MINUTES
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
Tuesday, June 23, 2026
5:15 – 6:45 pm
Main Campus, BR126

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

Resources:
Tally Bains, VP Finance & Administration
Kari Wharton, VP University Relations
Lesley Brown, Interim VP Academic & Provost
Ryan Blades, AVP Facilities Services and Campus Planning
Nat Volo, EA to VP Finance and Administration
Hélène Leboucher, EA to VP Academic & Provost (minutes)

Regrets:
Troy Abromaitis, Appointed Member
Prabal Gupta, Elected Student Member

Guest:
Alan Jenks, Vice Chair of Senate

The meeting started at 5:15 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, an important leader of the Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish) Nation of the Coast Salish Peoples. On behalf of the Board, he respectfully acknowledged that our campuses are located on the territories of the Líl̓wat, xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), shíshálh (Sechelt), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish) and Səl̓ílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

It was moved by RJ Wallia, seconded by Owen McLachlan and resolved:

THAT the Board of Governors approve the agenda as presented.

2. Welcome – Debra Doucette, OB

RJ provided a formal welcome to the University's new Chancellor, Debra Doucette.

3. Consent Agenda

It was moved by David Ayriss, seconded by Amina El mantari and resolved as amended:

THAT the Board of Governors approve items under 3.1 and receive for information items under 3.2 and 3.3 of the Consent Agenda.

4. Placeholder from the Consent Agenda

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

5. Board Chair's Report

RJ reflected that it has been a challenging but encouraging year for the University. He noted that while change can be uncertain, it also presents opportunity, and he expressed optimism about the University's direction.

He highlighted that recent financial results are positive and suggest that current strategies are helping the University navigate its challenges. He reiterated the Board's shared goal of strengthening the University's position as a leading teaching-focused institution, noting that this will require continued innovation in how teaching and learning are delivered.

He emphasized the importance of clarity in the University's role within the region and its responsibility to its communities and Indigenous host nations. RJ also underscored the need for the Board to remain focused on governance and long-term direction, while supporting management in executing its plans.

6. Senate Report

Alan Jenks, Vice Chair of Senate, provided a brief update on Senate activities for May and June. He noted that Senate continued its work on faculty restructuring through an ad hoc committee, which will carry on into the fall.

He reported that Senate approved 1,153 graduates and highlighted updates related to governance policies and committee work.

Alan also noted continued activity across Senate committees, including academic planning, graduate studies, and teaching and learning, along with routine policy and curriculum work. He concluded by acknowledging the significant ongoing work of Senate over the year.

7. President's Report

Jason Dewling, President & Vice-Chancellor, presented the President's Report in a revised format that aligns institutional goals and KPIs with responsible executives and progress updates. He noted that the new format is intended to improve clarity and accountability and invited feedback from the Board.

He highlighted ongoing work on program refinement, costing models, and broader planning initiatives, as well as upcoming external reporting. He also noted continued work on enrolment, operational planning, and sector-informed best practices. He concluded with brief remarks on institutional engagement and communications activities.

8. Academics

8.1. Proposed Course Discontinuances – Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts

Lesley Brown, Interim Vice President Academic and Provost, presented a recommendation from Senate regarding the discontinuance of courses within the Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts. She noted that the changes are part of routine academic housekeeping to remove inactive courses and ensure the academic calendar accurately reflects current program offerings. It was highlighted that this work supports clarity for students and advisors and reduces the risk of outdated course information remaining in circulation.

Board members sought clarification on the scale of the changes in relation to the total number of courses in the Faculty and discussed how legacy course codes relate to updated program structures. Aurelea Mahood, Vice-Provost & AVP, noted that some course codes may appear recently active due to program revisions, but in fact represent previous iterations of program profiles, and that removing them supports clearer advising and smoother student navigation.

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

THAT the Board of Governors approve the discontinuance of 62 Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts courses.

8.2. Proposed Course Discontinuances – Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Lesley Brown presented a further recommendation from Senate regarding the discontinuance of two courses within the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. She noted that the rationale is consistent with the previous item, focused on aligning the academic calendar with current program requirements and removing inactive course listings.

Board members briefly noted the importance of providing contextual information when reviewing course changes.

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

THAT the Board of Governors approve the discontinuance of SOSC 320 People and the Environment: Past and Future Relationships and SOSC 401 Contemporary Issues: The Presence of the Past.

9. Finance Committee

9.1. Final Fiscal 2025/26 Financial Results

Tally Bains, VP Finance & Administration, presented the university's fiscal year-end results for 2025/26 noting a final surplus of $2.14 million which is $5.2 million or 2.4% favourable when compared to $3.1 million deficit forecasted in January. She highlighted that variances were driven by higher-than-expected investment income, lower international agent commissions, and slightly higher tuition revenue.

She noted that prior-year Ministry grant restricted funds of $5.6 million had been recognized as revenue in this fiscal year, which materially contributed to the surplus and will not be available in future years. Tally also highlighted continued international enrolment declines, with further revenue pressure anticipated in 2026/27, alongside ongoing efforts to reduce expenditures and manage cash flow.

9.2. Five-Year Capital Plan 2027/28 – 2031/32

Ryan Blades, AVP Facilities Services and Campus Planning, presented the university's five-year capital plan, noting that it is a required annual submission to the Ministry and provides an overview of institutional capital priorities over the next five years.

He explained that key projects have been structured into phased components to improve funding feasibility and alignment with Ministry thresholds. Student housing projects and other major infrastructure priorities remain central to the plan, alongside deferred maintenance and accessibility upgrades at both campuses.

It was moved by David Ayriss, seconded by Janet Cox and resolved:

THAT the Board of Governors approve the Five-Year Capital Plan 2027/28 – 2031/32.

10. Items from Board Closed Meeting

10.1 Chancellor Revised Role Description

Kari Wharton, VP University Relations presented proposed revisions to the Chancellor's role description. Following discussion in the closed session, the Board considered amendments to the proposed revisions to the Chancellor role description. It was noted that clarification was sought regarding engagement with the Ministry, and the Board agreed that the revised document would proceed subject to the Ministry being made aware of the revisions consultation to ensure appropriate external awareness and due diligence. The Board also confirmed that the item relates to the definition of the role and responsibilities of the Chancellor, and not the appointment process itself.

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

THAT the Board of Governors approve the proposed revisions to the Chancellor role description, subject to consultation with the Ministry.

10.2 Capilano University Institutional Planning and Resource Allocation Principles

The Board considered the Institutional Planning and Resource Allocation Principles, with discussion focused on ensuring that the principles were not interpreted as being ranked in order of priority. It was agreed that any numerical ordering would be removed or revised to avoid implying precedence among the principles, and that all principles are intended to hold equal importance.

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

THAT the Board of Governors approve the Institutional Planning and Budgeting Principles, subject to removing any symbolism of order of precedence within the Institutional Planning and Budgeting Principles.

11. Board Chair and Vice-Chair Nominations and Election

Jason Dewling conducted the election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs.

Jason called for nominations for Chair. At the Board of Governors In-Camera meeting held April 28, 2026, RJ Wallia consented to his candidacy.

It was moved by Jason Dewling and approved:

THAT RJ Wallia be elected as Chair of the Board of Governors.

Jason called for nominations for Vice-Chair. RJ Wallia nominated Shelley Frost and Amina El mantari to act as Vice-Chairs. Shelley and Amina accepted the nominations.

It was moved by RJ Wallia and approved:

THAT Shelley Frost and Amina El mantari be elected as Vice-Chairs.

12. Meeting Close

Tally Bains, VP Finance and Administration, reminded the Board that June committee and board meeting minutes are approved by email in late June/early July.

RJ Wallia closed the meeting at 6:17 pm.