



SENATE MEETING

Tuesday, June 2, 2026 4:00 pm
 Capilano University, Library Building, Room LB 322

MINUTES

Present: Jason Dewling, (Chair), Julia Black, John Brouwer, Lesley Brown, Caroline Depatie, Alicia Fahey, Thomas Flower, Sofia Hughes, Harb Johal, Parnit Kaur, Michael Laurence, Brad Martin, Priya McMurtrie, Vedant Mehra, Alaa Al-Musalli, Corey Muench, Jennifer Nesselroad, Kat Pallot, Farnoosh Sam, Michael Thoma, Diana Twiss, Emily Walmsley, Recorder: Mary Jukich

Regrets: Graham Cook, Denise Gingrich, Amina El Mantari, Christina Neigel, Robert Omura, Milo Prentice, Majid Raja

Guests: Maria Valiounk

Land Acknowledgement

Capilano University is named after Chief Joe Capilano (1854–1910), an important leader of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nation of the Coast Salish Peoples. We respectfully acknowledge that our campuses are located on the unceded territories of the səlilwatał (Tsleil-Waututh), shíshálh (Sechelt), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and xʷməθkʷəṅəm (Musqueam) Nations.

1. Welcome

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

As this was the last meeting for Christina Neigel, University Librarian, Christina was acknowledged and thanked for her work on Senate.

The following outgoing Senators were also acknowledged for their work on Senate:

- Diana Twiss
- Thomas Flower
- Majid Raja
- Priya McMurtrie

In the absence of Denise Gingrich, Michael Thoma assumed voting rights for the Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Corey Muench moved and Caroline Depatie seconded:
 To adopt the agenda.

CARRIED



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3. Approval of the Minutes

3.1 May 12, 2026

Emily Walmsley moved and Alan Jenks seconded:
To approve the May 12, 2026 minutes.

CARRIED

4. Correspondence Received

4.1 Letter to Elder Dr. Latash

4.2 CapU History Courses with Indigenous Content Summary

At the May 12th Senate meeting, Elder Dr. Latash requested information about the prevalence of Indigenous history across Capilano's courses. Accordingly, the VP Academic and Provost provided a report back to Elder Dr. Latash.

On discussion, a concern was raised whether the response fulfilled the request because the perception was that Elder Dr. Latash may have been looking for a more fulsome report of the courses that represent the history, not a report on the history courses currently taught at the university. In addition, the report may have been incomplete particularly as the Faculty of Arts and Sciences did not mention English courses. The VP Academic and Provost indicated that in terms of preparing the report, a different perspective was understood, and the intention was for a respectful gesture to the question raised. The VP Academic and Provost also indicated that further work is required by the university in terms of aligning with how other universities across Canada are responding to Indigenous education, decolonization and reconciliation and that this could be an opportunity to begin the work.

5. Business Arising

5.1 Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Advice to Senate on Faculty Restructuring

Presented by: Diana Twiss

The ad hoc committee met on February 19th, March 26th and June 2nd.

At the ad hoc committee meeting on June 2nd, members indicated that some challenges have been identified specially as the ad hoc committee has been tasked with work that has not been done before in terms of gathering and assembling feedback in a formal way to constitute advice to the Board. The committee also



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discussed possible ideas moving forward including parameters that could be considered in decision making and developing a framework similar to that represented in Board Policy B.105, as well as to possibly slow down the committee's work especially as the university is undergoing some changes in terms of hiring a permanent VP Academic and Provost and some Deans are in interim positions.

It was suggested that the Deans develop an initial framework and undertake scenario planning to consider different faculty configurations, cost out administrative structures as well as to articulate impact to students, staff and faculty. In addition, the Deans will be tasked to consider the implications to Senate, CFA, student experience, finances, etc. to have a better understanding of the full implications across the university.

5.2 Graduates

Presented by: Harb Johal

The Registrar presented a list of 10 additional graduates verified by the Registrar's Office, who have met the graduation requirements of their programs.

Harb Johal moved and Alan Jenks seconded:

26/41 Senate approve the students from the five Faculties for their respective credentials for graduation.

CARRIED

6. New Business

None.

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Academic Planning and Review Committee

7.1.1 Academic Unit Review Approval of School of Allied Health Programs

- Rehabilitation Assistant Diploma Program
- Healthcare Assistant Certificate Program

The committee met on May 19th and were provided with the academic review for the Rehabilitation Assistant Diploma and the Health Care Assistance Certificate



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both of which are under the School of Allied Health. The committee was presented with an overview of the successes and opportunities their programs have achieved and highlighted the challenges they are facing. They also outlined the actions they are taking to support students' experience.

Alaa Al-Musalli moved and Priya McMurtrie seconded:

26/42 THAT Senate approve the Response and Action Plan for the Rehabilitation Assistant Diploma Program review. This signifies that the 2024-25 program review cycle is complete for the Rehabilitation Assistant Diploma program. Alaa/Priya

CARRIED

Alaa Al-Musalli moved and Diana Twiss seconded:

26/43 THAT Senate approve the Response and Action Plan for the Healthcare Assistant Certificate Program review. This signifies that the 2024-25 program review cycle is complete for the Healthcare Assistant Certificate Program.

CARRIED

The committee was also provided with the current academic review for the School of Tourism Management. The self-study report contained a high-level summary of School's report findings related to two programs: Bachelor of Tourism Management Degree and the Diploma in Tourism Management Co-operative Education. The presenters shared enrolment data and the school's work towards stabilizing enrollment and understanding the changing needs of their domestic students.

Senate was provided with a summary of the committee's work for this year which included a discussion of the Undergraduate-level English Language Proficiency Standard and an A tiered Undergraduate-level English Language Conditional Admission and Support framework for conditionally admitted students requiring further English-language skill development. In addition to the regular committee work, the committee was also tasked to provide advice on proposed program suspensions and discontinuations.

7.2 Policy and Governance Committee

Presented by: Corey Muench



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The committee met on May 26th and completed work on S2018-01 Final Grade Appeals Policy and Procedure which is expected to be brought to the August Senate meeting. The committee also continued the preliminary review of the policies that are part of the Policy Renewal Project which included, S2020-02 Course Numbering and Credit Level Policy; S2021-01 Credential Names and Parchment Policy and Board Policy B108 Credit and Non-Credit Courses.

At the June 2nd meeting, the committee continued their review of B.107 Academic Schedule Policy and also reviewed B.106 Program and Course Review and Approval Policy and Procedure.

7.2.1 Teaching and Learning Committee Terms of Reference

The Senate subcommittees are currently operate under policy-like “mandate and structure” documents; however, it is more appropriate that these documents be transitioned to official “terms of reference.”

On review and discussion of the Teaching and Learning Committee terms of reference, a concern was raised that section #2, bullet #5, “Consult with, and to be consulted by the following areas:” did not include Chairs. On discussion, it was noted that ccoordinators would know more about the programs than the Chairs, and because department Chairs may not necessarily be as informed between one Faculty as the other. In this regard, and based on the discussion and feedback provided by Senators, it was suggested to keep the language as presented.

Corey Muench moved and Thomas Flower seconded:

- 26/44** THAT the Senate approve the new Terms of Reference for the Senate Teaching and Learning Committee (a standing committee of Senate)

CARRIED

Corey Muench moved and Vedant Mehra seconded:

- 26/45** THAT the Senate rescind the current committee “Mandate and Structure” S2020-03 for the Senate Teaching and Learning Committee

CARRIED

7.3 Curriculum Committee



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Presented by: Julia Black

The committee met on May 15th and two programs presented curriculum revisions, School of Business and School of Legal Studies.

7.3.1 Resolution Memorandum

The resolutions brought forward from the April 17, 2026 Senate Curriculum Committee meeting were presented to Senate for approval.

Julia Black moved and Diana Twiss seconded:

26/46 THAT Senate approve Resolutions 26/46 to 26/51.

CARRIED

7.3.2 Committee Membership

Julia Black moved and Priya McMurtrie seconded:

26/47 That the following members be endorsed to serve on the Senate Curriculum Committee for a two-year term ending July 31, 2028:

CARRIED

Chloe Miller - non-instructional faculty member
 Ashley Manhas – Library
 Caroline Soo – Public Administration or Kinesiology
 John Brouwer – Tourism Management or Outdoor Recreation
 Management
 Milla Zaenker – Business

7.4 Graduate Studies

Presented by: Alan Jenks

The committee met on May 19th, and at the meeting, it was determined that moving forward the committee will be meeting every two months starting in September.

7.5 Teaching and Learning Committee

Presented by: Diana Twiss



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The committee met on May 19th; however, quorum was not achieved. In terms of work achieved, the committee previously approved their terms of reference, as well as the terms of reference for the ad hoc committee on the evaluation of teaching and learning.

7.6 Budget Advisory Committee

Presented by Michael Thoma

The next committee meeting is scheduled for June 4th.

Senate was informed that for this year, the financial update to the campus community will take place in August as well as reporting back on the feedback that was recently solicited from the campus community.

7.7 Self-Evaluation Committee

Presented by: Alan Jenks

The committee met on May 28th and discussed the findings of the recent survey. Preliminary results indicate similar results from last year in terms of improvement for the orientation process for committee members.

8. Other Reports

8.1 Senate Chair

Jason Dewling provided the Chair's report which included the following key highlights:

- The installation of the new Chancellor, Debra Doucette, will take place during the convocation ceremony on June 9th.
- The VP Academic and Provost hiring process is underway and Senators were encouraged to attend the interviews.
- Convocation ceremonies will take place starting on June 9th, and Senators were encouraged to attend and celebrate the students and faculty and staff who played an active role in contributing to the students' success.



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- The special meeting of the Board of Governors is scheduled for June 12th.
- Information was provided regarding the International Entrance Award for \$150 per credit tuition reduction when students register for 12 or more credits. Students can apply for the award in fall 2026 and spring 2027.
- Dr. Dawn Whitworth, Associate Vice-President, Creative Activity, Research and Scholarship and Graduate Studies, has recently resigned from the university.
- Amanda Round, a social influencer who is on a nationwide Canadian university tour recently visited Capilano. Everyone involved in coordinating this important initiative, under short notice, was acknowledged and appreciated.

8.2 Vice Chair

Alan Jenks provided the following year in review:

Senate Year in Review — September 2025 to May 2026

From September to May, this Senate handled a lot of academic business—most of it serious, some of it complex, and almost all of it involving documents that were longer than anyone hoped.”

We began the year in September by naming things carefully, which turned out to be good practice for the rest of the year.

- Senate approved the names **Lamíwa** and **θqetewtx™** for our first North Vancouver student housing buildings—names gifted by local Nations and intended to be used **in perpetuity**.

That was a meaningful decision, and also a reminder that some Senate decisions are permanent—while others will come back to us in slightly revised form.

- We approved hundreds of graduates across the fall term, confirming that, despite everything else happening, students continued to complete programs and the Registrar continued to verify this with impressive consistency.



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- By November, Senate was firmly into governance mode:
 - Hearing from the **Capilano Students' Union**,
 - Approving the **2026/27 academic schedule**, and
 - Responding to a request from the Board for advice on a proposed **faculty merger**.

Senate responded the way it often does—not with a quick answer, but with clarifying questions about process, evidence, and what 'advice' actually means. That approach would come in handy later.

By December, Senate wasn't just being asked what it thought—but how it thought advice should be given in the first place.

- We created a **Senate Ad Hoc Committee** on faculty restructuring advice, largely because Senate noticed that some important voices—particularly students—were not yet in the room.

This was less about slowing things down, and more about making sure we knew who we were slowing things down for.

- Senate continued steady policy work—Admissions, Academic Standing, Repeated Courses—often revisiting wording, which sounds small until you remember that wording is how governance actually works.

January and February added context that no one here needed explained.

- Budget pressures, enrolment shifts, restructuring proposals, and program viability questions all arrived at once.
- Senate approved graduates, clarified academic standards, and asked a question that came up more than once this year:

What exactly is Senate responsible for here—and how do we do that well?

- In February, faced with proposed **program discontinuances and suspensions**, Senate chose not to rush advice forward.
 - Senators raised concerns about consultation and educational impact.



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- The matter was referred to **SAPRC** to assess educational loss and mitigation before advice went back to the Board.

It was slower. It was more careful. And it turned out to be necessary.

March was the month where all of that earlier groundwork became visible.

- Senate received SAPRC's reports and advised the Board across several Faculties.
- At a **Special Senate meeting**, Senators took time to distinguish between uncontested and contested decisions—and, in some cases, to recommend changes, with conditions, timelines, and accountability clearly attached.

It was detailed work. No one left thinking it could have been done in an email.

- April shifted the focus forward:
 - Aligning restructuring advice with **Board policy**,
 - Establishing an **Ad Hoc Committee on the Evaluation of Teaching and Learning**, and
 - Updating policies and committee structures that quietly keep things functioning, even when no one is applauding.

This was Senate doing long-term thinking in short agenda slots.

By May, Senate moved into what I'd call a maintenance-and-handover phase.

- We welcomed new academic leadership and continued careful work on restructuring advice.
- Senate recommended the discontinuance of long-inactive courses—routine work, but the kind that prevents future confusion.

It's hard to miss courses that haven't run in ten years, but Senate still made sure the process was followed.

- We approved **1,153 graduates**, welcomed newly elected Senators, refreshed committee terms of reference, and ended the year with teaching, learning, and student research very much in view.

So, looking back, this Senate year was largely about naming things carefully—whether that was buildings, policies, programs, or the limits of our own authority.



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*Like **Lamíwa** and **ᑕᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ**, many of the decisions we made this year were intended to last longer than the meetings where they were approved. Thank you to everyone around this table for the care, patience, and steady commitment you brought to this work. It was a demanding year—and Senate met it thoughtfully.*

8.3 VP Academic and Provost

Lesley Brown, interim Vice President Academic and Provost provided a report and some of the key highlights were as follows:

- Senators were reminded that June is Pride month and to recognize the many genders and identities that enrich the university.
- Funding in the approximate amount of \$80,000 was recently received from the Ministry of Education to enhance work integrated learning placements and to help in the administration of the program.
- Work is underway on the Academic Qualifications Policy particularly in understanding some of the concerns that have been expressed and to consider the purpose of the policy. The intention is to bring forward a policy that will respond directly to the requirements of DQAB.
- Program costing work is underway to help with enrollment planning and building the university budget.
- Tally Bains, VP, Finance and Administration was recognized and will be working with the VP Academic and Provost and Deans on enrollment targets and identifying institution enrollment targets for the next three years.
- The work of the outgoing Senators was also recognized and gratitude was extended for their commitment to Senate.
- In terms of the convocation ceremonies the VP Academic and Provost noted that it is a privilege to stand in front of the graduating class but also to stand beside the faculty and staff who ensure the outcomes that are being celebrated.



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On completion of the report, a question was raised regarding the four programs that were tabled to the June 12 Board of Governors meeting. Information was requested on whether the VP Academic and Provost would be speaking on behalf of the programs and encouraging the consideration of the data provided by the departments. It was noted that there is fear that the reports prepared by the Chairs will not be read with the “academic eye” because the Board members are not from the field of academia.

The VP Academic and Provost responded that the process on how to present the data information to the Board will be deferred to the President. The VP Academic and Provost also noted that she has reviewed all the documentation and can recognize the passion with which the packages were prepared. Her role will be to prepare a briefing note and provide a recommendation which will be reviewed and discussed with the President, which will then be refined to reflect the President’s final decision. In addition, it will be up to the President to determine who will be speaking to the item at the Board meeting.

Assurance was provided by the President that at the Board meeting, all the work completed by the department will be fully honoured.

8.4 Board Report

At the next Board meeting, an alternative Board representative will be selected. In addition, the new Chancellor will also be active on Senate.

8.5 Elder’s Words

As Elder Dr. Latash was absent from the meeting, a reflection was not provided.

9. Discussion Items

No discussion items were presented.

10. Other Business

The Senate orientation will take place in August.

11. Information Items

No information items were presented.



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The meeting was adjourned at 5:32 pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 25, 2026
