

September 24, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.
Room 5025, Broadway Campus

ATTENDANCE

Board Members

Mahin Rashid (Chair, Board/HRC)
Jeffrey Yu (Vice Chair/Chair, FAC)
Carol Ye
Chi Lo
Christie Sparklingeyes
Colin Zuo
Dilraj Sandhu
Dr. Paul Yeung
Dr. Steve Cardwell
Harleen Kaur
Jennifer Cummins
Michele Guerin
Simon Cheng
Synthia Kloot

Senior Team & 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
Surinder Aulakh	ED, Safety, Security & Risk Management
Charnelle McClure	ED, Marketing & Communications
Deborah Lucas	EA, Board of Governors
Shaun Wong	Snr. Research Analyst, Institutional Research

Ex-Officio

Ajay Patel	President & CEO
Louise Dannhauer	Chair, Education Council/GC

Guests

Frank Cosco	President, VCCFA
Deanne Bates	Chief Shop Steward, CUPE Local 4627
Melissa Chirino	Organizer - Advocacy and Governance, SUVCC

We acknowledge that Vancouver Community College (VCC) is located on the traditional and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples who have been stewards of this land from time immemorial.

1. CALL TO ORDER, LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & OPENING REMARKS

M. Rashid called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m., with regrets from C. Sparklingeyes and D. Sandhu.

Student Representative H. Kaur delivered the Land Acknowledgement, as this was her final Board meeting. As part of VCC’s practice, members take turns offering the acknowledgement and sharing its personal meaning. The Board was reminded of events taking place throughout the week to recognize Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Appreciation was extended to outgoing student representatives H. Kaur and D. Singh, as well as to faculty representative J. Cummins and N. Mandryk, who stepped down as Chair of Education Council to take on a new role as Associate Director, Academic Planning, Policy, and Analysis.

L. Dannhauer joined the Board as the new Chair of Education Council through December 2025 and joined newly appointed government members, S. Kloot, C. Ye, C. Zuo, S. Cardwell, and S. Cheng, in completing the Oath of Office in accordance with Board bylaws. A warm welcome was extended to all.

M. Rashid reflected on the June convocation ceremony, where more than 1,500 students graduated, and noted the meaningful presence of H. Kaur and D. Singh among them.

She also reported on a recent BC college board chairs' meeting, which brought together new and experienced appointees. The discussion focused on sector-wide challenges, and following the meeting, board chairs jointly sent a letter to Minister J. Sumner, inviting continued dialogue and highlighting ways colleges can support government priorities.

President's Remarks

A. Patel welcomed the new Board members, emphasizing the significance of their roles during a period of substantial change in the public post-secondary sector. He updated the Board on sector-wide challenges, including declining international student enrolment, changes to federal study permit requirements, projected provincial deficits, and broader socio-economic pressures such as affordability and housing. These challenges are impacting institutions across the province.

Although increased government funding is not expected, VCC continues to pursue responsive programming aligned with labour market demand and Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP) eligible CIP codes. The institution is also exploring alternative strategies to support both long-term sustainability and student success. VCC remains actively engaged with sector partners, including government and peer institutions, to develop solutions and share best practices.

Minister J. Sumner recently visited VCC's Downtown campus to attend a Red Seal Recognition event, highlighting trades excellence and student achievement.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA & CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: THAT the VCC Board of Governors approve the June 25, 2025, public meeting agenda; and approve/acknowledge receipt of the following items on the consent agenda:

- 2.1 Minutes: June 25, 2025, Public Meeting
- 2.2 EdCo Chair Report to BoG
- 2.3 Course Deactivations
- 2.4 Academic Advising Ed. Services Renewal
- 2.5 Sign Language Interpretation Degree
- 2.6 Board Correspondence & Activity
- 2.7 News and Events
- 2.8 VCCFA Report

Moved, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)

3. INDIGENIZATION AT VCC

To begin the school year in a good way, before the start of the public meeting, board members were honoured to participate in a Coast Salish cedar brushing ceremony, led with the guidance and support of local Indigenous knowledge keepers. This traditional ceremony is a sacred and meaningful practice among Coast Salish Peoples. Using cedar boughs, a plant deeply respected for its cleansing and protective properties, participants are gently brushed to help release negativity, ease burdens, and promote balance in mind, body, and spirit. Starting the year with this ceremony reflects the Board's commitment to reconciliation, respect for Indigenous protocols, and the importance of nurturing a positive, inclusive environment for all.

4. CONSTITUENCY REPORTS

4.1 CUPE Local 4627

Concerns were raised about proposed changes to the Dental Hygiene curriculum, which may affect CUPE positions.

It was noted that Chris Joyce has stepped down as CUPE Local 4627 President and now serves as Past President. Daniel Roloff will represent the union at future board meetings. The Board acknowledged and thanked Deanne for the report.

4.2 Student Union of Vancouver Community College (SUVCC)

M. Chirino provided an update outlining student priorities for the 2026–27 VCC budget based on annual surveys. These include capping international tuition, and fee increases at 2 percent, expanding affordable food options, reinstating, and expanding IT Help Desks in the library, and enhancing study spaces. SUVCC is also involved in the BC Federation of Students' campaign, *Cuts Suck! Fix Education*, advocating for increased provincial funding. They recently sent 300 student-signed postcards to the Ministry and will continue to advocate for student services amid budget challenges.

4.3 Vancouver Community College Faculty Association (VCCFA)

T. Thomson acknowledged Chris Joyce for his service and thanked students for their continued advocacy. She provided an update noting that VCCFA is reassessing its external advocacy strategy, with reference to a recent RBC report and a report by Alex Usher highlighting a decline in government funding for post-secondary institutions in Canada.

She emphasized that the current challenges are sector-wide and primarily driven by funding issues. Internally, 75 employees have received layoff notices since the spring, with additional layoffs anticipated in January. VCCFA continues to support members affected by these changes.

A. Patel thanked the constituency groups and the broader college community, noting the long-standing nature of the structural funding issues and the importance of a unified message to support domestic student recruitment.

5. EDUCATION COUNCIL (EDCO) REPORT – PRESENTED BY L. DANNHAUER, EDCO CHAIR

5.1 Affiliation Agreement – VCC and Greystone College

Education Council (EdCo) recommended proceeding with an affiliation agreement between VCC and Greystone College, citing strong outcomes among transfer students from 2021 to 2023.

While Greystone's program has less emphasis on food and beverage, students will complete additional courses in food production and restaurant operations at VCC, utilizing VCC's practical learning facilities.

The agreement includes provisions for ongoing monitoring of student performance and outcomes and requires both parties to notify each other of curriculum changes with at least 30 days' notice. It is valid for five years, with renewal and termination clauses.

MOTION: THAT the Board of Governors approve the Affiliation Agreement between VCC and Greystone College.

Moved, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)

5.2 REVISED: Dental Hygiene Diploma

Education Council (EdCo) advised the Board to proceed with the implementation of the revised Dental Hygiene Diploma. The Dental Hygiene Diploma program underwent a comprehensive curriculum revision to align with updated Entry-to-Practice Canadian Competencies for Dental Hygienists and provincial standards.

EdCo approved an exception to standard procedure to allow implementation to proceed in time for the fall intake, while the affiliated agreement with the Canadian College of Technology and Business (CCTB) is being updated to reflect the revised curriculum.

The Board discussed the instructional hours, confirming that the program falls within the provincial range and that outcomes can be achieved in the reduced timeframe. The program remains in the top half of the range for clinical hours, supporting strong graduate outcomes and continued accreditation.

The implementation date of Sept 2026 provides adequate lead time for administrative adjustments.

MOTION: THAT on the advice of Education Council, the Board of Governors approve the implementation of the revised Dental Hygiene Diploma program and creation of 24 new courses as named in the program content guide.

Moved, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)

5.3 NEW: Virtual Environment & Simulation Diploma

Education Council (EdCo) advised the Board to proceed with the implementation of the revised Dental Hygiene Diploma program. of the new Virtual Environment & Simulation Diploma program. It has been developed in response to strong demand from industry and prospective students for training in virtual and extended reality and simulation design. The curriculum, adapted from the Vancouver Film School (VFS), has been further developed to become a distinct credential fully owned and delivered by VCC, unlike the previous VR/AR program offered in partnership with VFS.

The program prepares graduates for careers in simulation, VR/AR, 3D modeling, and related digital fields. It aligns with other VCC programs and offers clear pathways to employment or further study. The diploma is being positioned for international recruitment and will be marketed accordingly. The program is set to launch in Sept 2026.

MOTION: THAT, on the advice of Education Council, the Board of Governors approve the new Virtual Environment and Simulation Design Diploma credential, creation of 18 courses as named in the program content guide, and implementation of the new program.

Moved, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)

5.4 NAME CHANGE: Culinary Arts Diploma

Education Council (EdCo) recommended the reinstatement of the Culinary Arts Diploma program name following changes by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) to post-graduate work permit (PGWP) eligibility criteria. In 2024, the program was renamed Culinary Arts & Food Services Management Diploma and reclassified under Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code *Health and Social Services* to maintain PGWP eligibility. Following IRCC's July 2025 update, which reinstated CIP code *Cooking and Related Culinary Arts, General* under the Trades category, VCC is reverting to the original name and CIP code to better reflect the program's content and industry alignment.

Consultation with the academic department, Registrar's Office, International Education, and Institutional Research confirmed support. The revised name and classification strengthen its marketability for both domestic and international students. D. Wells highlighted the role of CIP codes in IRCC's evaluation of employment outcomes and PGWP eligibility. J. Cummins advised that VCC remain responsive to future policy changes. EdCo unanimously approved the proposal on Sept 17, 2025.

MOTION: THAT Education Council recommends the Board of Governors approve changing the program name of the Culinary Arts and Food Service Management Diploma back to Culinary Arts Diploma.

Moved, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)

6. FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE (FAC) REPORT

6.1 2025/26 Forecast to Budget

Based on four months of actual results and eight months of projections, VCC is forecasting a deficit of approximately \$3.4M for the fiscal year.

Revenue is \$841k above budget, with increases in domestic and international tuition from programs such as Project Management, University Transfer, and Cybersecurity. However, total revenue is down \$14M compared to last year, reflecting lower enrolment in areas like Automotive, Practical Nursing, Dental Technology, and some business programs.

Expenses are \$4.3M over budget, driven by higher salary and benefit costs, delayed workforce adjustments, and increased vacation and sick leave accruals under collective agreements.

Final fall enrolment figures are still being confirmed and will be reported to the committee in November.

6.2 TUITION: 2% increase in domestic tuition and mandatory fees

The Finance & Audit Committee (FAC) recommended a 2% increase in domestic tuition to help address rising operating costs and support financial sustainability, and it is in line with the BC Government's Tuition Limit Policy. While this increase may not fully offset inflation, it is necessary to maintain program quality amid funding challenges.

The Board discussed efforts to mitigate increases through advocacy for government funding, aligning programs with student needs, and long-term planning. The Board reaffirmed its commitment to balancing affordability with sustaining programs.

MOTION: THAT on the recommendation of the Finance and Audit Committee, the Board of Governors approve the implementation of a 2% increase in domestic tuition and mandatory fees, effective August 1, 2026.

Moved, Seconded & Carried (Unanimously)

6.3 TUITION: International Tuition and Mandatory Fees

The Finance & Audit Committee (FAC) recommended a 2% increase in international tuition effective Aug 1, 2026, and up to a 5% increase in tuition and mandatory fees effective Aug 1, 2027. While the BC Government's Tuition Limit Policy does not apply to international students, the 2% increase aligns with domestic tuition adjustments. The proposed 5% increase supports transparency and helps international students better plan for their total program costs.

Questions were raised about alignment with sector practices. It was noted that other institutions typically increase international tuition by 8–10%, and the proposed range is within ministry-approved guidelines. The flexibility of the 5% cap allows the college to adjust as needed while remaining transparent.

Concerns about the timing of tuition approvals and their impact on recruitment were acknowledged. The 2% increase is considered manageable and necessary to avoid subsidizing international tuition. VCC's International Education department supports the proposal and believes it remains marketable.

MOTION: THAT, on the recommendation of the Finance and Audit Committee, the Board of Governors approve the implementation of a 2% increase, effective August 1, 2026 and up to 5% increase in international tuition and mandatory fees, effective August 1, 2027.

Moved, Seconded & Carried - 1 Opposed (J. Cummins), 1 Abstain (H. Kaur)

6.4 TUITION: Revised Dental Hygiene Diploma

The Finance & Audit Committee (FAC) recommended tuition for the significantly revised Dental Hygiene Diploma program. Before proceeding with discussion, J. Yu requested an amendment to the Motion, revising the effective date from Sept 1, 2026, to Sept 24, 2025. to align with tuition rates established in the current tuition band, and as proposed. It was seconded.

Board members inquired about the financial impact of the proposed changes, specifically regarding the program deficit and the effect of reducing instructional hours and staffing. Management responded that while reducing the number of credits and instructional hours would lower some costs, the clinical component remains the primary cost driver due to the requirement for on-campus delivery and a low student-to-instructor ratio (e.g., 1:6), which is significantly different from programs like Nursing, where clinical placements are hosted externally.

This results in higher operational costs that are not fully offset by tuition revenue. It was confirmed that even with the revised tuition, the program is not expected to achieve full cost recovery. The approved tuition represents a \$5k increase over the two-year program and is intended to reduce the program deficit and bring

tuition closer to sector comparators. This program supports labour market needs, especially considering the new Canada Dental Care Plan, and maintains VCC's role as a dental training provider in the province. Ministry approval for tuition and materials fee is pending.

MOTION: THAT, on the recommendation of the Finance and Audit Committee, for the revised Dental Hygiene Diploma, the Board of Governors approve the following tuition, effective September 24, 2025:

Domestic: \$25,740 (\$325.81/credit based on 2025/26 tuition band)
International: \$56,642 (\$716.99/credit based on 2025/26 tuition band)
Material fee: \$500

Moved, Seconded & Carried - 1 Opposed (J. Cummins), 1 Abstain (H. Kaur)

6.5 TUITION: Revised Certified Dental Assisting (CDA) 3 courses: Directed Studies ; CDA Refresher; Radiography

The Finance & Audit Committee (FAC) recommended updated tuition rates for three long-standing zero-credit courses in the Certified Dental Assisting (CDA) Department: Directed Studies, CDA Refresher, and Radiography. These courses address specific industry needs, including re-licensing former CDAs, supporting trained dental assistants, and providing radiography training for dental office staff. Tuition rates, unchanged for several years, are being adjusted to support financial sustainability. Demand remains strong, particularly for the Refresher and Radiography courses.

There was discussion about the significant tuition increase and whether employers, who often fund these courses, had been consulted. It was also noted that internationally trained students already face high costs and further tuition increases could impact their ability to complete certification. It was confirmed that there no other comparable programs in the Greater Vancouver Area and there is strong support from provincial dental associations due to a shortage of certified dental assistants. The balance between affordability for students and covering program costs was acknowledged. Communication plans to inform employers and students were confirmed.

Plans are underway to transition the Radiography course into a 4-credit course, enabling students to apply for Prior Learning Assessment & Recognition (PLAR) and the transfer of credits toward the base-funded CDA program. There are no comparable offerings in the Greater Vancouver Area.

MOTION: THAT, on the recommendation of the Finance and Audit Committee, the Board of Governors approve the following tuition, effective October 1, 2025:

Directed Studies course:	Domestic \$1,500	International \$2,500
CDA Refresher:	Domestic \$7,500	International N/A
Radiography course:	Domestic \$6,000	International \$8,000

Moved, Seconded & Carried - 1 Opposed (H. Kaur), 1 Abstain (J. Cummins)

6.6 TUITION: Virtual Environment and Simulation Design Diploma - Domestic and International

The Finance & Audit Committee (FAC) recommended tuition for the new Virtual Environment & Simulation Design Diploma program, which is part of the Clean Energy and Automotive Innovation Centre (CCEAI). Before proceeding with discussion, J. Yu proposed an amendment to the motion, revising the effective date from Sept 1, 2026, to Sept 24, 2025, to align with tuition rates established in the current tuition band, and as proposed. It was seconded.

The Board expressed support for the new program, citing its relevance to emerging clean energy technologies and its potential to build momentum in advance of the CCEAI's full launch. It was noted that some of the program content may be transferable, and there is already strong interest, particularly from international students.

There was discussion regarding domestic and international enrolment projections, including potential visa rejections and the likelihood of meeting the target of 20 international students. The International Education

Department confirmed that a strong recruitment plan is in place and expressed confidence in meeting enrolment targets based on initial interest and capacity.

Additional comments by the Dean, Brett Griffiths, highlighted the benefit of launching the program ahead of the completion of the Centre’s facilities, allowing the College to assess demand and refine program delivery as needed.

MOTION: THAT, on the recommendation of the Finance and Audit Committee, for the new Virtual Environment and Simulation Design Diploma program, the Board of Governors approve the following tuition, effective September 24, 2025.

\$17,209.80 Domestic
\$43,019.40 International
\$250 Mandatory technology fee

Moved, Seconded & Carried – 1 Abstain (J. Cummins)

6.7 TUITION: New Construction Electrician Foundation

The Finance & Audit Committee (FAC) recommended tuition for the new Electrical Foundation Program, which anticipates up to three intakes annually and currently has a waitlist of over 300 applicants. Due to a freeze on SkilledTradesBC funding, the program will run on a cost-recovery basis, with tuition set to ensure sustainability. Domestic tuition may be reduced if future funding becomes available, as was previously done with the Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE) program.

Board members inquired about the tuition level compared to similar programs. It was clarified that other programs benefit from historic subsidies no longer available, requiring this program to fully cover costs. Employer funding is unlikely due to the required work experience component, but students have access to federal and provincial financial aid. Strong job prospects support the program’s value.

Startup costs are funded internally using existing facilities, with cost recovery expected within five years. Tuition revenue covers program delivery and capital costs only. The program is for domestic students and aligns with VCC’s apprenticeship model, shortening training time and accelerating employment.

MOTION: THAT, on the recommendation of the Finance and Audit Committee, for the new Construction Electrician Foundation program, the Board of Governors approve the following tuition, effective January 1, 2026:

\$9242.63 Domestic

Moved, Seconded & Carried - 1 Opposed (H. Kaur), 1 Abstain (J. Cummins)

7. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (GC) REPORT

7.1 REVISED: Academic Year (402) Policy & Procedures

The Governance Committee (GC) recommended revisions to the Academic Year policy (#402). The policy outlines key academic dates, including term start and end dates, exam periods, and grade submission deadlines.

The revisions included updated language to reflect current practices and to clarify that the policy applies specifically to academic programming rather than to overall College operations. The summer term start date was revised from “the first business day in May” to “the first Monday in May,” and language was added to allow flexibility around final exam periods, acknowledging that not all courses require formal exams.

The proposed revisions underwent EdCo’s full policy review process, including a public feedback period. The Governance Committee raised no concerns and approved EdCo’s recommendation.

MOTION: THAT, on the recommendation of Governance Committee, the Board of Governors approve the revised Academic Year (402) policy and procedures.

Moved, Seconded & Carried (Unanimously)

8. HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT

8.1 Chair's Report

The Human Resources Committee (HRC) met on Sept 16. The committee received the President's 2025 Objectives Mid-Year Update, which has since been presented to the Board.

9. VCC FOUNDATION – Presented by J. Yu, Board Representative, VCC Foundation Board of Directors

The VCC Foundation held its Annual General Meeting in August. The 2023–24 Annual Report is available online and provides a summary of key activities.

In the past year, the Foundation awarded funding to 872 students, including 90 entrance awards. Recognition events continue throughout the year, with the sold-out Culinary Awards event taking place this weekend. The next signature event, *Flourish*, is scheduled for Mar 5, 2026. Board members are encouraged to attend upcoming Foundation events.

Planning is underway for a major fundraising campaign tied to the new campus buildings, with a launch anticipated for spring 2026.

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.1 2024-25 Institutional Accountability Plan & Report

For approval and its subsequent submission to the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, the Board were presented the 2024-25 Institutional Accountability Plan & Report (IAPR). This report outlines VCC's progress on strategic goals and government priorities and will be publicly posted on both the VCC and ministry websites. Board members commended the quality of the report and thanked faculty, staff, and the Institutional Research team for their contributions.

Key highlights included:

Strategic Initiatives & Innovation: Development of the Centre for Clean Energy and Automotive Innovation; planning for student and workforce housing aligned with the Broadway Plan; ongoing digital transformation, including AI integration and new platforms.

Equity, Inclusion & Indigenization: Equity audits and inclusive hiring exceeding 50–30 Challenge targets; establishment of an Indigenization Committee and expanded Indigenous supports.

Student Support & Community Engagement: New mental health programs (e.g., Togetherall, Not Myself Today); expanded accessibility services; stronger alignment with labour market needs and increased industry and alumni engagement.

Sustainability & Climate Justice: Net-zero planning embedded across initiatives, with a focus on climate justice.

MOTION: THAT, the Board of Governors approve the VCC Institutional Accountability Plan and Report - 2024-25 Reporting Cycle.

Moved, Seconded & Carried (Unanimously)

11. NEXT MEETING & ADJOURNMENT

M. Rashid thanked everyone for their participation. The next regular public board meeting is scheduled for Nov 26, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.