CAPILANO UNIVERSITY

SENATE MEETING

Tuesday, October 6, 2026 4:00 pm
Capilano University, Library Building, Room LB 322

MINUTES

Present: Jason Dewling**,** (Chair), Julia Black, John Brouwer, Jai Djwa, Graham Cook, Caroline Depatie, Debra Doucette, Alicia Fahey, Denise Gingrich, Derek Howell, Sofia Hughes, Alan Jenks, Harb Johal, Parnit Kaur, Tyesa Kruz, Michael Laurence, Brad Martin, Owen McLachlan, Corey Muench, Alaa Al-Musalli, Francisco Nogueira, Robert Omura, Katija Pallot, Jennifer Nesselroad, Farnoosh Sam, Vicki St. Pierre, Michael Thoma, Emily Walmsley, Sabrina Wong, Recorder: Mary Jukich

Regrets: Vedant Mehra, Maria Valiouk

Guests: Elder Doctor Latash, Elder Delhia, Michael Begg, Aurelea Mahood, Brad Wuetherick, Benisse Zinga, Sandeep Singh**,** Abhiraj Bhullar, Sandeep Singh, Joshua Thomas, Christopher Girodat

Land Acknowledgement
Capilano university respectfully acknowledges that our campuses are located on the unceded territories of the səlilwətaɬ (tsleil-waututh), sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish) and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) nations.

1. Welcome

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

2. Approval of the Agenda

Owen McLachlan moved and Jai Djwa seconded:
To adopt the agenda. **CARRIED**

3. Approval of the Minutes

3.1 September 8, 2026

Owen McLachlan moved and Vicki St. Pierre seconded: **CARRIED**
To approve the minutes. **1 Abstention**

4. Correspondence Received

No correspondence was received.

5. Business Arising

5.1 CSU Presentation

Representatives from the Capilano Students Union (CSU) provided a presentation and overview of the work and activities that are underway at the CSU this year.

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The CSU is an independent student-led union representing students, and their work connects advocacy with practical support. The CSU is in Year two of their 2025—2030 strategic plan with priorities as follows:

- Building student community
  - Pilot CSU 101 course to improve member awareness
  - Increase our presence at regional campuses and in student housing
  - Strengthen collectives, student spaces and low-barrier events

- Demonstrating operational excellence
  - Align services with student needs, organizational scope, and capacity
  - Use student feedback and data to guide budget decisions
  - Explore external revenue generation and pursue accreditation

- Strengthening Trust
  - Develop student leaders as community ambassadors
  - Strengthening board development and accountability
  - Build stronger government, host Nation and community relationships

The presentation included the following issues for Senate's consideration:

- A full week Fall reading break
- Exam schedules at registration
- Credit and no credit electives
- Academic freedom

The following considerations were also presented to Senate:

- Student voice & partnership
  - Include students early enough to help define issues and shape the options, with meaningful opportunities to contribute and understand how their perspectives informed the decision.

- Predictability & flexibility
  - Clear schedules, deadlines and academic requirements help students plan around work, caregiving and other commitments. Consider where flexibility can help students continue their education when circumstances change.

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- Access and academic success
  - Consider how course costs, teaching practices and assessment requirements affect students' ability to participate, demonstrate their learning and progress through their programs.

Action: The vice-chair of Senate will organize a meeting with a CSU representative and the VP Academic and Provost to go through the recommendations and provide a status report to Senate by January.

6. New Business

6.1 Academic Schedule and Important Dates Fall 2027 – Summer 2028

Presented by: Harb Johal

Senate was presented with the Academic Schedule and Important Dates Fall 2027 – Summer 2028. It was noted that the document presented required two revisions:

- September 7, 2027 Orientation evening classes start at 5:30 pm (not 4:30 as noted on the document);
- Summer session 2 withdrawal should end July 28,

Alan Jenks moved and Sofia Hughes seconded:

26/54 Senate approve the Academic Schedule and Important Dates Fall 2027 – Summer 2028. **CARRIED**

6.2 Fall Enrolment Report

Presented by: Harb Johal

The Fall enrolment report was provided and some of the key highlights were as follows:

- Overall: 1,862 registered domestic and international non-Indigenous students, compared with 1,753 at the same point last year. An increase of 109 students (+6.2%).

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- Domestic: 1,549 new students vs. 1,517 last year, up 2% (+32). Most of the growth appears to be coming from North Vancouver, with Squamish estimated to be relatively flat year-over-year.

- International: 313 new students vs. 236 last year, up 33% (+77), with particularly strong growth in EHHD, Fine & Applied Arts, and several programs including ECCE, EAP and Tourism.

- Squamish: Current registrations are 46 new students for Fall 2026. Based on available data, this is broadly comparable with the estimated 44 students in comparable programs at the same point last year. This remains an estimate due to reporting limitations.

6.3 Senate By-Election Timeline

Presented by: Harb Johal

The Fall 2026 Senate by-election timeline for the student voting representative was provided noting that the call for nominations will be on October 8th and election results announced on November 27th.

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Academic Planning and Review Committee

Presented by: Alaa Al-Musalli

The committee met on September 15th and was provided with the orientation for the 2026 – 2027 academic year. The committee's terms of reference are being revised because the previous work around the program suspensions and discontinuation highlighted the need that the committee take a larger role than the current review of program ideas and cyclical reviews.

At the meeting, the committee was also provided with a presentation on the policy renewal project and the processes related to program development and academic reviews. During the interactive session, committee members were invited to provide reflections on the committee's process through a SOAR analysis.

7.2 Policy and Governance Committee

Presented by: Corey Muench

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The committee met on September 21st and reviewed the terms of reference for the Senate Budget Advisory committee, Graduate Studies committee and the Self-Evaluation committee and the expectation is that the terms of reference for the Self-Evaluation committee will be brought to the November Senate meeting. The terms of reference for both the Graduate Studies committee and the Advisory Budget Committee will go back to those respective committees for further discussion on some suggested minor revisions. Work is also underway on recruiting a staff representative to the committee.

7.2.1 Final Grade Appeal Policy (S20218-01) and
Final Grade Appeal Procedure (S2018-01-01)

The S2018-01 Final Grade Appeal Policy and S2018-01-1 Final Grade Appeal Procedure set out the principles and processes that apply to the appeals of final grades by students. The policy and procedure were last updated in 2018 and were overdue for review.

On discussion, a concern was raised regarding Article 4.1 of the policy wherein the wording seems to call for a conclusion; however, in terms of process the starting point should be whether there is reasonable grounds for a student's claim of an unfair grading process which could be errors, bias, discrimination, that results in an unreasonable or prejudicial grade. In this regard, a suggestion was presented to add further wording indicating that if point a, b, c results in an unreasonable or prejudicial grade there is a basis for action to appeal. Information was provided by the presenter that in the procedure wording is included that before the policy and procedure is employed, the student is encouraged to use an informal process to sort out the issue.

Robert Omura moved and Owen McLachlan seconded:

In Article 4.1 of the policy, after item (c), add item (d) with the wording that "there are reasonable grounds to believe that it resulted in an unreasonable or prejudicial grade". **DEFEATED**

On further discussion, it was suggested that for consistency with the procedure, the word "encouraged" in Article 4.1 of the policy be revised to "requested".

Corey Muench moved and Brad Martin seconded:

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26/55 The Senate approve the revisions to the Final Grade Appeal Policy (S2018-01) and Final Grade Appeal Procedure (S2018-01-01). **CARRIED**

7.3 Curriculum Committee
Presented by: Julia Black

7.3.1 Resolution Memorandum

The resolutions brought forward from the September 18, 2026 Senate Curriculum Committee meeting were presented to Senate for approval.

Julia Black moved and Graham John Brouwer seconded:

26/56 Senate approve Resolutions 26/68 to 26/74 as presented. **CARRIED**

7.4 Graduate Studies
Presented by: Alan Jenks

The committee met on October 2nd and will continue to meet every two months. The workplan for this year will be to develop a framework for graduate programs.

7.5 Teaching and Learning Committee
Presented by: Alan Jenks

The first committee meeting of the academic year was used for discussion regarding the ad hoc committee on the evaluation of teaching and learning. Moving forward, the Teaching and Learning committee's work will be providing updates to Senate on issues related to teaching and learning.

7.5.1 Ad hoc committee on the Evaluation of Teaching and Learning

Aurelea Mahood provided an update on the ad hoc committee's work to date including the review of the terms of reference and review of the consultations that took place with other post-secondary institutions. At the ad hoc committee meetings there has also been discussion around strengths and challenges of current processes for evaluating teaching and learning at the university. Recently the committee reviewed the first draft of a possible framework and will be looking

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at developing student evaluation/feedback policy as well as moving into peer evaluations.

It was emphasized that the purpose of the work is intended to support faculty reflection and development and is not intended to alter evaluation processes of the Collective Agreement.

7.6 Budget Advisory Committee
Presented by Michael Thoma

The committee is scheduled to meet on October 22nd.

7.7 Self-Evaluation Committee
Presented by: Graham Cook

The committee is scheduled to meet on October 27th.

8. Other Reports

8.1 Senate Chair
Jason Dewling provided the President's report highlighting the university's current position in terms of enrolment and to understand "the moment" that the university is at as an institution and how numbers in terms of students, programs, etc. have impacted the university now and previously. In addition, guidance was provided on how Senate can play a role in supporting the work and contribute to help the university get through this moment.

8.2 Vice Chair
The vice chair reported that he continues to attend all Senate subcommittee and ad hoc committee meetings and provide oversight at those meetings.

8.3 VP Academic and Provost
The Vice President Academic and Provost provided a written report in the agenda package, and no questions were raised regarding the report.

During a broader discussion, a question was raised as to the investment the university will contribute to renewal of programs currently under intake suspension. Administration noted that part of the suspension of intake involves

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work with academic deans and ensuring currently enrolled students are able to complete their credentials.

Jai Djwa moved and Alicia Fahey seconded:
To extend the meeting to 6:15 pm. **CARRIED**

8.4 Board Report
As a Board representative has not been identified, a report was not provided.

8.5 Elder's Words
Elder Doctor Latash shared reflections on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and the impact of residential schools on Indigenous children, families and communities.

9. Discussion Items
No discussion items were presented.

10. Other Business
No other business items were presented.

11. Information Items
No information items were presented.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

As an appendix to these minutes, following adjournment, the Chair notes that the President's Report was circulated, upon request, to a senator after the meeting.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 3, 2026