

## OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Staff Lounge, Castlegar Campus /Teams

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Margaret Sutherland, Chair	Amed Naqvi, Vice Chair
Christy Anderson	John Dutton
Bronwyn Krause	Ken Wyllie
Udayveer Miglani	Mary Austin
Abina Thomas	Kim Pham
Darcy Falkenhagen, EdCo Chair	Maggie Matear, President

### REGRETS:

Debbie Bird	Thompson Hickey
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### LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBERS PRESENT:

Taya Whitehead, VP Education & Students  
Lareena Rilkoff, VP College Services  
Brier Albano, Associate VP Student Success  
Stacey Matthews, Executive Director of HR  
Andrea Hall, Executive Director Finance/CFO  
James Heth, Registrar  
Allison Alder, Dean  
Tammie Clarke, Dean  
Donna Drover, Director Facilities & Business Services  
Tracy Punchard, Dean  
Marissa Carrasco, Director Student Engagement & Wellness

### OBSERVERS PRESENT:

Gerald Lightburn, PPWC  
Ken Laing, SCFA

### GUESTS:

Students' Union Directors  
EdCo members

### TOPIC

1. MEETING OPENING
  - One of the Old Ones, Donna Wright opened the meeting in a good way.
2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
  - Board member Bronwyn Krause provided the territorial acknowledgment.
3. ADDITIONS TO THE OPEN SESSION AGENDA OF FEBRUARY 25, 2025
  - There were no additions to the agenda.
4. ADOPTION OF THE OPEN SESSION AGENDA OF FEBRUARY 25, 2025

**Motion:** "To adopt the open session agenda of February 25, 2025 as circulated."

*Carried*

5. ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA OF FEBRUARY 25, 2025

- Draft Open Session Minutes of January 28, 2025
- Enrolment Dashboard – February 2025
- EdCo Report – February 2025
- Email from R. Macrae dated Feb. 10, 2025

The Email from R. Macrae dated Feb. 10, 2025 was pulled out of the consent agenda for discussion.

**Motion:** “To adopt the consent agenda of February 25, 2025 as amended.”

*Carried*

6. EMAIL FROM R. MACRAE DATED FEB. 10, 2025

- A board member contacted R. Macrae to express appreciation for his letter.
- The board discussed the importance of featuring students in published articles and stories and expressed their appreciation for these efforts.

7. PRESENTATION

- Selkirk College Students Union Directors
- Presenters Tanisha Prashar and Jaspreet Kaur presented on the following topics:
  - Student Union Board member and staff introductions
  - Student engagement events
  - The challenge of textbook costs
  - The advocacy work to encourage faculty to adopt open education resources (OER) to help reduce textbook costs.
- Discussion ensued concerning:
  - History of OER
  - Selkirk’s collaboration with BC Campus to help build OER repository resources
  - How the college library could help students with access to resources
  - Increased turnout in the last student union election

8. 2025/2026 TUITION FEE BYLAW

**Motion:** “To approve the 2025-2026 Tuition and Supplementary Fee Bylaw/Schedule as circulated.”

*Carried*

Eight in favour, one abstention

## 9. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- The President referenced the circulated report and noted how the work reported leads to meeting her goals set at the start of the year. Items noted verbally included:
  - Work continues across the college to address the fiscal emergency created by the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) policy changes. Frequently asked questions regarding the college's strategic adjustments can be found online linked [here](#).
  - Municipal governments have been updated on the impact and ripple effect of the IRCC policy changes and have offered their support.
  - At the supervisors' budget meeting this month, creative cost-cutting and revenue generating ideas that could also meet our sustainability goals were discussed.
  - The process of refreshing the college logo and brand identity to capture the energy coming from the new strategic plan has begun. The project team includes members from across the college and the board.
  - Work continues to build our local marketing strategy.
  - Both donor events this month were well attended.
  - Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) has continued its financial commitment to the college with \$1M per year for the next two years. These funds will be directed toward projects with positive student impact that align with CBT and college strategic plans.

## 10. BUDGET PLANNING 2025-26

- The Executive Director Finance/CFO stated:
- Extensive work continues to tackle the projected deficit mindfully.
  - Finance is working with the education division to understand projected enrolment for 2025/2026. This year saw 780 international students enrolled; next year 370 international students are projected, resulting in an approximate \$9M deficit.

## 11. EDUCATION DIVISION

- The VP of Education & Students provided a verbal update stating the Preliminary Enrolment Report, typically shared in February, has been deferred to March to allow for more predictable data to be collected.
- No programs have been cancelled but the following have had intakes suspended:
  - Accounting – Postgraduate Diploma
  - Business Administration-Accounting Finance – Diploma (accepting applications for Sept 2025)
  - Business Administration Professional Management – Diploma (accepting application for Sept 2025)
  - Business Management – Postgraduate Diploma
  - Culinary Management – Postgraduate Diploma
  - Full-Stack Web Development – Postgraduate Diploma
  - Gerontological Nursing – Postgraduate Diploma
  - Hospitality Management – Postgraduate Diploma
- A number of programs have strong application rates for September 2025, some of which include trades, music, pharmacy technician, rural pre-med, and engineering among others.
- Discussion ensued concerning the classification of instructional programs (CIP) codes, program size limitations (ex limited practicum placements), trades funding, and how international study visa requirements do not align with the schedules of trades programs.

## 12. BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT

- The Board Chair provided a verbal update of the past month's activities:
  - Met and discussed board appointments with the President, the Ministry, and the Crown Agencies & Board Resourcing Office (CABRO). CABRO has received two board member applications from community members since January. Two current board members finish their terms on July 31, 2025.
  - Attended the Donor Tea in Mary Hall
  - Attend the Mir Lecture Series event with Carol Off
  - Continue to work on the President's performance review process for this year

13. MEMBERS' REPORT

- Supported the first hybrid bee-keeping class
- Announced details of a Trades Connections event tomorrow on the Silver King Campus
- Appreciated the meet and greet event with students and staff this afternoon, and the Selkirk College Student Union presentation

14. STUDENTS' REPORT

- International students report feeling stressed about IRCC's frequent policy changes.

15. CLOSED SESSION

**Motion:** "To move into the closed session."

*Carried*