



SENATE
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Monday, January 26, 2026
4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m
MS Teams Online

Present:

Voting Members

Aimee Begalka
Alia Somji
Allyson Rozell
Andhra Goundrey
Brett Favaro
Catherine Schwichtenberg, Vice-Chair
Celia Brinkerhoff
Diane Purvey
Diane Van der Gucht
Gurnoor Kaur
Jenna Smith
Laura Del Rio Torres
Laura McDonald

Leland Dieno
Lindsay Norris
Melissa Cuthill
Mike Larsen
Raymond Chou
Richard Popoff
Sharmen Lee
Shelley Boyd
Tara Lyons
Todd Mundle
Winston Sayson
Zena Mitchell

Non-Voting Members

David Burns
Nadia Henwood

Administrative Resources

Michelle Molnar
Ruby Gupta

Guests and Presenters

Ex-Officio

Kwuntiltunaat (Kim Baird), Chancellor

Not Present:

Voting Members

Bruce Choy, Chair
Harkomalpreet Gill
Mike Mann
Michael Cober
Sheena Dela Torre

Non-Voting Members

1. Call to Order and Territorial Acknowledgement

The Vice-Chair of Senate, Catherine Schwichtenberg, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Todd Mundle moved the agenda be approved as circulated.

The motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes, November 24, 2025

Sharmen Lee moved the minutes be approved as circulated.

The motion carried.

4. Chair's Report

4.1. Vice-Chancellor's Report to Senate

No report.

4.2. Provost's Report to Senate

Provost Diane Purvey presented her written report and highlighted two events happening at the Surrey campus in the Arbutus and Cedar buildings. She encouraged the members to visit the Arbutus Gallery where the work of three faculty members is displayed and also invited them to the second event in the Cedar, where a mural by Jake Negra is in process with the official unveiling scheduled on Feb 12, 2026.

She further shared an overview of current enrollment and financial challenges, noting a significant decline in international student numbers which are expected to continue decreasing due to ongoing IRCC policy restrictions. She outlined the program sustainability review process, emphasizing that Deans are leading faculty-level discussions to assess programs based on enrollment trends, resource capacity, student demand, program overlap, and community input. She stressed that these decisions are localized, faculty-driven, and rely on ongoing communication with departments and collaborators. Diane encouraged faculty and staff to connect by email or visit her office with questions or feedback.

5. Approval of Graduates

Aimee Begalka, Dean, Faculty of Academic and Career Preparation, Shelley Boyd, Faculty of Arts, Sharmen Lee, Dean, Faculty of Health, Brett Favaro, Dean Faculty of Science, Laura McDonald, Dean Faculty of Trades & Technology, Alia Somji, Dean, Melville School of Business, and Andhra Goundrey, Dean Faculty of Design presented the list of graduates for their respective faculties.

Jenna Smith, moved that the Senate approve the list of graduates as recommended by the Registrar.

The motion carried.

6. Senate Standing Committee on Curriculum

Catherine Schwichtenberg, Chair of the SSCC, presented her written report. She shared that committee reviewed the full set of course outlines, prerequisite removals, a program revision and noted the presentation of graduate studies regulations.

6.1. Course Outlines

Catherine Schwichtenberg moved that Senate approve the January 2026 list of new, revised and discontinued course outlines.

The motion carried.

6.2. Requisite Removal: INDG Courses

Catherine Schwichtenberg provided the rationale behind the removal of the proposed pre-requisite course requirements that majorly aligns with removal of barriers to student registration.

Winston Sayson moved that Senate approve the removal of all pre-requisite course requirements from BIOL/INDG 1492, INDG 2100, and INDG 2150, effective May 1, 2026.

The motion carried.

6.3. Requisite Removal: JRNL and COMM Courses

Richard Popoff moved that Senate approve the removal of all pre-requisite course requirements from JRNL 2120, JRNL 2230, and COMM 2210, effective May 1, 2026.

The motion carried.

6.4. Program Revision: Trades Admissions

Catherine Schwichtenberg presented the changes to the admission requirements of the mentioned 14 Trades programs that will prioritize up to four seats to qualified Indigenous students and noted that this was well approved by the faculty, curriculum committee, their faculty council and Senate Standing Committee on Curriculum.

Richard Popoff moved that Senate approve the revisions to the admission requirements of the following Trades programs, effective September 1, 2026:

- **Certificate in Appliance Service Technician**
- **Certificate in Automotive Service Technician**
- **Citation in Carpentry/Building Construction**
- **Citation in Construction Electrician**
- **Certificate in Farrier Science**
- **Citation in Masonry**
- **Citation in Metal Fabrication/Fitter**
- **Citation in Millwright/Industrial Mechanic**
- **Citation in Parts, Warehousing, Logistics & Distribution**
- **Citation in Plumbing**
- **Citation in Plumbing and Piping**
- **Certificate in Welding Foundation**
- **Citation in Welding Level A**
- **Citation in Welding Level B**

The motion carried.

6.5. Program Revision: Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Human Resources Management

Catherine Schwichtenberg informed that this proposal was majorly because of the cancelled intakes due to low enrollment of international students. She noted that this program revision comes with variety of course revisions, two course discontinuances and two new courses.

Richard Popoff moved that Senate approve the revisions to the Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Human Resources Management program and related courses, effective September 1, 2026.

The motion carried.

7. Senate Executive Committee

The Senate Executive Committee approved this agenda on January 16, 2026.

8. Senate Governance and Nominating Committee

Sharmen Lee, Chair of the SGNC, reported on the committee's recent activities.

8.1. Nominations, January 2026

Sharmen Lee moved that Senate appoint Bogdan Bryja as Faculty Representative, Faculty of Academic and Career Preparation on the Senate Standing Committee on Program Review from January 27, 2026 through August 31, 2028.

The motion carried.

8.2. Appointments to the Search Advisory Committee –Associate Dean, Faculty of Health

Sharmen Lee moved that Senate appoint the following members to the Search Advisory Committee of the appointment of Associate Dean, Faculty of Health:

Student (One):

- **Raymond Chou**

Regular faculty members (up to six)

- **Elise Strand**
- **Laura Del Rio Torres**
- **Lorraine Guild**
- **Muska Safi**
- **Nikki Purewal**

The motion carried.

9. Joint Senate Standing Committee on Academic Planning and Priorities and University Budget

Catherine Schwichtenberg presented her written report.

9.1. Program Suspension: Citation in Cloud Architecture and Security

Catherine Schwichtenberg noted the suspension is due to the low enrollment.

Tara Lyons moved that Senate approve the suspension of the Citation in Cloud Architecture and Security program, effective January 1, 2026.

The motion carried.

10. Senate Standing Committee on Appeals

No report.

11. Senate Standing Committee on Library

Catherine Schwichtenberg informed about the new members to the committee.

11.1. 2025-2027 Library Strategic Plan

Todd Mundle, University Librarian appreciated the contributions of members of the Senate Standing Committee on Library and library team towards the development of the library strategic plan. He shared the goals included in the plan and information pertaining to 2025-2027 Library Strategic Plan.

12. Senate Standing Committee on Policy

Catherine Schwichtenberg shared her appointment as Chair on the committee and expressed her appreciation to the outgoing chair Aimee Begalka for her effective and warm leadership.

13. Senate Standing Committee on Program Review

Catherine Schwichtenberg, on behalf of SSCPR Chair, Fergal Callaghan, referred to the written report.

She noted there are currently 32 programs at various stages of the program review process.

14. Senate Standing Committee on Research

No report.

15. Senate Standing Committee on Teaching and Learning

Mike Larsen referred to his written report.

16. Senate Standing Committee on Tributes

Catherine Schwichtenberg, noted the committee recommendations would be discussed in the closed meeting.

17. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned for the closed session at 4:44 p.m.