

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA | OKANAGAN



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OKANAGAN SENATE

MINUTES OF 13 FEBRUARY 2008

Attendance

Present: Deputy Vice-Chancellor Dr. D. Ooram (Vice-Chair), Dr. A. S. Abd-El-Aziz (Provost), Mr. R. Adl, Mr. P. Arthur, Ms. S. Barnard, Dean B. Bauer, Dean R. Belton, Dean J. Bottorff, Dr. W. Broughton, Ms. M. Burton, Dean R. Campbell, Dr. J. Castricano, Mr. R. Chavarie, Dr. J. Cioe, Ms. L. Driscoll, Dr. M. Duran-Cogan, Mr. R. Gandha, Dr. J. Gustar, Dean M. Isaacson, Dr. D. Keyes, Mr. M. Koovisk, Dr. R. Lalonde, Mr. G. Lepp, Mr. D. Lubbers, Acting Dean C. Mathieson, Dr. S. McCoubrey, Dr. C. McFadyen, Ms. N. Neumann, Dr. S. Reid, Mr. F. Vogt (Associate Registrar & Acting Secretary), Dr. M. Williams, Dr. P. Wrzesniewski, Dr. S. Yannacopoulos

Guests: Ms. L. M. Collins (Associate Secretary), Mr. C. Eaton, Ms. N. Limbos-Bomberg, Ms. Eilis Courtney (Director, Ceremonies and Events), Ms. A. Vernon (Manager, Ceremonies and Events)

Regrets: President S. J. Toope, Mr. B. Silzer (AVP and Registrar), Mr. G. August, Dr. J. Bassett-Smith, Dr. E. Butz, Ms. E. Johnston, Dr. A. Labun, Dr. C. Scarff, Ms. V. Lymberopoulos, Dr. M. Ungureanu, Ms. M. Wilson, Ms. G. Zilm

Recording Secretary: Ms. K. Ross

Call to Order

Vice-Chair Dr. Doug Ooram called the Senate to order in the absence of the President.

Agenda

The Agenda was accepted by consent.

Senate Membership

Acting Dean Dr. Mathieson was welcomed by Senators with applause.

Discussion

Dr. Williams inquired to why an election has not been organized to fill four vacant faculty representative positions on Senate. Mr. Eaton replied that elections are behind do to the unfortunate passing of the Chancellor; however, he confirmed, that faculty members' had submitted their biographies up until 12 February 2008. Mr. Eaton hoped that the Secretary would be able to announce that a full contingent of faculty representatives will be available at the 12 March Senate meeting. Dr. Williams added that, in his opinion, the Okanagan Elections should be operated from the Okanagan campus rather than from the campus in Vancouver.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting, 13 February 2008

Moved: Dr. Cioe
Seconded: Dr. Wrzesniewski

That the minutes of the Okanagan Senate Meeting of 13 February 2008 be adopted as circulated.

Carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes

Policy #17 Appointment of Registrar and Librarians; and #18: Appointment of Designated Senior Academic Administrators Status Update

Ms. Collins confirmed that Policy #17 Appointment of Registrar and Librarians had received final approval by the Board of Governors, following approval by both of the Senates. The Board had made a small amendment to the procedures associated with Policy #17. However Vice-President Dr. D. Farrar had withdrawn Policy #18 from consideration by the Vancouver Senate, explaining that students had raised some issues that he wished to take some time to consider. She indicated that Dr. Farrar hoped to have the Policy ready for consideration for approval at the March regular meeting of the Senate. Policy #18 will be reconsidered for approval by the Okanagan Senate should amendments result.

Report from the Admissions and Awards Committee on Provincial Examinations

Admissions and Awards Committee Chair Dr. McCoubrey reminded Senators that the Admissions and Awards Committee is to report Senate on BC provincial examinations as admission requirements at the 12 March meeting as directed by the Senate in January. Dr. McCoubrey stated that she collaborated briefly with the UBC Vancouver Admissions Committee Chair Dr. James Berger, who is currently working to establish a sub-committee of the Admission Committee to undertake further work on this issue at the Vancouver campus.

Vice-Chair Dr. Owram added that he and Dr. Farrar would meet to discuss this matter. Dean Isaacson expressed concern that, even though the Senate may approve one option or another, as outlined in the Senate report on provincial examinations, one of these options might be implemented through changes to letters of offer or other admissions procedures that are not reflective of Senate's approval. He suggested that the Admissions and Awards Committee monitor the situation to ensure that changes amounting to new policies are not inadvertently implemented without the oversight of the Senate.

Review of the Academic Organization of UBC Okanagan

In November 2007 the Policies and Procedures Committee had circulated a proposal to Senators to initiate a review of faculties and units at UBC Okanagan, which had been referred back to the committee. Policies and Procedures Committee Chair Dr. Keyes presented an oral update on the matter. He stated that the Committee unanimously agreed that rather than Senate conducting the proposed review, as originally recommended, that the review would be folded into the Deputy-Vice Chancellor's Strategic Planning Initiative. Dr. Keyes confirmed that a memorandum to this effect had been delivered to the Academic Council in January. Dr. Cioe in addition noted that any recommendations to the faculties and units recommended through the Strategic Planning Initiative will be reviewed by the Senate for approval or implementation. Vice-Chair Dr. Owram informed Senators that the strategic planning framework would be in place this fall in order to inform budget discussions.

Vice-Chair's Remarks and Related Questions

Vice-Chair Dr. Owram noted items for information:

The Board of Governors held their regular meeting on 7 February 2008 in Vancouver: <http://www.bog.ubc.ca/packages/2008/31jan2008.pdf>; all motions put forward by the Okanagan Senate were approved. The UBC Okanagan Student Housing Phase 3 item was also approved with a preliminary capital budget of over \$23 million. Vice-Chair Dr. Owram noted that the consensus is that the demand for appropriate graduate housing is growing. He noted that student housing is critical, since almost 60% of students come to the UBC Okanagan campus from out-of-town and the current Kelowna rental market is not ideal due to limited vacancies and high rental prices.

Policies and Procedures Committee

Vice-Chair Dr. Ooram asked that the Policies and Procedures Committee items on the agenda be reordered. The amended agenda was accepted by consent.

UBC Okanagan Graduation Ceremonies as Meetings of the UBC Convocation

Moved: Dr. Keyes

Seconded: Dr. Cioe

That it be affirmed that, whereas UBC Okanagan graduation ceremonies are formally “meetings of the convocation” as defined by the University Act, these events and their format fall under the jurisdiction of Senate.

Discussion

Director of the Ceremonies Office Ms. Courtney was introduced to the Senate and recognized as a guest speaker. Ms. Courtney explained the role of the Ceremonies Office at the UBC graduation ceremonies; when a student graduates from The University of British Columbia, they graduate from the University rather than the campus. Therefore her office is responsible for the graduation ceremonies as a system although the uniqueness of each campus is expressed through their ceremonies. Ms. Courtney shared that, in her 16 years at UBC, the Senate has presided over the convocation but has been the responsibility of the Ceremonies Office. Ms. Courtney was concerned to how the Senate and her office will coordinate the graduation ceremony according to the current motion being considered by Senate. Responding to a question from the floor, Ms. Courtney confirmed that the Ceremonies Office is financially responsible for the graduation ceremonies and that the budgetary consequences of any changes would need to be considered.

Dr. Cioe expressed his support for the motion and his opinion that the Senate, collectively, would make policies and the details associated with those policies as they are substantively necessary. To the extent that academic sentiment is expressed by Senate then Senate has that capacity to make that decision around issues that are substantive to senators who represent the academy.

Vice-Chair Dr. Ooram conveyed that UBC Okanagan is facing a challenge of expressing its local, distinctive tradition. Ms. Courtney assured the Vice-Chair that everyone is working to the same goal, which is to provide an outstanding graduation experience for students and their families while reflecting who we are as an institution. She articulated that the Ceremonies Office did reflect the uniqueness of the Okanagan nations through addition of their Welcome Song to the graduation ceremonies. She noted that there are ways to be campus-specific while still integrated within the system. Dean Isaacson reinforced Vice-Chair Dr. Ooram’s comment on local tradition by stating that the Okanagan University College traditions should be blended into UBC Okanagan in order to be unique yet traditional, which is why he supports all three motions, related to this matter, as recommended by the Committee. He added that the Senate members through

the collective process will determine what should be implemented on a campus or system level. Dean Isaacson confirmed that the Senate has the power and make rules for the convocation under the *University Act*; therefore this motion is reaffirming that power given to the Senate. Dean Isaacson expressed that the Deans' opinions were not often sought and therefore the Senate should decide on matters pertaining to the conferring of degrees at the graduation ceremonies.

The motion was put and carried.

Naming of UBC Okanagan Graduation Ceremony

Moved: Dr. Keyes

Seconded: Dr. Williams

That “Convocation” be adopted as the name for meetings of the UBC convocation held at UBC Okanagan for the purposes of conferring degrees, effective June 2008.

Discussion

Dr. Keyes noted that the Committee decided that the Senate collectively should make the decision and therefore included background material to show that the Committee was not unanimous in making a specific recommendation on this matter. Ms. Courtney responded to Vice-Chair Dr. Owram by stating that the term “congregation” has been the formal and information term for the UBC graduation ceremonies since 1916. Vice-Chair Dr. Owram reminded Senators to be aware of this UBC tradition despite discussions in the 1920s by the UBC Senate to change the name congregation to convocation. He acknowledged the sensitivities around this name, despite practical or historical arguments, and stated, but that he will support either name as decided by the Senate.

Dr. Gustar noted her support for the term “convocation”. Ms. Courtney stated that, while "convocation" is in informal use at both campuses, she supports the name “congregation” due to the tradition, uniformity, and uniqueness it holds at The University of British Columbia. At the request of a Senator, Mr. Eaton provided background information on the history of the use of the two terms at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge and their application in British Columbia at the time UBC was established. Dr. Cioe spoke in support of “convocation”.

The motion was put and carried.

Bagpipes and UBC Okanagan Graduation Ceremonies

Moved: Dr. Keyes

Seconded: Dr. Lalonde

That the academic procession at UBC Okanagan graduation ceremonies normally include bagpipes.

Discussion

Several Senators suggested that the 2006-2007 graduation ceremonies could be described as “flat” and felt that the addition of bagpipes at the ceremonies might help enliven future ceremonies. Conversely, Dr. Gustar spoke against the motion by stating that she felt wary about tying the Ceremonies Office to bagpipes only. Several Senators echoed Dr. Gustar’s comment. Dr. Castricano noted that she enjoys the bagpipes for being emotionally evocative; however she added that an exchange with Okanagan Nations is preferred to acknowledge the diversity on campus. Further, Dr. McCoubrey asked whether other cultural activities, than the bagpipes, were considered by the Committee.

Dr. Cioe recognizes that the use of bagpipes celebrates an Okanagan University College tradition, which is where many of the current Senators originated. Dr. Cioe spoke in favour of the motion, noting that the use of bagpipes by Simon Fraser University did not affect his opinion on the matter. He agreed with earlier comments that the Ceremonies Office has been effective and inclusive thus far in the process of graduation at UBC Okanagan. However, he expressed the opinion that when the Senate makes a rule regarding graduation the Ceremonies Office would be charged with its implementation.

Speaking in favour of the motion Dr. Reid felt that the bagpipes would signal the start of the academic procession, which provides the opportunity for the campus-community to applaud the graduates as they proceed to the ceremony. Other Senators shared their preference for bagpipes or other cultural exchanges at the graduation ceremonies. Dr. Williams noted that the intention of this motion was to bring uniqueness to the Okanagan campus graduation ceremonies as well as to blend an OUC tradition into UBC Okanagan.

Hearing divisiveness in the debate, Vice-Chair Dr. Owram asked whether an Ad Hoc Committee might be created to consider cultural ideas for upcoming graduation ceremonies. Ms. Courtney supported this idea and offered her office to participate as required. Dr. Abd-El-Aziz added that student consultation on this item is paramount. Ms. Neumann asked that the motion be postponed or referred back to the Policies and Procedures Committee for further consideration of the views expressed by various Senators.

Moved: Ms. Neumann

Seconded: Dr. Cioe

That the Policies and Procedures Committee be directed to consider options for graduation ceremonies in collaboration with the Ceremonies Office and report back by March 2008.

The motion was put and carried (2 against).

Discussion

Ms. Collins added that after the item comes back to the Senate in March on recommendation from the Policies and Procedures Committee an ad hoc committee might be created by the Nominating Committee to investigate this matter further as

required. Dean Bottorff expressed her opinion that a more permanent, ongoing committee might be organized to collaborate with the Ceremonies Offices annually; Mr. Eaton noted that in the draft terms of reference for Senate Committees under consideration by the Nominating Committee, this item would be assigned to a committee on an ongoing basis. Dr. Gustar asked whether an ad hoc committee is necessary based on this information. Mr. Eaton replied that a motion to create an ad hoc committee is necessary if Senators would like a committee to begin work this spring.

Moved: Dean Bottorff
Seconded: Dr. Cioe

That the Nominating Committee be directed to recommend to Senate the terms of reference and composition of an Ad Hoc Committee to consider the format of Convocation Ceremonies at UBC Okanagan from 2009 onwards and make a recommendation to Senate and the Ceremonies Office thereon as appropriate.

The motion was put and carried.

UBC Okanagan Policy on Research Centres

Moved: Dr. Keyes
Seconded: Dean Campbell

That the Policy on Research Centres, as recommended by the Policies and Procedures Committee, be approved.

Discussion

At the 07 November 2007 Senate meeting the UBC Okanagan Policy on Research Centres was severed from the Policy on Research Institutes for separate consideration. The Policy on Research Institutes was approved, and the Policy on Research Centres was referred back to the Policies and Procedures Committee. Responded to a question from a Senator, Dr. Keyes stated that the status of established research centres and institutes could change from time to time.

The motion was put and carried (one abstention).

Policy on Research Institutes

Moved: Dr. Keyes
Seconded: Dr. Williams

That the Policy on Research Institutes approved by the Senate on 07 November 2007 be amended as recommended by the Policies and Procedures Committee.

Carried.

Curriculum Committee

The Committee Chair Dr. Gustar presented the report from the Faculties of Arts and Sciences, Creative and Critical Studies, and Health and Social Development.

Moved: Dr. Gustar

Seconded: Dr. Cioe

That Senate approve the new program and new courses brought forward by the Faculties of Arts and Sciences, Creative and Critical Studies, Health and Social Development as set out in the attached package.

Discussion

Dr. Williams applauded the expansion of opportunities for students in Humanities including Women's Studies courses. Dr. Cioe echoed this sentiment specifically to the Minor in Medieval and Renaissance Studies; one editorial change was made in that proposal. Dr. Gustar stated that no amendments are required for the Art History courses 370 and 410 as these courses are proposed as regular courses rather than special topic courses. Vice-Chair Dr. Owram asked whether there is anything in the Calendar language preventing students who have taken the special topics courses for credit from taking ARTH 370 and 410 also for credit. Mr. Eaton replied that a general statement would be added to the Calendar addressing special topics material taught in regular courses.

The motion was put and carried.

Learning and Research Committee

The Committee Chair Mr. Arthur recommended the following reports:

Term 1 Midterm Break

Moved: Mr. Arthur

Seconded: Dr. Cioe

That the Term 1 Midterm Break in November be discontinued beginning with the 2008/2009 Academic Year and beyond.

Discussion

Dr. Williams spoke against the motion; he stated that in his opinion, the intention of breaks is important to students and faculty. Dr. Williams felt that the faculty members at UBC Okanagan demand excellent work from their students, and therefore this break is warranted. He added that the reading break in Term 1 should be expanded to one week, the first day of classes would commence before Labour Day, as opposed to being considered for discontinuation. Dr. Williams asked that Student Senators share their opinion on the matter. Mr. Lubbers noted that the students he had approached appreciated

this break. Mr. Lepp echoed his support for the Term 1 break including the notion to commence classes prior to Labour Day. Dr. Gustar also noted her support.

In support of the motion, Dr. Reid stated that any break in Term 1 can be difficult for students enrolled in laboratory courses. He expressed, in his opinion, that this break is unnecessary due to the variety of scheduled Statutory Holidays. Mr. Gandha expressed that the break pushes labs forward by one week, to the end of the term, which results in some students writing laboratory assignments until the term ends. Dr. Cioe confirmed his support for the motion based on an ideal that the number of teaching days be consistent between the terms. Vice-Chair Dr. Owrap noted that reading week originated as a break when university courses were structured over a full-year contrasting with over a term.

Responding to a question from the Senate Ms. Ross noted that the Term 1 Midterm break date was moved to Monday 10 November 2008 from Wednesday 12 November 2008.

The motion failed.

Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics and the UBC Okanagan Academic Year

Moved: Mr. Arthur

Seconded: Ms. Barnard

That the 2009/2010 UBC Okanagan Academic Year be modified to extend the Term 2 midterm break by one week to span the period from February 15 through February 26, 2010, and

That the last day of the April 2010 examination period be set as April 30, 2010.

The Committee had circulated a proposal to modify Term 2 of the 2009/2010 Academic Year to extend the February midterm break from one week to two weeks. The extended midterm break would cover nearly the entire period of the Winter Olympic Games. The proposed revised term was as follows:

Classes Start: Monday, January 4;
Midterm Break: February 15 - 26;
Classes End: Thursday, April 15;
Term 2 Teaching Days: 62 days;
Exams Start: Monday, April 19;
Exams End: Friday, April 30.

Differences between the modified term and a standard term included

- one less teaching day: 62 instead of the optimal 63;
- one less examinable day during the examination period: 12 instead of 13; and
- the scheduling of examinations on April 30, whereas examinations customarily concluded by April 28.

Discussion

Mr. Lubbers spoke strongly against the motion; he stated that the motions do does not represent a real opportunity for most students based on their inability to participate in the events due to geographic and financial obstacles. He urged fellow Senators to not approve the motions. Dean Campbell assured Senators that 250 Education Students would be in practicum during that time and most likely would not be in favour of the proposal. Dr. Castricano spoke in favour of the motion; she expressed, her opinion that, many students would perhaps participate in the Games should the opportunity be available. She conveyed that UBC Vancouver and Simon Fraser University Senates' had approved to extend the Term 2 midterm break. Vice-Chair Dr. Owsram asked Senators whether this item should be postponed definitely.

The motion failed

Admissions and Awards Committee***New Award***

That the Senate accept the new award as listed and forward it to the Board of Governors for approval, and that a letter of thanks be sent to the donor.

UBC STUDENTS' Union Okanagan Bursary: Bursaries totalling \$4,800 are offered by the UBC Students' Union Okanagan to students at The University of British Columbia Okanagan. The awards are made possible by funds from the UBC Students' Union Okanagan and matching funds from provincial sources. Individual awards should not exceed \$1,000. (First award available for the 2007/08 Winter Session)

Moved: Dr. McCoubrey
Seconded: Mr. Lubbers

On behalf of the UBC Okanagan Student Union, Mr. Lubbers confirmed that original funding for this award had been donated previously to Okanagan University College. He added that the funds shown in the award is based, or accrues interest, on the principle on the interest only, which is matched with provincial funding.

The motion was put and carried.

Joint Report of Admissions and Awards and Curriculum Committees – Dr. Jennifer Gustar***Faculty of Education: STEP Humanities Education Specialty***

Moved: Dr. Gustar
Seconded: Dr. McCoubrey

The Curriculum Committee and Admissions and Awards Committee jointly recommend the new STEP Humanities Education Specialty program for Senate approval as enclosed.

Dean Campbell noted the proposed specialty will be the only one of its kind outside of UBC Vancouver. Mr. Eaton asked that the motion include ‘*and its associated courses*’ as well as to amend the 60% language as a cumulative average rather than as a grade point average (GPA).

The motion was put and carried.

Report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor – Deputy Vice-Chancellor Dr. Doug Owram

Okanagan Budget Update

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor postponed the Okanagan Budget presentation until the 12 March 2008 Okanagan Senate meeting.

Other Business

Student Mobility Update

Curriculum Committee Chair Dr. Gustar shared an update on the matter of Student Mobility between the UBC campuses. She noted that initial discussions by the Vancouver Senate Admissions Committee began in 2007. An April meeting had been organized to discuss the issue of cross campus student mobility will include the following UBC Okanagan and Vancouver participants: Dr. D. Keyes, Dr. J. Gustar, Dr. S. McCoubrey, Dr. P. Harrison, Dr. J. Berger, Dr. P. Marshall, Dr. A. S. Abd-El-Aziz and Dr. A. Kindler. Ms. Collins added that the meeting is intended to meet for preliminary discussions rather than to meet as an ongoing committee, and therefore the timeline, work of the committee, membership composition, and agendas are not concrete. Dr. Abd-El-Aziz added that the Policies and Procedures Committee had discussed this item; as well the Provost, had met with Dr. W. Pue on the matters of credit transfer and the potential formation of a Task Force. Vice-Chair Dr. Owram expressed concerns with the conservatism of the UBC Vancouver Senate and this matter. He expressed that the Deans’ opinion would be sought so as to create dialogue between the Senate and Administration.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.

The following regular meeting was scheduled to be held on Wednesday 09 April 2008 at 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm in Library 317.