MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
OF VANCOUVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE
HELD ON MAY 27, 2015 AT THE DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

Board Members: Eugene Hodgson (Chair), Pam Ryan, Ted McGurk, Claire Marshall, Chloe Choi, Erin Klis, Garth Manning, Jennifer Haggerty, Ambra Simonella

Ex-Officio: Peter Nunoda, Todd Rowlatt

Staff Resources/Guests: Irene Young, Linda Sanderson, Judith McGillivray, Karen Wilson, Samantha Welsh, Chris Joyce, Karen Shortt, Angela Blake

Regrets: Jim Storie, Rick Stokes, Sumit Ahuja

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Mr. Hodgson. Ms. Blake acted as Secretary of the meeting. Mr. Hodgson declared the meeting to be properly called and constituted.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Hodgson asked if there were any proposed amendments to the agenda for the meeting, a copy of which was provided with the meeting materials. As no amendments were suggested, the agenda, as set out in the meeting materials, was adopted.

MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

Mr. Hodgson referred to the draft minutes of the April 29, 2015 public Board meeting that was provided with the meeting materials.

UPON MOTION duly made, seconded and carried, the following resolution was approved and adopted:

RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the public Board of Governors meeting held on April 29, 2015 are approved.

CHAIR REMARKS

Mr. Hodgson advised that he and Dr. Nunoda had recently attended the Colleges and Institutes Canada (CICAN) 2015 conference, which was a good opportunity to meet other chairs and governors from across the country. He noted that other institutions seem to be experiencing challenges similar to those of VCC.

PRESIDENT REPORT

Dr. Nunoda advised that he also appreciated the national perspective provided by the CICAN conference, noting that, in various degrees, every college is under fiscal pressure and is aware of the need to supplement core funding from government with revenue derived from other activities. He advised that VCC is encouraging departments to be entrepreneurial while also working to deliver programs as effectively and efficiently as possible.
Dr. Nunoda then summarized recent news and events at VCC, as per the briefing note included in the meeting materials, highlighting the popularity of the Chef's Table program at the Downtown Campus, as well as the recent student awards, congratulating Board member Ms. Haggerty and other award recipients. Dr. Nunoda also thanked Mr. Storie for arranging for the Vancouver Trolley Company to donate a trolley to be used for the ninth annual Tooth Trolley event.

Mr. Hodgson welcomed Garth Manning to the Board as the new faculty representative.

FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Choi provided a summary of matters considered at the Finance and Audit Committee (FAC) meeting held on May 20, including the 2014/15 audited financial statements and FTE report, as per the decision note included in the meeting materials. VCC's deficit for the year was $5.4 million, which was primarily attributable to the loss of $3 million in overhead contribution for ESL and ESL related staff severance costs of $1.4 million. Ms. Choi advised that the Committee had reviewed the financial statements and FTE report and recommended that the Board approve same. However she also noted that such recommendation did not mean that the Committee was satisfied with VCC's financial performance. It simply indicated that the Committee considered that the financial statements and FTE report were accurate as presented.

Ms. Choi advised that the Committee also discussed the proposed tuition fees for the Medical Device Reprocessing Technician program, taking into consideration that VCC is the only post-secondary institution that offers such a program in the Lower Mainland, and the program is in demand and operating at full capacity. After due consideration, the FAC determined to recommend that the Board approve tuition of $8,900 per student for the program.

Ms. Choi also noted that the proposed Blenz kiosk installation at the Broadway Campus is currently on hold as CUPE has requested arbitration with respect to staffing issues, and that the previously discussed conversion of classrooms at the Broadway Campus into physics laboratories will not happen this year. Instead, the Denturist facilities will be repurposed.

Ms. Young commented that the cancellation of ESL had a pervasive impact and affected VCC in ways that were not anticipated at the beginning of the 2014/15 fiscal year. She noted that, while every college that delivered ESL was affected, VCC was more significantly impacted because it delivered more ESL programming than other institutions, amounting to approximately 25% of its business (including LINC).

UPON MOTION duly made, seconded and carried, the following resolution was approved and adopted:

RESOLVED THAT, on the advice of the Finance and Audit Committee, the Board approves the 2014/2015 Audited Financial Statements and the 2014/2015 Audited FTE Statement.

2015/16 OPERATING BUDGET AND ENROLMENT PLAN

Dr. Nunoda advised that the 2015/16 budget was not being brought forward at the meeting because of issues recently identified with respect to enrolment plan projections which must be corrected before the budget can be finalized. He expects that the revised FTE projections for 2015/16 will be more accurate than in prior years which will, in turn, make the budget, which is focused on enrolment and tuition revenue, more accurate. Dr. Nunoda responded to questions from the Board with respect to the
enrolment plan. He advised that he has committed to preview the budget to CUPE and the Faculty Association before it goes to the Board for final review.

EDUCATION COUNCIL UPDATE

Proposed Cancellation of Fashion Arts Certificate Program

Mr. Rowlatt referred to the decision note included in the meeting materials with respect to the proposed cancellation of the Fashion Arts Certificate program. He summarized the rationale for the cancellation, as further described in the decision note, which included that the program is considered to be outdated, no longer meets student needs, has historically had low enrolment, and VCC offers another fashion program which is currently undergoing renewal so will have more current curriculum. He advised that Education Council (EdCo) recommends cancellation of the program, noting that the program was initially cancelled without going through the appropriate formal channels in 2013 and so is being formally cancelled now.

UPON MOTION duly made, seconded and carried, with Ms. Haggerty and Ms. Simonella abstaining, the following resolution was approved and adopted:

RESOLVED THAT, on the advice of Education Council, the Board approves the cancellation of the Fashion Arts Certificate program.

Proposed Cancellation of Kitchen and Bath Design Diploma Program

Mr. Rowlatt briefly referred to the decision note included in the meeting materials with respect to the proposed cancellation of the Kitchen and Bath Design Diploma program.

Mr. Hodgson advised that Ms. Simonella had notified him that she is a student in the program and thus is conflicted with respect to the decision and will abstain from voting. He also noted that she had provided him with a letter from an industry source outside VCC that supports the continued offering of the program and, as a result, he requested that the decision be postponed in order to allow the Board time to review and consider the letter. Mr. Rowlatt agreed to the postponement, noting that affected students have already been informed of the program’s cancellation, so are not expecting to be enrolled in September. It was unanimously agreed to defer a decision with respect to the cancellation to the June Board meeting.

Revised Medical Device Reprocessing Technician Program

Mr. Rowlatt referred to the decision note included in the meeting materials with respect to the approval of the implementation of the revised Medical Device Reprocessing Technician Certificate program. He summarized the background of the program and the renewal process that has been undertaken, noting that tuition for the program will also be revised to reflect the updating of the curriculum. He advised that EdCo has approved the curriculum and recommends implementation of the program.

UPON MOTION duly made, seconded and carried, the following resolution was approved and adopted:

RESOLVED THAT, on the advice of Education Council, the Board approves the implementation of the Medical Device Reprocessing Technician Certificate program.
Development of New Bachelor of Applied Science in Dental Hygiene Degree Program

Mr. Rowlatt referred to the decision note included in the meeting materials with respect to the approval of the development of a proposed new Bachelor of Applied Science in Dental Hygiene Degree program. He advised that the proposed program will be based on a 3 plus 1 model, which will offer students a diploma exit option at year 3 and/or the opportunity to complete a degree in year 4. Mr. Rowlatt also noted that UBC is currently the only institution in BC to offer a degree in Dental Hygiene and there is significant demand for such a program.

Debbie Sargent, Dean of Health Sciences, responded to questions regarding the expected demand for the degree component, expected tuition and costing, and the possibility of offering a university transfer program jointly with UBC. She advised that they expect demand for the degree component will be significant, as it will stem from both existing diploma students as well as currently employed diploma graduates who would like to pursue a degree. Extensive discussion ensued with respect to the proposed tuition for the degree component. It was noted that a costing model had not yet been completed on which to base the proposed fees. The Board requested that a costing model be prepared comparing different tuition options for adding a degree year to the existing diploma program on the 3 plus 1 model versus implementing a brand new four year degree program.

UPON MOTION duly made, seconded and carried, the following resolution was approved and adopted:

RESOLVED THAT, on the advice of Education Council, the Board approves the continued development of the Bachelor of Applied Science in Dental Hygiene Degree program.

TUITION FEES FOR REVISED MEDICAL DEVICE REPROCESSING TECHNICIAN PROGRAM

Ms. Young referred to the decision note included in the meeting materials with respect to tuition fees for the updated Medical Device Reprocessing Technician program. She noted that the updated program is in high demand and VCC’s program is the only one of its kind in the Lower Mainland. She advised that the administration and the Finance and Audit Committee reviewed the various tuition options, giving consideration to the need to balance VCC’s fiscal needs versus students’ financial resources, and recommended tuition of $8,900 per student.

UPON MOTION duly made, seconded and carried, with Ms. Simonella and Ms. Haggerty opposing, the following resolution was approved and adopted:

RESOLVED THAT, on the advice of the Finance and Audit Committee, the Board approves the implementation of tuition fees of $8,900 per student, effective August 1, 2015, for the Medical Device Reprocessing Technician Certificate program.
CONSTITUENCY GROUP UPDATES

SUVCC

Ms. Welsh advised that the SUVCC is currently working on a number of campaigns, including with respect to the transit referendum, and on bringing new staff members up to speed on its activities.

CUPE

Mr. Joyce advised that CUPE had no update to present at the meeting.

VCCFA

Ms. Shortt summarized recent activities of the Faculty Association, as further described in the written report provided to the Board at the meeting. She also welcomed Mr. Manning to the Board, noting that he is the first faculty representative to be elected via online election. She noted that the Faculty Association looks forward to reviewing the revised enrolment plan and the 2015/16 budget. She commented on the suspension of the Denturist program, noting that some industry participants were expected to contact the College to discuss. Ms. Shortt advised that, at the annual general meeting of the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC held earlier in May, spending of $1.2 million on campaigns to promote the value of post-secondary education was approved, and each local within BC will be given approximately $50,000 to address their specific institution’s needs.

Mr. Hodgson thanked the speakers for their presentations.

NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed the next public Board meeting will be held on June 29, 2015.

TERMINATION

There being no further business, the meeting was terminated at 7:35 p.m.

Angela Blake
Secretary to the Board