



# OKANAGAN SENATE

## MINUTES OF 22 APRIL 2015

**Present:** Prof. A. Gupta (President), Dr K. Ross (Secretary), Ms L. Allan, Dr P. Arthur, Prof. D. Buszard, Dr R. Campbell, Dr D. Carter, Dr J. Castricano, Ms C. Comben, Mr I. Cull, Dean M. Grant, Dr J. Johnson, Dr D. Keyes, Dr D. Koslowsky, Dr C. Labun, Dr R. Lalonde, S. Lawrence, Dr M. Legault, Dr Y. Lucet, Dr V. Magnat, Ms L. Marshall, Dr C. Mathieson, Dr S. McNeil, Ms L. Oleksewich, Mr D. Oyelese, Dean *Pro Tem*. B. Rutherford, Dr R. Sadiq, Dr D. Salhani, Ms S. Sneg, Dr J. Stites Mor, Dean R. Sudgen, Acting Dean E. Taylor, Dean W. Tettey, Dr G. Wetterstrand, Dr P. Wylie, Dr S. Yannacopoulos, Mr T. Zhang.

**Regrets:** Mr B. Ali, Ms A. Babunga, Dr L. Berg, Ms H. Berringer, Dean *Pro Tem*. G. Binsted, Mr D. Bual, Dr J. Corbett, Dr M. Evans, Ms A. Fleming, Ms E. Gallaccio, Chancellor L. Gordon, Dr R. Lawrence, Ms N. Legg, Dr Mr J. McEwan, Dean M. Parlange, Ms J. Vinek, Dr D. Walker.

**Recording Secretary:** Mr C. Eaton

### Call to Order

The President, Professor Arvind Gupta, called the eighth regular meeting of the Okanagan Senate for the 2014/2015 academic year to order at 3:32 pm.

### Senate Membership

#### INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO SENATE FOR 2015-2016

The Registrar, Dr Kate Ross, introduced the new student representatives to Senate for the next year:

Faculty of Applied Science: Mr Dejo Oyelese

Faculty of Arts & Sciences: Ms Shira Sneg (continuing)

Faculty of Creative & Critical Studies: Ms Lauren Marshall

Faculty of Management: Mr Daman Bual

Students At-Large: Mr Barbar Ali, Ms Alliance Bubanga, Ms Eliza Gallaccio, Ms Nicole Legg, Ms Lauren Oleksewich and Mr Terry Zhang.

It was also noted that there were vacancies for the faculties of Education and Health & Social Development, and for two graduate student representatives.

### Senate Nominating Committee

Dr Ross issued a call for nominations for two (2) student representatives to Senate to serve on the Senate Nominating Committee until 31 March 2016 and thereafter until replaced.

## Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Peter Arthur  
Deborah Buszard

} *That the Minutes of the Meeting of 25 March 2015  
be adopted as corrected.*

*Correction: On page 8, comments attributed to R.  
Lawrence were made by S. Lawrence.*

**Approved**

## Remarks from the Chair

### GENERAL REMARKS

The President advised that he recently travelled to China, and noted how with each successive visit he was taken by the rapid change and development in that country, in particular the heavy Government investment there in universities, especially equipment and infrastructure. He suggested that this was a time of self-reflection and internal criticism in the Chinese higher education sector that seemed designed to improve the system overall, and help those universities grow a better society. He further noted a desire to have Canadian universities work with Chinese universities in that work, and see Canadian students spend more time in China, as presently much of this flow was just of students from China to Canada.

The President went on to note the recent agreements he had signed with Chinese partners, and suggested that while many American universities touted such partnerships, for them this seemed to be largely about recruiting; UBC, he suggested, had an opportunity for deeper relationships. Professor Gupta noted that this view was shared by the Minister of Education and the Minister of State for Foreign Accreditation, as they believe there is a potential with UBC that is stronger than with other groups. These same ministries had also suggested a dialogue on education with Canada, China, and India.

Senator Comben asked if the Chinese had specific interest in some disciplines.

The President replied that they did have an interest in a variety of fields, including the environment, demographics, energy, governance, health, but the question for him was where did UBC see our expertise as providing value into a discussion. It is hard to know where we even have that conversation in UBC. From a programmatic side, they seem open to any possible model and had excellent facilities, but needed assistance with curriculum.

Senator Wylie agreed that more faculty and students should go to China, but asked how UBC would deal with concerns over academic freedom and free speech.

The President agreed that this was an important question. Departments need to be free to do what they need to do, but as a system we need to address these concerns and he found it hopefully that Chinese seem to want to have those conversations openly.

Senator Oleksewich asked if our students would need a proficiency in Mandarin to study in these programs.

The President replied that SFU had a 2-2 program that did require this, but it was a challenge. Some places said they could do so in English but we weren't convinced that this was the right path. Maybe summer Mandarin courses were an option, but it was too early to consider this. Language and culture are closely linked. He further noted that while UBC was working on a few 2+2 agreements, they would likely need to be one-way until we sort out the language issue.

### **ACTIVITY REPORT**

A report on the President's activities from 25 January to 1 April 2015 was received for information.

### **Deputy Vice-Chancellor's Remarks**

#### **BUDGET UPDATE**

Professor Buszard presented an update on the budget as approved by the Board of Governors earlier this month. The context of the budget is UBC's goal of being among the best public universities in the world.

She noted that our challenges are a declining provincial grant, domestic tuition capped to inflation, provincial restrictions on use of reserves, and more competitive research competitions.

The President noted that growing numbers of international students did actually have a cost on the university as well, so that unlimited growth there was not a solution to other budgetary pressures. We need to ensure that we give all students, domestic and international, the best possible outcome.

Senator Comben noted that we extolled ourselves as one of the world's best universities; her concern was that UBCO was approaching its tenth anniversary and UBC its 100<sup>th</sup>. When we started we started on a different level of student funding. We needed a strategic review of how our students are funded on both campuses. She asked on the endowment and if it was only to benefit the Vancouver campus.

The President replied that if we are one University than we need to decide what that means and how we will act collectively across the two campuses. If we do not have a shared vision, it is akin to just dividing up a pie. This is not an easy discussion to have on either campus. We need to have the conversation but it is emotional and history needs to be respected. The President suggested that we needed to look at this respectfully and at least ask the questions.

Senator Wylie noted that this presentation was much less detailed than it was in previous years. For the budget assumptions, he noted that we were predicting that we would reach our enrolment targets but our approved targets acknowledged that this might not happen. He further asked about the 15% cut for the administration budget and if this would result in layoffs.

With consent of Senate, the Associate Vice-President Finance & Operations *pro tem.*, Curtis Morcom, spoke, noting that the campus would have a 3% shortfall for enrolment, but we were able to cover this with our contingency. Administrative savings were outlined in the budget appendices.

The Principal advised that the full budget and appendices had been approved by the Board and has been seen by the Senate Budget Committee, and that it was generally presented at town hall and in other forums.

Senator Castricano asked if we were or were not on a level playing field between the two campuses, noting that the history of past decisions was still with UBC today. The reality of the budget is on one hand we are all UBC, but with the inequities we are two campuses. We receive less funding per student than UBC Vancouver, especially for graduate students, and we are indebted to the Vancouver campus for system-wide operations, including paying \$3.6 million for system activities. There are differences, granted, but if we are one university we need to know what that means.

The President replied that the big issue was if we were one University or not and what that meant; he suggested that if we share a common vision and mission we needed to address all other issues collectively. He noted that this was the first time where we showed the budget for both campuses in the presentation, and this was telling.

Senator Arthur expressed his appreciation that this conversation would be happening at the Executive; he asked if equity between programs and campuses would be considered.

The President replied that if we agreed on a vision, than the next step would be to agree to principles.

Senator Johnson noted that UBC's Okanagan campus recently went through a lengthy Aspire process, and asked if that was our part of that bigger discussion.

The Principal replied that we have established where the Okanagan campus was, and what the values for our campus are, but the discussion the President was referring to was for all of UBC. Aspire indicated that we are distinct, and UBC was a federation of two campuses that had two backgrounds and two sets of opportunities.

### **Activity Report**

A report on the Deputy Vice-Chancellor's activities from 1 October 2014 to 30 March 2015 was received for information.

### **Academic Policy Committee**

Dr Spiro Yannacopoulos presented on behalf of the Committee, introduced Dean Grant.

#### **STATUS REPORT ON THE COLLEGE FOR GRADUATE STUDIES**

Dean Grant presented a status report on the College for Graduate Studies. She noted that we have experienced phenomenal growth in our graduate programs since 2005. We are at 581 FTE, 687 people. At present, 37% are PhD students, 40% research masters, and 23% professional masters.

Dean Grant noted that the Okanagan campus and the College of Graduate Studies were only 10 years old, and this influences the support available. We only for instance had \$25 000 in endowed scholarships. We are becoming better at tricouncil awards, with 9% of our graduate students holding funding, but 29% who are international are not eligible. Prior to this year we received 3 Killam awards in total, but this year we received 3 in one year. Overall, our graduate support is abysmal, and she would argue, unethical, with huge numbers of students unfunded. Our average PhD funding was \$11 000, which was \$15 000 below UBC Vancouver's average.

Going forward, IGS is in serious need for review. We are also going for with a Review of Policy O-4, which will come forward for approval in 2015W.

Senator Arthur noted that the UBC System for many years offered a PhD tuition grant; we no longer do, and he asked if this was because it was no longer useful.

Dean Grant replied that they were used to attract students, and many of the letters did not put a time limit on those letters. It was very expensive and wasn't a strategic use of our money.

Senator Lalonde asked how we could look at the demographics of PhD/research masters/professionals Masters as they were admitted based on supervisors and not based on programmatic considerations.

Dean Grant replied that this would be part of a conversation around the quality of our graduate supervision. She suggested that perhaps some graduate programs should limit themselves to the masters level.

Senator Stites Mor asked if she could elaborate on the O-4 review.

Dean Grant replied that policy O-4, essentially the constitution for the College of Graduate Studies, was a product of its time and needed to be changed to reflect our current situation and aspirations.

Senator Johnson asked why the Master of Management was not listed, noting that we did suspend admission but we didn't discontinue the degree.

Dean Sugden replied that the program was still around, recruitment was going on, and we have some concerns around the student body and it was not likely that we would have students admitted for September.

Senator Taylor thanked Dean Grant for the presentation, and observed that measuring graduate programs by the numbers of thesis and dissertations was often done, but that this did not properly acknowledge the professional or fine arts programs. He suggested that there needed to be a way to include those programs in our data.

Senator Buszard thanked Dean Grant for putting this proposal forward. She viewed this as a bench line report from where we come from, and an opportunity to contribute for how we wanted to move forward.

Senator Castricano noted the abysmal levels of endowed awards for graduate students and asked if we could do anything about that.

Dean Grant replied that we were meeting with development to see how we can excite potential donors. This needed to be a pan-university effort to excite the community to the importance of graduate education.

Senator Buszard added that this was another artefact of the start-up of the campus, and the UBC campaign has delivered \$1.5 billion to UBC Vancouver, but only \$70 million towards the Okanagan.

Senator Keyes asked if an external review of graduate studies would be useful.

The Provost replied that yes we could; we had a small external review a few years ago, but it was asked very different questions.

The President noted that the question of graduate students often came up and that external advice would be useful once we have a better idea of where we wanted to go next.

### **Admission & Awards and Curriculum Committees**

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

#### **PRESENTATION ON VANTAGE COLLEGE**

Dr Fox presented and explained the background and function of UBC Vantage College. She specifically referenced the Term 1 student data, the English Foundations Program (EFP), and the scholarships and awards available.

Senator Sneg asked what the minimum admission standard was for Vantage.

Dr Fox replied that it was one band lower or IELTS or TOEFL.

Senator Sneg said students in the writing centre were struggling, and that tests being taken for entry to UBC were subject to manipulation.

Dr Fox said that she could not speak to the fraud concern, but noted that for students who did reach the standard, what we were doing was thinking about how we can help students progress in their academic language. This was an innovative, enriched way.

Senator Cull clarified that the retention numbers showed were for all Okanagan students across all of the Winter Session, and that a comparable dataset for the Okanagan would give a comparable result.

Senator Oyelese asked if the courses taken were comparable.

Dr Fox replied that they were separate sections of the same course. They were separate because we had additional English programming built in, but the requirements were the same, and in some cases the same exams are used.

Senator Okelsewich asked if they were only separated for year 1 or for their entire programs.

Dr Fox replied that the separation in year 1 was for immersion reasons.

Senator Legault asked who offered the English courses; were they ESL trained?

Dr Fox replied that they were a combination of LLED courses and Vantage courses, with instructors from Vantage, Education, and other fields, often with ESL training. The Vantage approach was innovative and new.

Senator Lawrence noted that Vantage replaced the first year English requirement, which taught both language and literature, and asked if there was any effort to replace the lost literature.

Dr Fox replied that WORDS150 and science communication had disciplinary content that met the English requirement, the same as current science students could in Vancouver. Breadth requirements would be unchanged.

Senator Oyelese noted that the data presented looked like a normal performance curve, and that we did not have the data yet for year 2.

Dr Fox replied that we would longitudinally track these students.

Senator Campbell asked if the Vantage faculty were tenure track or term.

Dr Fox replied that most were tenure track where we have partnered with departments, but we also had 6 12-month lecturers.

Senator Sneg asked how students applied to Vantage.

Dr Fox replied that it was like any other program on the list of options; students could apply directly, or if eligible for Vantage but not direct entry, receive an offer.



**EXPANSION OF VANTAGE COLLEGE TO THE BACHELOR OF APPLIED SCIENCE  
(VANCOUVER/OKANAGAN) PROGRAM**

Spiro Yannacopoulos } *That the new International Program Engineering  
Catherine Comben } Stream and its associated new courses VANT 150  
(2), 151 (1) brought forward by UBC Vantage  
College and the Faculty of Applied Science be  
approved;*

Senator Allan asked if VANT 150 and 151 would be Vancouver or Okanagan courses.

Senator Yannacopoulos replied that courses would be taught on both campuses.

Senator Allan spoke against Vantage (VANT) courses being used towards Okanagan programs.

Senator Johnson spoke against the proposal for VANT courses, arguing that it was not needed; he suggested that the Okanagan campus should rather just accept the course as they would transfer credits from Vancouver and that he thus viewed the proposal as unnecessary.

Senator Tettey said that the proposal was to allow the two senates to facilitate their study across all of UBC.

Cynthia Mathieson } *That the time to adjourn be extended by a further  
Peter Arthur } twenty (20) minutes.*

**Approved**

James Johnson } *That the main motion be postponed to the next  
Robert Lalonde } regular meeting of Senate.*

**Motion to  
postpone not  
approved**

Spiro Yannacopoulos } *That the revised Bachelor of Applied Science  
Catherine Comben } admissions requirements brought forward by the  
Faculty of Applied Science be approved.*

**Approved**

**EXPANSION OF VANTAGE COLLEGE TO THE BACHELOR OF MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

Spiro Yannacopoulos        }  
Cynthia Mathieson            }       *That the new International Program Management Stream, and the Bachelor of Management transition requirements brought forward by UBC Vantage College be approved;*

Senator S. Lawrence asked if students could change programs.

Senator Yannacopoulos confirmed that yes they could apply to change programs just as any other students could.

**Approved**

Spiro Yannacopoulos        }  
Shira Sneg                    }       *That the revised Bachelor of Management admissions requirements brought forward by the Faculty of Management be approved.*

**Approved**

**Admission & Awards Committee**

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

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE PATHWAYS**

Spiro Yannacopoulos        }  
Shira Sneg                    }       *That Senate approve the admissions proposal for the English Language Pathways for entry to the 2015 Summer Session and thereafter.*

Several senators, including Senators Keyes and Johnson, asked for clarification of what was being approved by this motion.

The Associate Registrar, Mr Eaton, clarified that Senate was approving the inclusion of a new calendar entry that would direct students to the various ways of showing and meeting English competency before or while at UBC. He further noted that no matters of

admissions policy were being changed by this motion; the intent was to just have one place in the calendar where all of this information could be maintained and referred to.

**Approved**

Peter Arthur }  
Robert Lalonde } *That the time to adjourn be extended by a further fifteen (15) minutes.*

**Approved**

Daniel Keyes }  
Peter Arthur } *That Senate be presented with a report in the 2016W Session on UBC Vantage College, and in particular with data on student success in both Vantage and in their degree programs.*

**Approved**

#### **NEW AWARD**

*See Appendix A: Award Report*

Sprio Yannacopoulos }  
Miriam Grant } *That 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.*

Senator S. Lawrence asked who would adjudicate the award.

The Registrar, Dr Ross, replied that her department would adjudicate the award as they did with most bursaries.

Senator Rutherford asked if there was a credit requirement.

Dr Ross replied that full and part-time status would be taken into consideration in accordance with UBC Policy 72.

#### **In Camera – Honorary Degrees**

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:17 pm.

## **Appendix A: Award Report**

*New Award:*

### **UBC Okanagan Aboriginal Bursary**

Two bursaries of \$2,500 each are offered to Aboriginal students enrolled at the University of British Columbia, Okanagan campus. Preference is given the students with the greatest financial need. (First award available for the 2015 Winter Session)