Senate Meeting
Thursday, December 07, 2023; 3:00 pm PDT
In-Person/ Via Microsoft Teams
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Bashir Makhoul (UCW President and Senate Chair)

Maureen Mancuso (Vice-President Academic)

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, Salvador Trevino, Penny Farley, Mehdi Akhgari, Rushdi Alsaleh, Noosha Mehdian, Hamed Taherdoost, Manbo He, Nisa Chand, Jack Smith, Abedeh Gholidoust, Min Kay (*Faculty Representatives)

Anna Lee Boulton, Maryam Rostamy (Staff Representatives)

Udhaykaran Singh, Nneka Ofodum, Arya Patel, Janette Adriana (Student Representatives)

Mamtha Nagaraja (Alumni Representative)

Brenda Mathenia (University Librarian)

Adrian Mitescu (Senate Secretary)

Saleiha Sharif (Senate Coordinator)

Guests:

*Christine Chan (*Director, Student Affairs & Services)

Cassie Savoie (Director, Academic Operations & Support Services)

Amy Hua (Director, Academic Planning and Budgeting)

Harpreet Ahluwalia (Director, Curriculum & Quality Assurance)

Bradley Fehr (Associate Director Communications)

Heidi Rolfe (Director, Institutional Risk & Compliance)

Susanna Chow (Director, Institutional Risk & Compliance)

Amit Kohli (Research Ethics Board Chair)

Marina Candeia (Project Manager, Transfer & Institutional Partnership)

Annette O'Hara (Ombudsperson)

Stewart Fast (Director, Office of Research & Scholarship)

Wahiba Chair (Faculty Member)

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), **Sḵwx̱wú7mesh** (Squamish) and **Səl̓ílwitulh** (Tsleil-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 amendments in item 5.a.iii.h.xiv (BUSI 645 – Ecommerce) course updates considered as minor changes, as presented.
   Moved: *Mohsen Saeedi* **Seconded:** *Alexander Sakharov*
   Motion carried unanimously

3. Approval of Minutes   Bashir Makhoul
   a. **Minutes from the previous Senate meeting on November 2nd, 2023**

       Motion: To approve Minutes from the Senate meeting on November 2nd, 2023, as presented.
       Moved: *Brenda Mathenia* **Seconded:** *Rushdi Alsaleh*
       Motion carried unanimously

4. President's Communication   Bashir Makhoul

Bashir Makhoul extended a warm welcome to all committee members, expressing gratitude for their dedication to facilitating an in-person Senate meeting. He proceeded to provide updates on the Calgary, Alberta application, indicating that the anticipated timeframe for launching the MBA program is within the next two years. He elaborated on the ongoing involvement of quality assurance personnel, who are offering valuable guidance on navigating the process. He commended the UCW team for their steadfast responsiveness in addressing the associated challenges and limitations.

5. Consent Agenda   Bashir Makhoul

Bashir Makhoul mentioned that committee reports were collectively presented as a package for informational purposes. He expressed gratitude to the Committee Chairs for their diligent efforts in preparing both monthly and annual reports. Bashir Makhoul emphasized the significance of Senate accountability, highlighting that the provision of these reports to both the Senate and the broader UCW Community marks a crucial step in this direction. Alexander Sakharov raised a point regarding the pre-requisite courses under ACSS, which need further discussion.

Motion: To take the item *5.a.iii.h.i (ACSS course Pre-Requisites)* out of consent agenda and discuss it under *item 8. Other Business*, as presented.
Moved: *Anna Lee Boulton* **Seconded:** *George Drazenovic*
Motion carried unanimously

Motion: To approve the consent agenda as a package, as presented.
Moved: *Penny Farley* **Seconded:** *Gelareh Farhadian*
Motion carried unanimously

6. Question period

Jack Smith raised concerns about the recent changes in the immigration process for international students and the challenges they may encounter. In response, Henrique Gea highlighted that the Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has increased the Guaranteed Investment Certificate (GIC) limit from CAD 10,000 to CAD 20,000. Additionally, IRCC has granted international students the opportunity to work off-campus for more than 20 hours. Bashir Makhoul further emphasized that IRCC has underscored the importance of institutions fulfilling their obligation to provide housing services to their respective students and the University is working diligently to prepare for the new guidelines.

7. Proposals from Standing Committees
  a. **Governance and Policies Committee**
     Policy-related matters:
     i. Updated Policy: 9012 – Grading   Colby Mcleod
        With Colby Mcleod absent, Henrique Gea mentioned that this policy is follow up on a decision made by the Academic Council in early 2022 where grading was proposed and approved grading for both undergraduate and graduate programs. Now this policy bring here in Senate is just to streamline the process by updating the policy. It was recommended that this policy will refer to Governance and Policies committee for further considerations.

        Motion: To refer the Policy 9012 – Grading to Governance and Policies committee for further considerations.
        Moved: *Larry Earnhart* **Seconded:** *Michele Vincenti*
        Motion carried
        (***Majority of votes in favour and 2 abstentions – Brenda Mathenia & Gelareh Farhadian***)

  b. **University Curriculum Committee**
     New Program Proposal:
     i. MDIC – Master of Applied Science in Data-Intensive Computing   Gelareh Farhadian
        (New Program)
        Gelareh Farhadian provided a comprehensive update on the new MDIC program, highlighting that faculty members have been diligently working on finalizing the degree structure, admission requirements, and program outline over the past nine months. She informed the members that instructors who have taught the course were consulted in the proposal process, supported by

detailed consultation surveys. She elaborated on the rationale behind the program, outlining its entire structure, including offered courses, credits, specializations, and admission criteria. She thanked the faculty members who contributed to finalizing the program.

Motion: *To approve the proposal of new program MDIC – Master of Applied Science in Data-Intensive Computing, as presented.*
Moved: *Alexander Sakharov* **Seconded:** *Gelareh Farhadian*
Motion carried unanimously

ii. WORK 490 - Communication Capstone Project   Wahiba Chair
Wahiba Chair presented the new course, WORK 490, as a capstone project designed for students to undertake in their final term, facilitating the synthesis of program learning outcomes. She elaborated that this capstone course would guide students through delivering a consulting project for a real organization, acting as the client. Additionally, she provided details on the course implementation plan, including rubrics and assessments. This course will be launched in Spring or summer 2024 after getting approval from the Senate.

Motion: *To approve the new course WORK 490 - Communication Capstone Project, as presented.*
Moved: *Stephanie Chu* **Seconded:** *Brenda Mathenia*
Motion carried unanimously

8. Other Business

a. Senate Vice-Chair: elections   *Adrian Mitescu*
Adrian Mitescu informed the Senate that two nominations, *Manbo He and Jack Smith*, have been received for the position of Senate Vice-Chair, and their nomination statements have been shared with the members. According to the Bylaws, the Senate members voted. Following the voting process, Manbo He was elected as the Vice Chair, securing a majority of votes, for a 1-year term.

b. Any other business   *Adrian Mitescu*
Considering item number 5.a.iii.h.i regarding ACSS course prerequisites, it was recommendation to retract the prerequisite and bring it forth for reconsideration.

Motion: To approve the recommendation of removal of ENG – 105 as a pre-requisite for CLST 204 and bring it forth for reconsideration, as presented.
Moved: *Anna Lee Boulton* **Seconded:** *Noosha Mehdian*
Motion carried unanimously

9. Adjournment   Bashir Makhoul

The meeting adjourned at 4:29 pm.