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BUSINESS FACULTY COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of Regular Meeting
Monday, April 20, 2026
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
MS Teams Online

Voting Members on Committee: 13 **Quorum: 7**

Voting Members:		
Braaksma, Anita	Kwan, Ben (Chair)	Wanniarachchi, Kavinda
Charlton, Peter	Lantinova, Vera (Vice Chair)	Wood, Lindsay
Ebrahimi, Shora	Morkunas, Vida	Wong, Richard
Jarvis, Jeremy	Ramnarine, Sasha	
Kietaibl, Anton	Somji, Alia (Dean)	
		Members present: 13 Simple Majority: 7
Non-Voting:		
Al Modares, Alex	Henwood, Nadia	Valle Anaya, Tiffany
Bowles, Tracey	Herrmann, Shari Ann	Wong, Kamson
Cook Bondy, Robin	MacNeil, Joanne	
Gilbert, Lori-Ann	Nambudiri, Abhilash	
Regrets:		
Ferens, Ralph	Pannu, Mandeep	Warren, Valerie
Khoshaien, Azadeh	Rai, Raveena	Whittemore, Joel
Guests:		
Campbell, Natasha	Schanz, Michael	
Jauernig, Nina	Vytasek, Jovita	
Office Support:		
Jeffrey, Alyssa		

1. Call to Order and Territorial Acknowledgement

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Sasha moved the agenda be confirmed as circulated.

The motion carried.

3. **Approval of Minutes, March 23, 2026**

Anton moved the minutes be accepted as circulated.

The motion carried.

4. **Chair's Report**

The Chair notes that this has been a particularly heavy month and that there is no current business that is requiring action. All standing committees have been successfully updated with one additional committee still under active discussion.

The chair further reports that efforts will begin next month to initiate the work of the AIV Committee. Members are reminded that final examinations are underway and a formal reminder that the grade submission deadline is April 29th.

5. **Dean's Report**

The Dean reported that George Melville visited the Civic campus to participate in the filming of a promotional video with Alia which is intended to support ongoing efforts to strengthen the institutions public reputation, with the completed video expected in the coming weeks.

An email was distributed to all faculty regarding the new Program Redesign Initiative, prompting several inquiries about the BEF, which has been in place for approximately thirteen years, and additional information and data were requested.

The Dean emphasized the need for a more strategic, competency-based approach to program development, noting that recent advancements in AI have shifted educational priorities and necessitated program revision. An external consultant will lead discussions to define future graduate competencies.

The nominating committee has issued a call for one representative from each department, but is unsure if the communication has reached all faculty.

An update was provided on the Centre for Small Business, which has established funding and aims to strengthen industry connections, beginning in Surrey, through corporate training, CPS offerings, and micro-consulting clinics that may involve faculty mentoring small businesses lacking resources.

The Dean noted the importance of being mindful of the type of work the Centre undertakes, encouraging faculty interested in participating to reach out, and highlighted ongoing collaboration with the City of Surrey and the Fleetwood Business Association, whose members have been affected by the SkyTrain construction.

Additional time-release support will be provided for faculty with further releases becoming available as needed. The deferred funding will expire in twenty-four months, noting the importance to secure sponsorship and generate significant revenue moving forward.

6. **Faculty Council Subcommittee Reports**

   6.1. **Curriculum Committee**
   6.2. **Nominating Committee**
   6.3. **SCBEF**
   6.4. **SCEQ**
   6.5. **Research and Scholarship**
   6.6. **Academic Integrity Violation/Business (AIV/B)**

7. **New Business**

   7.1. **Reminder re: Student Pitch Comp.**

Nina shares the invitation for the second part of the Student Pitch Competition on May 1st located at the Richmond Campus.

Projects span a wide range of industries and KPU programs including Fashion, apparel, technology, gaming, green energy, wellness and more.

We are funding for 3 high school buses so students can attend. The invitation has been extended to Partners as well as to the Board of Trade for Richmond and Surrey.

   7.2. **A Proposal for Interdisciplinary Effectiveness Committee**

The proposed committee shall ensure institutional continuity by preserving organizational knowledge, sustaining effective innovation processes and structures, and by building on the success of the student pitch initiative.

It shall foster interdisciplinary collaboration and an entrepreneurial spirit while advancing equity and inclusivity across its activities. The committee is recommended to begin as a subcommittee of the Faculty Council in order to establish interest, develop procedures and build a stable foundation with the intention of transitioning to a stand-alone committee once its scope and operations are fully established,

   7.3. **An Update on Learning Centre Capacity, its anticipated impact on student learning and academic delivery, and implications for the faculty**

It was reported that there are currently 3 FTE Faculty that are currently supervising students, and efforts are underway to help mitigate workload pressures while reviewing academic support areas, including writing support, tutoring capacity, early alert services, KPU 100 programming, academic integrity support and accounting review sessions.

Members were asked to identify the top three learning centres considered most critical to student learning, as these will guide prioritization decisions. Planning will occur over the next few months with the intention of implementing changes in the fall, primarily affecting staff capacity and the services they can facilitate. Updates were provided on Faculty and AD referrals for AIV, which must be submitted through the AIV office form and are processed through the Faculty Strategist.

A new dashboard has been implemented to track progress reports.

Leadership has been informed that the current services are heavily used and would benefit from additional support as Business programs generate the highest demand for peer tutoring.

7.4. Clarification of Student Membership on Faculty Council (By-Law Amendment)

The Committee discussed the process for selecting an interested student to serve on Faculty Council. It was suggested to issue a call for membership through a nomination process in which student names would be submitted to the nomination committee, along with proposed adjustments to the by-law language.

Members considered whether to issue a call for expressions of interest requiring students to provide reasons for wanting to join, with the nomination committee responsible for vetting all candidates. It was noted that the student association should not be involved due to its current provincial investigation, raising questions about how to balance legitimacy and convenience without KSA participation, as well as how a student representative would gather information from the student body and communicate information back to them.

Concerns were expressed than an FC student member might have limited ability to represent the committee’s concerns and alternative approaches such as hosting focus groups to gather student feedback. A motion was made to table the item to the next meeting in order to research relevant by-laws from other departments.

8. Adjournment

Alia moved the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.