

**Langara College Board of Governors  
Meeting Minutes  
Public Meeting  
Thursday, January 29, 2026, 4:30 p.m.  
Boardroom B141 and via Zoom**

**Board Members:**

Paula Burns, President and CEO  
Willa Choy (via Zoom)  
Armor Valor Corrales (regrets)  
Mark Goldberg  
Joey Hartman  
Stephen Howard  
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, 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:**

Patricia Aroca-Ouellette, Acting Dean, Faculty of Science  
Anne Baxter, Director, Enterprise Risk Management  
Adam Brayford, Director, Strategic Communications and Marketing

**Visitors:**

Approximately 70 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 4:32 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.



- There has been progress on the strategic framework milestones despite ongoing institutional challenges. The Institutional Recovery Advisory Team had its first meeting, which focused on communications with the College community. The Team discussed other ways to engage the College community in addition to Town Halls and will explore the idea of hosting community roundtables and potential topics at its next meeting.
- The students vs. staff charity basketball game was a great success, with the student team winning the game.
- Spring 2026 enrollment data, along with Spring 2024 and 2025 data for comparison, were included in the report to show year-over-year progression, particularly the decline in international enrollment alongside modest growth in domestic enrollment.

President Burns also reviewed the *Strategic Framework Milestones: Mid-Year Update* attached to her report, noting the use of green, yellow, and red indicators to reflect progress. She advised that the work on the six academic centres has been purposely put on hold to do the work on the Enrollment Action Plan first, which is being led by Interim Provost D. Anderson. She was pleased to see progress across other priorities, including program excellence, student success, recruitment and retention, human capacity, technology utilization, and campus development. She noted that the work on the organizational structure review is underway and expected to advance further in the coming months.

Discussions ensued and P. Burns and D. Anderson answered Board members' questions regarding Work-Integrated Learning (WIL).

Finally, President Burns reported on the College's submission to the post-secondary sector review, noting that while BC Colleges made one collective submission to reflect its perspectives, the Council of Presidents decided that each institution should also make an individual submission. The College's submission, which is included in today's agenda package, identifies who Langara is, why the College is important, and how it contributes to the public post-secondary system. President Burns thanked VP Y. Varachia and his team for preparing the submission and noted that it will be submitted within the next few days.

## **7. EDUCATION COUNCIL REPORTS**

### **7.1 Summary Report of Meeting held November 18, 2025**

### **7.2 Summary Report of Meeting held December 16, 2025**

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

- The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program package was completed and submitted to DQAB for review and will return to Education Council for final approval.
- Criminal Justice underwent a program review, including updates to course names, learning outcomes, and curriculum mapping.
- The Academic Standing Policy (E2008) was revised. Once Workday Student goes live, it will have the capacity to send Academic Alerts to students, providing early warnings to those at risk of probation or suspension without affecting their transcripts.
- As another benefit of the new Workday Student program, course numbers for Adult Basic Education (ABE) programs, primarily in math and English, will be renumbered to start with 0 instead of 1000, making it easier for students to identify upgrading courses.

Discussions ensued. T. MacMillan responded to Board members' questions regarding the BSN program and Academic Alerts, and Acting Dean P. Aroca-Ouellette answered a question about the new CHEM 1119 course – *Principles of Chemistry: Post-Secondary Foundations*.

It was moved by M. Roberts and seconded by R. Palozzi:

**THAT, the Summary Reports of the Education Council meetings held November 18, 2025 and December 16, 2025 be received.**

**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 January 12, 2026.

#### **a. Audit Planning Report for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2026**

M. Koke advised that KPMG presented the Audit Planning Report to the Audit and Finance Committee. The report, prepared by KPMG in anticipation of the College's audit, noted that the assessed audit risk has increased from low to elevated. He explained the implications, including that a "going concern" note is expected to appear in the College's fiscal 2026 financial statements, and stated that while the note is understandable, the College is well-positioned to continue its operations. He also noted that the materiality level has decreased from \$5.3 million last year to \$5 million this year, reflecting the increased risk for this particular audit.

It was moved by S. Howard and seconded by N. Smith:

**THAT, the Board approve the 2025/26 Audit Plan.**

**Carried Unanimously.**

#### **b. Cashflow Update**

M. Koke provided context on the College's financial position, noting that as of December 31, 2025, the College is projecting a deficit higher than budget and forecasts, but is expected to align with end-of-year projections. He then referred to the supporting document in the agenda package, a cash model prepared by KPMG, and advised that the projected cash and investment balances at the end of the current fiscal year are below the recommended threshold for the College's size, and noted that investment maturities will also impact cash flow in the future.

He advised that, given the College is expecting a significant deficit, the government will conduct an additional audit of the financials beyond the annual financial statement audit. He noted that he and the Director of Financial Services, Kirsten Chan, will have monthly meetings with our Ministry and the Ministry of Finance to provide updates on the College's plan to address the current financial situation

Discussions ensued, and M. Koke responded to questions from Board members.

## 8.2 Governance and Nominating Committee (GNC)

The GNC Chair, N. Smith, reported that the Committee met on January 15, 2026, and is bringing forward three motions for the Board's approval today.

### a. Board and Board Chair Goals, Strategies and Intended Outcomes for January 2026 to November 2026

The Board Chair noted that, given the current context, the Board goals are more important than ever to ensure strategies are executed and outcomes are monitored. He then briefly reviewed each of the goals, highlighting priorities including institutional sustainability, indigenization, community and government relations, board education, sector collaboration, and the Board Chair's role as a voice for the Board and the College. He noted that the newly added "Progress checks" column is intended to help the Board monitor and track progress toward the goals.

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

**THAT, the Board approve the Board and Board Chair Goals, Strategies, and Intended Outcomes for January 2026 to November 2026**

**Carried Unanimously.**

### b. Institutional Sustainability Task Force Terms of Reference

J. Hartman advised that the Terms of Reference included in the agenda package were brought forward for the Board's approval to ratify the Task Force's one-year mandate. She explained that the name change, from the Institutional Recovery Plan Task Force to the Institutional Sustainability Task Force, reflects its focus on sustainability and the Board's role in providing effective oversight without becoming involved in the College's day-to-day operations.

She reviewed the composition of the Task Force and noted that it intends to work within the structure of the four pillars established under the Institutional Recovery Plan, while maintaining flexibility to pivot should organizational priorities shift. She further noted that, if a substantive change in direction is required, the Task Force would return to the full Board to seek a renewed or revised mandate. At the end of the year, the Board will assess whether the Task Force's work is complete or needs to continue.

J. Hartman also advised that the Task Force will meet at least monthly, allowing for deeper discussion than is possible at regular Board meetings. She noted that the Task Force met the previous evening, with herself, W. Choy, C. Lee, R. Palozzi, M. Roberts, and A. Safdari in attendance as Task Force members. All members of the Executive Leadership Team were invited to attend the meeting to present the pillars they are leading.

It was moved by R. Palozzi, and seconded by M. Goldberg:

**THAT, the Board approve renaming the 'Institutional Recovery Plan Task Force' to the 'Institutional Sustainability Task Force', and approve the Terms of Reference for the renamed Task Force.**

**Carried Unanimously.**

**c. Succession Planning – Update on Expiry of Current Board Appointments**

The GNC Chair reminded the Board that the terms of appointment for M. Goldberg, C. Rheame, and S. Murray will expire at the end of July 2026, and that both C. Rheame and S. Murray will have served the maximum six-year term by that time. He was pleased to report that M. Goldberg has consented to the submission of his name for reappointment to a three-year term.

In addition, S. Murray has expressed interest in reappointment beyond the normal six-year term limit. While Board approval is not required to submit his name for an extended term, the GNC agreed that bringing forward a motion would be an appropriate way to formally express the Board's support. Considering the fiscal challenges the College is facing and the broader challenges faced by the post-secondary sector, S. Murray's institutional knowledge and sector experience were noted as providing valuable continuity in leadership, as well as enhanced collaboration with other college board chairs in advocating for sector-wide solutions with government.

It was moved by S. Howard, and seconded by D. Nozdryn-Plotnicki:

**THAT, the Board support the recommendation to the Crown Agencies and Board Resourcing Office (CABRO) that Scott Murray be reappointed beyond the normal six-year limit**

**Carried Unanimously.**

The GNC Chair noted that, in light of the above update and with S. Howard stepping down at the end of the month, the College will post Notices of Position for the two vacancies resulting from the departures of C. Rheame and S. Howard. CABRO will also review last year's applicant pool to identify individuals who meet the competencies required for this round and will contact selected candidates to confirm their continued interest and availability. Appointments are typically announced in July.

**9. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

There was no report.

**10. STAKEHOLDER MEMBER REPORTS**

P.G. Aylward expressed concern that the College is still missing a proactive plan to ensure the College's survival, despite raising this concern for almost a year. She advised that she was speaking on behalf of faculty, as well as CUPE members and administrators who have lost their livelihoods, and addressed concerns regarding the College's financial situation, the growth in management positions over time, the reduction strategy being applied across the College, the impact of labour reductions on student services and supports, and the lack of clear, transparent communication and engagement with the College community on major issues. She further expressed concern that the College created and submitted its response to the sector review without consulting faculty and other employee groups. In closing, she reiterated the need for strong leadership, clear direction, and concrete strategies to address the current crisis, and urged the Board to take timely action to ensure the College's long-term stability.

