

March 25, 2026, at 5:45 p.m.
Room 5025, Broadway Campus

ATTENDANCE

Board Members

Mahin Rashid (Chair, Board)
Jeffrey Yu (Vice Chair/Chair, FAC)
Carol Ye
Chi Lo
Christie Sparklingeyes
Colin Zuo
Francesco Barillaro
Malou Morales
Michele Guerin
Dr. Paul Yeung
Simon Cheng
Dr. Steve Cardwell
Synthia Kloot (Chair, HRC)
Tanmay Chugh (Regrets)

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
Jamie Choi ED, Finance & CFO
Surinder Aulakh ED, Safety, Security & Risk Management
Charnelle McClure ED, Marketing & Communications
Jessie Williams Dean, Indigenous Initiatives
Amanda Wiseman EC, President’s Office
Lucia Zabrieszach EC, VPA’s Office

Ex-Officio

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

Guests

Frank Cosco VCCFA
Daniel Rohloff Chief Shop Steward, CUPE Local 4627
Melissa Chirino Executive Director, SUVCC

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

1. CALL TO ORDER, LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & OPENING REMARKS

The meeting was called to order at 5:50 p.m.

The Chair reflected on recent Board and Senior Team retreat, including meetings with the Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Board Chairs, and preliminary insights into the forthcoming post-secondary system review. Key themes included system sustainability, governance responsibilities, collaboration across institutions, and the importance of preparing for potential sector-wide reforms.

The President thanked Board members for their engagement in college events and provided contextual remarks regarding the challenging financial environment facing the post-secondary sector. She highlighted ongoing impacts from international student policy changes, confirmed significant projected revenue declines over the next two fiscal years, and outlined the College’s commitment to financial sustainability while preserving academic integrity, access, and community responsiveness.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA & CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: THAT the VCC Board of Governors approve the March 25, 2026, public meeting agenda, including items on the consent agenda.

2.1 Minutes: February 5, 2026 Public Meeting

2.2 Board Correspondence & Activity

2.3 News and Events

2.4 Program Name Change: Construction Electrician & Clean Energy Diploma

Moved, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)

3. ACTION TRACKER

There were no items on the Action Tracker.

4. INDIGENIZATION AT VCC

Indigenous Story Booth Installation

J. Williams presented an overview of the Indigenous Story Booth initiative recently installed at the Broadway Campus Library. The Story Booth, developed in collaboration with Coast Salish artist Shane Jackson, is a sound-insulated cedar structure designed to support the preservation and sharing of Indigenous stories, teachings, and lived experiences.

The presentation highlighted the collaborative development process involving Indigenous Education and Community Engagement, the Library, Facilities, IT, and external partners. Board members were informed that the project was supported through external Indigenous Pathways and Partnerships funding.

The Story Booth was described as a living archive that supports reconciliation, intergenerational learning, and the integration of oral pedagogy into institutional practice. Board members expressed appreciation for the initiative and its alignment with the College's reconciliation commitments.

5. CONSTITUENCY REPORTS

6.1 CUPE Local 4627

The CUPE Local 4627 representative reported ongoing concerns regarding the college's layoff and consultation processes, noting that since late 2025 the union had sought clearer metrics, enrolment data, budget information, and details regarding the impact on CUPE staff. It was reported that notice of layoffs had been provided in February 2026, but without sufficient supporting information to enable meaningful consultation or mitigation. The representative advised that the union had attempted to work collaboratively with Human Resources to reduce the impact of layoffs, but that the process had been challenging and, in the union's view, less transparent than in prior periods of institutional restructuring. Concern was also expressed regarding reductions in specific operational areas, including the library, bookstore, information technology, and the Learning Centre, where a significant decrease in tutor support was noted. Despite these concerns, the representative emphasized CUPE's ongoing commitment to the institution and advised that advocacy efforts were continuing with CUPE BC, the Ministry, and other post-secondary labour partners.

6.2 Student Union of Vancouver Community College (SUVCC)

The Student Union of Vancouver Community College presented student concerns regarding rising costs, program reductions, and the broader effects of the current funding environment on access to education. The student representative advised that, based on student feedback, the most likely responses to tuition increases would be increased debt and, in some cases, withdrawal from studies. It was emphasized that additional cost pressures would further complicate students' ability to complete their programs and would undermine affordability and accessibility. The report also highlighted the wider post-secondary funding context, noting that sector-wide reliance on international tuition revenues had proven unsustainable and had contributed to layoffs, service reductions, and program pressures across the province. SUVCC urged the

Board to continue advocating for affordable education and sustainable provincial funding rather than relying on fee increases or program cuts to address institutional deficits. Particular emphasis was placed on the importance of community-serving programs, including Deaf and Hard of Hearing education and sign language interpreter training, as examples of programs that provide significant public value and should be preserved with appropriate government support.

6.3 Vancouver Community College Faculty Association (VCCFA)

The Vancouver Community College Faculty Association representative characterized the current situation as a broader systemic failure affecting the college and the public post-secondary sector. The presentation emphasized that community colleges were established to provide accessible education and workforce pathways, and that current fiscal pressures, program-based financial assessments, and proposed tuition increases risk undermining that mandate. Specific examples were cited to illustrate concern about tuition increases and the treatment of essential programs serving community and labour market needs. The Faculty Association also noted concern regarding the sequencing of decision-making related to the enrollment plan and broader academic planning, suggesting that fuller consideration of educational impacts should inform budget-related decisions. In response, board members acknowledged the seriousness of the issues raised, recognized the broader sector-wide nature of the challenges, and reiterated that advocacy with government remained an important part of the Board's role.

6. EDUCATION COUNCIL

6.1 Chair's Report

The Education Council Chair summarized EdCo's discussion of the 2026-27 Enrolment Plan, noting that members understood the financial pressures facing the College but raised concerns regarding academic impacts, student access, program pathways, and longer-term sustainability.

Education Council expressed interest in continued dialogue and appreciated the board's commitment to providing a future forum to discuss academic impacts.

6.2 Enrolment Plan 2026-27

The Board received a report from Education Council regarding the 2026/2027 Enrolment Plan. Education Council advised that it did not recommend approval of the plan as proposed, noting concerns regarding the educational rationale for certain reductions, impacts on student access and pathways, longer-term program sustainability, and alignment with the College's mission, values, and strategic priorities. Education Council also expressed the importance of providing affected departments with opportunities to share their perspectives on the implications of the proposed changes.

In discussion, the Board acknowledged Education Council's advice and thanked Council for its consideration of the academic implications of the proposed enrolment changes. The Board noted its responsibility to consider both educational outcomes and the financial sustainability of the College, and further noted that the proposed Enrolment Plan was directly linked to the operating budget before the Board for approval. Board members recognized the seriousness of the proposed reductions.

MOTION: THAT, on the advice of Education Council, the Board of Governors not approve the 2026-27 Enrolment Plan as currently proposed as many of the proposed reductions have no educational rationale and are not consistent with the College's mission, values and stated strategic priorities.
Moved and Seconded. Motion Defeated.
Abstained: P. Yeung, F. Barillaro, M. Morales

The discussion was then followed with A. Patel requesting that the Board of Governors approve the 2026–2027 enrollment plan as proposed in the meeting package. D. Wells spoke to the motion, summarizing that the plan was designed to maintain the College as a whole by avoiding vertical cuts, preserving programs where possible, and implementing staged contraction measures in response to the scale of international

enrollment loss. He further explained the legislative context, distinguishing the Board's fiduciary responsibility to manage the affairs of the College and maintain a balanced budget from Education Council's advisory role regarding academic quality and integrity. Following discussion and a call for any final questions, the Board proceeded to a vote on the motion to approve the enrollment plan. The motion carried, with votes recorded in favour and one abstention.

MOTION: THAT, the Board of Governors approve the 2026-27 Enrolment Plan as proposed.
Moved, Seconded, and CARRIED.
Abstained: P. Yeung

7. PROGRAMS, TUITION & FEES

7.1 NEW: Pharmacy Technology Diploma Program

MOTION: THAT, on the advice of Education Council, the Board of Governors approve the new Pharmacy Technician Diploma credential, creation of 11 courses as identified in the program content guide, and program implementation.
Moved, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)

7.1.1 Tuition: Pharmacy Technology Diploma Program

MOTION: THAT, on the recommendation of the Finance and Audit Committee, the Board of Governors approve the staged tuition increase for the new Pharmacy Technician Diploma program.
January 2027 Tuition: \$17,993.06 (tuition less waiver = \$14,300)
January 2028 Tuition: \$18,352.92
Moved, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)

7.2 NEW: Retail & Service Careers Certificate Program

MOTION: THAT, on the advice of Education Council, the Board of Governors approve the new Retail and Service Careers Certificate credential and program implementation; and the creation of 11 new courses as identified in the Retail and Service Careers Certificate program content guide.
Moved, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)

7.2.1 Tuition: Retail & Service Careers Certificate Program

MOTION: THAT, on the recommendation of the Finance and Audit Committee, the Board of Governors approve tuition of \$209.41 per credit (total \$7,538.62) for domestic students for the Retail and Service Careers Certificate, effective September 2026.
Moved, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)

7.3 REVISED: Medical Laboratory Assistant Certificate Program

MOTION: THAT, on the advice of Education Council, the Board of Governors approve the implementation of the revised Medical Laboratory Assistant Certificate program; and the creation of 11 new courses as named in the Medical Laboratory Assistant Certificate program content guide.
Moved, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)

7.3.1 Tuition: Medical Laboratory Assistant Certificate Program

MOTION: THAT, on the recommendation of the Finance and Audit Committee, the Board of Governors approve the staged tuition increase for the revised Medical Laboratory Assistant program.
January 2027 Intake Tuition: \$15,080.31 (tuition less waiver = \$ 6,500)
May 2027 Intake Tuition: \$15,080.31 (tuition less waiver = \$10,500)
January 2028 Intake Tuition: \$15,381.92
Moved, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)

7.4 REVISED: Credit Reduction – Auto Collision & Refinishing Foundation Certificate

MOTION: THAT, on the advice of Education Council, the Board of Governors approve the change in credits for the Automotive Collision and Refinishing Foundation Certificate (Online Youth) program to 41 credits.

Moved, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)

7.5 TUITION: ASL-SLI Bridging Courses

MOTION: THAT, on the recommendation of the Finance and Audit Committee, the Board of Governors approve tuition of \$325.81 per credit (total \$1,629) for domestic students and \$716.99 per credit (total \$3,584.95) for international students for INTR 1000 and ASLD 1215, effective September 1, 2026.

Moved, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)

8. FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE (FAC) REPORT

8.1 Chair's Report

J. Yu reported that the College is projected to conclude the year with an operating deficit; while international enrolment has declined from previous years, tuition and contract services exceeded budget projections, in part due to increased tuition from associate degree programs.

The Finance and Audit Committee also completed its annual risk management review and adopted updated institutional risk appetite statements to support proactive risk management and operational planning. Key risks identified included cybersecurity threats, changes to immigration policy, and enrolment impacts. The Committee emphasized the importance of embedding risk management into day-to-day operations, with continued focus on crisis readiness and business continuity planning, and noted that the College continues to strengthen its cybersecurity posture, with a Microsoft security score above the sector average.

8.2 2025/26 Forecast to Budget

J. Yu reported that year-end financial uncertainty had diminished, with the latest forecast showing no major surprises and reflecting institution-wide efforts to mitigate pressures. While international enrolment had declined, the College remained broadly on budget and was projected to conclude the year with an operating deficit of approximately \$4.2 million. It was also noted that revenue in certain areas, including University Transfer and associate degree programming, was above budget, while discussion acknowledged the strain being experienced across the institution, including faculty sick leave.

8.3 2025/26 Operating Budget

The Board of Governors received the decision note regarding the 2026/27 Operating Budget and noted that the budget was developed in response to a significant decline in projected international enrolment and tuition revenue. The Board reviewed the key financial assumptions, including total revenue of \$151.8M, total expenses of \$154.9M, and a net operating deficit of \$3.1M, as well as the related expenditure reductions, cost-containment measures, and actions being taken at this time to help the institution navigate the financial difficulties. The Board also noted the principal risks and considerations, including continued uncertainty in international policy and enrolment, timing impacts associated with workforce adjustments, and limited financial flexibility.

MOTION: THAT, on the recommendation of the Finance and Audit Committee, the Board of Governors approve the 2026/27 Operating Budget, as presented at the March 25, 2026 meeting.

Moved, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)

8.4 2025/26 Capital Budget

The Board received the Finance and Audit Committee Chair's report and decision note regarding the 2026/27 Capital Budget, and noted that, in light of the current fiscal environment and institutional priorities, no internal capital funding will be allocated for the 2026/27 fiscal year in order to limit additional amortization

pressures and avoid further growth in unfunded depreciation. In discussion, members asked about college initiative fees currently being collected and how those funds are allocated. Management advised that approximately \$450K is expected to be collected in next fiscal and allocated to operational expenses. Overall annual unfunded amortization expense exceeds the collected fees. Members also emphasized the importance of prudent investment in technology to minimize classroom technology issues.

MOTION: THAT, on the recommendation of the Finance and Audit Committee, the Board of Governors approve that, in light of the current fiscal environment and institutional priorities, Vancouver Community College will not allocate internal capital funding for the 2026/27 fiscal year.
Moved, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)

9. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (GC) REPORT

9.1 Chair's Report

L. Dannhauer reported that the committee met in February and focused primarily on policy work. The committee reviewed the annual policy report for information, including policies that are current, overdue for review, and due for upcoming review. Discussion also included opportunities to improve the visibility of policy status and to highlight new policies more clearly in future reports.

9.2 2025-26 Policy Report

Governance Committee reviewed the annual policy report on February 18, 2026. The report outlines the status of the College's policy portfolio, including policies that are current, due for review, overdue, or under development. Committee discussion included the age of certain policies, improving visibility of policy status to the College community, and better highlighting newly developed policies in future reports.

9.3 REVISED: Media Relations (532)

Governance Committee reviewed the Media Relations (532) policy and procedures to reflect routine updates and to improve clarity and alignment with current practice.

MOTION: THAT, on the recommendation of Governance Committee, the Board of Governors approve, in the form presented at this meeting, the revised Media Relations (532) policy and procedures.
Moved, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)

9.4 REVISED: Selection of Library Materials (511)

The scheduled review for this item updated the policy to reflect current library operations and sector practice, with emphasis on Indigenization, equity, diversity and inclusion, accessibility, and open access resources.

MOTION: THAT, on the recommendation of Governance Committee, with advice from Education Council, the Board of Governors approve, in the form presented at this meeting, the Selection of Library Materials (511) policy and procedures.
Moved, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)

9.5 G.1.0 Board Conduct Bylaw – Annual Oath of Office Affirmation

Governance Committee completed its annual review of the bylaw on February 18, 2026 and identified no legislative or VCC policy changes requiring revision. Board members will reaffirm the Oath of Office at the March 25, 2026 public meeting as part of regular governance practice, and the oaths signed will be submitted to the College's external auditors.

10. HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT

10.1 Chair's Report

S. Kloot reported that the Committee last met on March 10, 2026. During the meeting, the Committee welcomed Steve Cardwell as a new member. The Chair further reported that the Committee reviewed A. Patel's presidents' goals, which were subsequently approved by the Board.

11. VCC FOUNDATION UPDATE

C. Zuo provided the VCC Foundation report. He advised that the Foundation Board met on March 3, 2026 at which the 2026/27 budget was approved and the first draft of the Foundation Risk Registry was approved and implemented. The Board was also advised that the Flourish event was well attended, with 373 attendees, approximately \$265,000 raised, nine new sponsors, 28 food and beverage stations, and participation from 11 VCC departments, together with strong social media engagement. In addition, following the close of nominations for the Outstanding Alumni Awards on March 1, 14 nominations were received from 13 VCC departments across five categories. The selection committee reviewed the nominations on March 18 and selected recipients based on the strength and completeness of the nominations and the nominees' ongoing connection to the College.

12. NEW BUSINESS

Program Name Change: Construction Electrician & Clean Energy Diploma

MOTION: THAT Education Council recommends the Board of Governors approve changing the program name of the Clean Energy Technology Diploma to Construction Electrician & Clean Energy Diploma.

Moved, Seconded & CARRIED (Unanimously)

13. NEXT MEETING & ADJOURNMENT

The next regular public board meeting is scheduled for May 27, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.