

**Langara College Board of Governors
Minutes of a Public Meeting
held on Thursday, May 26, 2022
beginning at 5:32 pm
via Zoom videoconference**

Present:	Maria Alonso Mary Lynn Baum Armor Valor Corrales Janelle Dwyer Michal Jaworski, Chair Tess MacMillan	Raza Mirani Rose Palozzi Cole Rheaume Melissa Roberts Yusuf Varachia, Acting President
Regrets :	Andy Dhillon Krisha Dhaliwal	Ian Mass Scott Murray
Employee Resources:	Margaret Heldman, Vice-President, Academic (interim) Michael Koke, Vice-President, Administration and Finance (interim) Jane Mason, Vice-President, People and Culture Debbie Schachter, Associate Vice-President, Students (interim)	
Constituent Groups:	Steven Brouse, Representative, CUPE Local 15/VMCEW Pauline Greaves Aylward, President, Langara Faculty Association	
Guest(s):	Chris Arnold Forster, Director, Risk and Internal Controls Eileen Chin, Associate Director, Finance and Purchasing Leah Sharzer, Instructor, English Department Ann Syme, Dean, Faculty of Nursing	
Recorder:	Diana Falcon, Executive Assistant to the Board of Governors	

1. CALL TO ORDER

There being a Quorum present, the Board Chair called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. He conveyed regrets from those unable to attend, and welcomed all guests.

2. MUSQUEAM LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Board Chair delivered the acknowledgement that Langara College rests on the traditional unceded territory of the Musqueam peoples. He also acknowledged the indigenous peoples of all the lands that members are 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.

3. 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 disclose conflicts of interest for any agenda item that would relate to the ongoing business of the institution. With none disclosed, the Board Chair proceeded with the meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA/CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by AV Corrales and seconded by R. Mirani

THAT, the Langara College Board approve the agenda and approve and acknowledge the following items and motion on the consent agenda:

4.1 Minutes of Meeting held March 24, 2022 - Approved

4.2 Chair's Written Report - Acknowledged

4.3 President's Written Report – Acknowledged

4.3 Confirmation of Remittances - Acknowledged

Carried Unanimously.

5. CHAIR'S VERBAL REPORT

M. Jaworski thanked Y. Varachia on behalf of the Board for stepping in as Acting President during this transitional time and leading the College. He noted that currently there are a lot of interim and acting roles where people have sacrificed their time to the College to ensure we are meeting our commitments to our students and to the College. Of particular note over the last six months was the Senior Leadership Team where several positions were filled on an interim basis, including Pablo Vargas as VP, External and Michael Koke as VP, Audit and Finance. He thanked everyone for their continuing efforts to keep the College moving and succeeding.

6. PRESIDENT'S VERBAL REPORT

In addition to his written report, Y. Varachia thanked the Board for his time as Acting President, noting that it has been an exceptional experience. There is still a lot of work to be done but we will accomplish it with a shared vision. As we have continued to navigate the impacts of COVID, we have experienced significant leadership changes by saying goodbye to our past President and welcoming our new President next week. All of this has occurred during one of the most trying times that the College and the world have experienced. He thanked everyone at the College and in the community for pulling together. The College has been resilient over the past few years, has continued to support each other, and moved many initiatives forward. He thanked the Board for their trust in him noting that it has been a pleasure getting to know them better and looks forward to continuing to work with them as he returns to his VP role. He thanked his SLT colleagues for their extraordinary commitment to the students and the College. He is excited to be working with Dr. Paula Burns and feels very strongly that the right decision was made in appointing her as Langara's next President.

On behalf of the Langara Faculty Association, P. Greaves Aylward thanked Y. Varachia for stepping into the Acting President role, a difficult multi-hat position. The LFA appreciated the work he has done, for his continued support, and wished him well as he returns to his VP position.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS/APPROVALS

7.1 Audit and Finance Committee

In the absence of the Committee Chair, M. Jaworski highlighted the following items:

a. Draft Minutes of Meeting held May 9, 2022

The draft Minutes of the Audit and Finance Committee meeting held May 9, 2022, attached to the agenda for information.

b. Draft Audit and Finance Committee Annual Work Plan 2022-23

The Draft 2021-22 Audit and Finance Committee Work Plan attached to the agenda noting that it outlines the critical work of the AFC for the College.

It was moved by AV Corrales and seconded by J. Dwyer

THAT, the Audit and Finance Committee (AFC) Annual Work Plan dated June 1, 2022 – May 30, 2023, with the noted changes including the addition of the Funding Task Force update, be accepted by the Board for implementation by the AFC.

Carried Unanimously.

c. Ministry Letter of Direction 2022-23

M. Jaworski highlighted the Ministry Letter of Direction for 2022-23 (attached to the agenda) that builds on the previous year's Mandate Letter as the core document. The five foundational principles contained in the Mandate Letter continue to inform the institution's policies and programs. Although not new, the Ministry also expects that the institution will continue to make substantive progress on the following priorities:

- Continue to work with the Ministry to resume full on-campus learning and services for students, faculty and staff, following the direction and guidance of the Provincial Health Officer and the COVID-19 Go-Forward Guidelines for B.C.'s Post-Secondary Sector, and support your academic communities as you respond to COVID-19 impacts and recovery.
- Work with the Ministry and your communities, employers and industry to implement post-secondary education and skills training for British Columbians, particularly those impacted by COVID-19 and vulnerable and underrepresented groups, to participate fully in economic recovery and growing career opportunities.
- Fully engage with government in implementing mandate commitments to support a future-ready workforce and post-secondary system, increasing access to post-secondary education and skills training and high opportunity jobs for British Columbians. This includes cross-government, community, sector and stakeholder collaboration to support mandate commitments where education, innovation and equity play a role, and that builds upon government's CleanBC strategy and supports a clean economic future.

New this year are additional actions to be included in the Accountability Plan and Report to:

- Demonstrate our commitment to collaborating within our sector on new and priority initiatives, including: "

- Working to align education and skills training to goals of the B.C. Economic Plan;
- Supporting the implementation of Skilled Trades Certification
- Contribute to Ministry engagement on upcoming initiatives, including: "
 - The Future Ready: Skills for the Jobs of Tomorrow plan;
 - The Ministry's sexualized violence policy review;
 - Further tech-relevant seat expansions; and
 - The funding formula review of provincial operating grants

Y. Varachia addressed the contents of the Letter of Direction and Mandate Letter by identifying how they fit within the College's current strategic plan and priorities for the upcoming year. He noted that the annual Accountability Plan and Report will address our progress with respect to the Mandate Letter. The government's priorities are emphasized in the [B.C. Economic Plan](#), the [Labour Market Outlook](#), and the [Future Ready: Skills for the Jobs of Tomorrow](#) and these documents not only align with each other, but also help us to understand what the Ministry expects from our sector. The Ministry has provided frequent updates and has consulted with BC Colleges and other post secondary institutions on their priorities. Colleges need to be included in more conversations by being invited to the table with government and industry in order to be part of the solution and shared vision and help prepare for the future. BC Colleges has been a leader in collaboration for our sector. BC Colleges has developed a document about how colleges can partner with the Ministry to solve some of the issues within our communities.

M. Jaworski noted that the Ministry has asked the Board Chair to sign the Letter for the purpose of acknowledging the government's direction to the College once the Chair has received approval from the Board to do so. The request is not to adopt the Ministry's priorities but rather acknowledge receipt of the government's direction.

J. Dwyer acknowledged the Board Chair's expertise and precision for pointing out what the Board Directors need to do that is in the best interests in the College.

It was moved by ML Baum and seconded by R. Mirani

**THAT the Board authorize the Board Chair to sign the 2022-2023
Ministry Letter of Direction on behalf of the Board.**

Carried Unanimously.

7.2 Governance and Nominating Committee

a. Summary Report of Meeting held May 12, 2022

R. Mirani highlighted the Summary Report of the GNC meeting held May 12, 2022 attached to the agenda for information.

b. Draft Governance and Nominating Committee Annual Work Plan for 2022-23

R. Mirani highlighted the draft 2022-23 Governance and Nominating Committee Work Plan attached to the agenda. He noted the addition of the Ministry Mandate Letter for GNC review effective for 2023-24. Going forward, the Mandate Letter will come to the GNC once it has been reviewed by the AFC and the GNC will recommend it to the Board .

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

THAT, the Governance and Nominating Committee (GNC) Annual Plan dated July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023 be accepted by the Board for implementation by the GNC.

Carried Unanimously.

8. EDUCATION COUNCIL REPORT

The Board was reminded of Section 23 of the BC College and Institute Act that requires Education Council to advise the board on the development of educational policy.

8.1 Summary Report of the meeting held March 22, 2022

T. MacMillan, Chair, Education Council highlighted the summary report of the Education Council meeting held on March 22, 2022 attached to the agenda.

In response to a question, T. MacMillan noted that at an Education Council meeting held May 24, 2022, the Duolingo English Test was permanently added as an acceptable entrance for Langara. The material provided by Institutional Research showed that students had comparable or better outcomes if they were admitted with Duolingo compared to IELTS.

In response to a question regarding the prerequisites for English courses and why IELTS is no longer accepted, T. MacMillan noted that English 1100 is a first-year University English transfer course and while IELTS is a perfectly acceptable admission to the College exam, it is not sufficient enough to demonstrate student's writing skills, which is why the Langara English Test (LET) is required for students entering first-year English. There are lower level English courses for which IELTS does act as a prerequisite, but the experience in the English department is that IELTS is not sufficient to guarantee success for students in first-year University transfer courses. In the English department's opinion, IELTS tests the four different bands which is not high enough for what is needed in a first-year English course, and the amount and type of writing done on an IELTS exam does not sufficiently demonstrate the master of the language for the University transfer course.

It was moved by R. Mirani and seconded by AV Corrales

THAT, the Education Council Summary Report for March 22, 2022, be received.

Carried Unanimously.

9. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

ML Baum highlighted her attendance at the virtual conference of the Association of Governing Boards in April.

ML Baum provided a report on the activities of the Langara Foundation as follows:

- The Foundation is launching tonight the **Humanitarian Impact Fund**, a one-year campaign to raise \$250,000 to support students (refugees, asylum seekers, displaced persons, and newcomers) from around the world. It will provide access to bursaries, scholarships, tuition, books, and living expenses.
- The campaign kick off is an event being hosted this evening at the T Building Gallery with impact speakers.

- The College is supporting a three years bursary to help three Ukrainian students with a \$10,000 bursary per year. This is in response to the recent CICAN conference for Colleges and Universities who pledged to support Ukrainian students in need.
- The Foundation external audit by KPMG has been finalized resulting in a clean audit opinion, and the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2021 have been approved by the Foundation Board of Directors.
- Donation revenues for the 1st Quarter of 2022 are up 45% compared to March 2021 from \$273k to \$396k, an increase of \$123k.

Y. Varachia added that the Ministry encouraged and recommended that PSIs support Ukrainian families coming to Canada. In conversation with the sector, international students will go through an authorized special visa process called the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET) that will allow them to be treated as domestic students. Those students will not pay international student tuition and will be eligible to apply for available bursaries and awards. P. Burns, as President of CICA, asked if the College could support this and we were in a financial position to do so. After the three years has ended, we will revisit this to make sure that if anyone is going through a similar situation, as a College we will open the same supports and services available to ensure equality for all students.

In response to a question about a recent incident on campus, Y. Varachia advised that the Vancouver Police Department have made an arrest and the College is cooperating to ensure campus safety.

J. Dwyer advised that she and a friend (a former alum from the program) attended the Fine Arts Grad Show on April 28th and really enjoyed it. It is a favorite event to attend every year and encouraged Board members to attend if they have an opportunity. This year's event was an uptic from previous events as it was beautifully curated.

In response to a question about the change in library hours, D. Schachter, as Director of Library Services, advised that the library has always had reduced hours during the summer semester as the library is not funded for extended hours in the evenings or weekends. Traditionally, it is based on courses and the number of students on campus and is fairly consistent with other colleges and smaller universities. She advised that there is constant review of what is being offered and is something that can be revisited and built into future years.

10. STAKEHOLDER MEMBER REPORTS

P. Greaves Aylward provided an update to the Board on a letter that was sent to the Acting President from the Langara Faculty Association on May 6, 2022. M. Jaworski advised that this has been brought to the Board's attention and they are aware of the active engagement that is being followed to ensure that this is being advanced to work toward a mutual resolution.

11. VISITOR'S COMMENTS

E. Barbeau thanked the Board for their diligence and hard work that they do to support and guide the College.

12. NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

12.1 Monday, June 27, 2022

It was noted that the next Board meeting will be held on Monday, June 27, 2022 by hybrid model.

13. CONCLUSION

It was moved by M. Roberts and seconded by R. Palozzi
THAT, the meeting be concluded at 6:29 p.m.

Carried Unanimously.