



Senate Meeting

Thursday, May 02, 2024; 3:00 pm PDT

Via Microsoft Teams

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Bashir Makhoul (UCW President and Senate Chair)

Stephanie Chu (AVP Teaching, Learning and Scholarship)

Henrique Gea (Registrar)

George Drazenovic, Gelareh Farhadian, Larry Earnhart, Michele Vincenti, and Jill Cummings (Program Chairs)

Mohsen Saeedi, Nam Le, Alexander Sakharov, Penny Farley, Mehdi Akhgari, Rushdi Alsaleh, Noosha Mehdian, Hamed Taherdoost, Manbo He, Jack Smith, Nisa Chand, Abedeh Gholidoust, and Salvador Trevino (Faculty Representatives)

Anna Lee Boulton, Maryam Rostamy (Staff Representatives)

Brenda Mathenia (University Librarian)

Nneka Ofodum, Arya Patel (Student Representatives)

Mamtha Nagaraja (Alumni Representative)

Adrian Mitescu (Director Institutional Accountability & Senate Secretary)

Saleiha Sharif (Senate Coordinator)

Guests:

Amy Hua (Director, Academic Planning and Budgeting)

Cassie Savoie (Director, Academic Operations and Support Services)

Cherie Chang (Manager of Advising Services)

Bradley Fehr (Associate Director, Communications)

Susanna Chow (Director, Institutional Risk & Compliance)

Annette O'Hara (Ombudsperson)

Stewart Fast (Director, Office of Research & Scholarship)

Jamie Molz (Communication Manager)

Absent:

Min Kay (Faculty Representatives)

Udhaykaran Singh (Student Representatives)



1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgment

Bashir Makhoul

We acknowledge that the territories on which UCW and its campuses are situated are the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and Selílwitlh (Tseil-Waututh) Nations. We thank them for having cared for this land since time immemorial, honour their graciousness to the students who seek knowledge here, and iterate our dedication to valuing the ongoing contributions of Indigenous peoples and communities.

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm PST.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Bashir Makhoul

Motion: To approve the agenda with minor changes including presenting VPA's report verbally under the *Consent Agenda*, as presented.

Moved: *Stephanie Chu* **Seconded:** *Nneka Ofodum*

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes

Bashir Makhoul

a. Minutes from the previous Senate meeting on April 04, 2024

Motion: To approve Minutes from the Senate meeting on April 04, as presented.

Moved: *Michele Vincenti* **Seconded:** *Manbo He*

Motion carried unanimously.

4. President's Communication

Bashir Makhoul

Bashir Makhoul highlighted the launch of UCW's latest initiative, "Understanding Indigenous History: A Path Forward." He described this series as a transformative journey, offering enriching discussions on Indigenous history designed to challenge perspectives and foster meaningful dialogue. He encouraged everyone to watch and share the videos and to actively participate in this important conversation. Additionally, he expressed appreciation for the efforts of all those who took this initiative and were involved in its launch. Furthermore, Bashir provided updates on the efforts of all those involved in DQAB and their preparations for responding to comments. He also gave updates on the development work on the West Pender building, faculty recruitment, and communication with the Mayor regarding the Calgary application.

5. Consent Agenda

Bashir Makhoul

a. Monthly reports

i. Vice President Academic's Report

Mazi Shirvani

Mazi Shirvani mentioned that aside from the reports of the Honorary Degree and Award Committee and the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee, working is underway regarding budgeting and planning for faculty recruitment.

Motion: To approve the consent agenda as a package, as presented.

Moved: *Brenda Mathenia* **Seconded:** *Mazi Shirvani*

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Question period

Cassie Savoie inquired about the significant change in the number of applications in 2024 compared to 2023. Henrique explained that last year, the university modified its admissions process, particularly by closing intake earlier. Additionally, there was a higher willingness among applicants to enroll, contributing to the increased number for 2024 compared to the previous year. He emphasized that UCW remains an excellent opportunity for students to pursue their aspirations in Canada.

Cassie then asked about the number of Provincial Attestation Letters (PAL) issued versus those available for students, and whether the registrar's office has a mechanism to assess the enrollment of students who receive the letter. Henrique assured that they track applications under the Letter of Acceptance (LOA) verification step to avoid wasting letters on uncertain applicants. He also mentioned that preparatory programs now require a PAL, including MBA students entering UAP or MBAF. The registrar's office collaborates closely with the recruitment team to ensure more direct entry students, who do not need attestation letters.

Lastly, Cassie inquired about the increase in the number of Indian students at UCW over time. Henrique acknowledged this trend, attributing it to various structures such as awards, scholarships, and grants which are designed to attract diverse students. Additionally, the university is establishing new partnerships and adopting innovative methods to appeal to domestic students, thereby enhancing the value of its programs.

7. Proposals from Standing Committees

a. Academic Planning and Priorities

i. New Partnership Agreements

Amy Hua

- a) Southwest University of Political Science and Law
- b) Chongqing Technology and Business University
- c) Guangdong University of Finance
- d) Beijing Hospitality Institute
- e) Huashang College, Guangdong University of Finance & Economics
- f) Jinghan University

Amy Hua explained that the first five partnerships are for undergraduate programs involving the transfer of credit articulation into UCW's Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) program. To facilitate this, we have collaborated with the Registrar's office to review admission requirements and conducted a course mapping process with the course leads. She emphasized that all of the institutions involved are highly respected and recognized in China. A detailed overview of the universities, including their rankings, and how their courses align with UCW's undergraduate programs was provided. The objective behind these agreements is to enhance diversity within the student body and support undergraduate student enrollment.

Regarding Cassie Savoie's inquiry about transfer credits for CPA-certified courses, Henrique Gea clarified that only courses completed at recognized Canadian institutions will count toward CPA certification. He further explained that this agreement concerns recognition of credits between institutions, while transfer credits for CPA certification involve a separate agreement with a third party. Therefore, if a student expects to obtain CPA certification through our program, it's advisable to include a clause in the agreements or communicate with partner institutions indicating that additional credit courses may be necessary to fulfill CPA requirements. Additionally, Mazi Shirvani suggested including a statement in the agreements outlining the student's responsibility to meet the regulatory requirements of relevant agencies or at least ensuring that partner institutions are aware of these limitations. This would be particularly advantageous for transfer credit students.

In the end, Anna Le Boulton pointed out a typographical error in one of the course names for electives listed in the Beijing Hospitality Institute agreement.

Motion: *To approve the Transfer Articulation Agreement with undergraduate institutions for BCom Program as a package, as presented.*

Moved: *Stephanie Chu* **Seconded:** *Mazi Shirvani*

Motion carried unanimously.

A. Hua also introduced the partnership agreement with Jinghan University for the MBA program. She highlighted that the majority of courses align with the Qualitative Studies Department. This academic collaboration aims to establish dual degree options between Jiangnan and UCW. As part of this arrangement, students must meet the English proficiency requirement and fulfill the UCW MBA program requirements by transferring four courses from Jingnan University. Subsequently, they will proceed to complete the remaining 11 courses in our current MBA format.

Motion: *To approve the Transfer Articulation Agreement with Jingnan University for the MBA Program, as presented.*

Moved: *Noosha Mehdian* **Seconded:** *Michele Vincenti*

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Other Business

a. Senate Evaluation/ Consultation (Survey)

Adrian Mitescu

Adrian Mitescu provided an update on the Senate evaluation and consultation survey, expressing gratitude to Dr. Stewart Fast, Director of the Office of Research and Scholarship, for overseeing the survey administration. Currently, there have been 26 responses out of 39. To encourage more participation, the deadline has been extended to May 6th, with the outcomes set to be shared in the next meeting. Adrian concluded by thanking those who have already participated and encouraged the remaining members to respond to the survey.

b. Discussion on updating the Senate Bylaws

Adrian Mitescu

Adrian Mitescu highlighted that it has been two years since 2022, marking a significant period for the Senate and the Standing Committees. He mentioned that sufficient data and information have become available to assess the functioning of all committees and the Senate, alongside the results



from the survey. Furthermore, considering the changes in the executive team and the academic structure of the university, it is appropriate to revisit the Senate Bylaws and make necessary amendments. To facilitate this process, he proposed establishing an ad-hoc committee under the Governance and Policies committee, tasked with providing regular reports to the Senate on the updating of the Bylaws.

9. Adjournment

Bashir Makhoul

Motion: *To adjourn the meeting.*

Moved: *Jack Smith* **Seconded:** *Nneka Ofodum*

The meeting adjourned at 3:43 pm.

