

LANGARA COLLEGE ASSOCIATION OF RETIREES (LCAR) MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 14th, 2026

1:05 pm – 2:23 pm, via Zoom

Attendees:

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

1. Approval of the agenda

- Approved.

2. Approval of the minutes from April 16, 2026

- Approved as amended.

3. Business

3.1. Finances

- No change to our current balance in VanCity account is \$96.13.

LCAR Bursary Update

- R038 fund balance is \$15,970 as of May 12, 2026.
- \$1600 remains in the bursary fund with \$800 to be dispersed in Fall 2026.
- **Lara Griner** is now the retiree liaison from the Foundation. We thank Karina Reid for her work and support over the years.

3.2. LCAR Membership Requests

Welcome those registered as a Langara retiree:

- Kevin McMillan (Web & Mobile Application Design & Development, 2026)
- Jessie Smith (Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS), 2026)
- Bette Chadwick (Film Arts, 2026)
- Alan Girling (LEAP, 2025)

Registered as a Retired Former Langara employee

- None registered

Board approved the following as registered as non-retiree

- Anu Kumar (Business Technology Management (BTMT))

The President's Retiree Lunch will be held on May 20, 2026. Patricia will be speaking briefly about LCAR and to encourage all retirees to register. Several have already registered over the past months. Alice Hsu reported that 41 retirees were invited to the luncheon and 29 accepted the invitation to lunch.

3.3. Upcoming Langara Events open to LCAR members

- United Way campaign – a call for volunteers went out. In the past LCAR was quite involved in United Way events such as the SOS Campaign and Langara Cooks.

Action: Patricia will see if the United Way Committee is interested in having a retiree on the committee; or, at minimum keep LCAR apprised of events.

- The Langara Events page - <https://langara.ca/news-events/events> lists many events. Some are more directed to students, but others are open to the broader community and include:
 - Convocation – 9-11 June
 - Historic Chinatown Tour - 29 May 10:30am – 12pm Sun Yat-Sen Gardens
 - Celebrate Philippine Independence Day! - 17 June 11-2pm A building
 - ARC Seminar Series: Real-Time Access to Essential Services for Communities - June 8, 2026, 2:30- 3:30pm T-Gallery - Prashant Kumar's research introduces a mobile-friendly web application that provides real-time availability of essential community services, including shelter beds, meals, hygiene facilities, and warming/cooling centers across Surrey and Burnaby.
 - Learning the Science of Happiness – 10 June 1-1:30pm online
 - National Indigenous Peoples Day – 21 June – All day various events on campus

3.4. LCAR and Langara

- Memorandum of Understanding/Agreement
 - The draft MOU was submitted with the agenda. At this point it is intended to be brief with less details or procedural listings. Sections include preamble, membership definition, College commitments, LCAR commitments, and duration of MOU. Much of the wording taken from our website, constitution, and bylaws.
 - We also identified Future Considerations which are not part of the current MOU:
 - Access to Langara email
 - Access to Langara WIFI or eduroam
 - Access to publications that are distributed to current employees
 - Parking privileges
 - Courses at no or reduced cost
 - Participation in Applied Research
 - Extended access to Library resources
 - Budgeted annual operating funds

Motion: LCAR Board will send this draft Memorandum of Understanding to Yusuf Varachia as our initial position. Approved.

Action: Patricia to forward draft MOU to Yusuf and include in the email some of the Future Considerations we identified so far.

Patricia to ask that Yusuf or Michael find an alternate if he is unable to attend LCAR Board meetings so that we have Langara representation for these kinds of discussions.

- LCAR Directors and event insurance – Anne Baxter
 - Not hearing anything since the last meeting, Patricia followed up directly with Anne Baxter, Director of Operational Risk about insurance for LCAR (both Directors and for events). She was happy that we reached out and requested some documentation and information so that she can make inquiries. Patricia forwarded our Certificate of Incorporation as a Society, links to our Constitution, Bylaws, Minutes, outline of our budget needs and what the College has paid for over the last couple of years.
 - Ron Champion from CURAC had responded to questions from the Presidents' meeting– it is not possible for blanket policy for Director's insurance. Commercial/general liability may be possible. Checking further.
 - Roy noted that Senior health and wellness events get additional insurance. He will investigate.
- LFA Year-End Social
 - Dave attended and spoke at a recent LFA year-end social and provided a brief presentation mentioning our newsletter and Benefit workshop. It was well received by LFA and attendees. This event may have encouraged many more to attend the Benefits workshop. He also connected with former colleagues. Nice to be so welcomed. LFA agreed to post a print copy of *By the Way, Retirees*. newsletter outside the office.

Action: Patricia to follow up with Anne Baxter if hadn't heard back re: insurance.
Patricia to follow up Rose + Sophie re: CUPE connecting
Patricia to add LFA Office & CUPE Office to recipients of a copy of the print newsletter

Pending Action from last meeting: Patricia to update Retirement Acknowledgement letter and Employee page

3.5. Brainstorming sessions

- Thank you to Gerda for hosting our first brainstorming session where we focused on types of events that may be of interest to our members
 - During summer, send out questionnaire, have socials at golf course and then in fall figure out the coming events.
- Future brainstorming session re: broadening reach to members
 - Waiting for an extended list of new retirees and if even a fraction of the 41 new retirees is interested, we will have a lot more options.

Action: Kevin to develop a survey or a poll of our members about what they like.
Board members attending, ask attendees at the summer social gatherings

Pending Action from last meeting: Yusuf to check with Continuing Studies to see if a discount is feasible on some courses

3.6. Workshops and Events

- Feedback on past events
 - Grand Gala (April 20, 2026) – event \$1434.17 to Bruce Kennedy Scholarship fund. Thanks to Brian for his contributions. Felt different with fewer retiree spots in the program to allow for more student participation. However, great to have students'

participant and benefits to the students extend to the crew who get the “fly by the seat” performance experience. Great to have the workload taken off our table. Bruce recommends more curated sets for students. Having the slide presentations slowed the whole tech flow. Roger Holdstock stole the show with sing-a-long event. Cathy Sosnowski will submit review for newsletter and Zina Morisette will provide photos.

- **Health and Dental Plan** workshop (May 6, 2026) – About 30 people attended including 16 current employees. Kiki Armstrong was a pillar of support and offered to help in future.

Large turnout, feedback great. Plan on doing the workshop again. Helpful on many levels including clarification that the medical/dental plans are each owned by College Pension Plan, Municipal Pension Plan, and Entente Plan who negotiate with insurance companies.

- Looking at potentially posting materials to website but needs to consider context.
- Future events – Socials at the golf club patio late June, July, and August. Health and Wellness Institute presenters not available until later in September. We will have a social summer.

Action: Roy to check in with Langara Golf Course and find which dates in June, July, August work

3.7. LCAR Website and Forum

- Roy on to the provider to change domain name registration to LCAR rather than Roy as a person.
- Still looking for a tech backup.

Action: Roy will reach out to recent retirees who may be a good fit as his backup

3.8. Newsletter team update

- Vol 4, Issue 3, Summer 2026 meeting planned for mid-May.
- Received and proposed articles
 - How international student situation is going by Brad Van Dam, Langara Global
 - Grand Gala review and photos
 - In Memoriam section for George Karas
 - Memories by Judy Boxler

4. Liaison Updates

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

- Nothing new to report

4.2. [COSCO](#) – Kevin

- Nothing new to report

4.3. [CURAC](#) – Dave

- Martin will be our in-person delegate for the CURAC AGM.
- Dave has been involved in conference planning and will be performing.
- Patricia attending on the Friday and will be on the newsletter panel.

Next Meeting: No meeting in June, next one scheduled for **July 16, 2026**, at 1:00pm via Zoom. Ask Yusuf for name of a representative if he is unavailable.