



MINUTES
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
Tuesday, February 24, 2026
4:45 – 6:45 pm
Main Campus, BR126

Present: RJ Wallia, Board Chair
Laureen Styles, Interim President & Vice-Chancellor
Shelley Frost, Board Vice Chair
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 Tecele, Elected Faculty Member

Resource: Tally Bains, VP Finance & Administration
Toran Savjord, VP Strategic Planning, Assessment & Institutional Effectiveness
Tracy Penny Light, Interim VP Academic & Provost
Kari Wharton, VP University Relations
Angela Ruggles, EA to VP Finance and Administration
Hélène Leboucher, EA VP Academic & Provost (minutes)

Regrets: Yuri Fulmer, Chancellor
Amina El Mantari, Board Vice Chair
Brittany John, Appointed Member
Troy Abromaitis, Appointed Member

Guests: Alan Jenks, Senate Committee Vice Chair
Jacquetta Goy, Director Risk Management

The meeting started at 4:46 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 (Tseil-Waututh), shíshálh (Sechelt), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and x̓w̓məθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations.

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

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

2. Consent Agenda

It was moved by David Ayriss, seconded by Sam Tecele and resolved:

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

2.1. Items For Approval:

2.1.1. *Minutes from the November 25, 2025 Board Meeting and December 17, 2025 Special Board Meeting*

2.1.2. *Committee Reports*

- 2.1.2.1. *Executive and Human Resources Committee*
- 2.1.2.2. *Finance Committee*
- 2.1.2.3. *Governance and Planning Committee*

2.2. 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 opened the first meeting of the year by noting the challenging times facing the university and expressing confidence in senior leadership and the board to make informed decisions. He thanked Laureen Styles for her leadership, marking her final board meeting, and reaffirmed the board's strategic role in ensuring the university's long-term sustainability, emphasizing its growth and evolution, and concluding with confidence that the institution will continue to thrive.

5. Senate Report

Alan Jenks, Senate Committee Vice Chair provided an update on activity of the senate and committee meetings held in December, January and February. Alan reported that Senate has been active over the past months. Key activities included reviewing faculty mergers and restructuring, program reviews, admissions and academic policies, and graduate studies governance.

Alan noted that the Senate is undergoing the process of reviewing program discontinuances and suspensions as required. Alan suggested that the process for the Board requesting advice from Senate should be reviewed to provide more structure including providing templates and deadlines for feedback.

Overall, Senate continues to advance academic governance while managing restructuring and program review, with a focus on improving coordination and clarity with the Board.

6. President's Report

Dr. Laureen Styles, Interim President and Vice Chancellor reflected on her tenure with gratitude, emphasizing the university's values of connection, creativity, imagination, and thriving. She highlighted the importance of sustainable actions for long-term institutional success and encouraged the board, leadership, and community to balance practical decision-making with forward-looking ambition. Laureen expressed appreciation for colleagues, students, faculty, staff, and partners, noting achievements across portfolios, including student successes and community initiatives. She concluded by thanking the board and university community and reaffirming confidence in the institution's future.



7. Audit and Risk Committee

7.1. B.312 Risk Management Policy

Jacquetta Goy, Director Risk Management reviewed the updates to this policy. The annual review found no substantive issues, with minor administrative updates reflecting that the risk management program is now fully established.

It was moved by Owen McLachlan, seconded by Pegah Yaghmaie and resolved:

THAT the Board of Governors approve the revisions to B.312 Risk Management Policy as presented.

7.2. B.700 Privacy and Access to Information Policy

Jacquetta Goy, Director Risk Management reviewed the updates to this policy. The three-year review resulted in clarifications, formatting improvements, and a renumbering from the 700 to 600 series, with no substantive changes required.

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

THAT the Board of Governors approve the revisions to B.700 Privacy and Access to Information Policy (to be renumbered B.600) as presented.

Louisa Lun Joined the meeting at 5:19pm.

8. Academics

8.1. Program Discontinuance and Suspension (Intake Pause) Update

Tracy Penny Light, Interim VP Academic & Provost provided an update on program discontinuances and suspensions, noting that 16 of the 41 programs under review have received Senate advice, while 10 programs still open for intake require careful attention to support students. She emphasized the importance of making decisions with students at the center and highlighted the need for more consistent, predictable timelines for annual program reflections to monitor program health and sustainability. The discussion also considered both routine administrative updates and more substantive academic changes, situating these decisions within broader institutional priorities such as enrollment trends, program rationalization, and strategic planning.

It was moved by Pegah Yaghmaie, seconded by David Ayriss and resolved:

THAT the Board of Governors request Senate's advice on the list of programs for discontinuance and suspension (intake pause) by March 20, 2026 to ensure the Board can make a decision that serves the needs of students and university constituents by the end of March 2026.

9. Financial Committee

9.1. Tuition and Fee Increase



Tally Bains, VP Finance and Administration presented the proposed tuition and mandatory fee increases for the 2026–2027 academic year, noting extensive student consultation, comparative analysis with other institutions, and budget impact modeling.

It was moved by David Ayriss, seconded by Pegah Yaghmaie and resolved (Owen McLachlan & Janet Cox abstained):

THAT the Board of Governors approve a 2% increase for domestic tuition and a 5% increase for international tuition for the 2026-27 academic year and endorse a 5% minimum increase for international tuition for the 2027/28 academic year.

9.2. Fiscal 2026/27 Operating and Capital Budget

Tally presented the proposed 2026–2027 operating and capital budget, which includes a projected \$12 million deficit and reflects ongoing financial pressures. She noted that the university’s unrestricted accumulated surplus is expected to decline from approximately \$20 million by the end of the current fiscal year to around \$10 million by March 31, 2027, indicating limited financial flexibility.

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

THAT the Board of Governors approve the 2026/27 operating and capital budget.

10. Meeting Close

RJ closed the meeting at 5:25 pm.

