Senate Meeting
Thursday, March 07, 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, and Michele Vincenti (Program Chairs)

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

Maryam Rostamy (Staff Representative)

Brenda Mathenia (University Librarian)

Adrian Mitescu (Senate Secretary)

Saleiha Sharif (Senate Coordinator)

Guests:

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

Amy Hua (Director, Academic Planning and Budgeting)

Harpreet Ahluwalia (Director, Curriculum & Quality Assurance)

*Cherie Chang (*Manager of Advising Services)

Bradley Fehr (Associate Director Communications)

Susanna Chow (Director, Institutional Risk & Compliance)

Amit Kohli (Research Ethics Board Chair)

Marina Candeia (Project Manager, Transfer & Institutional Partnership)

Annette O'Hara (UCW Ombudsperson)

Pooja Lekhi (Faculty Member)

Regrets:
Larry Earnhart,Jill Cummings (Program Chairs)

*Nisa Chand, Abedeh Gholidoust, and Min Kay (*Faculty Representatives)

Anna Lee Boulton (Staff Representatives)

Absent:

*Nisa Chand, Abedeh Gholidoust (*Faculty Representatives)

Udhaykaran Singh, Nneka Ofodum, Arya Patel, Janette Adriana (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), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish) and Selíĺwitulh (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, as presented.
>   **Moved:** *Jack Smith* **Seconded:** *Salvador Trevino*
>   **Motion carried unanimously**

3. Approval of Minutes   Bashir Makhoul
   a.   **Minutes from the previous Senate meeting on December 07, 2023**

>   **Motion:** To approve Minutes from the Senate meeting on December 07, 2023, as presented.
>   **Moved:** *Penny Farley* **Seconded:** *Alexander Sakharov*
>   **Motion carried unanimously**

4. President's Communication   Bashir Makhoul

Bashir Makhoul expressed his gratitude to all who were involved in the communications process with DQAB. He proceeded to provide an update on several appointments, including the Board of Governors' representative in the Senate, VPA, and VP Student Experience. He mentioned that the results would be shared once finalized and arrangements were in place. In response to Michele Vincenti's question regarding recent updates from the federal government, Bashir Makhoul emphasized that the university is ensuring that its recruitment strategies and objectives align with the goal of attracting higher quality students. He noted that communication from the Minister's office indicated a directive not to exceed the current number of postgraduate students.
Basit Makhoul also expressed appreciation for all the work that Maureen Mancuso, the outgoing Vice President Academic, has completed during her tenure at University Canada West. He also asked the members of the Senate to join him in expressing his gratitude for her tireless efforts and asked for this public recognition to be included in the official meeting minutes.

5. Consent Agenda   Bashir Makhoul

>   **Motion:** To approve the consent agenda as a package, as presented.
>   **Moved:** *Brenda Mathenia* **Seconded:** *Rushdi Alsaleh*
>   **Motion carried unanimously**

6. Question period

Penny Farley raised concerns about the changes by IRCC and the CAP on the number of students that the

university will be accepting, particularly the shift from undergraduate to graduate programs. In response, Bashir clarified that it's not a direct conversion of undergraduate numbers to graduate numbers. Instead, the government has indicated a desire to limit every institution in the country, within the province, on the number of undergraduate international students they can accept. Bashir further explained that by limiting the number of visas allocated to the university, it does not equate to shifting the allocation of seats from undergraduate to master's programs. Rather, the university is simply maintaining the existing number of seats for master's programs amidst the constraints imposed by the government.

7. Proposals from Standing Committees
    a. **Academic Planning and Priorities**
        i. *Partnership Agreement*:   Marina Candeia
            a) **Transfer Articulation Agreement with Selkirk College**

            Marina Candeia presented the transfer articulation agreement with Selkirk College, highlighting key details about the institution. Selkirk College has approximately 2,800 students enrolled in 80 different programs, with 75% of these students being domestic. The array of programs offered includes certificates, diplomas, as well as associate and bachelor's degrees. The agreement proposes the transfer credit articulation into UCW's Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) program from two of Selkirk College's programs. Furthermore, for admission into UCW's BCom and BABC programs, transfer credits will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for students holding a Selkirk Associate of Arts degree. The rationale behind this agreement is to support undergraduate and domestic student enrollment while simultaneously strengthening UCW's collaborative relationship with public post-secondary institutions in BC. Followup questions regarding admission was answered by Marina Candeia.

            Motion: To approve the Transfer Articulation Agreement with Selkirk College, as presented.
            Moved: *Jack Smith* **Seconded**: *Mohsen Saeedi*
            Motion carried unanimously

            b) **Transfer Articulation Agreement with Awards for Training and Higher Education**
            M. Candeia presented the transfer articulation agreement with Awards for Training and Higher Education (ATHE), shedding light on key aspects of the institution. Established in 2011, ATHE has an extensive alumni network of around 40,000 individuals worldwide. The institution delivers programs and courses through over 280 ATHE-recognized centers in 55 countries. These programs encompass various levels of Certificates and Diplomas in fields such as Business & Management, Accounting, Law, Computing, and more.

            The proposed transfer credit articulation focuses on ATHE's Level 5 Combined Extended Diploma in Business and Management, offering a pathway to UCW's BABC and BCom programs. Under this agreement, students can transfer up to 12 courses (equivalent to 36 credit hours) towards their degree at UCW. UCW faculty have thoroughly reviewed all course syllabi and program outlines provided by ATHE. Many of the courses offered by ATHE align closely with UCW's 200-, 300-, and 400-level courses. This level of alignment is not commonly found in many of our partnerships.

Motion: To approve the Transfer Articulation Agreement with Awards for Training and Higher Education, as presented.
Moved: *Rushdi Alsaleh* **Seconded**: *Manbo He*
Motion carried unanimously

    ii. *Update: Calgary, AB Application*   Adrian Mitescu

A. Mitescu provided an update on the Calgary, Alberta application and outlined the steps preceding its approval. The application process for opening a new campus in Alberta to offer a specific degree consists of two parts, named Part A and Part B. In Part A, the application is reviewed by ministry staff. This review assesses factors such as program duplication and program demand. If the decision is favorable in Part A, the application progresses to Part B. Here, it undergoes multiple reviews by the Campus Alberta Quality Council. It has been noted that that the earliest feasible time for the campus to open would be Fall 2025 (unless the application for expedited review is approved)

b. **Governance and Policies**
    Policy-related matters:
    i. **5000 - Program Advisory Committee**   Harpreet Ahluwalia

Harpreet Ahluwalia presented the rationale and proposed changes to the existing Policy 5000 – Program Advisory Committee. She emphasized the necessity for revisions, noting that the policy hadn't been updated for an extended period. She highlighted the inclusion of non-academic programs such as micro-credentials and the integration of input from academic affairs in the revisions. The scope of the policy has been clearly defined to apply exclusively to degree programs, explicitly excluding non-academic programs. Furthermore, she elaborated on the procedure and terms of reference, which now provide more detailed information regarding the inclusion of staff and faculty from other post-secondary institutions. She mentioned that extensive consultations were conducted with stakeholders to ensure comprehensive feedback. She concluded by sharing the implementation plan, which will be made public after receiving approval from the Senate meeting.

Motion: To approve the updates in the policy 5000 - Program Advisory Committee, as presented.
Moved: *Alexander Sakharov* **Seconded**: *Mohsen Saeedi*
Motion carried unanimously

c. **University Curriculum Committee**
    New Course Proposal:
    i. **CPSC 441 – Emerging Technologies**   Hamed Taherdoost

H. Taherdoost introduced the new course, CPSC 441 - Emerging Technologies, highlighting its relevance in exploring the latest technological advancements shaping the business landscape. The rationale behind the course is to explore into the rapid transformations brought about by emerging technologies and their impact on businesses. The primary focus will be on understanding how these technologies can be harnessed to achieve strategic objectives and gain a competitive edge in the market..

Motion: *To approve the new course CPSC 441 – Emerging Technologies, as presented.*
Moved: *Alexander Sakharov* **Seconded:** *Stephanie Chu*
Motion carried unanimously

8. Other Business

9. In- Camera Discussion   Bashir Makhoul

Motion: To move proceedings of the Senate in camera
Moved: *Brenda Mathenia* **Seconded:** *Penny Farley*
Motion carried unanimously

Motion: To move the proceedings of the Senate out of camera
Moved*: Noosha Mehdian* **Seconded:** *Hamed Taherdoost*
Motion carried unanimously

10. Adjournment   Bashir Makhoul

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 pm.