



**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING**  
**Wednesday, October 1, 2025**  
**4:45 – 6:45 pm**  
**Main Campus, LB321**

**Present:** RJ Wallia, Board Chair  
Laureen Styles, Interim President & Vice-Chancellor  
Amina El mantari, Board Vice Chair  
Shelley Frost, Board Vice Chair  
David Ayriss, Past Chair  
Janet Cox, Elected Non-Faculty Member  
Louisa Lun, Appointed Member  
Owen McLachlan, Elected Student Member  
Pegah Yaghmaie, Elected Faculty Member

**Resource:** Tally Bains, VP Finance & Administration  
Toran Savjord, VP Strategic Planning, Assessment & Institutional Effectiveness  
Kari Wharton, VP University Relations  
Tracy Penny Light, Interim VP Academic & Provost  
Alan Jenks, Senate Committee Vice Chair  
Angela Ruggles, EA to VP Finance and Administration  
Marianne Johnstone, EA Board Secretariat (minutes)

**Regrets:** Yuri Fulmer, Chancellor  
Brittany John, Appointed Member  
Prabal Gupta, Elected Student Member  
Sam Tecle, Elected Faculty Member  
Troy Abromaitis, Appointed Member

**Guest:** Chris Girodat, Executive Director, CSU

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The meeting started at 4:46 pm.

**1. Welcome, Introductions and Land Acknowledgement**

RJ Wallia, Chair of the Board of Governors, opened the meeting by noting that Capilano University is named after Chief Joe Capilano (1854-1910), an important leader of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nation of the Coast Salish Peoples. On behalf of the Board, he respectfully acknowledged that our campuses are located on the unceded territories of the Səlílwlətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh), shíshálh (Sechelt), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

It was moved by Owen McLachlan, seconded by Shelley Frost and resolved:

*THAT the agenda be approved as presented.*

**3. Declaration of Vacancy**

Katrina Paddon resigned leaving a vacancy to be filled by the Ministry.

**4. Approved Minutes**

RJ noted that the minutes of the Board of Governors meeting held June 24, 2025 are included in the agenda package for information as they were approved by email after the meeting.

## **5. Consent Agenda**

It was moved by Owen McLachlan, seconded by David Ayriss and resolved unanimously:

*THAT the Board approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:*

- 1. For information: Section 5.1 Board Committee Reports*
- 2. For approval: Section 5.2.1 The 2024-25 Institutional Accountability Plan and Report for submission to the Ministry*

### **5.1. Board Committee Reports**

- 5.1.1. Audit and Risk Committee
- 5.1.2. Executive and Human Resources Committee
- 5.1.3. Finance Committee
- 5.1.4. Governance and Planning Committee

### **5.2. Items from Committees Recommended for Approval**

- 5.2.1. Governance and Planning Committee: 2024-25 Institutional Accountability Plan and Report (IAPR)

### **5.3. Correspondence**

## **6. Placeholder from the Consent Agenda**

There were no items pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

## **7. Board Chair's Report**

RJ provided a report on activity over the summer.

## **8. Senate Report**

Alan Jenks, Senate Committee Vice Chair provided an update on activity of the senate and committee meetings held in September.

## **9. President's Report**

Dr. Laureen Styles, Interim President, provided an update on activity that has happened over the last two months. Laureen highlighted the noon-hour events that took place in honour of the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation. Laureen has been meeting with MLAs, MPs and mayors and focusing on the strengths of CapU and our current state.

## **10. Academics**

### **10.1. Deferral of reapproval Timeline for Squamish Certificate Programs**

Tracy Penny Light, Interim VP Academic and Provost explained that the new Squamish Certificate Programs did not have the required enrolment to run in the 2025-26 Academic Year. The university will relaunch the program in Fall 2026. The program re-approval process will continue from the launch date.



## 10.2. Restructuring Faculties

Tracy explained that the Dean of Business & Professional Studies left the University in July. In order to meet the academic goals of the university while following the deficit mitigation plan, Tracy began the consultation process to merge the Global & Community Studies Faculty and the Business and Professional Studies Faculty.

There was a discussion about how this kind of restructuring is happening at other post-secondary institutions and opportunities that combining faculties can create.

The group discussed that faculty members are raising concerns about a lack of consultation. The Board was advised that the goal is to work collaboratively with faculty and with students to develop a plan to determine how the merger process would proceed.

It was moved by RJ Wallia, seconded by Shelley Frost and approved (Pegah Yaghmaie opposed):

*THAT the Board of Governors seek advice from Senate on the merger of the Faculty of Global & Community Studies and the Faculty of Business and Professional Studies per Section 5 of B.105 – Establishment and Discontinuance of Faculties and per Section 35.2(6)(e) of the University Act.*

## 11. Capilano Student Union Strategic Plan

Chris Girodat, Executive Director of Capilano Students Union (CSU) presented the CSU Strategic Plan for 2025-26.

A discussion arose about funding for the CSU building. It was noted that the new Student Building Project will be totally funded by student fees. The Board asked Chris to provide statistics about food insecurity among the University's students. The group also discussed the challenge that some students have with commuting to the university and that a move to on-campus housing is needed.

## 12. Approve Naming of Student Housing

Kari Wharton, VP University Relations shared background information regarding the proposed, Indigenous names for the university's new student housing building on its North Vancouver campus. Kari shared that the names **Lamíwa** and **θqetewtxʷ**, both translating to Tree House to convey the idea of a welcoming home in the woods, were put forward by the Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, respectively. Once approved, a notice will be shared with the CapU community.

It was moved by Pegah Yaghmaie, seconded by Shelley Frost and approved unanimously:

*THAT the Board of Governors approve the proposed names — **Lamíwa** and **θqetewtxʷ** — for Capilano University's first North Vancouver on-campus student housing building.*

## 13. Meeting Close

RJ closed the meeting at 5:54 pm.

