

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA | OKANAGAN



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OKANAGAN SENATE**MINUTES OF 05 NOVEMBER 2008****Attendance**

Present: President S. J. Toope (Chair), Ms. S. Morgan-Silvester (Chancellor), Deputy Vice-Chancellor Dr. D. Owsram (Vice-Chair), Mr. F. Vogt (Acting Register and Acting Secretary), Dr. A. S. Abd-El-Aziz (Provost), Mr. P. Arthur, Dean B. Bauer, Ms. M. Burton, Mr. N. Cadger, Dr. J. Castricano, Mr. R. Chavarie, Dr. J. Cheng, Dr. J. Cioe, Dr. F. de Scally, Mr. M. Dobson, Ms. L. Driscoll, Dr. M. Duran-Cogan, Mr. P. Emerson, Dr. J. Gustar, Dr. C. Hodge, Dr. J. Johnson, Dr. A. Joy, Dr. D. Keyes, Mr. M. Koovisk, Ms. R. L'Orsa, Dr. R. Lalonde, Mr. G. Lepp, Dr. G. Lovegrove, Acting Dean C. Mathieson, Dr. H. Najjaran, Dr. B. Nilson, Dr. B. O'Connor, Dr. G. Pandher, Ms. L. Patterson, Dr. M. Rheault, Dr. C. Robinson, Acting Dean K. Rush, Mr. R. Whitehouse, Dr. S. Yannacopoulos, Ms. G. Zilm.

Guests: Ms. L. M. Collins (Associate Secretary), Mr. C. Eaton, Ms. M. Kruiswyk.

Regrets: Mr. B. Silzer (AVP and Registrar), Dean T. Aboulnasr, Mr. G. August, Dean R. Belton, Ms. S. Bertrand, Dean R. Campbell, Mr. C. Devenish, Ms. V. Lymberopoulos, Ms. T. Palynchuk, Dr. S. McCoubrey, Dr. C. Mitton, Dr. C. Scarff, Dr. B. Schulz-Cruz, Dean I. Stuart.

Recording Secretary: Ms. K. Ross.

Call to Order

President Toope called the meeting to order. The President welcomed the Chancellor, Ms. Morgan-Silvester to Senate. The Chancellor noted that she was happy to attend her first Okanagan Senate meeting. She had spent a lovely day in the Okanagan where she

met various community members including many UBC alumni. The Chancellor noted that she enjoys her visits to UBC Okanagan due to its high level of community support and entrepreneurial spirit. Senators received the Chancellor by applause.

Senate Membership

DECLARATION OF VACANCY

Mr. Vogt announced the declarations of vacancy for one student representative for the Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies and one Student Representative At-large to Senate. Replacements for these Senators, once appointed, would serve for the remainder of the term ending 31 March 2009.

Mr. Chavarie raised a point of order by stating that through the failure of the Agenda Committee to meet its quorum, the Committee was unable to address the substance of the following motion referred to it by Senate on September 10, 2008.

That the Senate refer to the Agenda Committee the following matters for consideration and recommendation to Senate as appropriate:

- 1. If Senators Kuhn and Steinberg should be granted leave from their Senate responsibilities during Term 1 of the 2008/2009 Winter Session, as per their respective requests; and*
- 2. Senate representation during leaves of absence and whether mechanisms can be developed to ensure optimal levels of participation on Senate at all times by representatives of various constituencies.*

Mr. Chavarie explained that the Committee had not considered the item of granting leave to the Senators Kuhn or Steinberg in a timely manner, which led to the declarations of vacancy.

The President invited procedural advice from Ms. Collins to the point of order raised by Mr. Chavarie. Ms. Collins explained that the Secretary of Senate was obliged to declare the seats vacant pursuant to Section 12 of the *Rules and Procedures* as approved by the Okanagan Senate. She added that since the declarations of vacancy are presented for information the assembly did not have a question before it at that time. Ms. Collins advised Senators that the Senate could suspend Section 12 of the *Rules and Procedures* of the Okanagan Senate to allow the Agenda Committee more time to consider the motion referred to them.

Motion: *Mr. Chavarie*
Seconded: *Dr. Duran-Cogan*

That Senate suspend Section 12 of the Rules and Procedures of Senate for the purposes of allowing Senators Kuhn and Steinberg to remain on Senate until such time as the Agenda Committee reports back to Senate on the matter of their

attendance, or until the completion of their terms on 31 March 2009, whichever is sooner.

Discussion

Dr. Cioe emphasized that the effect of this motion would be a reduced student complement; whereas if the seats were declared vacant then the UBC Student Union Okanagan (UBCSUO) would recommend students for those positions immediately in order to fill the seats prior to the December Senate meeting. Dr. Cioe stated that he would not impose his model to what is best for students and would support the students' vote. He confirmed that he would abstain from voting should the students not support the motion. Dr. Cioe outlined a mechanism that may be explored by the UBCSUO, which would have them recommend two students to the Nominating Committee for one month; after one month the students would resign and Senators Kuhn and Steinberg would be recommended by the UBCSUO thereafter. The President noted that this mechanism would be a decision for the Student Union to consider.

Mr. Chavarie expressed the opinion that a mechanism should be developed to allow student Senators to take a leave beyond what is allowable under Section 12. The mechanism should take into account the participation of Senators in UBC Okanagan programs including Co-op terms, Go Global, etc. The President clarified the two Student Senators in question would return from their placements by January 2009.

Dr. Duran-Cogan suggested that should the motion succeed, it would be important for the Student Senators to consider strategies for participation at Senate Committee meetings in the interim period.

Senators Emerson and Dobson spoke in favour of the motion, asking that the two seats might be filled in the interim in order to maintain student involvement on both the Senate and its Standing Committees. Mr. Emerson added that an audio presence might be utilized for those Senators not in attendance in person at Senate meetings.

Ms. L'Orsa spoke against the motion in hopes that a decision would be made immediately rather than allowing the Agenda Committee additional time to complete its work; she expressed the importance of student representation at the upcoming Senate meeting.

Dr. Cioe confirmed that part two of the motion referred by Senate to the Agenda Committee remains in effect since a report-back date was not specified in the motion. With that said, the President asked that the minutes of the current Senate meeting be shared with the Agenda Committee when considering mechanisms to ensure opportunities for participation on Senate.

The motion to suspend Section 12 failed.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting, 08 October 2008

Moved: Dr. Cioe
Seconded: Mr. Koovisk

That the minutes of the Okanagan Senate Meeting of 08 October 2008 be adopted as amended.

CORRECTIONS

The final paragraph of page 3 under *Budget Update* of the minutes was corrected to state 2.6 percent rather than 6.2 percent. The discussion paragraph of page 4 under *Government Letters of Expectation* was corrected to state 4 to 4.2 percent rather than 4 to 4.5 percent. The second paragraph of page 10 under *The College of Graduate Studies Review* was corrected to state ‘... of the Senate to approve and to recommend for consideration of the Board of Governors.’ The *attendance* section of the meeting minutes was amended to list President S. J. Toope (Chair) (via videoconference) under a special heading ‘*Videoconference.*’ Dr. Lovegrove asked that a reference to ‘Sustainable Transportation’ be added under the discussion paragraph on page 8. Ms. Zilm and Mr. Emerson were added as attendees at that meeting.

The motion was put and carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

Chair’s Remarks and Related Questions

BUDGET UPDATE

The President reported that the Finance Committee of the Board of Governors had met that morning to consider implications of the external economic downturn for the University. He noted that overall the news was relatively positive in relation to the University for several reasons. The first was that there is no indication of an imminent reduction of either provincial or federal support for higher education, although this situation would need to be carefully monitored. Second, the University’s pension plans fortunately remain in very good shape, which is unusual among leading universities in Canada. Third, the Board of Governors had recently embarked on an extensive discussion related to the status of the University endowment, and whether its spend rates ought to be adjusted. The President expressed that much work was done by the Investment Management Trust (IMANT) to look at spend rates across North America. It was very likely that the Board of Governors would consider in January 2009 a recommendation to reduce the spend rate to ensure that UBC is protecting the capital of the endowment. The President was encouraged to report that overall the University’s finances had not been affected during this economic flux; he added that this is a remarkable statement to be able

to make since some other Canadian institutions had already declared hiring or forecasted problems with the stability of their pension funds.

ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES

The President reported on his membership on the board of directors of Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC). The board had recently approved a letter to the Prime Minister offering the assistance of Canadian universities to the federal government as it considers policy implications of the current financial crisis. A letter will also be sent to Canadians, which the Association hopes will appear in regional newspapers across the country. The intent of the letter was to make the case that universities are now more important as we re-imagine the future of the economy. He added that universities are, practically speaking, sources of stability in 80 communities across the country for employment and in terms of recruitment of future talent. The letter would aim to position Canadian universities as part of a solution and not part of a problem; the President hoped that this well thought-out letter would be published shortly.

In addition, the President reported that he had been appointed as chair of the University President's Council (TUPC) in British Columbia. The TUPC planned to launch a series of advertisements around the role of universities in communities across the province as sources of innovation, places of attraction of talent, and of fundamental research that has broad impacts on our wider communities. This was part of a collective strategy from across the country to position Canadian universities as important partners during a time of economic turmoil. UBC was also planning a campaign to coincide with the TUPC initiative that would highlight some of the same themes.

RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS: NEW VICE-PRESIDENT, FINANCE, RESOURCES AND OPERATIONS

The President reported that a recommendation for the appointment of a new Vice President of Finance, Resources and Operations would be taken shortly to the Board of Governors. Dr. Owsram and Ms. Palynchuk had served on that selection committee.

Discussion

In response to a question about the impact of the economic crisis on the new BC special purpose teaching universities, the President noted that had been no change to the provincial government's plans for these newly established institutions; he added that it would be interesting to see what the financial future holds. The Government Letters of Expectation, which had caused some concern for the research-intensive universities, had been even more worrisome for the new universities in that the versions of the letters received by the special purpose teaching universities were more intrusive in their day-to-day operations and academic programming. The government had indicated that no additional resources were going to be given to these new institutions despite their change in status; in fact significant pressures were applied to control resource expectations. The President stated that there will be substantial pressures on the provincial government as the primary funder of higher education, particularly since the government was not forecasting the same surpluses as for the previous three years.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor's Remarks and Related Questions

ALUMNI EVENT

Dr. Owram positively reported that a recent alumni dinner that had taken place in the Okanagan had been a great success with respect to attendance and fund raising efforts for student bursaries. He noted the importance of engaging local UBC alumni to make this 'their University' even though they may have graduated from UBC Vancouver.

BUDGET UPDATE

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor reported that he had had some positive initial discussions with the UBC Okanagan sub-committee of the Council of Senates Budget Committee, and that the group would meet again within following few weeks. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor stated that he recently had a very good meeting with the Deputy Minister of Advanced Education, Ms. Robin Ciceri. He noted that the new Deputy Minister began her role in July 2008. The Deputy Minister well understood UBC Okanagan's role as a start up organization. Although no budgetary promises were made, Ms. Ciceri demonstrated an understanding that UBC Okanagan needed to think of its programs as developing over time.

From the Board of Governors

The Senate received for information confirmation that the following items approved by the Okanagan Senate had been subsequently approved by the Board of Governors as required under the *University Act*.

Senate Meeting of September 10, 2008

Curriculum from the Faculty of Applied Science

Agenda Committee

The Acting Committee Chair, Mr. Robert Chavarie reiterated the importance of participation on the Senate and noted that the Agenda Committee would be considering at its November meeting possible mechanism to ensure representation of students and other groups in the activities of the Senate.

Academic Policy Committee

The Committee had circulated a proposal to approve an interim arrangement for the granting of graduate degrees. The group of candidates expected to graduate in November 2008 included the degrees of Master of Applied Science, Master of Arts, Master of Education, Master of Fine Arts and Master of Science.

The Committee recommended that as the Faculties of Applied Science, Arts and Sciences, Creative & Critical Studies, Education, and Health & Social Development had each delegated to the College of Graduate Studies the responsibility of recommending candidates to the Senate for the granting of their respective graduate degrees, the name of the College shall appear as the recommending body on corresponding degree parchments.

The Dean of the College shall sign such parchments in addition to the Chancellor, President and Registrar.

Dr. Cioe noted that upon a review of the College of Graduate Studies functions, the Academic Policy Committee would over the next few months recommend to Senate a permanent arrangement for the granting of graduate degrees.

Moved: Dr. Cioe
Seconded: Ms. L'Orsa

That the Senate approve the interim arrangement for the granting of graduate degrees in November 2008, as recommended by the Academic Policy Committee.

The motion was put and carried.

Granting of Degrees

Moved: Mr. Koovisk
Seconded: Dr. Abd-El-Aziz

That the candidates for degrees, as recommended by the Faculties and the College, be granted the degrees for which they were recommended, effective November 2008, and that a committee composed of the Registrar, the appropriate Dean, and the Chair of the Okanagan Senate, be empowered to make any necessary adjustments (2/3 majority required)."

President Toope noted that the list of graduates for November 2008 included 110 names.

The motion was put and carried with the required 2/3 majority.

Curriculum Committee

As a non-member of Senate, Mr. Eaton was authorized by the Senate to address the assembly. As the Acting Committee Chair, Mr. Christopher Eaton presented the report on behalf of the Committee.

See also, 'Appendix A: Curriculum Summary.'

Moved: Dr. Cioe
Seconded: Mr. Koovisk

Motion: That Senate approve the programs and new and revised courses brought forward by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences as set out in the attached proposals.

Mr. Eaton noted that corrections to the *B.A. and B.Sc. Psychology Major and Honours Programs* proposal had been recently requested by the Unit. He asked whether the following corrections could be accepted through a friendly amendment.

AMENDMENT

Identical sections on pages 6, 8 and 9 under *Enrolling as a Psychology Major* were corrected to delete the text ‘except with permission of the program’ and to replace the word ‘must’ with ‘should’.

Moved: Dr. Cioe
Seconded: Dean Bauer

That the B.A. and B.Sc. Psychology Major and Honours Programs proposal be amended to include corrected text proposed by Unit 4 of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

The motion to amend was put and carried.

Discussion

Referring to the *B.A. and B.Sc. Psychology Major and Honours Programs* proposal Dr. Keyes asked for a rationale as to why a large passage related to Electives had been deleted from page 7. After Dr. Cioe responded that because information about electives appeared in other sections of the Calendar, this language was no longer necessary within the Psychology program section.

The motion to approve the curriculum proposals as amended was put and carried.

Learning and Research Committee

The Committee had circulated the proposed Class Scheduling Principles at UBC Okanagan for approval by the Senate.

Moved: Mr. Arthur
Seconded: Dr. Cioe

That Senate approve the Class Scheduling Principles at UBC Okanagan as presented by the Learning and Research Committee.

Discussion

Dr. de Scally asked for clarification about the conflicts referenced in Principle 1, “Credit courses that are required for a given year level of a program must be scheduled without conflicts”. Mr. Vogt stated that groups of courses within the same year level of a program or major should not conflict with each other. Dr. de Scally noted that Principle 7, “The UBC Okanagan class schedule will include at least one open period per week with no scheduled lectures. This period will be available for special campus events and meetings,” did not currently work well because laboratories were often scheduled during

that time. Mr. Arthur responded that a shortage of laboratory space was an important factor, and agreed that the situation was not optimal. He expressed hope that as more laboratory space became readily available that laboratories would no longer need to be scheduled during the open period.

Dr. Cioe asked whether a timeframe or target had been established to schedule laboratories outside of the open period. He asked whether the intent of the University would be to create an open period for lab students as well as for lecture students. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor responded by stating that it would be unrealistic to expect students in laboratory courses to remain free during the open period. As student numbers continued to grow, there would be continued constraint on available laboratory space. Dean Bauer emphasized that although space is a pertinent issue, the requirement for large blocks of time was also a factor. Dr. Abd-El-Aziz echoed Dean Bauer's comment by stating that the addition of more laboratory space may not address the open time issue due required blocks of time. He suggested that perhaps laboratories could be scheduled to begin earlier in the day. Dr. Cioe noted that the UBC Okanagan Academic Plan specified that an open time period should be available for all students; he asked that Enrolment Services and the administration consider how to best address this item over time.

Dr. Duran-Cogan asked whether classes were scheduled according to the size of the section. For instance, Language courses are regularly quite small with only 15-20 students; she noted that these classes are often accommodated in larger classrooms with access to computers and other technology through the evening class schedule but not during the day. Mr. Vogt clarified that the class schedule is arranged primarily to accommodate the pedagogical requirements of the course rather than the number of students registered in the course.

Dr. Pandher expressed that the current facilities available to the School of Engineering were not optimal; the President noted that this concern would be taken under advisement and reflected in the Senate meeting minutes.

In relation to a procedural query from Dr. Lalonde, Mr. Vogt confirmed that the proposed principles were not ranked according to priority. Dr. Lalonde argued that some of the principles were more important than others, such as "Credit courses that are required for a given year level of a program must be scheduled without conflicts." Although Mr. Vogt agreed to an extent, he added that the Senate could debate at length the optimal ranking of the principles in order of priority.

Dr. Robinson asked whether the rooms reflected in Principles 4 and 5 should be considered as 'general use.' Mr. Vogt explained that all campus space is considered to be the property of UBC Okanagan and that space is dedicated only when necessary. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor echoed Mr. Vogt's sentiment by stating that the buildings and classrooms are university spaces that are utilized optimally by all faculties as reflected in the University Class Schedule. Dr. Cioe supported the Deputy Vice-Chancellor's point that the space on campus should be shared and allocated based primarily on pedagogical need. Dr. de Scally commented that students continually seek informal gathering spaces

and asked what is being done. Deputy Vice-Chancellor Dr. Owrap confirmed that as the new buildings including the Student Centre, Arts and Sciences 2 and Engineering/Management are completed, informal gathering space for students would be increased. He added that this issue seemed to be an ongoing concern at most universities.

Related to social sustainability, Dr. Lovegrove suggested that the transit schedule for those utilizing that service be taken into consideration in the process of class scheduling. He added that the start times for UBC Vancouver classes are staggered in order relieve congestion during peak periods.

In response to a question from Dr. Duran-Cogan, Mr. Vogt noted that the class schedule pattern had been determined in consultation with the faculty unit or department heads; Enrolment Services did not dictate the actual pattern of the class schedule.

Although Dean Bauer supported the Class Scheduling Principles as presented, he noted that the principles did not speak to faculty member preferences as expressed from year to year. The President acknowledged the point made earlier that pedagogical issues need to be considered as paramount and that reasonable requests made by faculty members would also likely be considered.

The motion was put and carried.

Admissions and Awards Committee

The Committee had circulated the proposed Principles of Effective Undergraduate Admission to UBC for approval by the Senate. Acting Chair, Dr. Rheault recommended the following motion to the Senate.

Moved: Dr. Rheault
Seconded: Dr. de Scally

That the Principles for Effective Undergraduate Admission to UBC recommended in the attached report – and excerpted below – be approved for UBC Okanagan.

Discussion

Dr. Johnson asked for a rationale to why the Okanagan Senate is approving an item that has already been approved by UBC Vancouver; Ms. Collins noted that the document *Principles of Effective Undergraduate Admission to UBC* written by the Vancouver Agenda Committee should be corrected to specifically state UBC Vancouver. She confirmed that the Vancouver Senate does not have jurisdiction to make policies that would be enforceable at the Okanagan campus and thanked Dr. Johnson for signaling this error. The President asked that the Vancouver Agenda Committee be approached to change the title to specify applicability of the Vancouver Senate document to UBC Vancouver. In response to the current discussion, Dr. Johnson moved the following amendment.

Moved: Dr. Johnson
Seconded: Dr. Cioe

*That the Principles for Effective Undergraduate Admission to UBC be amended to specify **UBC Okanagan**.*

In response to a question from Mr. Emerson, the President stated that it would depend on the particular policy as to whether it would be necessary to specify applicability by campus. Some policies, such as those established by the Board of Governors, were applicable to the entire UBC system. Mr. Emerson expressed the view that most students would consider themselves to be UBC students rather than from one campus or the other. The President confirmed that the key is that the Senates have different jurisdictions, which was the arrangement when the Okanagan campus became part of The University of British Columbia. Although the ‘One Great University, and two Great Campuses’ is what UBC wants to achieve, it is important to be clear when policies are related to specific Senates.

Dr. de Scally commented that his teenaged children expressed a general sentiment that, high school students transitioning to UBC or who have already registered for their grade 12 courses are not provided with timely or sufficient information to changes in admission policies. He noted that this is an important point for the section titled *Transparency* on page 3. The President thanked Dr. de Scally for this comment.

Dr. Cioe expressed his hope that current admission policies would be honoured for students that were currently preparing for admission to UBC, and that there would be sufficient notice of any changes.

CORRECTION

The corollary of page 3 under *Transparency* of the proposed *Principles of Effective Undergraduate Admissions to UBC Okanagan* was corrected to state ‘The University will be open **and** direct in its communication of admission policies and practices. The recommended principles were corrected to include UBC *Okanagan*.

The motion to was put and carried as amended.

Other Business

Dr. Cioe gave notice of motion on an item previously considered by various Senate Committees related to the matter of student mobility between campuses. He asked that a resolution be considered for inclusion on the next regular meeting agenda. Dr. Abd-El-Aziz responded by stating that UBC Deans from both campuses had met last spring to discuss this item among others. The Registrar had agreed to draft a document related to this item; the Provost agreed to follow up with the Registrar on this draft in order to report back to the Senate. The President shared concerns on this item and expressed that it is decidedly embarrassing that UBC has better exchange and transfer agreements with external university partners than between the two UBC campuses.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by consent at 4:45pm.

The following regular meeting was scheduled to be held on Wednesday 10 December at 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm in Library 317.

APPENDIX A: CURRICULUM SUMMARY

Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Courses: New Undergraduate

- a. COSC 447: Directed Studies in Software Maintenance

Program: Revision

- b. B.A. and B.Sc. Psychology Major and Honours Program

Inclusion: In the list of science courses for the B.A. program:

- c. COSC 132: Surviving Security Threats in Our Information Society