

MINUTES OF MEETING OF EDUCATION COUNCIL

June 8, 2026

9:00 am – 11:00 am (Via Teams)

Members Present:	Regrets:
Bansal, Vasu	Denton, Kathy
Bernoe, Axel	Genio, Mira
Cawley, Pam	Thakur, Vijayta
Costantino, Manuela	
Curiel, Cathy	
Dench, Sarah	Observers:
Ebiyomare, Winston	Ali, Safa
Gibson, Greg	Ewart-Yan, Genessa
Frolick, Daniel	Frankson, Kelly
Hunt, Michelle	Ghaeli, Reza
Mennill, Sally (Chair)	Nicholson, Maureen
Mills, Cathy (Vice Chair)	Oliver, Cal
Sawhney, Avika	Sharma, Alpisha
Schechter, Sam	Peña, Mariana
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 ǵícəy̓ (Katzie), q'w̓a:ḥł'əḥ (Kwantlen), k'w̓ik'w̓əłəm (Kwikwetlem), x'w̓məθk'w̓əy̓əm (Musqueam), qiqéyt (Qayqayt), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), scəw̓aθən (Tsawwassen) and səlilwətaɫ (Tsleil-Waututh) Peoples.

2. ROLL CALL

K. Denton, M. Genio and V. Thakur sent regrets.

3. AGENDA

The Chair confirmed that Council members had reviewed the agenda package as distributed on May 29, 2026.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

4.1 The Minutes of May 11, 2026 were approved.

5. NEW BUSINESS - Items for Council Approval

5.1 No items.

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

6.1 Program Revision: Diploma in Sports Science

D. Falls spoke to the item.

This proposed revision removes the preferential admission criteria to reduce barriers for students now that the program no longer receives a high number of applicants. The updated course structure aligns the Health and Recreation Specialization with the Kinesiology specialization, offering more flexibility to students.

ACTION: Please refer this item to your constituency groups for consideration of approval at the September 21, 2026 meeting.

6.2 Pause of Admissions Winter 2027: Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Nursing

M. Costantino spoke to the item.

The recommendation to pause the intake for Winter 2027 to the Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Nursing will be presented to the Board for consideration. The Board makes the decision but seeks advice from Education Council.

The Psychiatric Nursing program completed a careful analysis of potential applicants to the Fall 2026 and Winter 2027 intakes. Based on previous trends and current students preparing for entry into the program, the program is confident that intake for Fall 2026 will be robust. However, there are not enough applicants at this point that would qualify for a Winter 2027 intake.

The College intends to resume Winter intake into the Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Nursing with the next scheduled intake if applications return.

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

7. FINAL DECISION – Items for Council Approval

7.1 Curriculum Committee

a) Curriculum Committee Recommendations

M. Nicholson advised that there were zero curriculum guidelines submitted for the June meeting, therefore the Committee focussed on the update to the ***Guide to Writing and Revising Curriculum Guidelines (CGs) for Credit Courses in Curriculum Navigator (CN)***.

The Curriculum Committee puts forward an updated guide for review and invites feedback to the Committee by end of August 2026.

ACTION:

Please refer this item to your constituency groups for consideration and provide feedback directly to **Maureen Nicholson** by the end of August 2026.

7.2 Educational Policies Committee

G. Gibson spoke to the item.

a) Academic Performance Policy

G. Gibson recognized P. Cawley and B. Younan and thanked them for their work on this policy on behalf of the Committee. This revision represents an update to language within the policy that is consistent with current College norms and operations. Revised language increased clarity and specification where the committee deems it helpful.

B. Younan clarified that the effective date for the Academic Performance Policy will be November 2026.

ACTION:

Please refer this item to your constituency groups for consideration of approval at the September 21, 2026 meeting. Please direct feedback to **Greg Gibson, Policies Committee Chair**, by the end of August 2026.

b) Appeal of Final Grades Policy and SOP

G. Gibson recognized M. Semeniuk, G. Villavicencio and B. Younan and thanked them on behalf of the Committee for leading the work on this policy.

G. Gibson highlighted that the SOP is attached for review at the same time as the policy and includes important revisions. Key updates include:

- An introductory statement referencing a “support person”, noting that while related roles were previously mentioned, this term was not formally defined with the policy.

- The former Please Note section has been updated into a clearly defined “Limitations” section.
- Content has been reorganized for improved navigation, and updated language and titles have been modernized.

S. Mennill raised a question regarding the timelines outlined in the policy, specifically the requirement to hold meetings within 10 days. Based on her experience with how appeals processes unfold, she noted that students sometimes report difficulties when reviews are not completed within this timeline, often due to scheduling challenges. She asked whether this concern had been considered, particularly regarding the feasibility of “holding” meetings within the prescribed timeline.

In response, B. Younan, Registrar, confirmed that the 10 business-day timeline is intended to ensure the process is sufficiently expedited so that students can make timely academic decisions. The policy includes flexibility in situations where timelines cannot be met. Emphasis is placed on maintaining clear communication with the Chair to help mitigate delays. These measures aim to provide students with sufficient time and reduce the likelihood of escalated appeals.

ACTION: Please refer this item to your constituency groups for consideration of approval at the September 21, 2026 meeting. Direct feedback to Policies Committee via Greg Gibson.

8. DECISION - Items for Council Advice to the Board

8.1 Academic Dates 2027-2029

B. Younan, Registrar, reported that no feedback had been received regarding the Academic Dates.

There being no further discussion,

MOVED by S. Schechter; SECONDED by D. Frolick, THAT Education Council approve the Academic Dates for 2027-2028 and 2028-2029.

The Motion was CARRIED.

8.2 Admissions Advisory Committee Recommendations

T. Smith spoke to the item.

The Admissions Advisory Committee undertook a review to update the TOEFL iBT scoring system to reflect the new range of 1-6, which has been in operation since January 2026. The review included:

- seeking feedback from English Chairs and Coordinators
- engaging a researcher to test the scoring framework
- consulting with DC International

Under the new scoring system (1-6):

- an overall minimum score of 4.5 is required
- no individual component score may be below 4.0

It was noted that the updated scoring requirements will apply only to **new** incoming students.

The Committee also reviewed practices across the post-secondary sector and noted that other institutions are moving toward adopting this scoring system.

There being no further discussion,

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

MOVED by A. Bernoe; SECONDED by S. Dench, THAT Education Council approve the Admission Advisory Committee recommendations to the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) iBT Scores to fulfill the College's English Language Proficiency requirement, effective immediately.

The Motion was CARRIED.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

9.1 Programs Committee

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

9.2 Education Council Meeting Schedule 2026-2027

The Chair referenced the 2026-2027 meeting schedule dates. No comments or feedback was provided.

9.3 Education Council Committee Annual Reports

The Chair thanked all Committee Chairs for their annual reports included in the agenda package. No questions or comments arose.

10. REPORTS

10.1 Report from the Chair.

The Chair thanked all current and outgoing committee members for their continued efforts and contributions to Education Council.

The Chair provided an update on the second round of elections that have acclaimed both a student representative from Coquitlam, Safa Ali and a faculty representative Alicia Arding, Librarian, from Learning Resources. An election for one additional student representative is underway and a further by-election for a faculty representative from Student Affairs and Services will happen over the summer. Appreciation was extended to Alyssa Morin and Enrolment Services for their assistance in organizing these elections.

The Chair noted that she continues to work on confirming membership for the various Education Council committees for the next academic year and that follow-up emails will be sent in July.

The Chair, in coordination with Manuela Costantino, VP Academic and Provost, shared plans to convene a meeting of all FEC Chairs (Faculty Education Committee) in September to discuss governance, with a focus on expanding engagement and improving communication.

One appeal request was received in June 2026.

10.2 Report from the President

S. Dench spoke on behalf of the President and provided an update on the President's recent visit to China to attend the graduation ceremonies at Shanghai University of International Business and Economics. She shared that the President and the Dean of Commerce and Business Administration also travelled to Thailand to sign the new partnership with Stamford International University and for planning discussions.

S. Dench shared a reminder about the upcoming Graduation ceremonies taking place next week; a total of nine ceremonies scheduled over four days. Members were encouraged to attend and support graduates during this celebratory time.

She reported that there is no update on the Avison Report regarding post-secondary education in BC.

10.3 Report from the Vice President, Academic & Provost

No report.

10.4 Board Liaison

No report.



10.5 Report from the Secretary

The Council Secretary advised that the 2026-2027 meeting schedule will be posted online. Calendar meeting invitations will be circulated in the days ahead.

11. NEXT MEETING

September 21, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. (In-Person)

1. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:42 a.m.

Chair

Secretary