



MINUTES
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
SPECIAL OPEN MEETING
Friday, June 12, 2026
4:45 – 5:45 pm
Via Teams

Present: RJ Wallia, Board Chair
Jason Dewling, President & Vice Chancellor
Debra Doucette, Chancellor
Shelley Frost, Board Vice Chair
Brittany John, Appointed Member
David Ayriss, Appointed Member
Janet Cox, Elected Non-Faculty Member
Pegah Yaghmaie, Elected Faculty Member
Sam Tecle, Elected Faculty Member
Amina El mantari, Board Vice Chair

Resource: Tally Bains, VP Finance and Administration
Lesley Brown, Interim VP, Academic & Provost
Kari Wharton, VP University Relations
Nat Volo, EA to VP Finance and Administration
Hélène Leboucher, EA to VP Academic and Provost (minutes)

Regrets: Louisa Lun, Appointed Member
Troy Abromaitis, Appointed Member
Prabal Gupta, Elected Student Member
Owen McLachlan, Elected Student Member

Guest Speakers: Michael Begg, Capilano Faculty Association President and Instructor, School of Legal Studies
Kara Walker, Chair of the School of Tourism Management

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 Skw̓wú7mesh (Squamish) Nation of the Coast Salish Peoples. We respectfully acknowledge that our campuses are located on the unceded territories of the səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh), shíshálh (Sechelt), Skw̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations.

It was moved by RJ Wallia, seconded by Shelley Frost and resolved:

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

2. Welcome – Debra Doucette, OBC

RJ welcomed Debra Doucette, Chancellor.

3. Public Input

Michael Begg, Capilano Faculty Association President and Instructor, School of Legal Studies, referenced the Board's March 27 meeting and reiterated support for the Senate's recommendation to continue programs in Communication, Music, and Tourism Management. He noted that faculty and staff had collaborated with administrators to provide additional requested information and encouraged the Board to follow the Senate's advice.

He also spoke about improving collaboration between faculty and administration. He stated that faculty and the CFA are committed to working with administration to strengthen these systems and support the university's future direction.

Kara Walker, Chair of the School of Tourism Management, outlined current developments in the Tourism Management program, including a strong incoming cohort of students and the presence of international students with approved study permits. She referenced provincial workforce and tourism development priorities, including the BC government's tourism revenue goals and related industry and ministry initiatives. She also highlighted advocacy efforts for increased funding for post-secondary tourism education to support program stability and modernization.

4. Academics

4.1. Review of Programs Recommended for Suspension

Dr. Lesley Brown, Interim VP Academic & Provost, noted that the briefing note included Senate advice, enrolment projections (based on June 1 data), and pilot program review documents covering enrolment, retention, learning outcomes, and labour market alignment. She also highlighted that risk assessments reflected management's evaluation of the motion.

Members discussed enrolment projections, domestic and international student demand, timing of decisions, and the need for robust costing models and consistent program evaluation frameworks. Clarification was also provided on changes to prerequisites in the Bachelor of Communication program, confirming a shift to credit-based entry requirements rather than removal of prerequisites.

The Board acknowledged the complexity of the material and the importance of integrating subject matter expertise into decision-making.

Board members also discussed the value of distinguishing between domestic and international enrolment data in future reporting, as well as the importance of ensuring transparency and confidence in program assessment processes.

It was moved by RJ Wallia, seconded by Janet Cox, and resolved:

THAT the Board of Governors accept the advice from Senate to remove the following programs from the suspension list and maintain intake for 2026–27:

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

It was moved by RJ Wallia, seconded by Shelley Frost, and resolved:

THAT the Board of Governors request that administration provide a recommendation by September 30, 2026 on whether to open applications for the 2027/28 academic year for these four programs.

4.2. Leadership for Indigenous Learners Certificate

Dr. Lesley Brown presented the item as an information update, highlighting the certificate as an example of programming developed in partnership with the Squamish Nation and aligned with institutional commitments to Truth and Reconciliation.

Board members raised questions regarding the independent study component and the approval process for student-directed learning. Administration and faculty clarified that independent studies follow standard academic approval processes involving faculty supervision and dean-level oversight.

President Jason Dewling invited Laurie Prange to share her expertise on this topic at 5:25 p.m.

Laurie Prange, faculty member of Business and Professional Studies, provided additional clarification on the program structure, noting how the certificate is designed with laddering pathways into broader business programs and how Indigenous-focused programming and supervision supports are integrated into delivery.

Additional clarification was provided on program design and Indigenous partnership, noting that while the certificate is developed collaboratively with the Squamish Nation, academic governance remains with the University.

5. Meeting Close

RJ closed the meeting at 5:37 pm.

