

Approved

Business Arising

Senator Sneg thanked the Senate for its encouragement and participation in “Start the Conversation.”

Remarks from the Chair

GENERAL REMARKS

The President noted that he was continuing to have meetings with faculty, staff and students, as well as with friends of the university, and with various levels of government. He further advised that with the delay of the federal budget to April and the general revenue challenges being faced by the Federal Government, he and the other U15 presidents have put a renewed emphasis on protecting the research budget. Professor Gupta suggested that the Federal government did seem aware of the importance of the Tricouncil budgets for research and innovation, but given the challenges being faced, there was a potential for some budget reductions. With regards to Provincial relations, the President advised that the new minister was quickly growing to understand the BC system, its challenges and, opportunities. Professor Gupta noted his upcoming trip to China, where he is being joined by officials from the Ministry of Advanced Education.

Locally, for the Vancouver campus the upcoming transit plebiscite is an ongoing concern. While the University has taken the position to encourage voting, the president noted his own support for the “yes” vote. For the Okanagan, the President noted that he had met with many people who desired to get more engaged with UBC in burgeoning sectors of the local economy. The President noted the high level of support expressed by the community but that they found it challenging to engage with UBC.

Professor Gupta suggested that a common concern he heard was that there was not enough “communication” at UBC. He suggested that we have not created enough avenues to have voices heard and to know what is being discussed within the University. He noted a recent conversation started around the budget as an experiment to start a transparent dialogue.

The President noted that he was trying to meet with as many academic units as possible, with over 30 meetings now completed. He appreciated the opportunity to hear directly from academic units, but noted that this probably wasn’t sustainable on an annual basis and so other mechanisms were needed to facilitate these kinds of conversation.

Professor Gupta noted in closing that he was meeting with the deans, heads and directors to open a conversation on our key strategic priorities. He opined that UBC needed to ensure that the broader community can participate in those discussions. He particularly noted the usefulness of meetings with faculty, staff, and students together so that we can understand collective viewpoints.

CERTIFICATES OF THANKS

President Gupta and Vice-President Buszard thanked the student members of Senate who were completing their 1-year terms of office on 31 March 2015.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor's Remarks

Professor Buszard noted the United Nations World Water Days celebrations held on campus, with events featuring members from the Okanagan Nation, poetry, music, and research presentations. She further mentioned another successful campus event, Rule Out Racism, whose attendees included the Member of Parliament for Kelowna-Lake Country, the Honourable Ron Cannon.

Finally, Professor Buszard advised that the 10th anniversary research week was an excellent success, noting that the researcher of the year award was won by Dr Abbas Milani of the School of Engineering.

Academic Policy Committee

Dean Miriam Grant, Chair of the Senate Academic Policy Committee, presented.

TERM 2 READING WEEK

On behalf of the Academic Policy Committee, Dean Grant advised that they had considered changing the break to correspond with Vancouver's, and at this point were recommending no change to the planned schedule for next year; thus, reading week would stay aligned with the current date for the Family Day Holiday. Dean Grant further advised that the committee would spend the next few months gathering more data, and take this as well as any changes the Provincial Government may make into considering for any future recommendations.

Admission & Awards Committee

The Chair of the Senate Admission & Awards Committee, Dr Spiro Yannacopoulos, presented.

NEW AWARDS

Spiro Yannacopoulos	}	<i>That Senate accept the new awards as listed and forward it to the Board of Governors for approval; and that a letter of thanks be sent to the donor.</i>
Catherine Comben	}	

Approved

ADDITION OF VANTAGE COLLEGE TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE ADMISSION STANDARD (ELAS)

Spiro Yannacopoulos	}	<i>That Senate approve that successful completion of UBC's Vantage College demonstrates English language competence, therefore meeting the</i>
Virginie Magnet	}	

English Language Admission Standard (ELAS) for transition into UBC Okanagan programs for entry to the 2015 Winter Session and thereafter.

Senator Johnson asked if there was any evidence that Vantage “demonstrated” competency in the English language as stated in the proposal.

Senator Labun advised that completion of APSC 176 would do this as it was a rigorous 3-credit course.

Senator Keyes asked if it would not make more sense to still use a test for the year to judge the successfulness of the proposed way to meet the standard.

The Registrar advised that there was no one ELAS test; there were presently 9 ways of demonstrating ELAS competency, and this would be the 10th.

Senator Keyes asked why we wouldn’t use the other metric for 1 year to compare it to our metrics.

The Registrar replied that this was an alternate way of assessing these students.

Senator Wong asked if students would take the TOEFL and not do as well, or not take it as well.

The Registrar replied the former.

Senator Evans encouraged the registrar’s office to do an empirical review of all the ELAS tests.

The Registrar replied that McGill was actually doing this research now and that UBC could take this into consideration when their results were available.

Senator Smith asked what was meant by “successful” completion of the Vantage program.

The Register replied 60% was the requested average.

Senator Wong asked what could be done to clarify misunderstandings of Vantage in the media.

The Registrar replied that programs like Vantage needed time to show their rigour. Vantage students are performing well compared to traditional UBC students at present based on the first year’s data.

The Chair noted that we wanted to measure both there academic and their social performance and these are hard to make statements about until we have sufficient data. Vantage has spent a lot of time working with the media to have them better understand the efficacy of Vantage.

Daniel Keyes asked if we had empirical data that supported the validity of the EFP in satisfying the ELAS standard.

Senator Cull replied that yes we did.

Senator Kundanmal suggested that she expected that if these student did have issues, it would become apparent not in year 2, but in years 3 and 4.

Senator Arthur noted that this proposal was similar to WRIT 009, which we set up for domestic students who did not meet the 70% requirement. At that time, we asked for reports from Senator Cull on student success. He suggested that something similar would be useful for EFP and Vantage.

Senator Cull advised that we regularly reported to the Senate's committees on WRIT 009 and we could do the same for the EFP.

Senator Evans again asked for empirical data on the success of each metric.

The Register agreed to provide a report to the Learning and Research Committee.

In response to a question, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor advised that we did collect this data and on average these students did slightly better comparatively.

Approved

Abstentions: Peter Arthur, Michael Evans

ENROLMENT TARGETS 2015-2016

Spiro Yannacopoulos	}	<i>That Senate approve the 2015/2016 enrolment targets, as per section 27(2)(r) of the University Act, as outlined in the attached report.</i>
Shira Sneg		

With consent of Senate, the Deputy Registrar presented.

Senator Tettey asked for the context around the Arts & Science and Creative & Critical Studies Bachelor of Arts numbers.

Mr Vogt replied that the BA was split between the two faculties but we don't know how to divide those students until they declare a major within one of the two faculties.

Senator Legault suggested that in the future the BA should be reported jointly under both faculties.

A senator asked how graduate students factored into our enrolment and if we determine their numbers in a similar manner.

Mr Vogt replied that it was a different process.

Dean Grant advised that we would have conversations at upcoming senates about strategic enrolment for graduate students and graduate programming. She noted that UBC's Okanagan campus was funded by the Province equally for undergraduate and graduate students.

Senator Walker noted that we were projecting a growth of 140 students, but noted that the number of applications was steady for 1st choice, and only a 13% growth for 2nd. He asked what the plan was to enrol to those numbers.

Mr Vogt replied that these were aspirational targets, and we were everything we could to facilitate applications becoming admittances and enrolments. Our targets are optimistic but not unrealistic.

Senator Mathieson said that we learned much from last year. We are looking at different cohorts of students to identify where we are having difficulties. We monitor applications quite carefully.

Senator Walker asked about the large growth projected for Human kinetics.

With consent of Senate, Dr Paul van Donkelaar advised that we have had a substantial increase in demand for this program and, thus we have increased enrolment without reducing standards.

Senator Wylie advised that he voted against the targets at SAAC and did not support the proposal before senate today. He noted the aggressive growth targets for professional programs, and the contractions for Arts, Fine Arts and Education, and no growth for Science. In 5 years he saw these targets moving UBCO away from liberal arts and towards a vocational or polytechnic university. He further noted what he described as anaemic growth for international students in these programs as well. Finally, he noted that we had a target of 1950 for this year and only hit 1710. Our target for next year is 1990 despite being 13% down this year. Senate Wylie suggested that if there is no increase this year, the Okanagan campus would then be 10% below funded targets.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor replied, stating that she preferred to think of our enrolment targets as enrolment forecasts. She agreed that we missed last year, and suggested that we likely would not make our targets this year for arts and science; she advised that this was primarily because of the smaller size of our applicant pools for most institutions across Canada due to demographic shifts, and that there was global trend for students preferring to not take BA and BSc programs. She noted the complimentary set of programs on this campus, but noted that for Vancouver, Arts and Science applications were driven up by the undergrad/MM dual degrees program. As an example of innovative programming, this was a new option that was highly attractive even given its significant fee. She suggested that we needed to have a larger applicant pool and to make coming to the Okanagan campus a more attractive proposition. In their current form, she predicted that

certain programs would not be sustainable, as we could no longer maintain a critical mass of professors without student interest. Professor Buszard concluded by noting that these changes in demographics and program interest were not a situation unique to the Okanagan, but rather true across North America.

Senator Wylie said that there were still huge pools of Arts and Science students applying for Vancouver who could be made offers to the Okanagan.

The Registrar advised that we looked at the evidence for alternate offers, both for how those students did and if they stayed. Students were not happy or successful if Okanagan was not their preferred campus. She noted that Human Kinetics at the Okanagan had a strong reputation and thus this was less of a concern for them.

Mr Vogt added that we did not use the alternate offer system for Kinesiology.

The Chancellor asked if the 6% increase was as far as we could go, and what the natural limit would be for international students.

Professor Buszard replied that overall, we would like to see the number rise to 20% on the longer term, but we have a lower level of demand due to our newness and unknownness to international students. The Reputation of UBC was Vancouver, but the Okanagan campus was working to address this.

With consent of Senate, Ms Susan Allan, Associate Director of ISI spoke, noting that this was a newer campus and we are still trying to overcome the immediate thoughts of just Vancouver. She agreed that global demand versus local programing was a legitimate concern.

Senator Sneg asked if we had a mechanism to address attrition concerns.

Senator Cull advised that we looked at our attrition and progression rates. The best predictors for retention are geography and the Okanagan being their first choice; Okanagan programs did extremely well for such students. The best predictor for attrition is non-local students for whom we are not the first choice; the loss rate was around 20%. He noted that the key concern was that 70% of our students were not from the Okanagan.

It was clarified for Senator Johnson that the Senate was approving the number of students in each faculty and program.

Approved

Curriculum Committee

Dr Peter Arthur, Senate Curriculum Committee, presented.

Michael Evans
Sean Lawrence

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That ENGR 360 be referred to the Curriculum Committee and that the Committee be directed to consult directly with Statistics prior to making any recommendation to Senate regarding this course.

Senator Yanacopoulos spoke against the motion to refer. He noted that the course would use a engineer-written textbook and was taught as an engineering course across Canada.

With consent of Senate, Dr Yang Cao spoke, stating that Engineering had consulted with statistics and did address their concerns in the opinion of Engineering. He further noted that for accreditation reasons the course had to be taught by a professional engineer.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor noted that this proposal was just a level change for a long-standing professional course.

Dr Holtzman advised that teaching 460 at the 4th year was atypical. Many other universities have this as a 3rd year course; however, the Engineering program did not have room for it in the 3rd year of its program until now.

**Motion to refer
not approved**

**Main Motion
Approved**

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 pm.

Appendix A: Awards Report

New Award:

Dr. Gordon Springate Sr. Award in Engineering

A \$5,000 award is offered by Gordon Springate Jr. to a student completing a Bachelor of Applied Science Degree in the School of Engineering at the University of British Columbia, Okanagan campus. The award is given to a student who has demonstrated material contribution to their community outside of their program. The award is made on the recommendation of the School. (First award available for the 2014 Winter Session)

Appendix B: Curriculum Report

FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE

New and Revised Courses:

APSC 255 (3) Electric Circuits and Power (revised course)
APSC 261 (3) Theory of Structures
APSC 262 (3) Digital Systems Design (revised course)
ENGR 350 (3) Linear Circuit Theory (revised course)
ENGR 360 (3) Engineering Probability and Statistics
ENGR 426 (3) Analysis of Indeterminate Structures (revised course)
ENGR 473 (3) Antennas and Propagation (revised course)
ENGR 574 (3) Antennas and Propagation (cross-listed ENGR 473)

Revised Program Requirements:

Bachelor of Applied Science -> ENGR Year 2 degree requirements

FACULTY OF ARTS & SCIENCES

New Courses:

PSYO 559 (6) Clinical Psychological Internship
ANTH 353 (3) Ethnography of India
ANTH 416 (3) Anthropology of Tourism