



MINUTES
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
SPECIAL OPEN MEETING
Wednesday, December 17, 2025
5:00 – 5:45 pm
Via Teams

Present: RJ Wallia, Board Chair
Laureen Styles, Interim President & Vice-Chancellor
Shelley Frost, Board Vice Chair
David Ayriss, Appointed Member
Pegah Yaghmaie, Elected Faculty Member
Prabal Gupta, Elected Student Member
Sam Tecele, Elected Faculty Member
Owen McLachlan, Elected Student Member
Brittany John, Appointed Member

Resource: Tally Bains, VP Finance & Administration & Board Secretary
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 & Manager, Board Secretariat (minutes)

Regrets: Yuri Fulmer, Chancellor
Amina El mantari, Board Vice Chair
Troy Abromaitis, Appointed Member
Janet Cox, Elected Non-Faculty Member
Louisa Lun, Appointed Member

The meeting started at 5:11 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 x̓w̓məθk̓wəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations.

It was moved by RJ, seconded by David and resolved:

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

2. Academics

Sam joined at 5:15pm

2.1. Proposal for the Discontinuance or Suspension (Intake Pause) of Programs for 2026-27

Dr. Tracy Penny Light, Interim VP Academic & Provost presented the background information and details of the recommended programs for discontinuance or suspension (intake pause) for the 2026-27 academic year.

Tracy reviewed the bicameral model at the University and the roles of the Senate and Board in decision making and noted that the university Policy B.104 Discontinuance of Programs or Courses governs the process for discontinuing or suspending programs/courses.

Tracy explained that there are over 100 programs of study at the University. 30 programs are being recommended for discontinuance, and 11 programs are being recommended for intake pause. Tracy further explained that most of the programs being recommended for discontinuance are already paused and that pausing courses/programs allows a strategic review and redesign of the course/program to ensure the evolving needs of students and labour market are being met.

Tracy explained that key indicators of program health (application and enrolment trends) in combination with annual attrition rates were used to determine which programs are being recommended.

Tracy reminded the group that Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) changes have refocused the university's attention to attracting domestic students, and attention is being paid to redesigning programs to meet needs of all students, including international students.

A question was asked about the timeline of discontinuance and intake pause. Tracy reminded the group that the motion being recommended today is for the Board to seek advice from Senate but at the same time, applications for course/program registration are being submitted already. Tracy explained that some program redesign may be completed in time for release in Fall 2026.

A board member asked if the university designs programs that are attractive to international students. Tracy further explained that because of the IRCC changes, many programs that CapU offers to international students are not attractive now because they no longer put the student on a path toward a post-graduate work permit (PGWP). Tracy noted that bachelor's programs are still attractive to both international & domestic students. Tracy also explained that the federal government may make further changes to Post-Secondary credentials and therefore it is important for the university to focus on attracting domestic students.

A question was raised about the plan to communicate the changes to students. Tracy explained that students will be reached out to once the decisions have been made and a strategy has been determined.

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

THAT the Board of Governors refer the recommendation to discontinue the programs listed to Senate for advice per B. 104 Discontinuance of Programs or Courses policy and per Section 35.2 (6) b) of the University Act.

It was moved by Owen, seconded by Sam and resolved:

THAT the Board of Governors refer the information on program suspension (intake pause) of the programs listed to Senate for advice (without prejudice or precedent).



3. Meeting Close

RJ closed the meeting at 5:38 pm.

