



MINUTES
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
SPECIAL OPEN MEETING
Friday, March 27, 2026
5:45 – 6:45 pm
Via Teams

Present: RJ Wallia, Board Chair
Jason Dewling, President & Vice-Chancellor
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
Sam Teclé, Elected Faculty Member

Resource: Tracy Penny Light, Interim VP Academic & Provost
Kari Wharton, VP University Relations
Angela Ruggles, EA to VP Finance and Administration
& Manager, Board Secretariat
Hélène Leboucher, EA to VP Academic and Provost
(minutes)

Regrets: Amina El mantari, Board Vice Chair
Troy Abromaitis, Appointed Member
Prabal Gupta, Elected Student Member
Yuri Fulmer, Chancellor

The meeting started at 5:46 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 (Tsleil-Waututh), shíshálh (Sechelt), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and x̓w̓məθk̓wəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations.

It was moved by RJ Wallia, seconded by Louisa Lun and resolved:

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

2. Welcome Dr. Jason Dewling

RJ welcomed Jason Dewling, Capilano University President to his first Board of Governors public meeting.

3. Public Input

Michael Begg, Capilano Faculty Association President and Instructor, School of Legal Studies and Alaa Al-Musalli, Senate Academic Planning and Review Committee (SAPRC) Chair presented consultation work and issues raised by the Senate

Academic Planning and Review Committee regarding the recommended University program discontinuances and suspensions.

Michael emphasized the importance of collegial governance and described the consultation process since December, including committee review, input from program areas, and Senate deliberations.

Alaa outlined key concerns raised during the SAPRC review and noted that earlier consultation could have improved the process.

In closing, the Board was encouraged to accept Senate's advice and support a more collaborative approach moving forward.

4. Academics

4.1. Proposal for the Discontinuance or Suspension (Intake Pause)

Dr. Tracy Penny Light, Interim VP Academic & Provost presented the advice from Senate regarding the recommended programs for discontinuance or suspension (intake pause) for the 2026-27 academic year.

Tracy provided an overview of the work undertaken since December. She explained that the original list of programs included 30 programs proposed for discontinuance and 11 for suspension, based primarily on trends in applications and enrolment, as well as program viability considerations. Tracy outlined how Senate refined these recommendations, resulting in four categories of action: uncontested discontinuances, uncontested suspensions, contested discontinuances, and contested suspensions.

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

THAT the Board of Governors accept the advice from Senate to discontinue the following programs:

1. *College & University Preparation (CUP) Citation*
2. *Community Leadership & Social Change Diploma*
3. *Communication for Professionals Certificate*
4. *Human Kinetics Diploma*
5. *Human Kinetics – Exercise Science*
6. *Human Kinetics – Physical Education*
7. *Hotel & Resort Management Post-Baccalaureate Diploma*
8. *Tourism Marketing & Development Post-Baccalaureate Diploma*
9. *Post Baccalaureate in Global Hospitality & Tourism Management*
10. *Tourism Management for International Students Diploma*
11. *Tourism Marketing Citation*
12. *Accounting Assistant Certificate*
13. *Accounting Assistant Diploma*
14. *Advanced Business Administration Certificate*
15. *Business Fundamentals Certificate*
16. *Retail Business Fundamentals Certificate*
17. *Computer Information Systems Certificate*
18. *Visual Communication Advanced Diploma*
19. *Conducting in Music Certificate*



20. *Music Diploma – Music Therapy Course Stream*
21. *Music Therapy Preparatory Stream*
22. *Digital Visual Effects Diploma*

It was moved by RJ Wallia, seconded by Pegah Yaghmaie and resolved:

THAT the Board of Governors accept the advice from Senate to suspend or continue the suspension of the following programs:

1. *English for Academic Purpose – Business Administration Pathway (2026–27)*
2. *English for Academic Purpose – Early Childhood Care & Education Pathway (2026–27)*
3. *University One for Indigenous Learners Certificate (2026–27)*
 - *Senate advice: while the evaluation proceeds*
4. *Diploma in Tourism Management International (2026-27)*
5. *Visual Effects for Film, Streaming & Immersive Media Diploma (2026–27) *
 - *Senate advice: continue suspension for redesign*
6. *Advanced Arts & Entertainment Management Certificate (2026–27)*
 - *Senate advice: continue suspension and focus on diploma/degree pipeline*
7. *North American Business Management Post-Baccalaureate Applied Diploma (continue suspension)*
 - *Senate advice: continued suspension for 2026–27, with direction to explore profile changes to restore PGWP eligibility by December 31, 2027.*
8. *North American Business Management Post-Baccalaureate Diploma (continue suspension)*
 - *Senate advice: continued suspension for 2026–27, with direction to explore profile changes to restore PGWP eligibility by December 31, 2027.*
9. *Communications Studies Diploma*
 - *Senate advice: continue suspension for 2026-27 with redesign conditions*

The Board requested clarification on the factors considered when pausing or suspending the three programs.

Action Item: Tracy to provide the criteria used to assess the three programs prior to suspension.

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

THAT the Board of Governors accept the advice from Senate to remove the following programs from the discontinuance list as recommended to the Board in December 2025 and continue suspension:

1. *International Management Graduate Certificate (continue suspension)*
 - *Senate advice: removal from discontinuance list, continue suspension pending program review, redesign option, reassess in 2027–28.*
2. *International Management Graduate Diploma (continue suspension)*
 - *Senate advice: removal from discontinuance list, continue suspension pending program review, redesign option, reassess in 2027–28.*
3. *North American and International Management Graduate Diploma (continue suspension)*



- *Senate advice: removal from discontinuance list, continue suspension pending program review, redesign option, reassess in 2027–28.*

An amendment to the next motion was proposed to change “*with enrolment reassessment in 2027–28*” to “*with enrolment reassessment beginning on the first day that the University is open in January 2027*”. The Board agreed that this would ensure a timely evaluation of program viability, given the University’s limited resources and the need to focus on programs that provide meaningful benefit to students and the institution.

It was moved by RJ, seconded by Shelley and carried with two-thirds majority (1 abstention, 0 Nays, 9 Yeas):

That the motion is amended to change “*with enrolment reassessment in 2027–28*” to “*with enrolment reassessment beginning on the first day that the University is open in January 2027*”.

The amended motion was moved by David, seconded by RJ, and resolved (1 opposed):

THAT the Board of Governors accept the advice from Senate to remove the following programs from the discontinuance list as recommended to the Board in December 2025 and maintain the intake in 2026-27:

1. *Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Financial Planning*

- *Senate advice: removal from discontinuance list, with enrolment reassessment beginning on the first day that the University is open in January 2027.*

2. *Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Financial Planning Professional*

- *Senate advice: removal from discontinuance list, with enrolment reassessment beginning on the first day that the University is open January 2027.*

3. *Retail Operations Certificate*

- *Senate advice: removal from discontinuance list, with enrolment reassessment beginning on the first day that the University is open January 2027.*

The Board discussed the advice received from Senate on the final motion for consideration (as noted on the agenda). The Board and management discussed the timelines and data required to make a decision around the suspension of the 4 programs listed in the motion. The Board requested that the 4 programs be reassessed and further information provided to the Board by May 30, 2026.

Action Item: For management to reassess the following programs recommended for suspension and provide further information for the Board’s consideration, including updated enrolment data, by May 30, 2026:

1. Bachelor of Communication Studies
2. Music Diploma
3. Bachelor of Tourism Management
4. Tourism Management Co-operative Diploma



The Board agreed to postpone the final motion noted on the agenda until after May 30th, 2026. This will allow Management and Senate time to gather further information and updated enrolment data, ensuring the Board can make a fully informed decision.

5. Meeting Close

RJ closed the meeting at 7:08 pm.

