



OKANAGAN SENATE

MINUTES OF 27 FEBRUARY 2020

DRAFT

Attendance

Present: D. Buszard (Vice-Chair), K. Ross (Secretary), S. Alam. A. Alnaar, P. Arthur, H. Berringer, G. Binsted, D. Carter, J. Cioe, G. DiLabio, T. Ebl, J. Eikenaar, J. Hossain, R. Lalonde, R. Lawrence, S. Lawrence, S. Lucet, B. Marcolin S. McNeil A. Mukherjee-Reed, S. O’Leary, F. Pena, M. Reeikie, K. Ragoonaden, D. Roberts, B. Rutherford, R. Sugden, B. Traister, S. Chong, K. Morgan. L. Mudde, G. Newry, V. Tamondong.

Regrets: P. Barker, M. Campbell, R. Campbell, C. Comben, B. Frank, L. Gordon, J. Gustar, M. Hoofar, J. Jakobi, J. Olson, S. Ono, G. Wetterstrand, C. Yan, D Efreteui, R. Jain, G. Jayathilake, H. Kang, J. Lafontaine, J. Naqvi, S. Sandhu, A. Shields.

Clerk: C. Eaton

Call to Order

The Vice-Chair of Senate, Dr Deborah Buszard called the sixth regular meeting of the Senate to order at 3:30 pm.

Minutes of 30 January 2020

Jan Cioe	}	<i>That the Minutes of the Meeting of 30 January be adopted as corrected.</i>
Barbara Marcolin		

Corrections: Senator Ebl was present.

Approved

Business Arising from the Minutes

COURSE VECTORS

Senator Arthur advised that the Senate Curriculum Committee had reviewed the matter with the Deputy Registrar and looked into the registration system. The Committee felt that the status quo works and sees no need to recommend changes at this time.



Senator Cioe asked how the scheduling system knew what kinds of activities were scheduled.

Mr Eaton replied that it wasn't automated by vectors; the staff needed to be advised by the departments.

Remarks from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor advised Senate that a committee was formed to plan for COVID-19 at UBC. She and the Provost were concerned about academic continuity should the public health authorities' direct schools and universities to close. It would be helpful for us to make contingency plans for classes and examinations. The Provost will work with the deans and the faculties. Dr Buszard noted that this was equally a question for researchers and experiment maintenance.

With regards to changes in personnel, the Board of Governors has named the next Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Leslie Cormack. She extended her sincere congratulations to her. This will be the second dean of arts from the University of Alberta, following Douglas Owsam. Dr Cormack has previously dean of arts and social sciences at Simon Fraser University. The Board has also approved the re-appointment Philip Barker as Vice-Principal Research for a further 5 years. She referenced the enormous impact Dr Barker has had on the Okanagan's research success. Dr Buszard noted that we were commencing a search for the next AVP students at the Okanagan campus. We hope to have that search at the finalist stages by April or May.

Senator Cioe asked if the Senior Advisor on Indigenous Affairs position would be extended past the one year announced.

Dr Buszard said that because it was a new role, Mr Cull was appointed on an interim basis while a position was finalized.

Dr Buszard said that she was pleased to announce that Dr Cigdem Eskicioglu has been appointed as Industrial Research Chair in advanced resource recovery from wastewater.

Senator Ebl expressed a concern about the stability of Canvas at the end of the year already if this was used as a resource in dealing with COVID.

Dr Buszard said that this was being kept in mind and there were other alternatives to Canvas.

Senator Morgan asked about academic concessions and COVID.

Mr Eaton said a memo will be going out this evening.

Remarks from the Provost



The Provost, Dr Ananya Mukherjee-Reed, gave an update on campus initiatives, including searches for new deans of the soon-to-be faculties of Arts & Social Sciences and Science, and a new dean of the College of Graduate Studies.

SCHEDULING

Dr Mukherjee-Reed presented on plans to revise scheduling of academic classes at UBC. She noted that to aid in this work, Scientia Consultants were contracted. She outlined a number of key principles:

- A scheduling system should not impede pedagogy.
- Decisions should reside with an academic unit, not by a computer system.

Dr Mukherjee-Reed noted several issues found in the reviewing process: sub-optimal use of resources, expectations of courses only following a grid, and scheduling needs not meeting pedagogy. She further noted that some faculties made rule-based requests, some date and time-based requests, and in part this led to inequity in distribution of resources.

Senator Cioe said that issues around scheduling equity within a unit was a small piece of a larger issue; we need to solve issues between units as well.

The Provost said that there is no particular reason why inequity should occur. The system being considered is rule based rather than humans showing favouritism. This does need to be an iterative process and if problematic patterns occur, we need to see how we can resolve them within the system.

Senator Roberts said that from Engineering's experience, whoever is writing the rules needs to know that 1 hours 3 times a week was different than 1.5 hours twice a week. Secondly, two courses that shouldn't be scheduled together sometimes are and the only fix is to offer one at night. The rules need to be written better.

Senator Arthur expressed his support for pedagogy being important. He asked if classroom type would be a variable considered as some rooms were more supportive than others for certain pedagogy. Secondly, he asked if service courses for other faculties will be considered.

Senator Alnaar said that scheduling was much simpler in the past and he thanked Enrolment Services for taking this on. He noted that in the past there was a practice of leaving a free block to allow for student and faculty activities and that this was valuable. He asked for more engagement with the student body.

Senator Eikenaar asked if this process also included exam scheduling.



The Registrar said no.

Senator Marcolin said that she was the Management scheduling rep who did this in the first year. It was an iterative process to learn how to express things as rules but this required thinking of things differently. She suggested that one issue was manual data re-entry being required.

Senator Cioe noted that if the schedule is done by 8 May and registration opens 8 June, then students had a month less time to plan their schedules.

The Provost said that this truncated schedule was just for a transition year.

Senator S. Lawrence asked what happens when the number of rules and requests are impossible to fulfill.

The Provost said that we discussed with Scientia and Deans' Council. Scientia said that in their experience that has yet to happen because of how the optimization process works. The problem is the match or mismatch but it shouldn't be undoable.

Senator Ebl asked how what the rules would be communicated to the faculty. She noted a concern about how Senate obligations would be put into the scheduling system.

The Provost said that the system doesn't track service requirements. That is a decision within the faculty. Your dean needs to see how that can be accommodated. All of the deans have circulated their guidelines within their faculties in different ways.

Senator McNeil said that in the data supplied there needed to be robust data to match pedagogy to those rooms that can support that pedagogy. He noted that it was non-trivial to adapt a course to some rooms.

The Provost said that the scheduling change will not remove gaps in classroom types, but may provide data about where those gaps are.

Dr Mukherjee-Reed said that with regards to the student experience, a lot of decisions are made within faculties and so we need to see if we should be consulting broadly or more specifically within the programs and faculties where more specific issues are more known and understood.

Admissions & Awards Committee

The Chair of the Senate Admissions & Awards Committee, Ms Tamara Ebl, presented.

2020-2021 ENROLMENT TARGETS



Tamara Ebl } *That Senate approved and recommend to the*
Deborah Roberts } *Board of Governors the 2020-20201 enrolment*
targets as presented.

Senator Rutherford said that there was a drop proposed of 50 students in the Bachelor of Arts program. She asked what the rationale was given that those seats were filled last year.

The Provost said that we were trying to stabilize enrolment. When we looked at overall balance, the Bachelor of Arts has increases to both its domestic and international targets over the past few years. The Arts departments are going through significant faculty hiring, and once that has been completed a further change in targets may be warranted in the future. The Provost said that next month when the budget is presented, it will show to be stable for enrolment revenue.

In response to a question from Senator Cioe, the Provost said that we based this on last year's targets rather than last year's actuals. This is only a 1-year decision. She noted that the Senate Admissions and Awards Committee had advised that it wants to be involved earlier next year in these processes.

Senator Morgan said that as enrolment increased we are still deficient in study spaces, both formal and informal.

Approved

VANTAGE SUSPENSION

Tamara Ebl } *That Senate approve the suspension of admission*
Jan Cioe } *to the Vantage College –*
Management Stream for the 2020 winter session.

Senator O'Leary asked what the rationale was for the proposal.

The Principal of Vantage College, Dr Joanna Fox, said that the rationale last year was low enrolment and retention. We are taking time to thoughtfully reconsider how this program may operate.

Approved

Academic Policy Committee

REVISION TO POLICY O-125: TERM AND FORMAL EXAMINATION SCHEDULING



Jan Cioe
Peter Arthur

} *That the revised policy O-125.1: Term and Formal Examination Scheduling be approved as set out in the attached document, effective 1 September 2020.”*

Dr Cioe noted that there were some technical improvements but the largest change is the enabling of a longer term 1 break, which is especially important when Remembrance Day falls on Wednesday. He suggested that his Committee still hasn't given up on the idea of a full term break but we need more time.

Senator Rutherford asked why we did not schedule exams on Sundays.

Senator Cioe said that this was one factor being considered. A survey was recently set out that addressed just this.

Senator S. Lawrence asked if there was thought to moving the add/drop date forward as teaching occurred at that time that was problematic if missed.

Senator Cioe said that we would take that under advisement.

Senator Binsted said that a day off makes sense, but it would make sense to allow that day to be flexible. Secondly, he asked if teaching days were for the course in question or in general.

Senator Cioe said the latter.

Senator Morgan thanked the committee for its work.

Senator Eikenar asked why 11:59 was specified as the end of a teaching week.

Mr Eaton said that this was when we programmed the SIS to no longer allow registration changes.

Senator Roberts said that the add date was a problem as students do not have time to decide if they should stay in a course. She asked if we could separate them.

Dr Ross said that this presented a financial aid challenge.

Senator S. Lawrence said that in the 1930s there was an effort make days off more variable in the Soviet Union and it didn't work.

Approved

Report from the Registrar

Term Dates



The Registrar said this coming academic year we have a late start to the term and a late end of exams in term 1, and an early start to term 2.

Senator O’Leary asked if teaching would still happen on the first day.

Senator Cioe said that the first day has always been a teaching day. First year students would still have orientation that day, but social interactions will be moved to the weekend.

Senator Lalonde asked why we always started so soon after New Year’s Day versus what the University of Calgary does.

Senator S. Lawrence said that we often had a few more days in term 1.

Senator Cioe said that some places had more condensed exam schedules or those that go to the end of the month.

Mr Eaton reminded senators that draft dates are set out on the senate website several years in advance.

Senator Roberts expressed a desire for whole weeks.

Agenda Committee

Peter Arthur
Tamara Ebl

} *That, in accordance with Rule 15 (b), the regular senate meeting schedule for 2020-2021 be established as follows:*

- *24 September 2020*
- *29 October 2020*
- *26 November 2020*
- *17 December 2020*
- *28 January 2021*
- *25 February 2021*
- *25 March 2021*
- *29 April 2021*
- *20 May 2021*

Approved

Curriculum committee

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



FEBRUARY CURRICULUM REPORT

See Appendix A: Curriculum Report

Peter Arthur	}	<i>That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors for approval the revised degree requirements for the Master in Social Work program, and new courses brought forward for the Faculty of Health and Social Development, the new and revised courses brought forward from the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, the new courses brought forward from the Faculty of Creative & Critical Studies.</i>
Jan Cioe		

Senator Rutherford asked if ANTH 170 was a preferred prerequisite for ANTH 373, why didn't we just make 170 the prerequisite rather than accepting ANTH 100 or ANTH 170.

Dr Arthur said that we did discuss this at the committee and the program didn't view ANTH100 as a concern.

Senator Cioe said that we could refer it back.

Mr Eaton suggested that after it consulted with program, the Curriculum Committee could strike the preference.

Dr Arthur agreed with this approach.

Senators Lalonde and McNeil said many course descriptions already used similar language.

Approved

Nominating Committee

TRIENNIAL REVIEW

The Chair of the Senate Nominating Committee, Dr Jannik Eikenaar, reminded the Senate the deadline for feedback on the triennial review of Senate and its committees was 28 February

Other Business

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES



Abdul Alnaar
Robert Lalonde

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That the candidates for degrees as recommended by the faculties and the College of Graduate Studies, be granted the degrees for which they were recommended, effective November 2019, and that a committee comprised of the Registrar, the relevant dean(s), and the Chair of Senate be empowered to make any necessary adjustments. (2/3 majority required)

Approved

Adjournment

Seeing no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:57 p.m.



Appendix A: Curriculum Report

FACULTY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Master of Social Work, Advanced and Foundational Tracks

SOCW 525 (3) Human Development for Clinical Social Work

SOCW 555 (3) Organizations and Leadership

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

ANTH 373 (3) The Acquisition of Language and Cultural Practice

PSYO 440 (3) Introduction to Counselling and Interviewing

FACULTY OF CREATIVE AND CRITICAL STUDIES

WRLD 340 (3) Tales of Resistance: Indigenous Voices in Central America

WRLD 428 (3) Anti-Semitism: Then and Now