



MINUTES - APPROVED

BOARD OF GOVERNORS — OPEN SESSION

Thursday, September 25, 2025
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Board Room D2315 and via *Zoom

ATTENDANCE:

Board Members:	Don Avison, Board Chair Saanvi Bhat, Student-elected Board Member Ashley Chung, Student-elected Board Member Brenda Crabtree, Board Member* Alla Gadassik, Faculty-elected Board Member Mimi Gellman, Faculty-elected Board Member Trish Kelly, President + Vice-Chancellor Steve Kinsey, Board Member Mary Macaulay, Board Member Lorcan O'Melinn, Board Vice-Chair and Audit + Finance Committee Chair Harv Phandal-Dhanda, Board Member Eduardo Rodriguez, Employee-elected Board Member Carleen Thomas, Chancellor* Natasha Tony, Board Member Sung Van, Board Member
Regrets:	None
Employee Resources:	Diyan Achjadi, Vice-President, Academic + Provost Mark Douglas, Interim Vice-President, Finance + Administration Natasha Himer, University Secretary + Executive Director, Governance Alexander Muir, Technical Support Sandeep Sidhu, Chief Information Officer
Recorder:	Bessie Chow, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order and Territorial Acknowledgement

With quorum present, the Board Chair, D. Avison, called the meeting to order at 1:16 p.m.

The Chair acknowledged that Emily Carr University of Art + Design ("ECU") is situated on the unceded, traditional, and ancestral territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

Congratulations were extended to Board member B. Crabtree for her investiture into the Order of British Columbia at the ceremony held on September 24, 2025.

Approved Minutes of ECU Board Meeting – Open Session

held Thursday, September 25, 2025

Page 2 of 4

In recognition of the upcoming National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, the Chair reflected on the role of the Board and the University in advancing reconciliation.

The Chair welcomed newly elected faculty Board members, A. Gadassik and M. Gellman.

The Chair welcomed newly elected student Board members S. Chung and S. Bhat.

The four new Board members then took the oath of office.

2. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

[Secretary's Note: There was no conflict-of-interest disclosure – Item 2].

3. Items for Approval by Consent

The following resolution was moved, seconded and **CARRIED**:

THAT the Board approves the items included under the Consent Agenda, as circulated.

3.1. Agenda

3.2. Minutes of Board Open Session held on June 5, 2025

3.3. Annual Capital Plan

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board, on the recommendation of the Audit + Finance Committee, approves the Annual Capital Plan for 2026/27 to 2031/32 for submission to the Ministry of Infrastructure

[Secretary's Note: correction made in minutes to the date in the original resolution from 2032/32 to 2031/2032.]

3.4. 2024/25 Statement of Financial Information

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board, on the recommendation of the Audit + Finance Committee, approves the Statement of Financial Information for Emily Carr University of Art + Design for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2025.

3.5. Q1 Forecast

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board, on the recommendation of the Audit + Finance Committee, ratify the Q1 Forecast for the fiscal year 2025/26 as submitted to the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education + Future Skills.

3.6. 2024/25 Institutional Accountability Plan and Report

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board, on the recommendation of the Executive + HR Committee, approves the 2024/25 Institutional Accountability Plan and Report as presented.

Approved Minutes of ECU Board Meeting – Open Session

held Thursday, September 25, 2025

Page 3 of 4

4. BUSINESS

4.1. Chair's Remarks

The Chair reported that a new mandate letter was received in June, following the last Board meeting of the 2024/25 academic year. The Chair responded to the Minister in writing, sharing concerns regarding ongoing challenges facing the university and the post-secondary sector in the province more generally. An invitation was extended to the new Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, Jessie Sunner, to visit ECU at the earliest opportunity. The Chair remarked on the province's recent fiscal update, which shows a higher deficit than previously forecast. The significance of the year ahead was highlighted, particularly in light of ECU's centennial milestone.

4.2. President's Remarks

The President + Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Trish Kelly, provided an update on recent activities, institutional context, and community engagement.

Dr. Kelly reflected on a busy summer on campus, including a *Youth on Campus* program for teens, which brought over 200 students to participate across 16 areas, culminating in an exhibition of participants' work hosted on campus. Other summer activities included the July residency of Master of Arts students and a tipi-making workshop. Returning students were also active in welcoming new students to campus for the fall term. Appreciation was extended to the Student Services team for their work in supporting students at the start of the academic year.

Dr. Kelly noted ongoing efforts to strengthen relationships with Indigenous communities, including recent meetings with representatives from the Tsleil-Waututh Nation's education and public relations teams.

Dr. Kelly acknowledged the broader challenges facing the post-secondary sector, including financial pressures exacerbated by federal policy changes related to international students. ECU continues to advance its deficit mitigation strategies and is piloting a more localized approach to budget consultation involving faculty, staff, and students.

Advocacy efforts also continue at the federal level, in collaboration with other art and design and post-secondary institutions in Canada. These efforts were highlighted during recent internal and external engagements, including an all-employee meeting that helped launch early conversations around ECU's 100th anniversary and reinforce a shared sense of community and institutional care.

5. REPORTS

5.1. President + Vice-Chancellor's Report

The President + Vice-Chancellor presented a report and accompanying slide deck outlining ECU's upcoming 100th anniversary celebrations. The centennial – ECU 100 – launch will take

Approved Minutes of ECU Board Meeting – Open Session

held Thursday, September 25, 2025

Page 4 of 4

place on October 1, 2025, with a full year of events planned. A campus Open House is scheduled for October 10 to celebrate with the wider community.

The centennial year will be organized around three pillars: Connect, Communicate, and Celebrate. These include connecting with local, national, and international communities; communicating ECU's creative legacy under the theme *100 Years in the Making*; and celebrating the work of ECU's students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

Campaign priorities were outlined, including:

- Storytelling and visibility
- Alumni engagement
- Donor and partner engagement
- Government and community relations

The presentation also referenced events planned for Fall 2025, with more information available on ECU's centennial webpage.

No questions or comments were offered on the President's report or presentation.

5.2. Vice-President, Academic + Provost's Report

The Vice-President, Academic + Provost, D. Achjadi, referred to their report and provided an update on academic matters, including strategic approaches to community and partner engagement to support students and emerging artists throughout their engagement with ECU.

The Vice-President also noted that searches are underway for the Dean of the Audain Faculty of Art and the Dean of the Faculty of Culture and Community.

No questions or comments were offered on the Vice-President's report.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Governors is scheduled to take place on December 4, 2025.

7. CONCLUSION

With no further business, the open session of the September 25, 2025, Board of Governors meeting concluded at 1:53 p.m.