

May 28, 2025, at 5:45 p.m.  
Room 5025, Broadway Campus & MS Teams

**ATTENDANCE**

Board Members		Senior Team & Staff Resources	
Mahin Rashid (Chair, Board/HRC)		David Wells	VP, Academic & Applied Research
Jeffrey Yu (Vice Chair/Chair, FAC)		Ian Humphreys	VP, Admin & International Development
Chi Lo		Kate Dickerson	VP, People Services
Christie Sparklingeyes		Jane Shin	VP, Students & Community Development
Dilraj Sandhu		Elmer Wansink	AVP, IT & CIO
Harleen Kaur		Clayton Munro	AVP, Student & Enrolment Services
Jennifer Cummins		Tannis Morgan	AVP, Academic Innovation
Joey Hartman		Jamie Choi	ED, Finance & CFO
Libby Davies		Surinder Aulakh	ED, Safety, Security & Risk Management
Michele Guerin		Charnelle McClure	ED, Marketing & Communications
Paul Yeung		Deborah Lucas	EA, Board of Governors
Seung Oh		Moira Gookstetter	ED, VCC Foundation
		Erin Vickars	Project Coordinator, Indigenous Culinary
		Caralee Maloney	AD, Risk Management & Privacy
Ex-Officio		Guests	
Ajay Patel	President & CEO	Frank Cosco	President, VCCFA
Natasha Mandryk	Chair, Education Council/GC	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), Skwxwú7mesh (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 5:49 p.m. with regrets from D. Sandhu, M. Guerin, and J. Cummins. C. McClure presented the land acknowledgement.

**Chair and President's Opening Remarks:**

M. Rashid opened by highlighting recent celebrations across the college, including student showcases at the Vancouver International Auto Show and Fashion Week, and community participation in events like Red Dress Day, honoring Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals. She noted VCC's growing visibility in the media, with coverage of student and alumni accomplishments, and congratulated President Ajay Patel on receiving the King Charles III Coronation Medal—a well-deserved honour. The Board appreciates everyone involved for helping bring VCC's values to life.

A. Patel echoed these sentiments and expressed deep appreciation for the sense of community at VCC. He emphasized the importance of coming together not only to address sector challenges, but also to celebrate successes. Among recent highlights, VCC students earned 27 medals at the Skills Canada BC provincial competition, with 11 gold medalists now advancing to nationals in Regina. Creativity and diversity were

prominently showcased through students' work at Vancouver Fashion Week. He also shared news of a recent alumni event at the French Consulate, which recognized graduates of VCC's French+ Program

M. Rashid spoke to the broader sectoral issues, acknowledging the federal government's decision to reduce international study permits and the influence of political developments in the U.S. on the post-secondary sector. She indicated these issues may be discussed at the upcoming BC college board chairs' meeting, with a view to collective advocacy. She thanked the VCCFA for its presentation to the Board and for highlighting the financial pressures affecting faculty and program sustainability. She also noted that new board appointments are expected soon and encouraged attendees to join the next meeting in person to honour departing members J. Hartman, L. Davies, and S. Oh.

A. Patel concluded extending his thanks to Jessie Williams, Dean of Indigenous Initiatives, and the team at Señákw (Squamish Nation Towers) for hosting a tour of their transformative urban development. The project, located at the south end of the Burrard Street Bridge, comprises 11 residential towers and serves as a model of Indigenous-led economic and cultural revitalization. He noted that the group was particularly inspired by how Indigenous values are being meaningfully integrated into the infrastructure and planning process.

## **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA & CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION:** THAT the VCC Board of Governors approve the May 28, 2025, public meeting agenda; and approve/acknowledge receipt of the following items on the consent agenda:

- 2.1 Minutes: Mar 26, 2025, Public Meeting
- 2.2 Academic Year: 2025/2026, 2026/2027, 2027/2028
- 2.3 Course Deactivations
- 2.4 Program Name Change: Automotive Logistics & Service Operations – Zero Emission Diploma (formerly Automotive Parts and Service Management Diploma)
- 2.5 Board Correspondence & Activity
- 2.6 News and Events
- 2.7 VCCFA Report

**Moved, Seconded & CARRIED**

M. Rashid informed the Board that moving certain Education Council matters in the Consent Agenda is to help streamline the overall agenda—especially now that the new Program Development and Approval Policy has returned certain decision-making authority to the Board. All items in the Consent Agenda remain under the Board's jurisdiction and still require full consideration before approval. Should discussion be required, the matter will be pulled out of the Consent Agenda and added as an item to the agenda.

## **3. CONSTITUENCY REPORTS**

### **3.1 CUPE Local 4627 – Presented by D. Bates, Chief Shop Steward**

D. Bates indicated that there was no formal report to present at this time. She noted that an update would be provided at the upcoming June meeting.

### **3.2 Student Union of Vancouver Community College (SUVCC) – Presented by M. Chirino, SUVCC Organizer - Advocacy and Governance**

M. Chirino, on behalf of the Student Union of Vancouver Community College (SUVCC), reported on recent participation in a student leadership training conference. She highlighted ongoing concerns regarding student access to adequate resources, particularly in relation to housing and academic support. She emphasized that SUVCC is working closely with partners to develop a strategic approach that addresses these issues and ensures students and staff are supported moving forward. The Board expressed appreciation for SUVCC's continued advocacy.

### 3.3 Vancouver Community College Faculty Association (VCCFA) – Presented by F. Cosco, President

F. Cosco highlighted ongoing structural and financial challenges at VCC, particularly in sustaining small, high-cost programs under the current funding model. He noted faculty attrition and long-standing funding inequities that limit innovation and threaten program sustainability.

In response, M. Rashid and other board members acknowledged the seriousness of the issue and expressed strong support for continued advocacy. She noted that the provincial planning model disadvantages colleges like VCC, especially those without major university transfer pathways. Members agreed that international enrolment affects domestic access and planning and emphasized the need for systemic funding reform.

## 4. EDUCATION COUNCIL (EDCO) REPORT – Presented by N. Mandryk, EdCo Chair

### 4.1 Chair's Report

**Concept Paper:** As per Policy 409, the Board received a Concept Paper for a proposed Construction Electrician Foundation Certificate program. N. Mandryk highlighted that curriculum development is underway and will likely progress to the next stages of approval by EdCo in June.

**Education Service Renewals:** N. Mandryk acknowledged the considerable time and thoughtful effort contributed by staff in completing the Education Service Renewals. These self-studies and external reviews were conducted without formal release time or institutional support, making the quality of analysis and recommendations particularly commendable.

- **Disability Services** was recognized for its effective prioritization of action items and consistent responsiveness to student needs, with several improvements already underway.
- **Library Services** was recognized for identifying less visible barriers, such as printing costs and evolving space use, and for affirming the need to appoint a Library Director—a recommendation supported in principle by the institution, with acknowledgment of current financial constraints. The discussion emphasized the library's growing role as a "third space" for students—a place to study, socialize, and connect—highlighting the need to provide additional spaces that support both quiet study and collaborative learning.
- The **Student Conduct & Judicial Affairs Office**, despite being a single-person unit, completed a strong self-study that emphasized student engagement and education on conduct policies. Reviewers recommended clearer support structures and broader community awareness to manage the office's scope and impact.

**New courses:** Under Policy 409, EdCo may approve new courses that do not impact program delivery costs. At its Apr 8 meeting, EdCo approved 17 new courses for the High Performance and Custom Engine Technician Diploma and three for the Automotive Logistics and Service Operations – Zero Emission Diploma, with no anticipated cost implications.

## 5. FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE (FAC) REPORT - Presented by J. Yu, FAC Chair

### 5.1 Chair's Report

The Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee provided a brief overview of the Committee's meeting held on May 20, 2025. Key items included the approval of procurement matters related to the Culinary Arts Renovation Project. Specifically, the Committee endorsed the award of a construction management contract, enabling early involvement in the design phase and continuity through to completion. This approach is intended to ensure flexibility and cost control while supporting the college's leadership in the culinary education space.

The Committee also approved a purchase agreement for Microsoft's education licensing suite, taking advantage of provincial volume discounts available to post-secondary institutions. This agreement supports essential technology infrastructure while ensuring cost efficiency.

## 5.2 Actuals to Budget (2024–25 Year-End)

The year-end financials showed a positive variance of approximately \$192,000, resulting in a modest surplus. While not a significant amount, the positive outcome positions the college to avoid more severe adjustments in the future and preserves internal decision-making authority.

Contributing factors to the variance included fluctuations in government grants, staffing cost adjustments, and responsible allocation of operational resources. The Committee reiterated the importance of remaining fiscally balanced, especially as peer institutions facing deficits have experienced increased government oversight. The Board expressed strong support for maintaining local autonomy, protecting programs, and aligning expenditures with strategic goals.

## 5.3 2024–25 Audited Financial Statements

The Board reviewed and approved the 2024–25 Audited Financial Statements. The external audit resulted in an unqualified (clean) opinion, confirming that the financial statements are accurate, compliant with public sector accounting standards, and appropriately reflect the college's financial position. ☐ The audit was clean and comprehensive, with no significant control or financial misstatements.

The audit process included a comprehensive in-camera session between the auditors and the Committee, offering an additional layer of assurance. Broader discussions included sector-wide risks such as revenue uncertainty, cybersecurity, and the operational impacts of AI. The Committee and Board commended staff for a strong audit outcome and for upholding rigorous financial and governance standards.

### **MOTION:**

THAT, on the recommendation of the Finance and Audit Committee, the Board of Governors approve the 2024-25 Audited Financial Statements

**Moved, Seconded and CARRIED**

## 6. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (GC) REPORT - Presented by N. Mandryk, GC Chair

### 6.1 Chair's Report

**2025 Board Evaluation:** The Governance Committee met on May 8 and reviewed the results of the 2025 Board Evaluation Survey. A summary report was provided to the Board along with recommendations aimed at strengthening engagement and supporting effective governance.

Recommendations included enhancing orientation for new members, particularly in relation to legislative frameworks, internal policies, and the Strategic Innovation Plan, to help all members stay connected to VCC's direction. Additionally, the committee proposed exploring bylaw updates to clarify how board members can propose agenda topics outside the annual evaluation cycle and to ensure the Board receives regular updates on key governance documents such as the SIP and Risk Register. Efficiencies in the board agenda will be explored to allow more time for strategic matters. The committee also affirmed the value of verbal and written reports from constituency groups and supported maintaining this transparent practice.

**Review of G.2.0 Board Governance Bylaw:** The review of the G.2.0 Board Governance Bylaw is underway. Revisions aim to strengthen the Board's commitment to transparency by clarifying that matters should be addressed in public sessions whenever possible. The Appendix outlining discussion topics will be updated, and the review will also explore ways to integrate decolonization practices into Board processes. A revised bylaw will be presented to the Board for approval.

## 7. HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE (HRC) REPORT - Presented by M. Rashid, HRC Chair

### 7.1 Chair's Report

The Human Resources Committee will next meet on May 30, 2025, to consider the annual Executive Compensation Disclosure Statement, for submission to government. The statement discloses all compensation accrued and paid to the President & CEO and the next 4 highest ranking/paid executives with an annualized base salary of \$125,000 or greater during the fiscal year. The disclosure statement will be publicly available on the Public Sector Employers' Council's website and VCC.ca, by the end of September.

## 8. INDIGENIZATION AT VCC

E. Vickars, Project Coordinator for Indigenous Culinary at VCC, presented a comprehensive report on the college's innovative approach to advancing Indigenization through remote education initiatives with Indigenous communities across British Columbia. Since 2019, VCC has responded to invitations from some of the most isolated regions—including the Central Coast and Arctic Circle—to provide culturally responsive, skills-based training. These programs, developed collaboratively with each Nation, focus on trust, collaboration, and cultural responsiveness, offering a range of courses from culinary basics to technical skills. The initiative has seen remarkable success, with 100% student attendance and program completion, exclusively involving Indigenous women, and has contributed to enhanced local employment and economic opportunities.

The model challenges traditional colonial educational frameworks by prioritizing listening, co-creation, and mutual respect, emphasizing that reconciliation means allowing Indigenous communities to define their own educational goals. VCC's efforts have led to important institutional changes, including new policies protecting Indigenous knowledge and affirming Indigenous-led curriculum design. Erin highlighted the importance of adapting teaching styles to respect Indigenous food traditions and fostering relational learning over transactional instruction. The Board expressed deep appreciation for this work, recognizing it as a leading example of reconciliation in action and commending the cross-departmental collaboration that has made it possible. This initiative not only enriches learners but also drives meaningful institutional transformation toward decolonization and Indigenization at VCC.

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

J. Yu provided a brief update on VCC Foundation Board governance and other related activities. A full report was included in the advance materials.

A governance subcommittee of the Foundation Board has been established to strengthen policy and operational oversight, including the development of a risk registry. Preparations for the annual audit are underway.

The Foundation is advancing plans for the June 26th Outstanding Alumni Awards, which will recognize achievements across several categories. Additionally, the upcoming Spring Student Awards on June 6th will highlight a major new contribution from the Barrett Family Foundation, supporting 46 new awards as part of a larger pledge to VCC's Centre for Clean Energy & Automotive Innovation.

## 10. NEW BUSINESS

### 10.1 Annual Sexual Violence & Misconduct Report

The Board received the 2024–2025 Annual Sexual Violence and Misconduct Report, presented publicly for the first time by C. Maloney, VCC's Risk and Privacy Officer. The report, prepared under the Safe Disclosure Policy, outlined 14 combined disclosures and reports, down from 22 the previous year. Most disclosures involved verbal sexual harassment; no cases of sexual assault or incidents requiring police involvement were reported. Notably, no formal investigations were conducted under the Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy this year, as many cases were addressed through other college channels such as the Safety & Security Department or Student Conduct Office, reflecting a preference for quicker resolutions in some cases.

VCC has implemented several proactive measures to enhance support and awareness around sexual violence and misconduct. These included launching an anonymous online chat feature to lower barriers to disclosure, increasing visibility of support services during student Welcome Days, and developing mandatory trauma-informed training for faculty in partnership with People Services. Additionally, targeted social media campaigns were introduced to raise awareness about available resources and reporting options.

Disclosures were nearly evenly split between domestic and international students, countering assumptions of reporting hesitancy among international populations. The report noted a concentration of disclosures occurred in one department at the Broadway campus. While the specific department or location was not publicly named (to protect privacy), it was emphasized that this cluster contributed to a higher number of

reports from Broadway compared to the Downtown campus. The Board acknowledged that while underreporting remains an issue, increasing disclosures can reflect growing trust in the College's processes and support systems.

#### **11. NEXT MEETING & ADJOURNMENT**

M. Rashid thanked everyone for their participation.

The next regular public board meeting is scheduled for Jun 25, 2025. The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

**MINUTES APPROVED: June 25, 2025**