Steering committee members

Dr Mike Allard, Professor and Head Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine University of British Columbia. Born and raised in sunny Vancouver, Mike is a proud UBC alumnus whose recent interests include but are not limited to information technology in academic medicine and clinical-academic integration in pathology practice settings.


Jennifer Burns is the Chief Information Officer for UBC. Jennifer is responsible for the delivery of IT services and digital initiatives across the institution, including the operation of UBC’s enterprise Information Technology department and its efforts to deliver leading edge services that are relevant, robust, and readily accessible to faculty and students to support their research and teaching experience.

Dr. Thomas Chang is a Professor and Associate Dean, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Dr Emma Cunliffe, Senior Advisor to the President of UBC and Associate Professor in the Peter A. Allard School of Law. Emma is a UBC alumna, passionate interdisciplinary researcher (working at the intersection of law, forensic medicine and decision-making), a lifelong learner and a committed teacher.

Dr Robert Daum, Fellow & Lead, Diversity & Innovation, SFU Centre for Dialogue. Robert is a researcher and consultant who specializes in diversity, dialogue, and engagement-based strategic initiatives for postsecondary institutions and government.

Paul G. Davies, Head of Department of Psychology, UBC-Okanagan. Paul is a social psychologist whose research focuses on stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination.

Dr. Peter Englezos, P.Eng., Professor and Head Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering, Fellow Canadian Academy of Engineering

Sheila Epp, RN MN, Senior Instructor  Associate Director, School of Nursing. After several years of experience in nursing practice, Sheila began teaching in the BSN program where she has been actively involved in curriculum development, policy development and leadership.

Michael Flood, Student: Politics, Philosophy, and Economics Combined Major Program (PPE). Michael Flood is a third-year student at UBC’s Okanagan campus, founder and Co-Chair of TEDxUBCO, mental health and campus life volunteer, and originally from New Brunswick.

Dr Blye Frank is Dean & Professor, Faculty of Education UBCV and Dean pro tem, Faculty of Education, UBCO. A scholar and advocate for social justice and equity with over four decades working in education, Dr. Frank is an experienced educator and administrator who brings a strong commitment to excellence in research, teaching and academic leadership.
Margarita Fullerton, Senior Manager, Strategy and Decision Support. Margarita is a Senior Manager with UBC’s Strategy & Decision Support team, bringing 16 years of public and private sector consulting experience in business transformation, strategic planning, and operational effectiveness.

Lindsay Harris is a second-year PhD student at UBC Okanagan whose current research focuses on community decision-making about food security and poverty reduction initiatives.

Paul Hollands is the president and CEO of privately held A&W Food Services of Canada Inc. as well as CEO of the publicly traded A&W Revenue Royalties Income Fund. A graduate of the Sauder School of Business, Mr. Hollands has served Sauder’s faculty advisory board for almost 10 years.

Dr Judy Illes is Professor of Neurology, Canada Research Chair in Neuroethics, and Director of the National Core for Neuroethics at UBC. Her pioneering work in neuroethics brings critical issues in ethics, law, policy and society in close alignment with advances in the neurosciences.

Dr Dermot Kelleher is Dean of the Faculty of Medicine. He brings significant experience and is recognized internationally for innovation in academic health leadership and administration, clinical care, research and education.

Dr Linc Kesler is Associate Professor of First Nations and Indigenous Studies and English, was the founding director and then chair of First Nations and Indigenous Studies, and, in his current role has been very involved in the formation and implementation of the existing Aboriginal Strategic Plan.

Dr Richard Kurth is a Professor of Music Theory and Director, School of Music. A music theorist interested in analysis and aesthetics of music from the 19th through 21st centuries, Richard Kurth joined the UBC faculty in 1994, and has served as Director of the School of Music since 2007.

Andrea Lyall, RPF, PhD Candidate and Sessional Lecturer for Conservation 370: Aboriginal Forestry at the Faculty of Forestry. Public Scholar.

Karyn Magnusson is the Managing Director for Building Operations at the UBC Point Grey campus where she connects her team’s efforts and priorities to ensure the spaces of campus enable great research, learning and community to happen. Karyn is excited about the opportunity to contribute to and learn from the UBC Strategic Planning process.

Aida Mwanzia is involved with various community building, teaching and learning initiatives on campus and looks forward to shaping the future of UBC in the last year of her undergraduate degree.

Dr. Gurdeep Parhar is the Executive Associate Dean -Clinical Partnerships and Professionalism, Faculty of Medicine. Having grown up in northern BC, and currently working with people who have significant visible and invisible disabilities, Gurdeep’s passion is to engage with communities to enhance diversity and inclusion.

Professor Moura Quayle is Director, Liu Institute for Global Issues. Moura’s interests lie in rethinking, redesigning and rebuilding collaborative spaces at the intersections of academia, government, business and civil society.

Dr. Kate Shannon Associate Professor of Medicine Canada Research Chair in Global Sexual Health & HIV/AIDS; Director, Gender and Sexual Health Initiative, BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS. Dr. Kate Shannon is director of the Gender and Sexual Health Initiative & Associate Professor of Medicine at UBC where she leads a large program of NIH and CIHR-funded research on gender inequities, sexual health & gaps in care among marginalized communities living with and affected by HIV.
Lynn Smith is a retired Justice of the Supreme Court of British Columbia, former Professor and Dean of Law at U.B.C. and currently an Honorary Professor in the Peter A. Allard School of Law.

Rashid Sumaila is Professor & Director, Fisheries Economics Research Unit and the Ocean Canada Partnership, Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries & Liu Institute for Global Issues.

Janet Teasdale, Managing Director, Student Development & Services. Janet responds to complex student concerns, strategizes about student development and learning, and builds supportive campus environments - always, in deep collaboration with students, faculty and staff.

Nicole Udzenija, Director, Campus Initiatives UBC Okanagan. With a background in communications, change management, leadership development and strategic planning, I've been part of leadership teams successfully delivering large scale initiatives at organizations such as the University of Illinois and Vancouver Coastal Health.

Dr. Janet Werker, a University Killam Professor, and Canada Research Chair in the Department of Psychology, studies the foundations of language acquisition in infancy and is one of the co-directors of UBC’s Language Sciences Initiative.

Michael White is an urban planning professional with 20 years experience working in North America, the Middle East and Asia; he has been the AVP for UBC’s Campus and Community Planning department since 2014 responsible for the long range and current planning for UBC Vancouver (and strategic support for UBCO planning).