March. The College has been aware of emerging cash flow challenges for approximately 18 to 24 months and has been in ongoing conversations with the Ministry for the past year and a half.

It was reiterated that a third-party review, engaged by the Ministry, will assess the College's cash position and provide recommendations to the Ministry and Treasury Board. The Ministry intends to set aside contingency funding that would be accessed as required, subject to justification. M. Koke expressed continued confidence that the College will achieve a break-even budget by fiscal 2028, following the realization of separation cost savings and workforce adjustments related to the wind-down of the Workday project.

M. Koke noted that, since the last update, the timeline for the third-party review has been accelerated. The Ministry has initiated the procurement process and identified the external reviewers, with work expected to begin shortly. The review is anticipated to be completed by early fall.

M. Koke also noted that the College's cash position has raised "going concern" considerations as part of the year-end audit. The Ministry has conveyed their understanding of the challenges facing Langara and the post-secondary sector, and reiterated their ongoing commitment to support the College's implementation of the deficit mitigation plan.

10.2 Governance and Nominating Committee (GNC)

N. Smith, Committee Chair, advised that the GNC met on May 14, 2026, and that, beyond the two items addressed in the Consent Agenda (Annual Board Evaluations and the Board Liaison to the Langara College Foundation), the Committee continues to work on several policy items that will be brought forward to the Board when ready.

The GNC Chair congratulated C. Lee on her appointment as the Board Liaison to the Langara College Foundation, which was approved by the Board through today's consent agenda.

10.3 Institutional Sustainability Task Force Update

J. Hartman, Chair of the Task Force, referred to the summary report included in today's agenda package and provided a brief recap of the Task Force's work since its inception in December, summarizing meeting frequency and topics addressed across the four pillars of the Institutional Recovery Plan.

She advised that the Task Force will continue to meet monthly through the summer and fall and will bring a recommendation to the Board regarding the Task Force's future scope and structure. She noted that she is conscious that Task Force members may have more detailed information than other Board members and committed to sharing further updates and addressing specific questions as needed.

11. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

There were no reports.

12. VISITOR'S COMMENTS

There were no comments.

13. NEXT MEETING

13.1 Thursday, June 25, 2026

The next Board of Governors meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 25, 2026.

14. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by AV Corrales and seconded by N. Smith:

THAT, the meeting be adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Carried Unanimously.

Scott Murray Chair, Board of Governors	Paula Burns President and CEO