



OKANAGAN SENATE

MINUTES OF 29 OCTOBER 2015

Attendance

Present: Dr M. Piper, Dr K. Ross (Secretary), Mr B. Ali, Ms L. Allan, Dr P. Arthur, Dr L. Berg, Mr D. Bual, Dr D. Buszard, Dr R. Campbell, Dr D. Carter, Dr J. Castricano, Ms C. Comben, Dr J. Corbett, Mr I. Cull, Dean *Pro Tem*. R. Eggleston, Ms E. Gallaccio, Dean M. Grant, Dr J. Johnson, Dr D. Keyes, Dr D. Koslowsky, Dr C. Labun, Dr R. Lalonde, Dr R. Lawrence, Dr S. Lawrence, Dr M. Legault, Ms N. Legg, Dr Y. Lucet, Dr V. Magnat, Ms L. Marshall, Dr C. Mathieson, Mr J. McEwan, Dr S. McNeil, Ms L. Oleksewich, Dean M. Parlange, Dr R. Sadiq, Ms S. Sneg, Dean R. Sudgen, Ms N. Tasnim, Dean W. Tettey, Ms J. Vinek, Dr D. Walker, Mr L. Watt, Mr G. Wetterstrand, Dr P. Wylie, Mr T. Zhang

Regrets: Dr P. Barker, Ms H. Berringer, Dean *Pro Tem*. G. Binested, Dr M. Evans, Ms L. Farrugia, Ms A. Fleming, Chancellor L. Gordon, Mr D. Oyelese, Dr J. Stites Mor (LOA), Mr L. Tan.

Recording Secretary: Mr C. Eaton

Call to Order

The Chair of Senate, Dr Martha C. Piper, called the second regular meeting of the Okanagan Senate for the 2015-2016 Academic Year to order at 3:32 pm. She noted that this was the first meeting of the Okanagan Senate that Dean Parlange was able to attend.

Senate Membership

The Registrar announced the following new members of Senate:

- Dr Andre Phillion, Faculty Representative for the Faculty of Applied Science, to replace Dr Spiro Yannacopoulos, resigned.
- Ms Lindsay Farrugia, Graduate Student Representative, to fill a vacancy.
- Ms Nishat Tasnim, Graduate Student Representative, to fill a vacancy.
- Mr Leo Tan, Student Representative for the Faculty of Health and Social Development, to fill a vacancy.
- Mr Laurence Watt, Student Representative at Large, to replace Ms Alliance Babunga, resigned.

Further, the Registrar informed Senate that Ms Nicole Legg has been acclaimed as elected to the Senate Nominating Committee until 31 March 2016 and thereafter until replaced.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Catherine Comben }
Marianne Legault } *That the Minutes of the Meeting of 24 September 2015 be adopted as corrected.*

Corrections:

Senator Tetley was present.

Admission & Awards Committee title correction on page 8.

Approved

Remarks from the Chair

President Piper noted that she just had the privilege of attending an event with over 40 Major Entrance Scholarships winners, and that the Okanagan campus had established what it called a “scholars’ society” for those who won in previous years as a way of linking past recipients with current students. The President opined that universities became great by having great students, as those students push us the most to be great faculty. She further commented that our Major Entrance Scholarships recipients could generally attend any school in the country, and that their choice to come to the Okanagan campus was a testament to how much had been accomplished on the campus in the past decade.

The President advised that at the next board meeting, a proposal would be considered by the Board of Governors regarding international tuition; in June, the Board passed a resolution to have the administration review our international tuition in light of our comparators and what could potentially be done with new tuition revenues to build excellence. Dr Piper advised that seeing as the Board had made that decision, the question now was how we do it: UBC’s international tuition is dramatically below the average of our peers, with some 15% below us to some 200% above us for international undergraduate and applied masters programs. She suggested that best comparators for such a conversation would be our Canadian and US west coast peers, and that UBC was looking at a 15% increase per year over the next 3 or 4 years to bring us closer to the median.

Dr Piper went on to state that regardless of their financial benefit, international students were a key to excellence for a university – they bring diversity and a global perspective, and we have a commitment and responsibility to educate students from around the world, particularly from developing countries. We also know that to build excellence you need great students and great faculty, and in order to do that you need resources to attract the best students and faculty. By attracting the best faculty and students you create the best learning environment, an important component of that is research. Dr Piper reminded Senate that BC was a small province of only 4.5 million in a relatively small country; we have to punch above our weight. She suggested that UBC was in the right place to lead by our geography, our will, and our age, and we need the resources to succeed. Those resources would need to come from provincial, federal, and private

sources, and tuition support. The President further noted that the University of Toronto and UBC were the only two universities in Canada that have a policy that no domestic student be denied access to the university based on financial considerations alone. She noted that UBC did not have such a policy internationally but suggested that this was something we should aspire towards.

Remarks from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor

The Deputy Vice Chancellor advised that the Board had their September board meeting in Kelowna, and at that meeting the Board had approved an Okanagan campus plan that looks towards the next 20 years. It is not a plan demanding growth but one that would let us do so when we need and decide to do so. The plan includes the development of a new innovation precinct between us and the airport business park, to be developed in concert with the city, airport, and the Westbank First Nation. This will give faculties who are engaged with business and enterprise an opportunity to co-locate partners near us. Secondly, the plan addresses transit and access, and we are pleased that the city is moving to create access using Bullman Road. The city will build it and we will maintain it on our campus and secure that area below the underpass. We have also forwarded our proposals for the transit exchange to be built next to EME to move some bus traffic. This is needed to allow for more buses. This will occur in concert with the John Hindle Drive extension over the next 2 years.

Dr Buszard further noted that last weekend, the Okanagan campus had its campaign celebration. We have met our campaign goal for UBCO and have now raised over 100 million dollars. This money is already allocated. To raise 100 million dollars is an extraordinary feat in the interior of BC, and for a campus that is only 10 years old, it is an enormous testament to UBC's reputation, and to the extraordinary work of development and our faculties. We will be building on that achievement and this sets a new bar for the Okanagan campus.

With regards to the University budget, the Principal advised that a head's meeting was held yesterday around the budget; she described this as a positive meeting and that conversation would be coming to Senate soon for conversation. We are looking at opportunities to increase our revenues while being very careful with our expenditures.

Finally, we are working through the ASPIRE process; academic planning and aboriginal strategy pieces are coming forward and will be brought to Senate for a broader conversation when needed.

The President noted that in 2005 she went to the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce and said that we would raise \$100 million in time and this was taken as impossible. She congratulated Dr Buszard and the campus on their achievement.

Academic Policy Committee

The Chair of the Senate Academic Policy Committee, Dean Miriam Grant, presented.

CONSIDERING MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING IN ACADEMIC DECISION MAKING

Dean Grant advised that the Academic Policy Committee had received a proposal from the student senators to consider mental health and wellbeing in academic decision making. She asked Shira Sneg, Nicole Legg, and Lauren Oleskewich to give a brief presentation on their initiative.

Senator Sneg presented. She was a senator since 2013 and this is the first initiative from the student caucus. She stated that their goal was to maximize student academic success and retention. This presentation was taken to the Academic Policy Committee and it was felt that a broader conversation at the Senate would be useful.

The students noted that they were inspired by the student senator caucus in Vancouver who convinced that senate to create an ad hoc committee and adopt a policy framework for student mental health and wellbeing.

Senator Legg noted that there were many initiatives on campus for mental health, but many of these were reactive. The students would like to move towards a pro-active and systemic approach to student mental health and wellbeing.

Senator Oleksewich went over the American College Health Association survey at UBC Okanagan. Students identified stress and anxiety as factors affecting their academic success. She recognized that these were inherent at Universities, but any actions we could take to mitigate their negative effects would assist students. An increasing number of students have identified serious mental health issues.

She then went on to outline the UBCO Thrive Open Minds report. 59% of students indicated that mental health information would be best delivered by an instructor.

Senator Sneg went over Senate's role in this issue. She suggested that our policies, procedures and environment have a direct and indirect impact on student mental health.

Senator Sneg said that the students currently had 3 key priorities:

- Create a syllabus template.
- Provide resources for the faculties.
- Provide a list of primary contacts for faculty referrals.

Senator Legault said that there are a number of reactive measures already in existence. She noted that FCCS just had a presentation on Early Alert. She asked if that sort of pro-active approach to crises could work well with what the students were considering.

Senator Legg said that they were aware of the early alert system and it most useful to help students already at risk or in crises and to connect them with resources as needed.

Senator Legault said that they were advised to not wait until academic standings were compromised but to look for cues to recognize students in distress.

Senator Vinek noted that all first year nursing students were being instructed on stress management and relaxation, and this was having a positive effect on them.

Senator Sneg mentioned that UVIC was a leader in this field and they do a course similar to this for all students. With regards to early alert, it can be proactive, but this is difficult with large classes.

Senator L. Berg said that he suspected that a lot of stress was from faculty members assigning too much work. Instructors needed to consider student workloads. He suggested that we needed guidelines for acceptable workloads, noting that the Bologna process outlined this in the EU. There may be a challenge for academic freedom but at least guidelines would be helpful.

Senator Tasnim asked what the distinction was between reactive and proactive. She did not accept the premise that our current resources were only reactive.

Senator Oleksewich said that they viewed something as reactive if they engaged the service when already struggling or in crises. They viewed a proactive measure was one that stopped students from getting into such mental states. Proactive would be to look at our policies and procedures to take mental health better into account.

Senator Lalonde said that the greatest attrition happens in 1st year when students are least prepared and are in our largest classes. It is difficult to identify a nascent problem in a 300 person class. It was much different in a smaller class.

A student senator agreed that it would be difficult in a 300 person class, but a majority of students would like to best hear this information from their instructor, say on the 1st day of class.

Senator Cull said that when we ask our students before they arrive they all expect that they will perform at an A+ level because this is how they performed at high school. They are not in the cognitive space yet to understand that this is impossible. A faculty member preparing students and outlining resources available does help.

Senator Sneg said that yes, they were thinking for first year, but we also have transfer students who may have Year 2 or 3 standing but be in their first year at UBC.

Senator Tettey encouraged us to look at the holistic student and the need to collaborate between academic and non-academic units such as housing. He suggested extending this conversation beyond faculty to all units where students spend significant amounts of time.

Senator Castricano referenced UBC Create where a lot of peer and discipline bonding occurred and asked if we could have more health and wellness in that week.

Senator Sneg said that students were not likely to believe us before they experienced university.

Dr Keyes replies that this was so a senator could not miss an entire term of Senate without applying for a leave and explaining their reasons for absence.

Approved

Senator Wetterstand noted as opposed.

COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE

Senator Keyes reminded Senators that the Nominating Committee reserved the right to recommend changes to Senate committee memberships based on attendance, and further advised that the Nominating Committee had resolved that as a matter of principle, space permitting, all senators should be on at least one committee.

Curriculum Committee

See Appendix B: Curriculum Report

The Chair of the Senate Curriculum Committee, Dr Peter Arthur, presented.

Peter Arthur	}	<i>That Senate approve the new and revised courses brought forward from the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.</i>
Catherine Comben		

Senator Wylie asked if the two courses taught by the BC Cancer Agency would continue to be taught by the BCCA.

The President clarified that they would have sessional or adjunct appointments with UBC.

Senator Lalonde asked why the title and pre-requisites were being changed for BIOC310.

Senator McNeil explained that as a pre-requisite they selected any course where photosynthesis was taught sufficiently well. As for the course title, he explained that the change was because the course was focusing more on the molecules rather than metabolic processes, but was still under the general subject of biochemistry.

Approved

Report from the Provost

ASPIRE LEARNING AND TEACHING FUND

The Provost advised that an important theme of ASPIRE was transformative learning. Thus, we have set out to set up a support mechanism to engage faculty. We visited the faculties and had an open-ended discussion on operationalizing the notion of transformative learning. From that, we

came up with the ASPIRE Learning and Teaching Fund (ALT Fund). The fund enables faculty members to make strategic changes within existing programs, or implement new, undergraduate and graduate academic programs that are more flexible, interdisciplinary, experiential and/or collaborative. A maximum of \$50K is available per project, and projects may be up to 3 years in length. We're hoping to fund 3 of them. Our priority areas for the next year are:

- Enhance experiential learning opportunities.
- Increase flexibility by developing or redesigning a strategic course or full program for distributed delivery across multiple sites (e.g., bridge UBC Okanagan and UBC Vancouver). Course-based examples may include distributed flipped classrooms, reduced classroom time or fully online courses.
- Create mechanisms for students to develop, enhance and document their knowledge, skills and competencies in the context of their academic program.
- Utilize flexible learning techniques to modularize existing programs and/or to create new program structures (e.g., new minors).
- Develop open educational resources that are intended to be used in multiple courses within a program or across several programs.

The possibility of bridging across our campuses is very important, and as part of that, we are pleased to welcome Dr Michelle Lamberson to campus as Director of Flexible Learning Special Projects.

Dr Mathieson went out to state that the ALT Fund would request letters of intent that would them be reviewed by the Dean's Council.

Senator Keyes asked what the budget was for the ALT Fund.

The Provost replied \$150 000, but for great ideas we would go looking for funding elsewhere.

The Provost confirmed for Senator Vinek that the application process was online or would be within the week.

In response to a question from Senator Castricano, the Provost advised that the letter of intent should be brief; we are not yet asking for full proposals.

EXTERNAL REVIEW PROCESSES AND UPDATE

The Provost reminded Senators that that there was a distinction between various levels of periodic reviews – departments, school, faculty, accreditation, and ad hoc. She noted that the first academic unit review at the Okanagan campus was in 2008 for the College of Graduate Studies. Reviews of faculties and colleges are conducted by the Provost; reviews of departments and schools are under the purview of their responsible deans, but, historically, the Provost's office has worked with the deans for departmental review processes. Dr Mathieson further advised that in conducting reviews, her office has been using an updated version of the Vancouver review model.

Moving forward, the Provost advised that all unit reviews synopses would be posted to their faculty websites and a copy of each of the review reports would be deposited with the Secretary of Senate and made available to Senators. That follow-up would also be made available. On an annual basis, the Provost would report to the Senate on the reviews conducted that year.

Dr Mathieson went on to state that for faculties, our policy is that a review will normally occur prior to a search or consideration of extension to the term of a dean. She noted that so far, the Okanagan campus has only had 2 deans finish a full term. Moving forward, the Dean of COGS would like to be reappointed, and so a review of COGS will occur this year. The School of Engineering is also conducting a review next week.

Senator Johnson asked if the Faculties of Arts & Sciences or Creative & Critical Studies Barber or FCCS had ever been reviewed.

The Provost replied no, but CCS was reviewed as two separate departments.

Senator Johnson noted that there were discussions of a merger between the two faculties, and it struck him as odd to have that conversation without ever having a formal review.

The Provost suggested that these discussions were occurring presently at the Faculty level, and this would also need to be a topic for discussion at a future Senate meeting.

Other Business

The Associate Registrar announced that as a result of the votes cast, Senator Marianne Legault had been elected to the Presidential Search Committee.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:22 pm.

Appendix A: Awards Report

New Awards:

International Leader of Tomorrow Bursary - tuition

Bursaries ranging in value up to the full annual cost of the student's academic program tuition and fees are offered to continuing international undergraduate students who were previously awarded the International Leader of Tomorrow Award and continue to demonstrate financial need but do not meet the Senate's academic criteria for a continuing award. The value of each bursary will depend on the applicant's financial circumstances. The bursary may be renewed for up to three additional years of undergraduate study or to degree completion, whichever is less, provided the recipient remains an international student on a valid Canadian study permit. Bursary recipients will have their situations reviewed annually by their Faculty as well as Enrolment Services regarding both academic progress and financial need.

International Leader of Tomorrow Bursary – living costs

Bursaries ranging in value up to the full cost of the student's living costs are offered to continuing international undergraduate students who were previously awarded the International Leader of Tomorrow Award and continue to demonstrate financial need but do not meet the Senate's academic criteria for a continuing award. The value of each bursary will depend on the applicant's financial circumstances. The bursary may be renewed for up to three additional years of undergraduate study or to degree completion, whichever is less, provided the recipient remains an international student on a valid Canadian study permit. Bursary recipients will have their situations reviewed annually by their Faculty as well as Enrolment Services regarding both academic progress and financial need.

Donald Wehrung International Student Bursary - tuition

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Appendix B: Curriculum Report

New and Revised Courses:

FROM THE FACULTY OF ARTS & SCIENCES

BIOC 310 (3) Plant Chemistry (revised course)

BIOC 425 (3) Biocatalysis

CHEM 336 (3) Green Inorganic Chemistry

COSC 335 (3) Introduction to Medical Imaging and Imaging Informatics

PHYS 336 (3) Introduction to Medical Imaging and Imaging Informatics

PSYO 435 (3) Substance Use and Abuse