



MINUTES
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
Tuesday, November 25, 2025
4:45 – 6:45 pm
Main Campus, BR126

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

Resource: Tally Bains, VP Finance & Administration
Toran Savjord, VP Strategic Planning, Assessment & Institutional Effectiveness
Tracy Penny Light, Interim VP Academic & Provost
Kartik Bharadwa, VP People, Culture & Diversity
Kari Wharton, VP University Relations
Angela Ruggles, EA to VP Finance and Administration
Marianne Johnstone, EA Board Secretariat (minutes)

Regrets: Yuri Fulmer, Chancellor
Troy Abromaitis, Appointed Member

Guests: Alan Jenks, Senate Committee Vice Chair
Chris Girodat, Executive Director, CSU

The meeting started at 4:52 pm.

1. Land Acknowledgement and Approval of Agenda

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 Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (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 Səl̓ílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh), shíshálh (Sechelt), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and x̓m̓əθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations.

It was moved by Pegah Yaghmaie, seconded by Sam Tecle and resolved:

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

2. Consent Agenda

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

THAT the Board of Governors approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:

2.1. Items For Approval:

2.1.1. *Minutes from the October 1, 2025 Board Meeting*

2.1.2. *Governance and Planning Committee Recommends: Changes to Terms of Reference of All Committees*

- 2.1.3. *Governance and Planning Committee Recommends: Revisions to the Board Governance Manual*
- 2.2. *Items for Information*
 - 2.2.1. *Committee Reports*
 - 2.2.1.1. *Executive and Human Resources Committee*
 - 2.2.1.2. *Finance Committee*
 - 2.2.1.3. *Governance and Planning Committee*
- 2.3. *Correspondence - none*

3. Placeholder from the Consent Agenda

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

4. Board Chair's Report

RJ thanked the president selection committee for all the work they have done since the last board meeting and reflected on the inspirational speeches made at the We Believe Breakfast on November 25th.

5. Senate Report

Alan Jenks, Senate Committee Vice Chair provided an update on activity of the senate and committee meetings held in October and November. Alan reported that discussions are underway regarding the merger of two faculties. The Senate approved a motion to develop a digital assessment tools policy. The Board discussed the benefits of CapU being chosen as the venue for the Early Childhood Education Conference being held at the Squamish Campus in February 2026.

6. President's Report

Dr. Laureen Styles, Interim President, provided an update on activity that has happened over the last two months. Laureen highlighted the contributions faculty are making in students' lives. Laureen noted the work being done by university leadership to address the Deficit Mitigation Plan. Tally Bains, VP Finance and Administration and Toran Savjord, VP Strategic Planning, Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness have been updating various CapU constituents on the current financial situation. Laureen noted that Minister Sunner advised the BC government is launching a financial sustainability review of the post-secondary education system.

7. Academics

7.1. Illuminating 2030 Update

Tracy Penny Light, Interim VP Academic and Provost introduced the new digital ePortfolio format for the annual update on the academic plan. It showcases progress across three pillars: Community, Imagination and Distinct University Experience.

8. Capilano Student Union Tuition Impact Survey Presentation

Chris Girodat, Executive Director of Capilano Students Union (CSU) presented the CSU tuition impact survey results. Chris highlighted that the survey captures the voices of



international students and the challenges they face. Chris reviewed the history of tuition increases at Capilano University and made the recommendation to only apply the 5% international tuition increase to new students.

The Board requested that future student questionnaires from the CSU be updated to ask students who oppose tuition increases to provide input on which programs they would be willing to accept cuts in order to meet budgeting constraints. The Board Chair noted that he read every comment and encourages students to continue taking part.

9. Financial Update

Tally Bains, VP Finance and Administration provided an update on the current financial status of Capilano University. Tally noted that she worked with Chris Girodat to update the student consultation timeline from last year. Tally showed analysis that responded to the requests made in the student tuition survey. Tally noted that when the University historically kept international and domestic tuition increases the same, there was a surplus budget and that is no longer the case. The Finance Committee will review the survey and tuition analysis at their December 3, 2025 meeting and make a recommendation to the Board for approval of a tuition increase.

10. Meeting Close

RJ closed the meeting at 6:08 pm.

