

**Meeting of Senate
March 6, 2026**

MINUTES

A meeting of the Senate of the University of Victoria was held on March 6, 2026 at 3:30 p.m. in the Senate and Board Chambers, Jamie Cassels Centre and via Zoom.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved as circulated.

2. MINUTES

a. January 9, 2026

Motion: (R. Hancock/M. Laidlaw)

That the minutes of the open session of the meeting of the Senate held on January 9, 2026 be approved and that the approved minutes be circulated in the usual way.

CARRIED

b. February 6, 2026

Motion: (P. Loock/C. Eagle)

That the minutes of the open session of the meeting of the Senate held on February 6, 2026 be approved and that the approved minutes be circulated in the usual way.

CARRIED

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was none.

4. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

a. President's Report

Qwul'siy'yah'maht Robina Thomas opened the meeting by thanking Senators for attending the meeting and acknowledged the territorial lands. She noted that while Black History month had concluded in February, March carried a wide range of days of significance. She highlighted that March is recognized as Irish Heritage Month, and that the month also includes International Women's Day on March 8, the National Day of Observance for COVID-19 on March 11, Commonwealth Day on March 14, the International Day to Combat Islamophobia on March 15, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial

Discrimination on March 21, and both the International Transgender Day of Visibility, and the National Indigenous Languages Day on March 31.

R. Thomas reported on the recently announced Distinguished Alumni Awards, noting that eleven recipients had been selected across the President's, Indigenous Community, and Emerging Alumni categories. She encouraged Senators to take time to learn about the accomplishments of these graduates and expressed appreciation to those who had taught, supported, or worked alongside the recipients, acknowledging their contributions to the awardees' success and to the broader community.

R. Thomas announced the upcoming United Way Pub Quiz scheduled for March 19, describing it as the annual trivia night fundraiser in support of the United Way.

R. Thomas provided an update on Vikes Giving Day, which took place on February 4 and resulted in more than \$370,000 raised from 856 donations. She noted that contributions from the Vikes community, alumni, fans, student athletes, families, and supports help provide high-quality equipment, expanded competitive opportunities, and an environment that continues to make UVic a destination of choice for student athletes across Canada.

Finally, R. Thomas reported on recent award recipients. She recognized Lisa Bourque Bearskin, Associate Professor in the School of Nursing, who received the 2026 Indspire Award for Health in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the field. She also acknowledged Anne-Sofie Ahm, Assistant Professor in the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences, who received the 2026 CUFA BC Early in Career Award, which honours faculty members at BC universities for exceptional contributions to the wider community through their academic work.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

6. PROPOSALS AND REPORTS FROM SENATE COMMITTEES

a. Senate Committee on Awards

i. New and Revised Awards

On behalf of the Chair, CindyAnn Rose-Redwood introduced the list of new and revised awards. There were no questions.

Motion: (C. Rose-Redwood/A. Lepp)

That Senate approve, and recommend to the Board of Governors that it also approve, the new and revised awards set out in the attached document:

- Eunice Lowe Award for Entrepreneurship Studies* (Revised)

- Michaela Tokarski Entrepreneurship Award* (Revised)
- Tim Price Scholarship in Entrepreneurship* (Revised)
- Joanne Stewart Award* (New)
- Alzheimer Society of BC and Yukon Doctoral Award (New)
- Anthany Dawson Justice Award* (Revised)
- Anthony (Tony) Chan Memorial Bursary* (Revised)
- Douglas E. Baer Training in Quantitative Methods Award* (New)
- Dr. Ian Stuart MBA Scholarship in Sustainable Innovation* (Revised)
- Elizabeth (Betty) Valentine Prangnell Scholarship* (Revised)
- Ethel Clark Entrance Bursary* (Revised)
- Faculty Association Bursary* (Revised)
- Faculty of Science Research Scholarship* (Revised)
- Langford-Seaborne Scholarship* (Revised)
- Mariane Johnson Scholarship in Education* (New)
- Marine Geoscience and Oceanography Scholarship* (New)
- Norah & Calvin Banks Indigenous Leadership Award in the Sciences* (Revised)
- Phyllis Margaret Wilson Scholarship* (Revised)
- Ross & Stephanie Bailey Graduate Award* (Revised)
- Syd Bulman-Fleming Collaborative Piano Award (New)
- UVic WIS STEM Leadership in Diversity Scholarship* (New)
- ÁTOL,ÁNW: A Season of Just and Fair Treatment Scholarship* (Revised)
- B. Anne Tolmie Wood Scholarship for Indigenous Students* (Revised)
- Cecilia Tatti Tutcho Graduate Scholarship in Indigenous Language Revitalization* (Revised)
- Courage to Persevere Award (Revised)
- Dr. Margaret “Marmie” Perkins Hess Graduate Fellowships in Earth, Ocean, Astronomy and Environmental Sciences* (Revised)
- Jim Ounsworth Graduate Scholarship for Indigenous Students (Revised)
- John Michael Brownutt Graduate Scholarships* (Revised)
- Marianne Johnson Scholarship for Bipolar Disease Research* (New)
- Mary & David Norton Indigenous Leadership Fellowship* (Revised)

- Mya and Marcus Indigenous Graduate Scholarship in Visual Arts* (Revised)

** Administered by the University of Victoria Foundation*

CARRIED

b. Senate Committee on Planning

i. Proposal to discontinue the Bachelor of Nursing Post-Diploma Program (PDP)

On behalf of the Chair, Robin Hicks introduced the proposal. There were no questions.

Motion: (R. Hicks/D. Constantinescu)

That Senate approve, and recommend to the Board of Governors that it also approve, the proposal to discontinue the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Post-Diploma program, as described in the document "Bachelor of Science in Nursing Post-Diploma Program (PDP)".

CARRIED

ii. Proposal to discontinue the Computer Science Major and Honours Options in Computer Graphics and Gaming, Computer Communications and Networks, Software Systems, and Theory

R. Hicks introduced the proposal. There were no questions.

Motion: (R. Hicks/A. Lepp)

That Senate approve, and recommend to the Board of Governors that it also approve, the proposal to discontinue the Computer Science Major Option in Computer Graphics and Gaming, as described in the document "Computer Science Major and Honours Options: Computer Graphics and Gaming, Computer Communications and Networks, Software Systems, and Theory".

CARRIED

Motion: (R. Hicks/Tim Hopper)

That Senate approve, and recommend to the Board of Governors that it also approve, the proposal to discontinue the Computer Science Major Option in Computer Communications and Networks, as described in the document "Computer Science Major and Honours Options: Computer Graphics and Gaming, Computer Communications and Networks, Software Systems, and Theory".

CARRIED

Motion: (R. Hicks/M. Caryk)

That Senate approve, and recommend to the Board of Governors that it also approve, the proposal to discontinue the Computer Science Major Option in Theory, as described in the document "Computer Science Major and Honours Options: Computer Graphics and Gaming, Computer Communications and Networks, Software Systems, and Theory".

CARRIED

Motion: (R. Hicks/Tim Hopper)

That Senate approve, and recommend to the Board of Governors that it also approve, the proposal to discontinue the Computer Science Major and Honours Options in Software Systems, as described in the document "Computer Science Major and Honours Options: Computer Graphics and Gaming, Computer Communications and Networks, Software Systems, and Theory".

CARRIED

iii. Proposed changes to the Master of Arts in Community Development

R. Hicks introduced the proposal. There were no questions.

Motion: (R. Hicks/J. Clarke)

That Senate approve the proposed changes to the Master of Arts in Community Development, as described in the document "UVic MA in Community Development Program Change – Cycle 2 (Sept 2026)".

CARRIED

iv. Proposed changes to the Master in Management program

R. Hicks introduced the proposal. There were no questions.

Motion: (R. Hicks/G. Brown)

That Senate approve the proposed changes to the Master in Management program, as described in the document "Master in Management course changes".

CARRIED

v. Proposed changes to the Business Minor Program

R. Hicks introduced the proposal. There were no questions.

Motion: (R. Hicks/C. Eagle)

That Senate approve the proposed changes to the Business Minor, as described in the document "Business Minor program change".

CARRIED

vi. Proposal to establish a Professional Specialization Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)

R. Hicks introduced the proposal. A member of Senate asked whether the certificate program would align with international certificates. Tim Anderson, Associate Professor, Curriculum and Instruction, responded that the program was an in-house version that remained consistent with comparable offering at other universities.

Motion: (R. Hicks/Tim Hopper)

That Senate approve, and recommend to the Board of Governors that it also approve, the proposal to establish a Professional Specialization Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), as described in the document "TESOL Professional Specialization Certificate", and that this approval be withdrawn should the program not be offered within five years of the granting of approval.

CARRIED

vii. Proposed changes to the Master of Engineering - Biomedical Systems program

R. Hicks introduced the proposal. There were no questions.

Motion: (R. Hicks/E. Maher)

That Senate approve, and recommend to the Board of Governors that it also approve, the proposed changes to the Master of Engineering – Biomedical Systems program, as described in the document "Master of Engineering – Biomedical Systems: Program Change".

CARRIED

c. Senate Committee on Academic Standards

i. Proposed Change to the Admission Requirement for the TESOL Professional Specialization Certificate

Danu Stinson, Chair of the Senate Committee on Academic Standards, introduced the proposal. There were no questions.

Motion: (Tim Hopper/A. Lepp)

That Senate approve the proposed change to the admission requirement for the TESOL Professional Specialization Certificate.

CARRIED

ii. Proposed Change to the Non-Thesis Option in the Master of Arts Stream for Holocaust Studies

D. Stinson introduced the proposal. There were no questions.

Motion: (A. Lepp/D. Sharpe)

That Senate approve the proposed change to the non-thesis option in the Master of Arts stream for Holocaust Studies in the Graduate Academic Calendar.

CARRIED

iii. Proposed Changes to the Admission Requirement for the Bachelor of Nursing program

D. Stinson introduced the proposal. There were no questions.

Motion: (Tim Hopper/D. Sharpe)

That Senate approve the proposed changes to the admission requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing effective September 2026.

CARRIED

iv. Proposed Updates to Special Access First Nations, Métis, and Inuit - Undergraduate Calendar Entry

D. Stinson introduced the proposal. A member of Senate asked why the inclusion for an exemption from the Indigenous Declaration process. Zane Robison, Associate Registrar, explained that consultation had taken place with the Office of the Vice-President Indigenous (OVPI), and it was determined that requiring the declaration at the application stage would create an unnecessary barrier. He outlined the steps an applicant would need to complete in order to access the required documentation, including obtaining a Netlink ID, logging into the university's VPN, and using multi-factor authentication, noting that the risk of fraud was considered low. He confirmed that the OVPI supported the exemption.

A Senator observed that the proposal placed operational discretion with Admission Officers and asked what training was in place, given that this discretion has not previously existed in this context. Z. Robison responded that Admission Officers already exercise discretion in other areas and rely on a rubric to guide decisions. He added that, when uncertain, an Officer would consult with the faculty or with senior Admission Officers.

A member of Senate asked why self-identification was insufficient for this purpose when it is used for awards. Z. Robison explained that OVPI viewed monetary awards differently from admissions, as financial gain was what was addressed through the Indigenous Citizenship Declaration (ICD) policy. In response to a follow-up question, Wendy Taylor, Registrar, confirmed that consultation had occurred within the ICD team.

A Senator expressed concern that decisions were being taken away from the Senate Committee on Admission, Re-registration and Transfer Appeals (SCARTA) to Admission Officers, and suggested piloting the change before making it permanent. W. Taylor responded that, while pilots can be useful, the proposal could be monitored and evaluated by the Office of the Registrar and Enrolment Management (OREM), with reporting to Senate. She added that next steps would depend on Senate's decision regarding the proposal.

Another Senator asked what recourse a student would have if dissatisfied with a decision. Z. Robison advised the student would proceed through the SCARTA process. A Senator then asked how evaluation of the process would occur and how harms to students would be addressed depending on the outcome. W. Taylor emphasized the importance of ensuring an inclusive and welcoming process, noting the need for fair and transparent planning. A Senator recalled that in 2016-17 it had been identified that declining a student could cause greater harm than requiring the student to appeal.

A member of Senate expressed support for the change but suggested the proposal would be strengthened by outlining the internal mechanism, given the importance of Senate oversight. Another Senator noted that harms were real and significant and argued that planning for mitigation should occur now. Another Senator further commented that moving away from access barriers was positive and observed that the criteria applied by Admission Officers and SCARTA were the same, meaning SCARTA members did not hold greater expertise than Admission Officers.

A Senator suggested an amendment for the committee's consideration to ensure a review was conducted on the proposed change. It was decided that this would be recorded in the minutes and such a task would be undertaken by the Office of the Registrar and Enrolment Management.

A member of Senate asked about the distinction between scholarships, which involve financial gain, and undergraduate admissions, which may lead to financial benefit through degree completion. A Senator responded that materials gain referred to access to a limited opportunity, whereas admission to UVic was not a limited resource in the same way. It was noted that the distinction lay between a general seat and an Indigenous-designated seat within a program.

A Senator requested the votes to be recorded in the minutes.

Motion: (Tim Hopper/R. Hancock)

That Senate approve the proposed change to the update to the current Undergraduate Calendar entry "Special Access First Nations, Métis and Inuit" effective September 2026.

CARRIED
4 abstained

After the motion was carried, a Senator expressed disappointment in the way in which proposals before Senate were presented. The Senator stated a desire for broader representation of the issues to ensure all avenues were considered in the discussion.

7. PROPOSALS AND REPORTS FROM FACULTIES

There was none.

8. PROPOSALS AND REPORTS FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT ACADEMIC AND PROVOST

There was none.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

March 6, 2026 Senate Meeting				
Name	In Attendance	Regrets		Position
Adjin-Tettey, Elizabeth		X	Associate Vice-President Academic Programs	By Invitation
Aggarwal, Aarav			Student Senator	Elected from the Student Societies
Alatorre, Carmen	X		Faculty of Fine Arts	Elected by the Faculty
Andersen, Carrie		X	University Secretary	Secretary of Senate
Bengtson, Jonathan	X		University Librarian	Ex officio
Bradley, Colin	X		A/Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science	Ex officio
Brown, Graham	X		Acting Dean, Peter B. Gustavson School of Business	Ex officio
Buller, Marion	X		Chancellor	Ex officio
Campbell, Erin	X		Faculty of Fine Arts	Elected by the Faculty Members
Caruncho, Hector			Acting Head, Division of Medical Sciences	Additional Member
Caryk, Michael	X		Student Senator	Elected from the Student Societies
Cohen Cheetham			Student Senator	Elected from the Student Societies
Clarke, Jo-Anne	X		Dean, Division of Continuing Studies	Ex officio
Colby, Jason		X	Faculty of Humanities	Elected by the Faculty Members
Con, Adam			Faculty of Fine Arts	Elected by the Faculty Members
Constantinescu, Daniela	X		Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science	Elected by the Faculty
Croft, Elizabeth		X	Vice-President Academic and Provost	Ex officio
Diether, Kelly	X		Convocation Senator	Elected by the Convocation
Donovan, Kate	X		Convocation Senator	Elected by the Convocation
Dudley, Dennine	X		Faculty of Fine Arts	Elected by the Faculty
Dunsdon, Jim	X		Associate Vice-President Student Affairs	By Invitation
Eagle, Chris	X		Faculty of Science	Elected by the Faculty Members
Farnham, Martin		X	Faculty of Graduate Studies	Elected by the Faculty
Filipovich, Daniil	X		Student Senator	Elected from the Student Societies
Gair, Jane			Faculty of Health	Elected by the Faculty
Goodman, Emily			Student Senator	Elected from the Student Societies
Hallgrimsdottir, Helga	X		Deputy Provost	By invitation
Hancock, Rob	X		Faculty of Social Sciences	Elected by the Faculty Members
Harder, Lois		X	Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences	Ex officio
Hicks, Robin	X		Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies	Ex officio
Hopper, Tammy	X		Dean, Faculty of Health	Ex officio
Hopper, Tim	X		Faculty of Health	Elected by the Faculty Members
Hudson, Logan		X	Student Senator	Elected from the Student Societies
Humphreys, Sara	X		Faculty of Humanities	Elected by the Faculty Members
Ipiroti, Vita			Student Senator	Elected from the Student Societies
Irvine, Valerie			Faculty of Education	Elected by the Faculty
Kalynchuk, Lisa	X		Vice-President Research and Innovation	Ex officio
Kehoe, Inba	X		Librarian, McPherson Library	Elected by Professional Librarians
Kennedy, Cole	X		Student Senator	Elected from the Student Societies
Kodar, Freya	X		Dean, Faculty of Law	Ex officio
Kong, May			Student Senator	Elected from the Student Societies
Krueger, Charlie			Student Senator	Elected from the Student Societies
Kuklev, Artem			Student Senator	Elected from the Student Societies
Laidlaw, Mark	X		Faculty of Science	Elected by the Faculty
Lepp, Annalee	X		Dean, Faculty of Humanities	Ex officio
Lindgren, Allana			Dean, Faculty of Fine Arts	Ex officio
Loock, Peter	X		Dean, Faculty of Science	Ex officio
Loomer, Geoff			Faculty of Law	Elected by the Faculty
Macleod, Colin	X		Faculty of Humanities	Elected by the Faculty
Maher, Evan	X		Student Senator	Elected from the Student Societies
Mallidou, Anastasia			Faculty of Health	Elected by the Faculty Members
Marks, Lynne	X		Faculty of Humanities	Elected by the Faculty
Martin, Travis	X		Faculty of Science	Elected by the Faculty
McGinnis, Martha	X		Faculty of Graduate Studies	Elected by the Faculty
McNiven, Mackenzie	X		Student Senator	Elected from the Student Societies
Milford, Todd		X	Acting Dean, Faculty of Education	Ex officio
Nair, Sudhir			Peter B. Gustavson School of Business	Elected by the Faculty
Newcombe, Andrew	X		Faculty of Law	Elected by the Faculty
Nowell, April			Faculty of Social Sciences	Elected by the Faculty
Prest, Anita	X		Faculty of Education	Elected by the Faculty
Rose-Redwood, CindyAnn	X		Faculty of Social Sciences	Elected by the Faculty
Ryan, Maureen		X	Faculty of Health	Elected by the Faculty Members
Saab, Ada	X		Associate University Secretary	By Invitation
Sharpe, Deborah	X		Student Senator	Elected from the Studies Societies
Smith, Brock	X		Peter B. Gustavson School of Business	Elected by the Faculty
Swayne, Leigh Anne			Faculty of Health	Elected by the Faculty
Taylor, Wendy	X		Registrar	By Invitation
Thomas, Robina	X		Acting President and Vice-Chancellor	Ex officio
Thompson, Eva			Student Senator	Elected from the Student Societies
Walshaw, Jill		X	Faculty of Humanities	Elected by the Faculty Members
Wang, Alivia	X		Convocation Senator	Elected by the Convocation
Weaver, Andrew	X		Faculty of Science	Elected by the Faculty Members
Weber, Jens	X		Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science	Elected by the Faculty
Wyatt, Victoria	X		Convocation Senator	Elected by the Convocation
Zhou, Lina	X		Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science	Elected by the Faculty Members

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS - University Act: Section 35 (2) (a-f)

Chancellor: Marion Buller (31/12/27)

Acting President and Vice-Chancellor:

Qwul'sih'yah'maht, Robina Thomas, Chair

Vice-President Academic and Provost: Elizabeth Croft

Vice-President Research and Innovation: Lisa Kalynchuk

Acting Dean of Peter B. Gustavson School of Business:

Graham Brown

Acting Dean of Education: Todd Milford

Acting Dean of Engineering: Colin Bradley

Dean of Continuing Studies: Jo-Anne Clarke

Dean of Fine Arts: Allana Lindgren

Dean of Graduate Studies: Robin Hicks

Dean Faculty of Health: Tammy Hopper

Dean of Humanities: Annalee Lepp (Vice-Chair)

Dean of Law: Freya Kodar

Dean of Science: Peter Looock

Dean of Social Sciences: Lois Harder

University Librarian: Jonathan Bengtson

MEMBERS ELECTED BY THE FACULTIES - Section 35 (2) (g)

BUSI: Sudhir Nair (30/6/28)

Brock Smith (30/6/27)

EDUC: Valerie Irvine (30/6/28)

Anita Prest (30/6/26)

ENGR: Daniela Constantinescu (30/6/26)

Jens Weber (30/6/28)

FINE: Carmen Alatorre (30/6/28)

Dennine Dudley (30/6/27)

GRAD: Martin Farnham (30/6/28)

Martha McGinnis (30/6/26)

HLTH: Jane Gair (30/6/28)

Leigh Anne Swayne (30/6/28)

HUMS: Lynne Marks (30/6/27)

Colin Macleod (30/6/28)

LAW: Geoff Loomer (30/6/28)

Andrew Newcombe (30/6/26)

SCIE: Mark Laidlaw (30/6/26)

Travis Martin (30/6/26)

SOSC: April Nowell (30/6/27)

CindyAnn Rose-Redwood (30/6/26)

MEMBERS ELECTED BY THE FACULTY MEMBERS

- Sections 35 (2) (g)

Erin Campbell (30/6/26)

Jason Colby (30/6/27)

Adam Con (30/6/26)

Chris Eagle (30/6/26)

Rob Hancock (30/6/27)

Tim Hopper (30/6/28)

Sara Humphreys (30/6/26)

MEMBERS ELECTED BY THE FACULTY MEMBERS

(continued)

Anastasia Mallidou (30/6/26)

Maureen Ryan (30/6/27)

Jill Walshaw (30/6/28)

Andrew Weaver (30/6/27)

Lina Zhou (30/6/26)

MEMBERS ELECTED FROM THE STUDENT SOCIETIES -

Section 35 (2) (h)

Aarav Aggarwal (30/6/26)

Michael Caryk "

Cohen Cheetham "

Daniil Filipovich "

Emily Goodman "

Logan Hudson "

Vita Ipiroti "

Cole Kennedy "

May Kong "

Charlie Krueger "

Artem Kuklev "

Evan Maher "

Mackenzie McNiven "

Deborah Sharpe "

Eva Thompson "

Vacancy "

MEMBERS ELECTED BY THE CONVOCATION

- Section 35 (2) (i)

Kelly Diether (30/6/27)

Kate Donovan (30/6/27)

Alivia Wang (30/6/27)

Victoria Wyatt (30/6/27)

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS - Section 35 (2) (k)

Acting Head, Division of Medical Sciences:

Hector Caruncho (30/04/26)

Acting Dean of HSD: TBD (01/05/26)

Member elected by the Professional Librarians:

Inba Kehoe (30/06/27)

Continuing Sessional: Vacancy (30/06/26)

SECRETARY OF SENATE - Section 64 (2)

University Secretary: Carrie Andersen

BY INVITATION - Seated with specified speaking rights

Deputy Provost: Helga Hallgrímsdóttir

Assoc. VP Student Affairs: Jim Dunsdon

Assoc. VP Academic Programs: Elizabeth Adjinn-Tetty

Registrar: Wendy Taylor

Associate University Secretary: Ada Saab