

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF EDUCATION COUNCIL**

February 9, 2026

**9:00 am – 11:00 am (Via Teams)**

<b>Members Present:</b>	<b>Regrets:</b>
Bansal, Vasu	Genio, Mira
Bernoe, Axel	Thakur, Vijayta
Borgford, Thor	
Cawley, Pam	
Curiel, Cathy	
Dench, Sarah	
Denton, Kathy ( <i>ex-officio</i> )	
Ebiyomare, Winston	<b>Guests:</b>
Frolick, Daniel	Fairbairn, Hazel
Gibson, Greg	Falls, Dominique
Hunt, Michelle	Patterson, Lorne
Jassal, Amandeep	Sokic, Gordana
Keighron, David	Vittoz, Nicole
Mennill, Sally (Chair)	
Mills, Cathy (Vice Chair)	
Nicholson, Maureen	<b>Observers:</b>
Sawhney, Avika	Ewart-Yan, Genessa
Tilley, Janette	
Turner, Caitlin	
Villavicencio, George	
Younan, Bacel ( <i>ex-officio</i> )	

**1. TRADITIONAL TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Chair acknowledged that Douglas College respectfully acknowledges that our campuses are located on the unceded traditional and ancestral lands of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the q'ícəy (Katzie), q'w'a:ńł'əń (Kwantlen), k'w'ik'wəłəm (Kwkwetlem), x'wəθk'əyəm (Musqueam), qiqéyt (Qayqayt), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), scəwáθən (Tsawwassen) and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Peoples.

**2. ROLL CALL**

V. Thakur and M. Genio sent regrets.

### 3. AGENDA

The Chair confirmed that Council members had reviewed the agenda package as distributed on January 30, 2026.

### 4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

4.1 The Minutes of January 19, 2026 were approved.

### 5. NEW BUSINESS - Items for Council Approval

#### 5.1 Committee Membership

The Chair referenced the need for a Faculty Representative on the Programs Committee.

- Recommendation for Pat Visosky to serve as a Faculty Representative on the Programs Committee.

There being no further discussion,

**There was unanimous consent to Short-cycle the proposed Motion.**

**MOVED by D. Keighron; SECONDED by P. Cawley, THAT Education Council approve the Appointment of Pat Visosky, Faculty Representative, Programs Committee 2025-2026.**

**The Motion was CARRIED.**

### 6. NEW BUSINESS – Items for Council Advice to the Board

#### 6.1 Full Program Proposal: Bachelor of Arts in Music Technology

H. Fairbairn spoke to the item.

The proposed Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Technology is designed to meet the fast-changing needs of music recording, games, live events, and post-production of film and television. Douglas College has one of the strongest programs in the lower mainland and expanding our event-technology offerings will give students more hands-on experience and stronger industry preparation. Employers have also made it clear that advanced digital skills are now a basic requirement for work in the field.

H. Fairbairn shared that the curriculum is intentionally shaped through the lens of Truth and Reconciliation and the principles of UNDRIP, ensuring that students engage with their learning in a way that is accountable, reflective and community minded. She

expressed her gratitude to Jennifer Anaquod, Director of Indigenous Academic Initiatives, for her leadership in weaving Indigenous ways of knowing throughout the program.

B. Younan, Registrar, raised questions about the “List A / List B” course structure and whether it needs to be as restrictive as currently written. H. Fairbairn noted there is no pedagogical reason for the limitation and advised that the Programs Committee had gone back and forth on this issue, due to concerns about whether certain configurations would remain eligible for financial aid. B. Younan suggested that the best solution is to keep the Bachelor of Arts structure but allow more flexibility with List A and List B courses in semesters 5, 6, and 7. He will follow up with an email outlining the proposed adjustments.

**ACTION:** Please refer this item to your constituency groups for consideration of approval at the March 16, 2026 meeting.

## **6.2 Full Program Proposal: Bachelor of Arts in Sustainability and Social Innovation**

N. Vittoz spoke to the item.

From the Concept paper stage, this program was designed to be interdisciplinary, drawing on courses from across the College. This has become one of the program’s strengths. Both internal and external partners have responded with enthusiasm, and the idea has captured a great deal of interest.

The program includes a practicum course in the final year, placing students in community settings. It also incorporates courses in marketing, program evaluation, and related applied areas. The first year is intentionally aligned with the Associate of Arts framework to allow students an exit pathway and to support transferability. The goal is to give students the flexibility to change direction or transfer to other institutions without losing progress. As students move through the degree, they will choose from three concentrations, offering a high degree of flexibility and preparing them for work in both the private and public sectors.

B. Younan, Registrar, raised a question about the residency requirement and whether it should remain at 50% or align with the current 40% reflected in the Credentials Awarded Policy. It was noted by the initiator that the existing number was simply carried over from earlier documents and confirmed it should be stated as 40%.

B. Younan noted that course IDST 1102 has not been offered in many years. N. Vittoz responded that the team sees value in revitalizing the course as it aligns well with experiential learning and would be a strong fit for the program if updated. Regarding consultation, a question was raised about municipal engagement.



Thanks were extended to everyone who contributed to the program's development.

B. Younan will send an itemized list of recommended changes to the initiators by email.

**ACTION:** Please refer this item to your constituency groups for consideration of approval at the March 16, 2026 meeting.

**6.3 Program Revision: Diploma in Marketing**

L. Patterson spoke to the item.

This program revision will have students develop a business concept and pitch it in real-world settings. The program has always had a practicum component where students are placed in community or non-profits and there is a growing interest in small business and entrepreneurship.

This revision will allow students to choose one of three options to fulfill the graduation requirement. A new capstone option has been added, New Venture Marketing (MARK 3820).

C. Mills noted that the length of the program should be stated in years rather than semesters. The initiator will make that recommended revision.

The Chair confirmed that the effective date of the program is January 2027.

B. Younan, Registrar will provide the initiator with recommended edits by email.

**ACTION:** Please refer this item to your constituency groups for consideration of approval at the March 16, 2026 meeting.

**6.4 Program Revision: Post-Degree Diploma in Marketing**

L. Patterson spoke to the item.

This program revision adds the capstone course option, MARK 3820, New Venture Marketing as well as updated learning outcomes and housekeeping items.

B. Younan, Registrar will provide the initiator with recommended edits by email.

**ACTION:** Please refer this item to your constituency groups for consideration of approval at the March 16, 2026 meeting.

**6.5 Program Revision: Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Digital Marketing**

L. Patterson spoke to the item.

This program revision adds several new digital marketing courses since the program was first developed. The elective list is now expanded so that students can choose nine courses from a larger pool, giving them more flexibility and making it easier to plan their studies without needing substitutions.

This program revision adds the capstone course option, MARK 3820, New Venture Marketing, updates to learning outcomes and course sequencing.

**ACTION:** Please refer this item to your constituency groups for consideration of approval at the March 16, 2026 meeting.

**6.6 Program Revision: Bachelor of Business Administration, Concentration in Digital Marketing & Communications Management**

L. Patterson spoke to the item.

This program revision adds the new Digital Marketing course options. Learning outcomes have been added to the Concentration.

**ACTION:** Please refer this item to your constituency groups for consideration of approval at the March 16, 2026 meeting.

**6.7 Pause of Admissions Fall 2026: Post-Degree Diploma in Professional Communications**

T. Borgford spoke to the item.

T. Borgford provided an overview of the diploma program. The proposed action follows a significant and persistent drop in the number of applicants to the program (i.e., unfilled sections) and a drop in labour market demand for graduates of the program. Much of this impact can be attributed to the loss of international students across the sector.

We request Educations Council advice about this decision. No formal advice was provided.

T. Borgford noted that students currently enrolled in the program will be able to complete their studies.

**ACTION:** The Chair will advise the College Board that no formal feedback was received on this item.

**Budget Newsletter 2026-2027**

The Chair referred to the 2026/27 Budget Newsletter. She confirmed that no written feedback was received and asked Council Members if they had any further feedback to contribute. Hearing none, Education Council did not have any feedback on the 2026-2027 Budget Newsletter.

**7. FINAL DECISION – Items for Council Approval****7.1 Curriculum Committee****a) Curriculum Committee Recommendations**

D. Keighron spoke to the Curriculum Committee's review of 11 and approval of 11 curriculum guidelines (CGs). There are 7 revised CGs and 4 new CGs.

There being no further discussion,

**There was unanimous consent to Short-cycle the proposed Motion.**

**MOVED by J. Tilley; SECONDED, D. Frolick, THAT Education Council approve the submitted *revised* curriculum guidelines: BUSN 3610; CSIS 4495; BIOL 1210; PSYC 2301, POLI 2201, GEOG 1110, GEOG 1120 and the following *new* guidelines: CMPT 4001, CMPT 4002, CMPT 4412 and GEOG 3385.**

D. Keighron provided an update to the revised Guide to Writing or Revising Course Curriculum, which is currently with a small working group to finalize the remaining changes.

**The Motion was CARRIED.**

**7.2 Policy Items****a) Program Approval Policy for New and Revised Credit Programs**

G. Gibson spoke to the item.

This comprehensive revision to the current Program Approval Policy for New and Revised Credit Programs represents the College's best-practice workflow for program development. Drafted by a working group with extensive institutional representation, the policy has been renamed ***Development, Revision and Approval of Credit Programs Policy***. While the content has been significantly reorganized and modernized, the revision does not propose substantive changes to the existing governance approvals process.

The Chair thanked everyone involved for their work on the policy revisions.



**ACTION:** Please refer this item to your constituency groups for consideration of approval at the March 16, 2026 meeting.

**8. DECISION - Items for Council Advice to the Board**

**8.1 Program Revision: Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language**

G. Sokic spoke to the item. No questions or comments arose.

There being no further discussion,

**MOVED by D. Keighron; SECONDED by D. Frolick, THAT Education Council approve the Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language effective January 2027.**

**The Motion was CARRIED.**

**8.2 Program Revision: Minor in Physical Education and Coaching**

D. Falls spoke to the item. No questions or comments arose.

There being no further discussion,

**MOVED by D. Keighron; SECONDED by G. Gibson, THAT Education Council approve the Program Revision: Minor in Physical Education and Coaching effective January 2027.**

**The Motion was CARRIED.**

**9. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**9.1 Programs Committee**

The Chair referred to the January 2026 report in the agenda package. No questions or comments arose.

**10. REPORTS**

**10.1 Report from the Chair.**

The Chair introduced and welcomed new student representative, Vasu Bansal. She thanked Vasu for stepping up to the role and is looking forward to his participation on Education Council.

The Chair spoke about her attendance at the January Board meeting and reported that the Board approved the establishment of the credentials Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Information Technology Project Management and the Bachelor of Science in Computing Science.



The Chair further reported that she has been working with the Programs Committee this month, as two members are currently on leave, to gain a better understanding of the Committee’s workflow. For now, the Committee is rotating the chair responsibility.

She also noted that the revision work on the Education Council Bylaws has been productive. A few items are being finalized, and the Bylaws Review Committee hopes to bring the recommended Bylaw changes by April 2026.

**10.2 Report from the President**

The President reported that there was a great turnout for the recent budget forum. The student budget forum is taking place today. She noted that next week will be a full week of graduation, with eleven ceremonies, the most we have ever held. She encouraged everyone to attend and celebrate with students.

**10.3 Report from the Vice President, Academic & Provost**

T. Borgford was pleased to advise that the Bachelor of Science in Computing Science has been submitted to the Degree Quality Assessment Board (DQAB) for a panel review of the credential.

S. Mennill, Chair extended her appreciation and thanks on behalf of Council for all his work and wisdom that he has brought to the College and wished him well in his retirement.

The Chair also shared that we look forward to working with Dr. Manuela Costantino in her role as the new Vice-President Academic & Provost on Education Council.

**10.4 Board Liaison**

No report.

**10.5 Report from the Secretary**

No report.

**11. NEXT MEETING**

March 16, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. (Via Teams)

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:04 a.m.

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Chair

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Secretary