THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

April 22, 2007

SENATE SECRETARIAT
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To: Senate
From: Brian J Silzer, Registrar & Secretary to Senate

Re: Term of Office for Convocation & Faculty Representatives to Senate

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As Senators are aware, the terms of office for Convocation & Faculty Representatives to Senate are scheduled to conclude on 31 August 2007. Although the term length above was an approved variance from the *University Act* given due to new nature of UBC Okanagan and an attempt to sycronize the election of the Chancellor, Board of Governors, and Senates, an argument has been made – and I agree – that the longer, statutory, term would be, in retrospect, more appropriate. The normal 3-year term would have ended end on 31 August 2008.

As such, I recommend the following to Senate:

That Senate recommend to the Council of Senates that the elected terms for the current Convocation & Faculty Representatives to Okanagan Senate be extended by 12 months to 31 August 2008.

I am also aware that the proposed Senate review committee may consider recommending changes to the manner and timing of Senate elections (e.g., perhaps a system of staggered terms would be established). If struck, it will most likely take this committee some time to report with recommendations. As such, proceeding with the elections scheduling to commence in the next week (for 2007, or for 2008 if the above recommendation is accepted) would hamper Senate's ability to accept recommendations regarding Senate term lengths as these would be finalized by the start of the election process.

As such, I recommend the following to Senate:

That Senate recommend to the Council of Senates that the election of Faculty and Convocation Representatives to the Okanagan Senate be delayed until October 2007.

Finally, a full 3-year term beginning in 2008 would be inconvenient should Senate decide such a change in the manner of is desirous. It is unlikely (and given the number of faculty would could easily be consulted perhaps inadvisable) that a review committee would be able to complete its work over the summer, yet elections must occur early in the next academic year.

As such, I recommend the following to Senate:

That Senate recommend to the Council of Senates that the elected terms for the Convocation & Faculty Representatives to Okanagan Senate elected or re-elected for 1 September 2008 be set at one (1) year.

This proposal would only affect the upcoming election. All subsequent elections would be for the normal three years (although they may be staggered if such a proposal was adopted at a later date).