

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Enrolment Services
Senate and Curriculum Services
2016–1874 East Mall
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1
www.students.ubc.ca/council

Council of Senates

MINUTES OF THE THIRD REGULAR MEETING

DECEMBER 15, 2006

Attendance

The meeting was held at the UBC Vancouver campus with video link to the UBC Okanagan campus.

Present: President S. J. Toope (Chair), Mr. B. J. Silzer (Secretary), Dr. P. Adebar, Mr. B. Ahmadian, Mr. P. Arthur, Dr. J. D. Berger, Dean M. A. Bobinski, Dean J. Bottorff, Dr. J. Cioe, Ms. G. Eom, Dr. P. G. Harrison, Dean M. Isaacson, Mr. M. Koovisk, Vice-President, Academic & Provost *pro tem.* G. Mackie, Dr. P. L. Marshall, Dr. S. McCoubrey, Chancellor A. McEachern, Dr. D. McLean, Deputy Vice-Chancellor D. Owram, Dr. C. Scarff, Dr. M. Williams, Dr. R. Windsor-Liscombe.

By Telephone: Dr. M. Duran-Cogan.

By Invitation: Mr. C. Eaton (Council of Senates Secretariat)

Regrets: Mr. G. August, Dr. G. Bluman, Mr. M. Ficke, Dr. S. Grayston, Dr. J. Gustar, Mr. P. Orchard, Dr. R. A. Yaworsky.

Recording Secretary: Ms. L. M. Collins.

Call to Order

Senate Membership

The Secretary had circulated for information a list of Council members. Members introduced themselves.

Approval of the Agenda

Dr. Williams proposed the addition of an item entitled “Council of Senates Meeting Schedule” under “Other Business.” The agenda, as amended, was approved by consent.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of June 8, 2006 were adopted by consent.

Business Arising From the Minutes

None.

Chair’s Report

2007/2008 BUDGET

President Toope reported that work was underway to finalize the University budget for the 2007/2008 fiscal year. There were estimated budgetary shortfalls of \$1.5 million and \$28 million for the Okanagan and Vancouver campuses respectively. The Council of Senates Budget Committee had recently met to discuss the budget.

For UBC Okanagan, the problem was related to a one-time funding shortfall rather than a structural deficit. The President was hopeful that, as long as the UBC Okanagan campus attained sufficient enrolment, the 2007/2008 shortfall would be resolved for future years.

President Toope described the Vancouver situation as more serious, due both to the size of the shortfall and its structural nature. A process to link strategic planning to budgetary allocation was recognized as necessary, and the President indicated that the University community would soon hear more about an upcoming planning process. Although everyone agreed that the shortfall presented a significant challenge, President Toope noted that he had experienced great cooperation in discussions to date.

Chair's Report, continued

POSITION OF VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC & PROVOST

President Toope noted that Dr. George Mackie was attending his first Council of Senates meeting as Vice-President, Academic & Provost *pro tem*. He thanked Dr. Mackie for his willingness to serve in this acting role.

The President reported that the search committee had begun its work toward identifying the next Vice-President, Academic & Provost. A draft position description had been posted and comments invited. President Toope clarified that the Vice-President, Academic & Provost position was based in Vancouver. Dr. Doug Owsram was the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President, Academic & Research at UBC Okanagan.

Executive Committee

Committee Chair Dean Michael Isaacson presented the reports.

PROSPECTIVE CHANGES TO THE *UNIVERSITY ACT* RELATING TO THE COUNCIL OF SENATES

The following is an excerpt from the Committee's report.

The Okanagan and Vancouver Senates have each recently endorsed proposed changes to the *University Act*. These relate to (a) changes to the Council of Senates membership, as approved by the Council at its June 2006 meeting, and (b) to other aspects of the operation and powers of the Council. The proposed changes to the *Act* were circulated to each Senate for information, and members were encouraged to comment. The two Senates have also each implemented interim changes to their respective *Rules and Procedures of Senate* to enact the changes to the Council's membership prior to the amendment to the *Act*. The present report seeks confirmation of the Council's recommendation regarding all proposed changes to the *University Act*. The Executive Committee is of the opinion that the recommended changes would be of great benefit to the University and its Council.

The report proposed changes in the following areas:

- Elimination of the power of the Council to self-refer matters;
- Adjustment of those Senate responsibilities transferred to the Council from the Senate and vice-versa;

Executive Committee, continued

- Introduction of a requirement for Council members to maintain membership on their respective Senates;
- Reduction in the term a Student Senator may serve on the Council of Senates; and
- Change in Council membership.

*Dean Isaacson
Dr. Harrison*

} *That the Council of Senates recommend to the President that he bring forward on behalf of the University to the provincial government the proposed changes to the University Act of British Columbia as specified below; and*

That the President report back to the Council at its next meeting with such actions as he has taken in response to this recommendation.

Carried.

CHANGES TO THE RULES AND PROCEDURES OF THE COUNCIL OF SENATES: CHAIR OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee had circulated the following report:

At the request of the Budget Committee, the Executive Committee has reviewed the Rules and Procedures of the Council of Senates' requirements for the Budget Committee's Chair. At the time the Rules were drafted, the final composition of the Council of Senates was unknown, and as such, the Chair requirements were quite stringent. As the composition of the Council has since been adjusted, the Executive Committee concurs with the Budget Committee in recommending that the requirements be loosened as follows so as to allow any Councillor to serve as Chair of the Committee (additions in bold; deletions struck through):

“The Budget Committee

42. The Budget Committee shall be composed of:

- a. Three (3) Councillors, elected by and from the Council of Senates, one of whom shall be elected Chair by the Committee;
- b. Four (4) members of the Okanagan Senate appointed by and from the Okanagan Senate, who must include at least two (2) faculty members and one (1) student; and
- c. Four (4) members of the Vancouver Senate appointed by and from the Vancouver Senate, who must include at least two (2) faculty members and one (1) student.

43. The Budget Committee shall elect:

Executive Committee, continued

- a. A chair, from those members of the Committee who are Councilors; and
- b. Two (2) vice-chairs - one from those members specified in Section 42 (b) and one from those members specified in Section 42 (c) - who shall be responsible for representing the Budget Committee to their respective Senates.”

Dean Isaacson } *That the report be adopted.*

DISCUSSION

Dr. Owram requested clarification about the role of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor with respect to the Budget Committee. President Toope replied that the Budget Committee -- which had met immediately preceding the Council of Senates -- had decided that it would be helpful to involve the Deputy Vice-Chancellor as an active participant in meetings of the Budget Committee.

The motion was put and carried.

COUNCIL OF SENATES OPERATIONS: CALL FOR COMMENTS

Dean Isaacson reminded Councillors that the Executive Committee was due to report at the following Council meeting about the operations of the Council since its establishment. He invited Councillors to send their comments to the Executive Committee via the Secretariat. Dean Isaacson expressed the opinion that the most important role for the Council would be to resolve any differences of opinion that might arise between the two Senates, and that it might not be necessary for the Council to meet more often than once per year.

Dr. Cioe agreed, adding that it was appropriate for the two Senates to have independent perspectives on academic issues.

Dr. Harrison requested direction with respect to coordination between counterparts on the two campuses, in the interest of resolving differences of opinion without reference to the Council of Senates. He noted that the Secretariat normally kept each campus updated about activities at the

Executive Committee, continued

other campus, but asked whether there might be additional mechanisms for communication within the UBC system. Ms. Collins noted that each of the Senates had accepted a mechanism that invited the Chairs of each Senate's standing committees to collaborate on issues affecting both campuses. President Toope added that it would be important for the Council to evaluate how well this mechanism works in future, and to refine it as necessary.

Dean Isaacson noted that the degree to which policies and regulations would diverge between the two campuses was still unknown. Mr. Silzer encouraged the two academic vice-presidents and the committee chairs to consider carefully which policies and practices should be consistent across the system as well as where there are opportunities to do things differently.

Other Business

COUNCIL OF SENATES MEETING SCHEDULE

There was discussion about how frequently the Council of Senates ought to meet. Ms. Collins reminded Councillors that the current *Rules and Procedures* specified four meetings per year. The general consensus was that one meeting per year, scheduled to take place in June, would be sufficient unless the Council received a referral or other urgent business.

Dr. Williams expressed a preference for in-person meetings over video- or teleconference. President Toope responded that it might work best to provide for both travel and video conference options for meeting participants.

Councillors asked that the Secretariat to arrange a date for the June 2007 meeting as soon as possible.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The following regular meeting was to be scheduled to take place in June 2007.