



OKANAGAN SENATE

MINUTES OF 25 February 2021

DRAFT

Attendance

Present: S. Ono, K. Ross, L. Cormack, A. Mukherjee-Reed, H. Berringer, P. Barker, P. Simpson, J. Olson, B. Traister, S. Tomaskova, B. Frank, R. Sugden, G. DiLabio, G. Binsted, R. Campbell, J. Cioe, T. Ebl, J. Eikenaar, K. Hodges M. Evans, G. Garrard, R. Johnson, Y. Lucet, P. Lasserre, S. Hilton, S. O’Leary, M. Evans, G. Garrard, P. Barker, M. Pilin, P. Arthur, J. Picault, K. Ragoonaden, S. Willis-Stewart, M. Legault, B. Marcolin, R. Lalonde, S. Cherkowski, S. McNeil, L. Markley, T. Forneris M. Libben,, M. Reeves, T. Forneris, J. Jakobi, R. Frost, R. Herzberg, J. Lee, K. Morgan, R. Petillion, B. Heerema, D. Jarrouj, M Lunde, R. Metcalfe, V. Tamandong, J. Naqvi, A. Alnaar, M. Arthur.

Regrets: S. Point, S. Bates, S. Holzman, G. Singh, S. Cannon,

Guest: R. Sadiq

Clerk: C. Eaton

Call to Order

The Chair of Senate, Dr Santa Ono called the sixth regular meeting of the Okanagan Senate to order at 3:35 pm.

Minutes of Previous Meetings

P. Arthur	}	<i>That the Minutes of the Meetings of 27 January 2021 adopted as corrected:</i>
J. Picault		

Senator Ebl’s comments regarding enrolment were corrected to be “Senator Ebl expressed a concern with the effect on existing University resources with continued unfunded growth in domestic enrolment.”

Approved

Remarks from the Chair



The President noted that earlier in the week, the provincial Ministry of Health announced that they were investing in BC Interior research universities, including UBC Okanagan, to understand the harmful effects of COVID-19 and mitigate its impact on communities across BC. The province announced funding for five collaborative research projects through the Interior University Research Coalition, a partnership between UBC-O, Thompson Rivers University, and the University of Northern British Columbia. UBC-O researchers are involved in four of the five projects. Dr Ono expressed his thanks for support for this important work, and to everyone at UBC for the sacrifices made over the past year.

Dr Ono advised that while vaccines were being made available throughout BC, it would be many months before the University could return to normal operations. To that end, plans were being developed for that eventuality and would be shared broadly with the campus community. The President expressed a concern with the growth of viral variants of COVID-19 in British Columbia and the continued spread of the virus. He noted that UBC was in frequent contact with Public Health officials on its plans both currently and into September, and that new initiatives such as rapid testing were being employed.

Dr Ono reminded the Senate of the priorities of himself and his administration over this academic Year: academic excellence, equity, diversity and inclusion; indigenous engagement and reconciliation; climate change; UBC's COVID-19 response; and operational efficiency.

Dr Ono noted that UBC was one of very few institutions that has weathered the pandemic with the ability to actually grow its faculty complements, build on itself as an institution, and continue to provide quality education to its domestic and international students. Dr Ono said that the priority for operational efficiency wasn't looking at cutbacks or reductions but rather how we can best steward the institution and establish an operating model that best supports both campuses.

Climate Emergency

The Senate welcomed Professor Walter Mérida of the Faculty of Applied Science, Co-Chair of the Climate Emergency Task Force, to present on their work.

Dr Mérida outlined the work of the Climate Emergency Task Force. He noted the tremendous work of many people, mostly volunteers, in a time of great difficulty. Dr Mérida said that climate change is real today, largely due to the burning of fossil fuels. He noted that even if all of our pledges were met, our civilization was nowhere near achieving a two-degree goal. For Canada to meet its own goals, it would need to shut down combustion in an area the size of Quebec.

Dr Mérida said that the taskforce was established in 2019. At that time, the global average temperature was 1.9 degrees above pre-industrial levels and the highest on record. Dr Mérida noted the leadership of students in particular in drawing attention to this crisis. He noted that



nearly 4000 people engaged with the taskforce through online surveys, forums, pop-ups and other dialogues. The group quickly learned the different needs between campuses of UBC.

Nine strategic priorities and 28 recommendations were developed by the task force. The strategic priorities were:

- Operationalize UBC's commitments to climate justice: Support climate leadership and initiatives led by Indigenous, Black, and People of Colour
- Demonstrate institutional leadership on climate justice
- Establish mechanisms and processes that ensure Indigenous perspectives, communities, and worldviews shape the development and implementation of climate related initiatives and policies
- Expand, strengthen and coordinate climate research at UBC
- Foster a culture of engagement & advocacy on climate action
- Support community wellbeing in the face of the climate crisis
- Expand climate education opportunities and resources for the UBC community and broader public
- Develop new and strengthen existing partnerships to tackle the climate emergency
- Accelerate emissions reductions at UBCV and UBCO in response to the Climate Emergency: Climate Action Plan 2030

Dr Mérida noted that this work had should deficiencies and opportunities within UBC, but also the areas in which UBC was already world leading. He then gave an outline of activates already underway at UBC in the realms of research, operational, community engagement, and academic matters. He described this report as a call to action for UBC to combat climate change and its impacts, the beginning of a conversation, and an opportunity to become a global resource on climate action. In closing he expressed his thanks to the Task Force and his co-chair, Michelle Marcus.

Senator Garrard, who was on the Task Force, commented on Okanagan campus having less expertise on climate research presently. He noted ways in which the activities of the Vancouver campus's sustainability initiatives could be expanded to the Okanagan, and the opportunities presented by the proposed Bachelor of Sustainability degree and the potential for a UBC Okanagan climate hub.

Remarks from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor



The Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Lesley Cormack, opened her remarks by noting her thanks for everyone who participated in the remote working survey. She said that the administration was thinking about what in post-COVID times we wanted the University to look like in terms of remote versus on-campus working. She noted that a working group had been formed and that its work was being informed by two principles: Firstly, that UBC fulfill its mission of teaching and research, and secondly, that we have a great student experience. She noted that they recognized that this may look different for the two campuses and for different units, and so conversations have started with department heads and deans. On area where they already had strong feedback was the importance of having system-wide meetings still occur virtually as the Okanagan campus has found that in the COVID pandemic it has actually been able to participate more fully in those forums, and given the importance of climate change, it is not sustainable to have many people flying back and forth on a weekly basis. Dr Cormack said we should consider when and how we should be meeting virtually, and when it was important to meet face to face. In closing, the Principal said that while noting was decided yet in these early days, it was important to be intentional and thoughtful to best ensure that work experiences are good for all of our staff, and that we facilitate, encourage, and support learning and research for all of our community.

Dr Ono noted that there certainly were benefits to remote meeting and said that the University Executive would have conversations as to when that would work best.

PROVOST'S REMARKS

The Vice-President Academic & Provost, Dr Ananya Mukherjee-Reed, opened her remarks by noting the increases in student support this year with the COVID pandemic and the plans to continue with them through next year.

The Provost noted that later on the agenda was the proposed enrolment Targets for next year. She noted our current over-enrolment and said that the proposal was to hold numbers as-is without increases for this year.

In closing Dr Mukherjee-Reed said that she would have an update for the Senate at its next meeting on anti-racism efforts.

Academic Policy Committee

The Chair of the Senate Academic Policy Committee, Dr Jan Cioe, presented.

PROPOSAL TO THE JOINT BOARD AND SENATE CHAIRS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INCLUSION ACTION PLAN GOAL2A



Jan Cioe
Jannik Eikenaar

}

*That Senate approve the Action Team for
Inclusion Action Plan Goal 2A.*

Approved

AUTOMATION OF EXTENDED WITHDRAWAL

Jan Cioe
Sandy Hilton

}

*That Policy O-125 section 6 notwithstanding,
Senate direct the Registrar to amend the
Okanagan Winter Term 2 Formal Withdrawal (W)
date in the Student Information System to April 13,
2021.*

By general consent, the proposal was amended to substitute April 14 with April 13.

Approved as
Amended

POLICY O-131.2: DIGITAL ASSESSMENT TOOLS

Jan Cioe
Kristen Morgan

}

*That Senate approve Policy O-131.2: Digital
Assessment Tools, as attached.*

The Vice-Chair of the Senate Academic Policy Committee, Ms Kristen Morgan, presented this item on behalf of the Committee.

Senator Morgan noted that this was an update and revision to O-131, which was originally approved on a temporary basis last July. After extensive consultation, revisions were proposed. In the proposed policy, instructors who wanted to use digital assessment tools (DATs) in their courses could seek approval from their deans to do so, but that a price limit of 4% of the per credit cost of domestic tuition for the course, applied. This would presently be around \$65 for a three-credit course. Further, DAT could form no more than 15% of a final grade. She went on to note that as a result of feedback from Nursing in particular, a distinction was now made between course and program levels for exceptions.

Senator Hilton asked how bundled materials would be addressed under this proposal.



Senator Morgan said that bundled materials were a challenge, and in some cases, the textbook may not even be available without the DAT. She said that the intention of the policy was to encourage publishers to provide both at a lower cost.

Senator Marcolin said that we needed a policy on the total cost of materials for a course, not just on DAT.

Senator Metcalfe said that she thought bundling as a practice would become more common and noted that the costs of education were going up every year. Students either borrowed or otherwise accessed textbooks at little or no cost but couldn't do that with DATs. She said that assessment was something that should be paid for by tuition, not additional fees.

Senator Herzberg said that the policy at least provided students with support and mechanism to deal with instructors who were overly reliant on DATs.

Senator Sugden spoke in favour of the policy and said he agreed with the sentiment that assessment should be paid for by tuition. He expressed some reservation at exceptions being possible at the program rather than the course level.

Senator Reeves spoke in favour of the motion, noting that things like book buy-backs and library copies helped offset the costs of some materials, but not DATs.

Senator Ebl said that she was in favour of the original proposal but had a concern about bundles being restricted.

Senator Marcolin noted that some publishers weren't even providing non-digital versions of materials.

Approved

WINTER TERM 1 MID-TERM BREAK INCLUDING AMENDMENTS TO POLICY O-125 TERM AND FORMAL EXAMINATION SCHEDULING AND POLICY J-102 EXAMINATION HARDSHIP AND CLASHES

Jan Cioe
Kristen Morgan

} *That Senate rescind its approval of Policy J-102 Examination Hardship and Clashes and approve new Policy O-102 Examination Hardship and Clashes as attached, and that Senate approve the amended section 10 of Policy O-125 Term and Formal Examination Scheduling as attached*



Senator Morgan set out the Committee's rationales for the proposals

Senator Hilton noted that our current software couldn't identify a 27-hour examination hardship at it only looked at 24-hour periods, and that these would thus need to be addressed individually by instructors with great difficulty.

Senator Morgan replied that currently hardships had to be addressed by an instructor and that this wouldn't change under the proposal.

Senator Cioe said that in their modelling only 200-300 students out of nearly 9000 had a hardship and that this wasn't a huge impediment.

The Deputy Registrar, Mr Fred Vogt, spoke, noting that our software was blind to how many hardships between 24 and 27 hours it created as it worked to eliminate clashes and reduce hardships below 24 hours.

Senator Alnaar spoke in favour of the motion, noting that Vancouver was already proceeding similarly, and that the fall reading break was important for student wellbeing.

Senator Markley spoke with concern at the effects of the compressed examination period being proposed, noting that he had asked his students who were strongly against the policy given their already arduous examination schedules.

By general consent, the motion was divided to separate out the amendment to Policy O-125.

POLICY J-102 EXAMINATION HARDSHIP AND CLASHES AND POLICY O-102 EXAMINATION HARDSHIP AND CLASHES

Jan Cioe	}	<i>That Senate rescind its approval of Policy J-102 Examination Hardship and Clashes and approve new Policy O-102 Examination Hardship and Clashes as attached.</i>
Kristen Morgan		

Approved

POLICY O-125

Jan Cioe	}	<i>That Senate approve the amended section 10 of Policy O-125 Term and Formal Examination Scheduling as attached.</i>
Kristen Morgan		



Senator Cioe spoke in favour of the motion. He said that a 12 or a 14-day examination term wasn't the issue, it was how close together each exam was, and how early or late they were in that term. He also noted that as a secular institution, UBC should not take Sundays to be holy; many students had Fridays or Saturdays, or other days with similar religious significance. He suggested that this proposal would be beneficial to student mental health and wellbeing and was in response to their expressed needs.

Senator Heerema said that for Applied Science students, hardships were a norm rather than an exception, with the first week of exams often being very compressed. That said, he said that there would be a greater benefit to students to have the mid-term break.

Senator Olson said that a former applied science student and a professor for the past 22 years, he felt compelled to speak out against a compressed examination term.

The Provost asked Senate to recognize Dr Donovan Hare, a professor of Mathematics who had done an analysis of the University's examination schedule with his graduate student, Stephanie Hamilton.

Dr Hare said that their work had shown that it should be possible to produce a hardship-free examination schedule on either 24- or 27-hour rules; however, the simulations went poorly with 3 exams per day versus the proposed 4.

Senator Naqvi spoke in favour of the proposal, saying that the break would give students a change to study and recuperate.

Senator Herzberg said that 42% of Okanagan students lived with food insecurity, and additional time to work would be helpful.

By general consent, the time to adjourn was extended by 1 hour.

Senator O'Leary asked if he would be flexible on where the break was located within the term.

Senator Morgan said that the Committee considered various times for where the break should be located, and the strong response from the community was a full-week break in November rather than more time between courses and exams.

Senator Metcalfe asked if our modelling showed by Engineering exams were clumping towards the start of every examination term and in particular if this was a space or staffing issue. She also asked if any faculties other than Applied Science had this issue, and if we could consider other ways of doing final assessments rather than examinations.



The Registrar said that she didn't understand why Engineering exams were clumping earlier in the term, but that it may be due to faculty member requests for earlier exams.

Senator Cioe said that we should modify any examination schedule to not negatively affect Engineering students, and faculty member preferences shouldn't be taken as a priority over student mental wellbeing.

Senator Olson said that his Faculty was committed to its students and he couldn't imagine his faculty members making requests unlike any others.

The Clerk to the Senate, Mr Christopher Eaton, said some accredited programs did require examinations and Engineering was one of those programs.

Senator M. Arthur noted that Vancouver and many other universities already had such a break.

Senator Pilin said that graduate students would be in favour of anything that reduced student stress and provided more time.

Senator Holzman said that Applied Science faculty have strived to spread out the examinations for students, but that they do not know how to improve things.

Approved

WINTER TERM 2 START DATE

Kristen Morgan	}	<i>That Senate approve the amendment of Policy O-125 section 4 as follows: Term 2 shall begin the second Monday in January unless this creates an issue in achieving the minimum number of teaching days or teaching weeks set out in sections (1) and (2), in which case it may begin the week prior. Term 2 may begin in a partial week but shall not begin before January 5th in any given year.</i>
Rhys Herzberg		

Senator Morgan noted that after the late start for the current term, the Academic Policy Committee heard strong feedback from the community in support of this change being made on an ongoing basis.

Senator Ebl spoke in favour of the motion in the interests of student mental health, especially with the newly-compressed examination term.

Approved



Admission & Awards Committee

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

ENROLMENT TARGETS

Tamara Ebl Julien Picault	}	<i>Senate approves the proposed English Language Test Options as presented for admission to the 2021 Session Winter only.</i>
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Senator Ebl introduced the item as an annual consideration by the Senate and then the Board of Governors for UBC's enrolment targets for next year, Ms Ebl further noted this would take us to 118% of funded enrolment and reaffirmed her concerns at the resource implications of being above targets.

Senator Lasserre expressed a concern on space constraints for in-person courses given the growth in enrolment.

Dr Mukherjee-Reed replied, noting that some programs are looking to retain some online programming.

Approved

NEW AWARDS

See Appendix A: Awards Report

Tamara Ebl Bryce Traister	}	<i>That Senate accept the new awards as listed, that they be forwarded to the Board of Governors for approval, and that letters of thanks be sent to the donors.</i>
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Approved

Joint Report of the Admission & Awards and Curriculum Committees

The Chair of the Senate Curriculum Committee, Dr Yves Lucet, presented

Yves Lucet Bryce Traister	}	<i>That the revised Master of Fine Arts brought forward by the Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies be approved.</i>
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Approved

Nominating Committee

The Chair of the Senate Learning & Research Committee, Dr Jannik Eikenaar presented.

INCLUSION ACTION PLAN ACTION TEAM

Jannik Eikenaar	}	<i>That Senate appoint Jennifer Jakobi to the Inclusion Action Plan Goal 2 Action A Action Team.</i>
Tamara Ebl		

Approved

Report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor

CROSS-CAMPUS TASK FORCE

Dr Cormack introduced Senator Blye Frank, chair of the Cross-Campus Task Force.

Senator Frank said that at least three senators served with him on the Task Force. In opening he noted two issues: Firstly, several persons suggested inaccuracies in the report but no one had identified where these were for him. Secondly, the absence of students in the recommendations of the report was noted as an issue. Dean Frank said that the Task Force felt that the Vice-President Students and the Enrolment Services portfolios were addressing that in others ways.

Dr Frank set out an overview of the Task Force's work. The mandate of the group was "to suggest strategies that will guide future decision making, processes and operations aimed at building and enhancing linkages between the two campuses."

Dr O'Leary suggested that psychologically, a bus system between the two campuses would help.

Senator Cioe thanked the Task Force for their work, which he said was a central element in achieving the goals of our strategic plan. He noted that developing collaboration for teaching between the campuses was important, and COVID's lessons may help us in seeing what is possible remotely or between campuses.

Senator Lalonde said that this report would lead to many animated discussions. He suggested caution around the idea of faculty being appointed between the campuses, describing this as an administrative and logistical nightmare. He expressed a concern around asymmetry if we had remote instruction become regular between campuses.



Dean Frank said as dean of a cross-campus faculty, they were looking at seeing if teaching was even possible between the campuses or on both campuses by a faculty member.

Senator Ragoonaden spoke in thanks to Dean Frank and the Task Force for their report, especially in regards to collaboration between the Senates, the centres for teaching and learning, and consideration of the budgetary issues between the campuses.

Senator Traister invited chairs of the Senate committees to consider how this report would be relevant to their work, noting that almost all of the recommendations fell within the mandate of one or more committee. He said that this could be the impetus for further dialogue and collaboration.

Senator Evans said that the pre-COVID use of videoconferencing between the campuses was alienating for those attending remotely (generally from the Okanagan campus). He suggested that we should learn from our pandemic use of videoconferencing.

Other Business

Dr Ono noted a late request from the College of Graduate Studies to grant degrees to 44 students who had recently finished their programs

By general consent the agenda was amended to add consideration of Candidates for Degrees.

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

Jan Cioe	}	<i>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 February 2021, and that a committee comprised of the Registrar, the relevant dean(s), and the Chair of Senate be empowered to make any necessary adjustments.</i>
Patricia Lasserre		

Approved

Adjournment

Seeing no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.



Appendix A: Awards Report

Proposed Award: **Finch Family Indigenous Entrance Award**

Two \$10,000 entrance awards (payable at \$5,000 per year) have been made available annually through a gift from the Finch family, along with matching funds from the University of British Columbia, to first-year Indigenous undergraduate students at the University of British Columbia, Okanagan campus. Preference will be given to students who have demonstrated significant financial need, academic strength and have given back to their community. Applicants must apply to a direct-entry undergraduate program at UBC, and not have a previous degree. These awards are renewable for a second year subject to the students maintaining academic standing. These awards are made on the recommendation of the adjudication committee. (First awards available for the 2021/22 Winter Session)

Proposed Award: **Campbell Family Graduate Award in Fine Arts**

A \$2,000 award has been made available to a graduate student enrolled in the Master of Fine Arts program in the Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies at The University of British Columbia, Okanagan campus. Preference is given to a student who has demonstrated artistic excellence and academic achievement. The award is made on the recommendation of the College of Graduate Studies in consultation with the Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies. (First award available for the 2021/22 Winter Session)