



Senate Meeting

Thursday, July 04, 2024; 3:00 pm PDT

Via Microsoft Teams

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Bashir Makhoul (UCW President and Senate Chair)

Mazi Shirvani (Vice President Academic)

Stephanie Chu (AVP Teaching, Learning and Scholarship)

Henrique Gea (Registrar)

Brenda Mathenia (University Librarian)

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

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

Anna Lee Boulton, Maryam Rostamy (Staff Representatives)

Nneka Ofodum (Student Representatives)

Adrian Mitescu (Director Institutional Accountability & Senate Secretary)

Saleiha Sharif (Senate Coordinator)

Regrets:

Mehdi Akhgari, Abedeh Gholidoust, Min Kay (Faculty Representative)

Guests:

Christine Chan (Director, Student Affairs & Services)

Amy Hua (Director, Academic Planning and Budgeting)

Cassie Savoie (Director, Academic Operations and Support Services)

Harpreet Ahluwalia (Director, Curriculum & Quality Assurance)

Cherie Chang (Manager of Advising Services)

Bradley Fehr (Associate Director, Communications)

Susanna Chow (Director, Institutional Risk & Compliance)

Stewart Fast (Director, Office of Research & Scholarship)





Lisa Collins (Vice President, Student Experience)

Komil Mamajanov (Vice President Strategic Development)

Karen Tankard, William Rubel (Faculty Members)

Absent:

Udhaykaran Singh, Arya Patel (Student Representatives)

Mamtha Nagaraja (Alumni Representative)



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 3:02 pm PST.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Bashir Makhoul

Motion: *To approve the agenda with an amendment to remove an item 7.b.ii.a.i. MGMT 654 – Advanced Project Management Leadership and bring it back to the Senate at a later stage, as presented.*

Moved: *Michele Vincenti* **Seconded:** *Larry Earnhart*

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes

Bashir Makhoul

a. Minutes from the previous Senate meeting on June 06, 2024

Motion: *To approve Minutes from the Senate meeting on June 06, 2024, as presented.*

Moved: *Mazi Shirvani* **Seconded:** *Rushdi Alsaleh*

Motion carried unanimously.

4. President's Communication

Bashir Makhoul

Bashir Makhoul provided updates on several key initiatives and developments. He highlighted the ongoing drafting of the annual report and a productive visit to the DQAB offices in Victoria, which included discussions on the university's evolving strategy and future plans. The search for new Deans is progressing, with a robust pool of candidates and a selection committee primarily composed of Senate members. Mazi Shirvani detailed the process and timelines for these appointments. He further mentioned the recruitment challenges due to a national decline in university applications, with efforts underway to optimize recruitment processes. The construction permit for the 1090 W Bender building is still pending, delaying the project's completion. However, he was in communication with the mayor's office to expedite the process, emphasizing the need for the building to be ready for students. Additionally, the east side of Vancouver House has been named the Sheldon Levy Building to honor his contributions. Bashir thanked everyone who supported this initiative.

5. Consent Agenda

Bashir Makhoul

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

Moved: *Rushdi Alsaleh* **Seconded:** *Nneka Ofodum*

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Question period

Penny Farley inquired about the number of candidates for the Dean positions. In response, Mazi Shirvani explained that they had received about 70 CVs, with 29 strong candidates shortlisted for the two positions, and an additional backup list of 34. Cassie Savoie then sought clarification regarding a Major Course Update listed under the curriculum item of the Consent Agenda concerning the prerequisite for COMM 205, noting discrepancies in documentation between English 100 and English 1XX. Karen Tankard clarified that English 100 was the correct prerequisite, though the confusion may arise due to an editorial issue in the documents.

7. Proposals from Standing Committees

a. Academic Planning and Priorities

i. New Partnership Agreements

Amy Hua

a) Global Short-Term Student Visiting Program

Amy Hua presented a new program, the Global Short Term Student Visiting Program, designed for international students visiting for three to six months. The program offers two tracks: language enhancement and academic focus, primarily for undergraduate students. It includes academic courses, cultural activities, and industrial visits, supporting the university's internationalization strategy. The program expects 20-40 students annually, with interest from institutions in South Korea, Japan, and China.

Questions were raised regarding student registration, resource access, English proficiency test and insurance coverage. It was emphasized that visiting students would be enrolled as visiting students and have access to necessary resources, similar to regular students, to avoid issues with logging into necessary systems. The program would rely on partner institutions for course selection and administrative support. Concerns about adequate student support and resource impact were acknowledged and will be addressed during implementation. Amy clarified that the English proficiency test would be conducted by an external service provider to ensure students are placed in the appropriate track. The importance of medical insurance for visiting students was emphasized, with plans to include this in the program fees and ensure mandatory coverage. It was noted that the program is designed as an experiential learning opportunity, enhancing the students' academic and cultural experience without offering formal qualifications.

Motion: *To approve the New Partnership Agreement with Global Short-Term Student Visiting Program, as presented.*

Moved: Alexander Sakharov **Seconded:** Rushdi Alsaleh

Motion carried

(Majority of votes (19 votes) in favour and 3 abstentions – Mohsen Saeedi, Anna Lee Boulton & Stephanie Chu)

b) Guangdong Industry Polytechnic and UCW Joint Diploma

Amy Hua introduced a new collaborative education program with Guangdong Industry Polytechnic (GDIP). The program focuses on a diploma in International Business, which has received preliminary approval from the Ministry of Education (MOE) in Guangdong. Final approval from

MOE China is still awaited. The program aims to enroll 80 students annually, with a goal of having 20-30 students transfer to UCW's Bachelor of Commerce program in the initial years, eventually reaching 50% of total enrollment. Currently, UCW is not required to provide significant support until the program receives final approval from the Ministry of Education (MOE) China.

Bashir Makhoul clarified the high-level MOE approval is required and confirmed that UCW's role would be advisory, mainly providing post-approval support around the program's delivery in China. Amy Hua noted that GDIP does not expect extensive support from UCW, and the program's primary benefit to UCW would be the student transfers.

Adrian Mitescu inquired if the diploma would include UCW's name, to which Amy clarified it would not. AnnaLee Boulton sought clarification on the term "joint diploma," and it was explained that it referred to collaborative design of the program rather than a joint degree.

Motion: *To approve the Partnership Agreement of Guangdong Industry Polytechnic and UCW Joint Diploma, as presented.*

Moved: *Rushdi Alsaleh* **Seconded:** *Mohsen Saeedi*

Motion carried unanimously.

c) MBAF and MBA Tier 1 Transnational Delivery

Amy Hua introducing the proposal to expand UCW's MBA program through transnational education initiatives. She discussed the practice of offering the MBA foundation program in other countries, similar to what UCLA has done. Currently, they have partners in Iran, Georgia and India. These programs build a solid foundation for students to succeed in their MBA. The proposed expansion includes offering MBA Tier 1 courses internationally. These courses will adhere to their curriculum but may be adapted to meet local needs, with faculty from partner institutions needing legitimate approval to deliver the programs. Quality assurance measures will be implemented, including faculty selection, classroom visits, and assessment monitoring. Bashir Makhoul emphasized the importance of maintaining high standards and ensuring equivalent scrutiny for all international collaborations.

Various members raised concerns about specific course content, such as Canadian ethics and business environment courses, which might not be suitable for delivery by non-Canadian institutions. The Senate decided to approve the overall concept of transnational delivery in principle, with further discussions needed on specific course content.

Motion: *To approve the proposal of MBAF and MBA Tier 1 Transnational Delivery in principle, subject to further refinement of course content, as presented.*

Moved: *Jack Smith* **Seconded:** *Mazi Shirvani*

Motion carried

(Majority of votes (17 votes) in favor and 3 in against – Mohsen Saeedi, Gelareh Farhadian & Alexander Sakharov)

b. University Curriculum**i. Undergraduate Curriculum Working Committee****a) New Course Development**

- i. PHIL 220 – Environmental Ethics: Environmental, Social, and Mental Ecologies

William Rubel

William Rubel presented the new course PHIL 200, highlighting its relevance in response to student demand post-moral philosophy and its potential to bolster the university's green curriculum initiatives. Emphasizing the course's importance amid growing global environmental concerns, William mentioned collaboration with colleagues, including Jack Smith, on integrating strong indigenous knowledge components.

During the discussion phase, Mazi Shirvani raised several points regarding the course outline, including clarification on prerequisite requirements and concerns about the distribution of assessment weights. Specifically, he pointed out that attendance and participation should typically not exceed 10% weighting in a course, suggesting adjustments for consistency. Cassie Savoie echoed Mazi's concerns and proposed refining student learning outcomes to better align with the course's focus on environmental ethics. She suggested specifying relevant courses for prerequisite completion and ensuring clarity in learning objectives. William acknowledged these suggestions, agreeing to review and potentially revise the course outline accordingly.

Motion: *To approve the new course PHIL 220 – Environmental Ethics: Environmental, Social, and Mental Ecologies subject to incorporation of suggestions, as presented.*

Moved: *Alexander Sakharov* **Seconded:** *Jack Smith*

Motion carried unanimously.

ii. Graduate Curriculum Working Committee**a) New Course Development**

- i. MGMT 656 – Leading Engineers, Scientists and Technologists

Michele Vincenti

Michele Vincenti mentioned that the department has developed a course focusing on leadership for STEM professionals. He highlighted that the course aims to provide students with a foundational understanding of technology while equipping them with necessary management skills. This includes strategies to effectively communicate and collaborate with technical teams, promoting a cohesive work environment. The goal is to bridge the gap between technology and business, ensuring both sides work harmoniously towards common objectives. Adrian Mitescu raised a query regarding the course title and its approval status. Michele confirmed that the correct title is "Leadership for STEM Professionals," and there are no differences between the initially approved course package and the Leadership for STEM Professionals current proposal. Cassie Savoie brought up concerns about the assessment weightage, noting it exceeds the maximum limits set by the final exam policy. She also questioned the textbook's relevance, given its 2018 publication date. Michele acknowledged the need to review and adjust the assessment structure accordingly. He further reassured that, while the textbook provides a solid foundation, the inclusion of current articles addresses the evolving nature of artificial intelligence and related fields.

Motion: *To approve the new course MGMT 656 – MGMT 656 – Leading Engineers, Scientists and Technologists, as presented.*

Moved: *Larry Earnhart* **Seconded:** *Rushdi Alsaleh*

Motion carried unanimously.

iii. **Major Course Updates**

a) BUSI 645 – E-Commerce

Alexander Sakharov

Alexander Sakharov presented a major update for the BUSI 654 - E-Commerce course on behalf of Evan, the course lead. The update focuses on integrating a UX design scope to make the course more current and distinct from the digital marketing course. This update includes a partnership with the UX Design Institute in Dublin, Ireland, which will provide a certificate for students who successfully complete the course. The course update involves an additional cost of \$100 for the certificate, raising the total course cost to \$160. Despite the increase, the cost is considered reasonable given the added value of the certification. He further mentioned that a pilot project conducted in Fall 2022 tested the integration of the UX certification, receiving positive feedback from students. Survey results indicated that many students found the certificate valuable, supporting the decision to include it in the course permanently. Gelareh Farhadian expressed support, emphasizing the course's relevance to the current market impacted by digital and AI. Cassie Savoie inquired about the cost implications for students, questioning if the additional fee would be embedded in the tuition or paid separately. Alexander Sakharov clarified that the cost would be an additional mandatory fee, similar to purchasing a textbook. Komil Mamajanov raised concerns about the additional financial burden on students, emphasizing transparency and consistency in communicating costs. In the end, Bashir Makhoul acknowledged the importance of the discussion on cost transparency and suggested it be addressed at the university level.

Motion: *To approve the major updates in the course BUSI 645 – E-Commerce, as presented.*

Moved: *Mohsen Saeedi* **Seconded:** *Nneka Ofodum*

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Other Business

9. Adjournment

Bashir Makhoul

Motion: *To adjourn the meeting.*

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

The meeting adjourned at 4:54 pm.