

Langara College Board of Governors
Meeting Minutes
Public Meeting
Thursday, November 27, 2025, 4:30 p.m.
Boardroom B141 and via Zoom

Board Members:

Paula Burns, President and CEO
Willa Choy
Armor Valor Corrales
Mark Goldberg
Joey Hartman
Stephen Howard (via Zoom)
Sophie Jeon
Cindy Lee

Tess MacMillan, Chair, Education Council
Scott Murray, Board Chair
Dawen Nozdryn-Plotnicki
Rose Palozzi
Cole Rheaume (via Zoom)
Melissa Roberts
Ali Safdari
Nick Smith

Employee Resources:

David Anderson, Acting 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) (via Zoom)

Guests:

Anne Baxter, Director, Enterprise Risk Management
Darren Bernaerd, Dean, Faculty of Arts
Adam Brayford, Director, Strategic Communications and Marketing
Arnie Clark, Registrar
Ann Syme, Dean, Faculty of Nursing

Visitors:

Over 100 College community members attended either in person or 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 4:34 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

It was moved by M. Goldberg and seconded by C. Lee:

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 September 25, 2025 – Approved

3.2 Board Coordinating Committee - Minutes of Meeting held October 2, 2025 – Approved

3.3 Langara College Financial Statements to September 30, 2025 – Acknowledged

3.4 Semi-annual Investment Summary to September 30, 2025 – Acknowledged

3.5 Confirmation of Remittances – Acknowledged

3.6 Langara College Pay Transparency Report 2025 – Acknowledged

Carried Unanimously.

4. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Board Chair acknowledged and thanked all guests and visitors from the College community for attending the meeting in person, in the overflow room, and online, as well as those who sent emails to him. He also acknowledged the continued uncertainty in the post-secondary education sector, including the recently announced government review of the sector, and the significant personal impact of the College's current fiscal challenges on many members of the College community.

The Board appreciated the College community's deep care for the College and its desire to see actions taken to navigate the College through the current challenges and ensure its long-term success. He further acknowledged the recent vote of no confidence, affirmed the Board's respect for faculty members' right to express their views, and noted that the Board is committed to understanding the concerns raised, with related actions to be addressed later on the agenda.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Burns noted that a written report was included in the meeting package. She spoke about the Ministry's post-secondary education review announced on Tuesday, noting that the terms of reference and media release related to the review were shared with the Board, and stressed that this is a sector sustainability review rather than a review of individual institutions.

She indicated that the BC Colleges presidents will be meeting in Victoria the following week, where they will meet with the Deputy Minister and, potentially, Don Avison, who is leading the review, to gain a deeper understanding of the review.

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

THAT, the Board approve the College to suspend admissions to the Post-Degree Diploma in Web and Mobile App Design and Development program (Designer and Developer streams), beginning with the Summer 2026 intake.

Carried Unanimously.

7. EDUCATION COUNCIL REPORTS

7.1 Summary Report of Meeting held September 23, 2025

7.2 Summary Report of Meeting held October 21, 2025

7.3 Summary Report for Extraordinary Meeting held November 4, 2025

7.4 Summary Report of BSN-related Items from Meeting held November 18, 2025

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

- Several science programs changed their English requirement, making it a more general English requirement, in response to UBC's new requirement of science literacy.
- With the discontinuation of the Langara English for Academic Purposes (LEAP) program, the College will now accept the English standards of the private institute International Language Academy of Canada (ILAC) for admission, alongside other recognized English tests such as IELTS and TOEFL.

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

THAT, the following reports of the Education Council be received by the Board:

a. Summary Report of the September 23, 2025 regular meeting;

b. Summary Report of the October 21, 2025 regular meeting;

c. Summary Report of the November 4, 2025 extraordinary meeting, and

d. Summary Report of BSN-related items from the November 18, 2025 regular meeting.

Carried Unanimously.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS/APPROVALS

8.1 Audit and Finance Committee (AFC)

The AFC Chair W. Choy invited M. Koke to present the following items brought forward from the Audit and Finance Committee meeting held on November 12, 2025.

Before proceeding, M. Koke provided an update on the 2024/25 Facilities Master Plan approved at the last Board meeting. In response to the feedback regarding the Indigenous language in the Master Plan, the document has been reviewed by Graeme Joseph, Executive Director of Indigenous Engagement and Initiatives, and his feedback has been incorporated.

a. Revised By-Law 204 - Tuition Fees and Other Charges

M. Koke advised that this is an annual agenda for the Board. He noted that domestic tuition fee increases are capped at 2% by the Ministry, and that the College's tuition rates and provincial operating grant funding per FTE remain among the lowest in the province, creating ongoing financial challenges for the College.

Regarding international tuition fees, he explained that, after freezing the fees for many years, the Board previously approved an annual 2% increase to align with domestic tuition increases, which makes planning much easier.

M. Koke and P. Burns answered a Board member's question regarding the history of the Ministry's implementation of the tuition cap.

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

THAT, the proposed tuition fees for instruction in all programs and courses commencing on or after May 1, 2026, according to the fee schedule attached and marked "Schedule A", be approved.

Carried Unanimously.

b. Fiscal 2025-26 Q3 Forecast for the Ministry

M. Koke advised that the 2025 - 26 Q3 forecast prepared for submission to the Ministry projects a \$32.3 million deficit, compared to approximately \$30 million presented to the Board at Q2. He noted that, if the forecast is normalized by removing Workday-related costs, the operating deficit would be reduced to approximately \$13.9 million. He then outlined other factors contributing to the deficit in the current year.

It was moved by AV Corrales and seconded by C. Lee:

THAT, the Board approve the College's fiscal 2025-26 Q3 Forecast for submission to the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills.

Carried Unanimously.

c. Deficit Mitigation Plan

M. Koke advised that post-secondary institutions are not permitted to run a deficit without approval from the province. He and Y. Varachia met with Ministry representatives in Victoria last month to discuss the College's financial situation from both a deficit and cash flow standpoint. As a first step in addressing these financial issues, the College was asked to complete a Deficit Mitigation Strategy template. He noted that the Ministry was prescriptive regarding how the template should be completed, and that the focus is on providing explanations of the College's situation rather than detailed figures.

He then provided a quick overview of the Fiscal 2025-26 Deficit Mitigation Plan included in today's agenda package and highlighted key factors contributing to the College's deficit and cash flow challenges, as well as actions taken to date to mitigate these issues.

Discussions ensued, and M. Koke answered Board members' questions regarding the Workday project and potential cost-saving measures.

It was moved by AV Corrales and seconded by D. Nozdryn-Plotnicki:

THAT, the Board approve the College's fiscal 2025-26 Deficit Mitigation Plan for submission to the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills.

Carried Unanimously.

The GNC Chair provided an update on Board succession planning. Due to the BCGEU strike, the Ministry's annual Board Expiry and Request for Appointment process was delayed, and the information was not received until mid-November, with the submission deadline extended to January 30, 2026. Four Board members' terms will be expiring at the end of July 2026. S. Murray and C. Rheaume will have completed six years of service, the usual maximum term, while M. Goldberg and S. Howard are eligible for reappointment, should they wish to continue.

Board Members were invited to recommend potential Board candidates to Scott, Paula, or the Chair.

9. BOARD TASK FORCE

9.1 New Institutional Recovery Plan Task Force

The Board Chair proposed establishing a Board Task Force to provide governance oversight of the Institutional Recovery Plan and ensure its long-term alignment with the College's mandate. He advised that the Task Force would report to the Board, recommend actions, and raise significant governance or compliance issues.

The recommended membership would include a student representative (A. Safdari), a staff representative (R. Palozzi), a faculty representative (M. Roberts), and three Board members (W. Choy, C. Lee, and J. Hartman), with J. Hartman as the chair of the Task Force, pending approval.

S. Murray noted that the Terms of Reference would be developed by the Task Force and may evolve over time.

It was noted that, given the Ministry's recent announcement of a sector review, some adjustments—including the name of the plan—might be required in the future.

It was moved by AV Corrales and seconded by M. Goldberg:

THAT, an Institutional Recovery Plan Task Force of the College Board be established to provide strategic oversight on the implementation of the Institutional Recovery Plan; and

Carried Unanimously.

It was moved by M. Goldberg and seconded by AV Corrales:

THAT, Willa Choy, Cindy Lee, Rose Palozzi, Melissa Roberts, and Ali Safdari, be appointed as members, and Joey Hartman be appointed as the Chair of the Institutional Recovery Plan Task Force.

Carried Unanimously.

10. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

President Burns provided a brief update on the Langara College Foundation Board meeting held on October 29, 2025, noting that the meeting focused on updates regarding the state of the College and discussions around the Foundation's finances.

The Board Chair thanked visitors for their comments and engagement, noting the Board values their perspectives.

13. NEXT MEETING

13.1 Thursday, January 29, 2025

The next Board of Governors meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 29, 2026.

14. ADJOURNMENT

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

THAT, the meeting be adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Carried Unanimously.

Scott Murray
Chair, Board of Governors

Paula Burns
President and CEO