



# Board of Governors Public Meeting Minutes

March 27, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

VCC Broadway Campus, Building A, Room 5025

Zoom for Public & Guests

## ATTENDANCE

### Board Members

Joey Hartman (Chair, Board/HRC)  
Mahin Rashid (Vice Chair)  
Jeffrey Yu (Chair, FAC)  
Chi Lo  
Christie Sparklingeyes  
Daniela Ocana  
Jennifer Cummins  
Libby Davies  
Nadia Belokopitov  
Michele Guerin  
Paul Yeung  
Ridhi Bhatia  
Seung Oh  
Shobha Rajagopalan

### Staff Resources

David Wells VP, Academic & Applied Research  
Ian Humphreys VP, Admin & International Development  
Kate Dickerson VP, People Services  
Jane Shin VP, Students & Community Development  
Elmer Wansink AVP, IT & CIO  
Clayton Munro AVP, Student & Enrolment Services  
Tannis Morgan AVP, Academic Innovation  
Jamie Choi ED, Finance & CFO  
Karen Wilson ED, Marketing & Communications  
Surinder Aulakh ED, Safety, Security & Risk Management  
Deborah Lucas EA, Board of Governors  
David Kirk Dean, Curriculum & Pedagogy  
Moira Gookstetter ED, VCC Foundation

### Ex-Officio

Ajay Patel President & CEO  
Natasha Mandryk Chair, EdCo/GC REGRETS

### Guests

Taryn Thomson President, VCCFA  
Deanne Bates Chief Shop Steward, CUPE Local 4627  
Stefan Nielsen Organizer, Advocacy & Governance, SUVCC

**VCC recognizes and acknowledges the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh people,  
on whose traditional and unceded territories we live, learn and work.**

## 1. CALL TO ORDER, LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & OPENING REMARKS

- J. Hartman called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. M. Rashid presented the land acknowledgement. Chair’s opening remarks:
  - Regrets from Natasha Mandryk.
  - The Board has received a letter of introduction from the new Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, the Honourable Lisa Beare. J. Hartman has also engaged in a short telephone conversation and hopes to connect in person in the near future.
  - On Feb 22, board members participated in the new brand launch celebrations both on-campus and online. She acknowledged the Marketing & Communications team for their hard work, as well, the VCC community who provided input and inspiration into the new brand.
  - On Feb 27, board members attended the VCC Foundation’s annual fundraising *Flourish* gala. She expressed appreciation to everyone who supported Flourish as guests, donors, organizers and volunteers. It was a huge success.

- A. Patel:
  - Echoed the Chair’s comments about the Flourish Gala. Thanked the VCC community. The funds raised will support ongoing VCC Foundation initiatives, as well, Campuses of Future related projects.
  - Announced the Ground Blessing Ceremony for the construction of the new Centre for Clean Energy and Automotive Innovation building. The event is at 1pm on Apr 12 at Broadway Campus, Building B. This milestone event in VCC’s history will be led by the 3 Host First Nations—xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓w̓x̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh).
  - VCC continues to support opportunities for education and conversation on topics of equity, diversity and inclusion. Holding space for these important matters and actioning change are what has led to VCC being nominated for a YWCA Women of Distinction Award in the category of “Outstanding Workplace”. He congratulated the VCC community. The awards ceremony is in May.

## 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA & CONSENT AGENDA

**MOTION:** THAT the Board of Governors approve the Mar 27, 2024, public meeting agenda, and the Consent Agenda items:

1. Minutes: Feb 7, 2024, Public Meeting
2. Board Correspondence & Activity
3. Revised 2024 Board Schedule
4. News & Events – March 2024 Report

**Moved, Seconded & CARRIED**

## 3. ACTION TRACKER

- No actions.

## 4. CONSTITUENCY REPORTS

### 1. CUPE Local 4627

- The Board received a report from D. Bates, Chief Shop Steward.
- On Mar 26, 2024, members ratified the Collective Agreement with VCC (Oct 1, 2022 to Sept 30, 2025). She thanked the College for their time and consideration. J. Hartman thanked the bargaining committees.

### 2. Student Union of Vancouver Community College (SUVCC)

- The Board received a report from S. Nielsen, SUVCC Advocacy & Governance Organizer.
- CUPE Local 4627 and the VCCFA were thanked for their support with the Feb 13, 2024, BC Federation of Students - 5 Calls to Action open letter. To date, there’s no response.
- With international study permit changes coming into effect, the SUVCC took an opportunity to advocate for students in a meeting with the Parliamentary Secretary for International Credentials, Ravi Parmar, MLA.
- Other SUVCC on-campus events have been well attended. These are welcomed opportunities to connect, be engaged and show support for one another and the student community.

### 3. Vancouver Community College Faculty Association (VCCFA)

- The Board received a report from T. Thomson, VCCFA, President.
- At a General Meeting, VCCFA members voted in favour of exiting from the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators, as of Jun 1, 2024.
- The VCCFA continue to support Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion at VCC, this includes hosting award-winning author and journalist, Angela Sterrit, who shared her stories of resilience and overcoming challenges, particularly through her advocacy for Missing and Murdered Indigenous women and girls.

## 5. EDUCATION COUNCIL (EDCO) REPORT

- The Education Council (EdCo) Report was included in the meeting materials. In the absence of EdCo Chair, N. Mandryk, board members are requested to send questions to D. Lucas for directing to N. Mandryk for a response.

## 6. FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE (FAC)

### 1. Chair's Report – Presented by FAC Chair, J. Yu

- The Finance and Audit Committee (FAC) met on Mar 13, 2024.
- The committee considered the items on the agenda this evening, as well, approved 2 procurement matters:
  - A Negotiated Request for Proposals and 5-year contract award to replace VCC's Content Management System
  - Installation of Private Branch Exchange for campus telephones.
- The next FAC meeting is May 24, 2024. External auditors KPMG will present the 2023/24 audit findings.

### 2. 2023/24 Budget to Forecast [10 months actual & 2 months forecast]

- The financial report in the package shows that VCC is projecting a surplus of \$1.2M.
- Revenue is forecasted to be \$177.7M (\$18.6M above budget), with domestic tuition revenue down by \$194K (excluding ABE/EAL) compared to original budget, and international revenue is up by \$8M.
- Expenses are forecasted to be \$176.5M, which is \$17.4M higher than budget. Contributing to this is the payment of City of Vancouver covenants, which had to be discharged before VCC could proceed with the development permit application for the Centre for Clean Energy and Automotive Innovation. In addition, the retro/pay increase, and benefits expenses incurred with the new negotiated VCCFA Collective Agreement ratification.

### 3. 2024/25 VCC Operating Budget

- The VCC operating budget is developed with various assumptions, as presented in the meeting materials. For 2024/25, the budget is \$186.3M.
- The operating budget is reviewed twice by the Finance and Audit Committee, the first draft in January and the final, which was approved on Mar 13, 2024. It was noted by the Board that where some employers are decreasing spends in employee benefits, it is good to see that VCC has focused on improving these for employees with an increased budget.

**MOTION:** THAT, on the recommendation of the Finance and Audit Committee, the Board of Governors approve the 2024-25 Operating Budget, as presented on Mar 27, 2024.  
**Moved, Seconded and CARRIED**

### 4. 2024/25 Capital Budget

- The annual capital budget process involves departments submitting capital requests and establishing priorities. It is funded through VCC internal capital.
- For 2024/25, Finance and Audit Committee has approved the recommendation to allocate \$3.0M for facilities improvements, library, furniture and equipment, classroom enlargement and IT projects. It is the same budget as the prior year. It was confirmed that the allocation could be increased, if necessary, with approval by the Board, but that \$3.0M is considered a satisfactory budget at this time.

**MOTION:** THAT, on the recommendation of the Finance and Audit Committee, the Board of Governors approve the 2024-25 Capital Budget, as presented on Mar 27, 2024.  
**Moved, Seconded and CARRIED**

## 7. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (GC)

## 1. Chair's Report – Presented by P. Yeung on behalf of N. Mandryk

- The Governance Committee (GC) met on Mar 13, 2024. In addition to item 7.2, they commenced the process for the 2024 Board Evaluation, which starts with reviewing the survey categories and statements, and the timeline. For 2024, some of the statements were rephrased for clarification of intent. The Stakeholder Relations category was renamed VCC Relations. The board survey is deployed in April, and the GC present a summary of results with recommendations to the Board in May.
- For providing advice to Education Council on the governance process as it relates to the new International Education Strategic Plan (IESP), the GC reviewed the College & Institute Act, and agreed that the IESP is part of the larger Strategic Innovation Plan (SIP), and that presenting it to the Board for information is the correct process. The Board receives updates on the SIP.

## 2. G.1.0 Board Conduct Bylaw Annual Oath of Office reaffirmation

- For Oath of Office annual reaffirmation, the Governance Committee (GC) reviewed Board Bylaw G.1.0 Board Conduct. The following minor edits to G.1.0 were approved:
  1. Throughout, change “citizen” to “private individual”.
  2. Under Related Legislation & Policies:
    - Added Human Rights Code, RSBC 1996, c 210
  3. Under Related VCC Policies & Procedures, added:
    - Sexual Violence & Misconduct
    - Whistleblower Policy & Procedures
    - Financial Responsibility and Accountability
- J. Hartman conducted the annual Oath of Office affirmation, and the Board signed the Oath.

## 8. HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE (HRC) REPORT

### 1. Chair's Report – Presented by J. Hartman

- The Human Resources Committee (HRC) met on Mar 12, 2024. In collaboration with President Patel, the HRC finalized the President's 2024 Performance Objectives, which were subsequently approved by the Board. The objectives are categorized under Strategic Planning & Financial, Campus Development & Infrastructure, Reconciliation at VCC, Environmental Sustainability & Climate Action, Planning for the Future and Personal Development. The HRC will regularly receive status updates, reporting back to the Board.

## 9. INDIGENIZATION AT VCC

- David Kirk, Dean, Curriculum and Pedagogy, spoke about his VCC journey since joining in July 2023. He shared his family history and life experiences, which led him to a career in social work and education. In the first 8 months of him joining VCC, there has been good progress with Indigenous related curriculum development. There are also new hires in key areas impacting Indigenous learners. He spoke to the importance of student's needing to be seen and heard, as well, the value of showcasing success stories.
- Dean, Indigenous Initiatives, Jessie Williams, spoke of the wrap-around support services that VCC offers to Indigenous students, including Elders in Residence support and cultural activities for engagement and connection.

## 10. VCC FOUNDATION

- J. Yu (Board representative on the VCC Foundation Board (VCCF)) presented a report to the Board,
- The VCC Foundation hosted the annual Flourish fundraising gala on Feb 27, 2024. The event raised a record breaking \$200K for virtual reality technology. VCCF Executive Director, M. Gookstetter acknowledged the VCCF team for their work coordinating this event.
- The following VCCF upcoming events were highlighted:
  - May 9: Outstanding Alumni Awards
  - Apr 12: Ground Blessing Ceremony for Centre for Clean Energy & Automotive Innovations

- May 24: Spring Student Awards (a.m. and p.m.) ceremonies

## 11. NEW BUSINESS

### 11.1 Strategic Innovation Plan (SIP) Update

- A. Patel presented an update on the Strategic Innovation Plan (SIP), starting with a brief background intro for new members on the 5 strategic priorities and objectives. He explained that Truth and Reconciliation, and Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion are key elements of each priority. The objectives may change, but the priorities do not. They guide the strategic direction.
- The report (insert report link) has included employee/student/external party quotes are used to support accomplishments.
- Priority highlights:
  - **Academic Innovation:** VCC's Access Programs, including acquiring Douglas College's Sign Language Interpretation Diploma Program, making VCC the only public post-secondary institution offering this important education in Western Canada; incorporating an Indigenous Business in Canada course into the current business program, developing micro-credentials.
  - **Campuses of the Future:** \$271.3M funding for new CCEAI.
  - **Operational Excellence:** Improved efficiency by updating processes and tech systems.
  - **Empowered People:** "Lead-In" professional development training, hosted internally for employees.
  - **Engaged Communities:** Downtown campus Seiffert Market opening, facilitated training on First Nations lands.
- The Board liked the anchoring of each section with a quote, and they acknowledged that it has taken a lot of work, consultation and collaboration to reach this point, and everyone should be proud.
- A. Patel thanked the Marketing & Communications department and VP, Jane Shin for their work on the SIP. He confirmed that it will be accessible to the public online, as well, it's shared with BC government ministries and agencies, MLA's and other industry partners.

## 12. NEXT MEETING & ADJOURNMENT

- The next regular public board meeting is on May 29, 2024.
- The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.