



## LANGARA COLLEGE ASSOCIATION OF RETIREES (LCAR) MEETING MINUTES

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Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026

1:04 pm – 2:29 pm, via Zoom

Attendees:

Patricia Cia	Carol Chrisjohn (regrets)	Alan Cooper	Kevin Craib
Martin Gerson	Bruce Kennedy	Gerda Krause	Dave Lidstone
Brian McGibney (regrets)	Roy Sinn	Yusuf Varachia (guest)	

Welcome our guest, Yusuf Varachia, Vice-President, External Relations and Community Engagement and Member of the Langara College Foundation Board.

### 1. Approval of the agenda

- Approved.

### 2. Approval of the minutes from February 12, 2026

- Approved as amended.

### 3. Business

#### 3.1. Finances

- Current balance in VanCity account is \$96.13.

#### LCAR Bursary Update

- R038 fund balance is \$15,850 as of March 10, 2026.
- \$1600 remains in the bursary fund with \$800 to be dispersed in Fall 2026.

#### 3.2. LCAR Membership Requests

Registered as Langara retiree

- No new requests

Registered as non-retiree

- No new requests

#### 3.3. LCAR and Langara

LCAR Board welcomed our guest, Yusuf Varachia, Vice-President, External Relations and Community Engagement Member – Langara College Foundation Board.

**Topic for discussion:** What can we do for Langara College, our students, and for people that are heading into retirement? And what do we need to accomplish this as a retiree association?

Yusuf reported that there is a lot going on at Langara, including the college navigating a significant deficit as we deal with the impacts from the IRCC reforms that have put considerable stress on post-secondary institutions across Canada. We are also in the final few years left in the WorkDay project. We have been working to showcase and rebrand Langara, talking to students and employees on who Langara is and getting that message out to the Community. Sometimes through hard times, people forget the importance that Langara has.

LCAR members are aware of the institution probably better than anyone. And there are ways that we could work together. And to be more specific, there are ways that we can learn from the members and leverage the expertise around the room.

- 1) The Foundation is one area where LCAR members can and have helped. Thank you very much for everything you do for the foundation. Contributions to date of almost \$16,000 is incredible. We are getting close to the endowment level, but it's about opening up the LCAR community networks to help more donors coming in.

Yusuf notes that everything that Foundation has done recently is going to only support students. That's their prime goal.

- 2) Networks in community – to help support things that are happening in community, community engagement, industry, government relations. For example, the Vancouver Board of Trade, Surrey Board of Trade are always looking for guest speakers. Perhaps LCAR can go present or join Langara at some of the tables. Just some ideas as we look for opportunities to work together.

## **Discussion**

### **Participation and awareness of on-campus events**

Dave was on campus last week during LangaraFest. He was impressed with the open house and the activity, efforts of student taking place. Saw it as a lost opportunity to perhaps have retirees join some of the faculty or other tables.

In the past, Moira Gookstetter, Foundation Executive Director, sat at our table and we would have been able to flag events where LCAR members would be welcome to attend or present.

Yusuf noted that LangaraFest was a big faculty event run through the Langara Global recruitment team. Over 2500 people attended. With the current financial situation, there have been a lot of changes at the college including reductions in AVP positions and the Foundation no longer has an Executive Director. He has taken on that role and happy to support LCAR and participate in our meetings if possible (as Moira supported).

## **Community**

LCAR is part of Langara Community and a part of the larger community.

Yusuf's portfolio includes Strategic Communications & Marketing (SCM), Recruitment, Integrated Planning and Accountability (was Institutional Research), Government and Community Relations, Advancement (Foundation) and Alumni, and Continuing Studies. A large and broad portfolio but one that can also support and provide a deeper connection with LCAR if we choose to.

Retirees have had difficulty with how completely we are cut off from Langara. No communication or knowledge of events such as LangaraFest. Is there in some way of communicating with LCAR members so they can participate if wanted.

- Yes, something that we should look at. A big event next week, Madeline Thien, Writer in Residence, is speaking. It's a big community event and she is a large draw. Langara is doing some neat things, but he didn't realize retirees are not getting that event information. These conversations exploring ways for us to work together to further support our community -some simple ways that we can do things is to just make sure everybody is updated and know what's happening.

Board noted an easy way to communicate to all LCAR members is to maintain email address and keep even as forwarding info.

- Retirees have helped build Langara to where we are and we're trying to continue what we've been doing. This may be a deeper discussion with LCAR inviting someone to explain rationale.

**Action:** Patricia to follow up with Justin.

An example of what has been working is the upcoming workshop on Estate Planning in collaboration with the Foundation. They have hosted an event where we bring in both retirees and current employees from Langara College, and that is just a lovely mix of people to get together and gives us exposure with the existing people at Langara College and vice versa. We'd like to do more of that kind of thing where we are working together.

- There are a lot of things that we're trying in order to bring community onto campus a little bit more.
- Students from US (Old Dominion University) coming up to talk to Langara. LCAR are open to participating in events like this.

**Action:** Add standing agenda to meetings: Langara Events Open to LCAR.

The LCAR Board misses having a stable contact/liaison at Langara that we work together with. Maybe a Retiree-in-Residence – someone plugged in at Langara and has a presence there.

- As we start to develop a closer connection and rebuilding communication pathways, we can explore opportunities and perhaps bring key people to the conversation.

We used to have an Executive Assistant from Langara who was there and providing some connections with the college. The EA was an ever-present resource but not a lot more to add to their working conditions.

- EA positions in the executive offices were reduced with the remaining EAs taking on additional work.
- Recognizing the importance of engagement, communication, and being a part of something bigger LCAR will continue to work with Yusuf to find ways to work together.

**Action:** Patricia to meet with Yusuf to discuss LCAR needs and how Langara can potentially support our sustainability going forward.

Retiree-in-Residence - What does this mean? What does it look like?

- Potentially a quasi employee who has access to resources. For example, BCIT had a telephone number and access to office space. It doesn't have to go that far but to the point where we are able to plug in to some resources. It's still unclear for retirees how to contact LCAR and that might improve if we had more a presence at college.
- More robust discussions need to happen to see if this is possible ... what kind of access that we would like and what kind of connection that we would like and what's possible and what isn't possible. However, we can make inroads to have more of a presence, one of us to have more of a presence at the college itself and connected.

We're trying to stay connected enough to the college so that we can help. and that we can be involved. And I think usually the people who join LCAR and the people who are on the board especially have a vested interest in ensuring that Langara continues.

**Motion Passed:** That LCAR invite Yusuf Varachia (Langara) or delegate to attend on a regular basis to help facilitate communication and opportunities to support each other.

### 3.4. Workshops and Events

- Workshops & Social Events.
  - Workshops & Social events - Estate Planning for April 9th at 10am.  
Registration to open. Bulletin going out tomorrow. Not a lot of people registered but often retirees wait until the last minute.
- Grand Gala (Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> doors open 7, curtain at 7:30)  
Met with Raes Calvert, acting artistic director, laid out a plan for program and had a good discussion about emcees. Six student acts and four retiree acts confirmed. Between the two groups, no need to lobby existing employees this year. Three musical groups and photography display. No grand band but still looking at it.  
Difficult parts of pre-production are now picked up by Studio58 – liquor license publishing, ticketing, tax receipts.
- Will be a lot less of “old cronies” spirit.
- Funds raised will go toward Bruce Kennedy Student Scholarship fund.

LCAR Board would like to raise awareness of the Grand Gala and it’s history and importance to Langara.

**Action:** Most of the history is in place through various documents but Dave will collate and expand for newsletter. He will also communicate with Halla to get some information to Yusuf.

### 3.5. LCAR Website and Forum

- KarmaNames Domain (under \$17) and services (under \$150) are coming up for payment – who ends up owning domain and who pays. Once again Justin approved the expenditure for one more year from IT budget
- Currently Roy is registrant under his former company name. He will have it changed to make it a property of LCAR.
- Still need to work out how invoices to get to us.
- [Retirees101@langara.ca](mailto:Retirees101@langara.ca) a generic email was originally set up to enable forum/discussion list communications. However, since we now have LCAR specific emails and forum this email is redundant. Patricia has been provided access to the email and has set it to auto-forward to [info@lcar.ca](mailto:info@lcar.ca). She will monitor for a while to ensure no invoices or important communications come through retirees101 before asking that it be de-accessioned.
- Currently all references on our website refer to [info@lcar.ca](mailto:info@lcar.ca)

**Action:** Patricia to try again to ensure [info@lcar.ca](mailto:info@lcar.ca) and link to lcar.ca is made available on the Langara Employee portal under the sections relating to retirement.

### 3.6. Newsletter team update

- Vol 4, Issue 2, Spring 2026. Patricia hadn’t left any print copies at the office but will bring additional print copies to Estate Planning workshop and leave some with EAs.

## 4. Liaison Updates

### 4.1. College Pension Plan Retirees (CPPR) – Alan

- Attended meetings but Alan in process of trying to communicate with CPPR administrators of the health plan. Slow process but clarifying questions for workshop. Health plan insurance or subscriptions of non-insurable nature.
- Some interest with CPPR member organizations in improving communications with their parent organizations. Alan attended UFV retiree association. They mentioned organization travel/trips and soliciting coordinating multiple institutions.

### 4.2. COSCO – Kevin

- Seniors' organization. LCAR is an affiliate. COSCO represents over 85,000 citizens in BC.
- AGM is Feb 12<sup>th</sup>. Elections: Leslie Goddette President, Terry Steinberg.
- Presentation of BelairDirect – rebrand, offer insurance of interest to seniors. No interest on monthly payments.
- COSCO has released its March newsletter.
- BC Provincial budget – COSCO President issued press release – dismayed that 2026 budget does little to assist seniors in day to day lives and even less for community programs.... Overstretched healthcare system.
- March meeting Friday 13<sup>th</sup>

### 4.3. CURAC – Dave

- Represents 40 retiree associations across the country
- Roy to promote on Bulletin and link here: <https://curac.ca/en/conference>
- UCFV thinking about organizing travels. CURAC perks – travel services affiliated with CURAC are Trip Merchant.
- Other affiliates include BelairDirect (insurance), HearingLife and Entente Education Canada (extended health, workshops - Tax tips etc. and program on care continuity)
- Organizing a meeting of presidents/vice presidents – online Meeting March 26<sup>th</sup> – online meeting. Dave happy to accompany and listen.

**Next Meeting:** April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 1:00pm via Zoom.