

# Meet your new chancellor

## Morgan-Silvester settles in at UBC

BY MATTHEW RATZLAFF  
News Writer

"I was very surprised when I got the phone call saying, 'Would you consider putting your name forward for Chancellor?...The UBC Alumni Association would like to nominate you,'" recalls Sarah Morgan-Silvester, UBC's newly elected chancellor. "I just about fell off my chair."

As an undergraduate student at UBC in the 1980s, Morgan-Silvester knew as little as the next student about the role of Chancellor.

"Let's be honest—I don't think I knew it existed." Nominated years later, she admits, "I had to think, 'Well, what is this all about?' along with everybody else."

"What does a chancellor do exactly besides confer degrees and sign those degree certificates?" She adds, "I did it because I really did think that UBC is one of those rare organizations that is actually relevant locally, nationally and internationally. It really does matter, it really does make a difference."

Elected by UBC alumni for a three-year term that started on July 1, 2008, Morgan-Silvester is discovering that being the university's 17<sup>th</sup> Chancellor is "quite a full role." While her signature will appear on graduating students' degree certificates this year, she also advises UBC's Board of Governors and Senate, which oversee the university's business and academic affairs, respectively.

"The role of Chancellor is steeped with tradition," she says. "With Chancellor you have to blend the responsibility of... bringing that tradition with you [while] also being relevant to today."

Morgan-Silvester's extensive experience in the business world has made her a strong presence in UBC's governing body. In addition to climbing the corporate ladder to the position of an executive VP at HSBC Bank Canada, she is currently the chair of the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority and BC Women's Hospital and Health Centre Foundation, as well as Director of ENMAX Corporation, the CD Howe Institute, and Women in the Lead Inc.

"Business backgrounds... are essential to balance out the

Board of Governors," said Brad Bennett, chair of the Board of Governors. "I'm thrilled that Sarah was chosen to be the Chancellor....The university is very lucky to have her."


Since 2002 Morgan-Silvester (BComm '82) has also been a member of the faculty advisory board at the Sauder School of Business where she serves as a student mentor and guest lecturer.

"She knows the university very well," said Andrew Irvine, UBC philosophy professor and member of the Board of Governors. "She has long-standing connections with the university so its not like she's a stranger to the institution."

Bijan Ahmadian, a second year law student at UBC and

student representative to the Board of Governors, said, "If there was a point where I would feel that we have a conflict with the university or with the administration, I could feel comfortable going to Sarah and asking her to facilitate the resolution."

Morgan-Silvester wants to strengthen communication between students and the Board of Governors in their current discussions of accessibility to affordable student housing, tuition costs and changes to the SUB and UBC campus plan.

"Students are never far from the mind of the Board of Governors. We have students who sit on the Board of Governors and their views are really valued and they make really important contributions." 



Chancellor Morgan-Silvester stands in front of a picture of UBC leaders of yore. MATTHEW RATZLAFF PHOTO/THE UBYSSY

# Hospice in early planning stages for UBC

## Patient-student conflict a concern; project is approved as long as land can be found

BY TREVOR RECORD  
News Staff

UBC is currently in the early planning stages of construction for a hospice on campus.

A hospice is a health-care centre for the terminally ill. Offering what is referred to as "palliative care," they provide health care services to alleviate the suffering of those with terminal illnesses. The quality of life for patients, as well as support for their families, is the concern of these facilities.

In February of this year, a hospice proposal was presented to the Board of Governors for consideration. The proposed hospice would house six to twelve patients in a single-story building and would take up to 10,000 square feet, which would be leased from UBC for a minimum of 50 years at a sum of \$10 per year. UBC would have no commitments to make other than one of land; all costs would be covered by three external partners. Vancouver Hospice Society and the Order of St John would work together to raise up to four million dollars to construct the building, which would include an endowment of a half million for maintenance. Vancouver Coastal Health would pay to operate and staff the facility.

In the same proposal, the Order of St John made an offer to work with the university to raise

an eight to ten million dollar endowment for academic work in the field of palliative care.

Wes Pue, Vice Provost and AVP Academic Affairs, suggested that the facility could provide academic opportunities to a wide array of students involved in palliative care. Medicine, nursing, psychology, pharmacy and social work were mentioned as being particularly likely to benefit from having a hospice on campus. However, the exact nature and degree of the interaction between UBC students and the facility and its patients has yet to be determined.

"It's very important...[that] patients don't feel like they are being studied like guinea pigs in a cage. You have to treat people with the appropriate amount of respect," Pue said. "By the same token...people entering into a life of working [in palliative care] need to have an opportunity to have an opportunity to explore the [terminal illness] situation."

For those who oppose continuing development on UBC lands, the hospice is a complex matter. The university is a place for students, typically young people beginning their life, while a hospice is a place for those ending their lives.

However, the facility will provide learning opportunities to many students, as well as fulfilling a social need for more palliative care facilities in Vancouver.



Wes Pue, Vice Provost and AVP Academic Affairs talked about development plans for a hospice at UBC, specifically about the balance needed between students and a palliative care centre. DREW THOMPSON PHOTO/THE UBYSSY

"Finding a place that's appropriate for both palliative care and to respect student needs on campus is going to be a high priority," said Pue.

The project is currently in Partial-Board 1, meaning the hospice has been approved pending the selection of an appropriate location. The exact size, scale, location and scope of the hospice

has not been determined yet. Pue stressed that finding a suitable site was a delicate matter, and was being carefully undertaken by all interested parties including the three outside parties, UBC planning, and the Faculty of Medicine. Ideally the selected site would be reasonably accessible while still remaining "predictably peaceful," among other

considerations. When asked how a hospice might affect the UBC community, Staff Sgt. Kenna of the UBC-area RCMP said that this would depend on the location that was selected.

"Some of the quieter neighborhoods might be appropriate," said Kenna. "The southern area of the campus might also be a good choice." 