

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



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Council of Senates

MINUTES OF THE SECOND REGULAR MEETING

JUNE 8, 2006

Attendance

The meeting was held at the UBC Okanagan campus.

Present: President M. C. Piper (Chair), Mr. G. August, Dr. P. G. Harrison, Dean M. Isaacson, Mr. M. Koovisk, Dr. P. Marshall, Dr. S. McCoubrey, Dr. D. McLean, Ms. L. McLean, Dr. D. Salhani, Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President, Academic R. C. Tees, Mr. Z. Webster, Dr. M. Williams, Dr. R. Yaworsky.

By Telephone: Chancellor A. McEachern.

Regrets: Principal J. H. V. Gilbert, Mr. P. Orchard, Associate Vice-President & Registrar B. J. Silzer (Secretary), Vice-President L. A. Whitehead.

Recording Secretary: Ms. L. M. Collins.

By Invitation: Mr. C. Eaton, Mr. F. Vogt.

Call to Order

Adoption of Meeting Agenda

Mr. Koovisk }
Dr. Williams } *That the agenda be approved.*

Carried.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Dr. Tees } *That the minutes of the meeting of March 17,*
Dr. Salhani } *2006 be adopted as circulated.*

Carried.

Remarks from the Chair and Related Questions

MAY/JUNE 2006 GRADUATION

President Piper reported that the Vancouver campus had recently granted over 6800 degrees and diplomas at ceremonies held over a week in May. The Chancellor had also conferred eight honorary degrees on behalf of the University.

The first UBC Okanagan graduation ceremony, which was to include the conferral of two honorary degrees, was scheduled for June 9, 2006. The President described graduation as a wonderful time of the year and a special opportunity to reflect on the purpose of the University.

Executive Committee

Executive Committee Chair Michael Isaacson presented the reports.

PRESIDENTIAL REFERRAL: UBC DEGREES FOR ALUMNI OF OKANAGAN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

The Committee had circulated the following report:

The matter of the granting of UBC degrees to alumni of Okanagan University College has been referred to the Council by the President for final disposition. Her letter of referral is given as Attachment 1 to this report¹; and the Policies and Procedures Committee report that was approved by the Okanagan Senate and that summarizes the matter under consideration, is given as Attachment 2 to this report (see Appendix A).

Since the Executive Committee of the Council of Senates has only very recently been formed and has not met, it has been unable to take a position on this matter. Therefore, this report summarizes the possible ways in which the Council may dispose of this matter, and proposes relevant motions for the consideration of Council.

1. Secretary's note: Attachment 1 is not included in the Minutes. Copies are available from the Assistant Registrar, Senate & Curriculum Services.

Executive Committee, continued

Given the President's summary of the matter, including the OUC / UBC Vancouver relationship, it appears that there are three possible outcomes of this matter.

1. That the relevant degrees be conferred by UBC, as initially recommended to, and approved by, the Okanagan Senate.
2. That the matter is referred to the Vancouver Senate for it to consider the conferral of the degrees in question under the authority of the Vancouver Senate.
3. The degrees in question are not conferred.

In order to allow for the Council's discussion and disposition of this matter, it is suggested that the following motion initially be considered:

That the Council approve the granting of University of British Columbia degrees on Okanagan University College alumni in the manner indicated in the February 17, 2006 report of the Policy and Procedures Committee to the Okanagan Senate.

<i>Dean Isaacson</i>	}	<i>That the Council approve the granting of University of British Columbia degrees on Okanagan University College alumni in the manner indicated in the February 17, 2006 report of the Policy and Procedures Committee to the Okanagan Senate.</i>
<i>Dr. Tees</i>		

DISCUSSION

Dr. McLean asked whether the Council should consider delaying consideration of the matter, given the recommendation of the *ad hoc* Committee to Consider Council Membership that the Council be expanded. The general consensus was that the Council had full authority to consider the motion at the present meeting.

Dr. Yaworsky asked why the Bachelor of Business Administration degree had not been included on the list of eligible degrees. Dr. Tees explained that the Bachelor of Business Administration had been allocated to Okanagan College during the transition period, and that students and alumni in that program would have an ongoing connection to the College as a home institution. The eligible OUC degrees were those that had been allocated to UBC.

Ms. McLean expressed concern about setting a precedent, particularly if UBC were to partner with other institutions in the future. She asked whether, by granting these degrees, UBC would

Executive Committee, continued

be obligated to grant other degrees in future. Dr. Tees responded that he felt the current situation was unique, particularly considering the long-term, close relationship between OUC and UBC. He could not see any analogous institutional partnerships developing in the near future, and felt that the University would not be obligated to proceed similarly should such a partnership develop.

Dr. Harrison asked for clarification about UBC's role in developing the eligible degree programs. Dr. Tees confirmed that the Vancouver Senate (known at the time as "the Senate") had approved the eligible degree programs and their related courses, with the exception of the Bachelor of Education, which originated at the University of Victoria. In response to a query from Dr. McLean about whether there had been significant changes to the programs and faculty since the programs were first launched, Dr. Tees stated that most program changes had been minor. He recalled one example of program requirements having been made more stringent, and noted that some new courses had been developed to augment existing programs.

Dean Isaacson spoke in favour of the motion. He noted that the Council would need to be reassured that the OUC degrees met overall UBC standards, and that his own early concerns in this area had been resolved. He agreed with Dr. Tees' comments about the uniqueness of this particular arrangement and was not concerned that the University would be pressured to approve similar requests in future.

Dr. Harrison noted that the full academic record for OUC alumni would be held by Okanagan College. He asked why it was then necessary for UBC to grant a degree and create an additional student record. Dr. Tees stated that OUC alumni whose degree programs had been allocated to UBC might wish to identify with UBC as a home institution. Admitting past graduates of these programs to the UBC convocation would also facilitate connecting them with future graduates of those programs.

Executive Committee, continued

There was discussion about whether eligible alumni would hold one degree or two, and whether the granting of UBC degrees could be misleading for employers and other post-secondary institutions. Upon recognition by the Chair, Ms. Collins confirmed that eligible alumni would not be required to relinquish their OUC parchments. UBC Enrolment Services would issue an additional parchment that would show the respective OUC and UBC granting dates. Some Councillors spoke in favour of listing only the date the degree was granted by OUC, while others felt it important to show both dates. It was important to Councillors that the granting of the degrees be considered a “conversion” of a single degree, rather than the addition of a second degree for one set of academic work. Two Councillors remained concerned that some recipients of the UBC degrees would misrepresent themselves as holding two separate degrees.

After discussion and several proposed amendments, the following amendment to Recommendation 2 was accepted by general consent (changes shown in bold and strikethrough text):

That the parchment issued under Recommendation 1 above bear the words “Degree ~~first~~ conferred by Okanagan University College on [INSERT MONTH AND YEAR],” in addition to the month and year of ~~approval~~ **conversion** by the UBC Okanagan Senate.

The motion itself was amended to read (addition in bold text):

That the Council approve the granting of University of British Columbia degrees on Okanagan University College alumni in the manner indicated in the February 17, 2006 report of the Policy and Procedures Committee to the Okanagan Senate, **as modified by the Council of Senates.**

In response to questions about the student record, Mr. Vogt stated that UBC Enrolment Services would create a minimal student record for each student when they applied to receive their new parchment, so as to have record of the degree in the UBC Student Information System. A very brief transcript, showing only the granting of the UBC degree and a note directing readers to Okanagan College for the full academic record, could be produced for the student upon request. In response to a question from Ms. McLean, Mr. Vogt stated that OUC alumni who chose to

Executive Committee, continued

apply to graduate schools would be required to present both the OUC and UBC transcripts to show their full academic record.

There was discussion about the requirement that eligible alumni make application for their converted UBC degrees. Dr. Tees clarified that this requirement was intended to clarify that UBC did not wish to impose a converted degree on an unwilling candidate. By making application, each candidate would indicate their willingness to accept the converted degree.

The motion, as amended, was put and carried.

Ad Hoc Committee to Consider Council Membership

Please see also 'Appendix B: Composition of the Council of Senates.'

Dr. Harrison presented the report in the absence of Committee Chair Principal John H. V. Gilbert. Dr. Harrison thanked Council Secretariat staff for preparing the report. He stated that the *ad hoc* Committee wished to better reflect among Council members the constituencies of each of the Vancouver and Okanagan Senates while still producing a Council that could operate efficiently.

<i>Dr. Harrison</i>	}	<i>That the Council of Senates adopt the recommendations listed in the report of the ad hoc Committee to Consider Council Membership.</i>
<i>Dr. Williams</i>		

DISCUSSION

Dean Isaacson distributed for information his analysis of Council membership, which listed three different scenarios for the size and composition of the Council. He stated that the *ad hoc* Committee's proposed composition reflected an appropriate balance between campuses and also ensured adequate deans, faculty, student, and convocation representatives. He asked whether an even smaller Council might work, while still representing all of the necessary constituencies. In particular, Dean Isaacson asked whether the Council might consider amending the report to

Ad Hoc Committee to Consider Council Membership, continued

allow for three chairs of Senate Committees from each campus, rather than four. After debate on the matter, the general consensus was that the composition of the Council should stand as written in the *ad hoc* Committee report.

There was discussion about paragraph 38.1(g) of the *University Act*, which permits the President to appoint one or two persons to the Council. Councillors agreed that the meaning of designating an appointee “for” (as opposed to “from”) a particular senate was unclear. Dr. McLean urged the President to consider appointing people who were familiar with one of the Senates. He cited Principal John Gilbert as one appropriate nominee for appointment to the Council, following his retirement on June 30, 2006.

There was discussion about the Chair of the Council of Senates. The *ad hoc* Committee recommended that the Council be permitted to elect its own Chair and Vice-Chair. Councillors felt that it would be important to seek the input of President Designate Stephen Toope prior to adopting a particular recommendation regarding the Chair of the Council of Senates. Dr. Tees and Chancellor McEachern spoke separately against Recommendation 5, each expressing the opinion that the President should continue to serve *ex-officio* as Chair of the Council. By general consent, **Recommendation 5 was amended** as follows (changes in strikethrough text): “That the ~~Chair and~~ Vice-Chair of the Council of Senates be elected...”

Dean Isaacson suggested that the Council Executive Committee could take responsibility for implementing the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Committee, if they were to be approved by the Council. President Piper stated that it would be important for her successor as President to consider the recommendations and to seek legal counsel before entering into discussions with the provincial government. Councillors agreed that it would take time for any changes to the *University Act* to be implemented by the provincial government and the legislature, but that the Council

Ad Hoc Committee to Consider Council Membership, continued

could implement some of the recommendations ahead of time, as permitted under the current language of the *University Act*.

The motion to adopt
the amended
recommendations
was put and carried.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Council of Senates was to be scheduled to take place in September 2006 at the Vancouver campus.

APPENDIX A: UBC DEGREES TO OUC GRADUATES

*Report from the Okanagan Senate Policies & Procedures Committee
February 17, 2006*

INTRODUCTION

At its inaugural meeting on December 5, 2005, the Okanagan Senate passed the following motion:

That the Senate refer to its Policies and Procedures Committee in consultation with the Registrar, the task of considering the granting of UBC degrees to graduates of Okanagan University College, and bringing forward associated recommendations to Senate for approval.

The Committee has considered the matter and reports as follows:

PART I. RECOMMENDATIONS (FOR APPROVAL)

RECOMMENDATION 1 – GRADUATES OF OUC DEGREES NOW OFFERED BY UBC

That the Okanagan Senate approve in principle the conferral of corresponding University of British Columbia degrees on Okanagan University College alumni holding one or more of the following degrees conferred by Okanagan University College as the sole granting institution between January 1, 1998 and June 30, 2005:

- Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of Education
- Bachelor of Fine Arts
- Bachelor of Science
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Bachelor of Social Work

RATIONALE

Okanagan University College was given degree-granting authority by the Province of British Columbia in 1995, and conferred its first degrees as the sole granting institution in 1998.

The above list of degrees includes those OUC degrees for which UBC Okanagan assumed full responsibility as of July 1, 2005. All these degrees meet or exceed normal academic standards for university degrees in Canada. UBC becomes the institution of record for purposes of parchment authentication and verification of degrees: services that the now-defunct Okanagan University College can no longer provide. This does not mean that UBC will hold the entire academic

Appendix A: UBC Degrees to OUC Graduates, continued

record, as this will reside with the new Okanagan College, but will have record of the credential being conferred. Okanagan College will be the custodian of the complete OUC student record. Under this arrangement, this group of OUC alumni are welcomed to the UBC community as new members of the UBC convocation.

From 1989 to 1997, OUC delivered degree programs in conjunction with UBC and the University of Victoria, and conferred those degrees under the authority of the partner universities. The parchments from these partner degrees already list a currently operating university as the institution of record, i.e., UBC or the University of Victoria. This group of alumni will retain their original status and will not be eligible to receive new UBC degrees.

It is noted that the Bachelor of Business Administration is not included in the degrees listed within Recommendation 1.

RECOMMENDATION 2 – PARCHMENT SPECIFICATIONS

That the parchment issued under Recommendation 1 above bear the words “Degree first conferred by Okanagan University College on [INSERT MONTH AND YEAR],” in addition to the month and year of approval by the UBC Okanagan Senate.

RATIONALE

The addition of this text to the parchment: (a) signifies a relationship between OUC and UBC; (b) clarifies that the holder completed one degree program, rather than two; and (c) denotes the date when the student completed his or her degree program.

PART II. PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES (FOR INFORMATION)

Subject to Senate’s approval of the above recommendations, the Registrar intends to implement the awarding of these degrees on the following basis:

1. The Registrar will develop a list of holders of OUC degrees that should be given the opportunity to accept UBC degrees. (It is noted that OUC honorary degree holders will not be included on this list, but instead the Policies and Procedures Committee may consider future nominations of such individuals for UBC honorary degrees.)
2. At the appropriate times, Senate will be requested to approve the following motion in order to confer these degrees: *“That the listed holders of Okanagan University College degrees be granted the opportunity to accept the University of British Columbia degree for which they are recommended, and that the Registrar, in consultation with UBC Okanagan Deans, and the President as Chair of the Okanagan Senate be empowered to make any necessary adjustments.”*

Appendix A: UBC Degrees to OUC Graduates, continued

3. Following Senate approval of the conferral of degrees on OUC graduates, these individuals will be added to the roll of convocation at that time and Enrolment Services will produce UBC parchments as appropriate. OUC graduates receiving UBC degrees will not be asked to relinquish OUC parchments.
4. For OUC graduates accepting UBC degrees, the UBC Student Information System will contain identifying data about the person (including a UBC student number) and his/her degree(s) sufficient for purposes of degree verification. However, the full transcript of academic record will be maintained by Okanagan College. Transfer credit will not be assigned by UBC. The UBC transcript will show the conferral of the UBC degree and will note that the full record may be obtained from Okanagan College.
5. For OUC graduates accepting UBC degrees, Enrolment Services will provide contact information to UBC Advancement Services and the UBC Alumni Association, consistent with current practice for all other UBC graduates.

APPENDIX B: COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL OF SENATES

June 1, 2006

To: Council of Senates

From: Ad hoc Committee to Consider Council Membership

Re: Composition of the Council of Senates

Background and Context

In March 2005, the Interim Academic Governing Body for UBC Okanagan and the Vancouver Senate each established ad hoc committees to consider issues related to the establishment of the Council of Senates as a new governing body of the University operating under the *University Act*, RSBC 1996, c. 468. The two campus-based ad hoc committees met both separately and together and ultimately filed a joint report to the two Senates in November 2005, the Joint Senates Report (JSR). The report made recommendations on the role of the Council, its rules and procedures, its membership, and member terms of office.

The recommendations in the JSR were accepted by the Vancouver Senate, but rejected by the Okanagan Senate. The difference of opinion between the Senates was directly related to issue of equal vs. unequal representation for each campus on the Council. The JSR recommended that, of the “up to 10 chairs of the standing committees” of each senate permitted by Sections 38.1(1)(h) and (i) of the *University Act*, eight chairs be elected from among the chairs Vancouver Committees and six chairs be elected from among the chairs of Okanagan Committees. Members of the Okanagan Senate expressed the opinion that representation should be equal.

At its inaugural meeting on March 17, 2006, the Council of Senates created the present ad hoc committee to consider Council Membership (CCCM), and it was charged to make recommendations to Council on the allotment of Senate committee chair seats, and on general membership issues. The CCCM met once in Vancouver on May 10, 2006 and is pleased to provide its report to Council.

Recommendations

GENERAL CAVEAT ON RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is acutely aware that in most cases the power to effect the changes contained in the following recommendations does not rest solely with the Council of Senates. In some cases, the Council of Senates has no authority other than the ability to make a recommendation to a person or body. Decision maker(s) associated with each recommendation are noted.

Appendix B: Composition of the Council of Senates, continued

Senate Committee Chairs

The CCCM recommends:

1. **That the chairs of four standing committees of each Senate be elected to serve on the Council of Senates** (Decision makers: Council to recommend to President, President to recommend to provincial government, provincial government to amend the *University Act*).
2. **That the chairs of standing committees serving on the Council of Senates be specified ex-officio as the chairs of those committees charged with considering matters of admissions, curriculum, and academic policy at each campus, plus one other committee of each Senate recommended by each Senate** (Decision makers: Council of Senates, Vancouver Senate, Okanagan Senate to amend their respective Rules and Procedures; at the Council of Senates, this would form a recommendation to the sub-set of Councillors that elect committee chairs to the Council.).

DISCUSSION

These recommendations result in an overall reduction of the number of committee chairs from a possible total of 20 under the current iteration of the *University Act* to a specified total of eight. A reduction in number of chairs would not strictly require a legislative change to Sections 38.1(1)(g) and (h) because the current language is “up to 10 chairs,” but the Committee would prefer a legislative change over an amendment to Council rules and procedures.

The three specified Committees represent the fundamental concerns of the University that fall within the jurisdiction of Senates: the admission and instruction of students.

The decision to recommend equality of representation was the majority opinion among Committee members. Those in favour of equal representation on the Council expressed the opinion that, even though Councillors will undoubtedly endeavour to represent the UBC system as a whole, it remains important to avoid assigning a de facto veto to one campus or the other. The minority opinion was that the Vancouver campus should be afforded a larger number of seats on the Council to reflect, in some small measure, its larger size and longer history of operation as a research institution. The counter argument is that the Okanagan campus requires decision-making equality to fully realize its autonomy and distinctiveness within the UBC system. All members expressed a willingness to ultimately support equality as a recommendation of the Committee.

Members of the Senates Elected to Serve on the Council of Senates

The CCCM recommends:

3. **That the number of Senators elected by each Senate to serve on the Council of Senates be increased from four to nine** (Decision makers: Council to recommend to President, Pres-

Appendix B: Composition of the Council of Senates, continued

- ident to recommend to provincial government, provincial government to amend the *University Act*).
4. **That the above-mentioned nine elected seats from each Senate be allocated as follows** (Decision makers: *Council to recommend to each Senate, each Senate to amend its Rules and Procedures.*).
 - a. One dean, elected by each Senate with consideration given to the recommendation of that Senate's deans;
 - b. Four faculty members holding elected positions on each Senate, elected by each Senate with consideration given to the recommendations of faculty members holding elected positions on that Senate;
 - c. Three Student Senators, one of whom must be a graduate student, elected by each Senate, with consideration to recommendations made by the respective student members of each Senate.
 - d. One Convocation Senator, elected by each Senate, with consideration to a recommendation made by the respective convocation members of each Senate.

DISCUSSION

This change would result in an increase of Senators serving on the Council of Senates from eight to 18. Together with the proposed reduction of 12 Councillors in Recommendation 1, the total impact on Council membership would be a net decrease of two Councillors. The two changes taken together would result in an increase in elected representation, with consideration given to the wishes of constituent groups of Senators, and a decrease in ex-officio representation. This recommendation would require a legislative change to Sections 38.1(1)(e) and (f) of the *University Act*.

Presidential Appointees to the Council

The Committee discussed in some detail Section 38.1(1)(g) of the *University Act*, which specifies that the President may appoint one or two representatives to the Council. The Committee is aware that this section could be used to appoint the Deputy Vice-Chancellor from UBC Okanagan, should that position be separated from that of Vice-President, Academic at some point in the future. Some members of the Committee felt that this section should be deleted altogether. Other options include specifying one appointed representative from each Senate, thereby eliminating the possibility of one appointee (which would make representation unequal). The Committee observes that the current language in Section 38.1(1)(g), "designated for the Okanagan Senate" and "designated for the Vancouver Senate" appears to be unclear and expressed a preference for the word "from" to replace "for" in each case. **The Committee is not prepared to recommend a specific course of action on the matter of presidential appointees at this time, but would support additional discussion by the Council as a whole.**

Appendix B: Composition of the Council of Senates, continued

Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council of Senates

Although the Committee recognizes that the issue of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council of Senates was not included in our charge, these matters arose in the course of our discussion. The CCCM did not feel that its report would be complete without the addition of a recommendation on this issue.

5. **That the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council of Senates be elected by the Council of Senates to serve terms of one year or until replaced** (Decision makers: Council to recommend to President, President to recommend to provincial government, provincial government to amend the *University Act*).

DISCUSSION

This recommendation aligns with the recommendation of the recent review of the Vancouver Senate (March 2005) as well as with the general position of the Committee that elected representation on the Council, **including its Chair and Vice-Chair, is preferred over appointed or ex-officio service. The Committee wishes to be absolutely clear that this recommendation is in no way related to the performance or anticipated performance of our current or incoming Presidents, but is offered on the basis of principle.**

Implementation of Recommendations

The Committee is aware that changing the *University Act* is not a trivial matter, that other possible changes are under consideration by the Senates, and that it would be preferable to send all suggestions for legislative amendment to the provincial government at the same time. At the same time, should the Council accept the recommendations of the CCCM, a status report filed six months later would be of value to the Council of Senate's record. It is suggested that the Council of Senates might wish to make a recommendation, as follows.

6. That the President report to Council of Senates by December 2006 with respect to the status of recommendations made in the report of the CCCM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Principal John Gilbert (Vancouver) (Chair)

Dean Bernard Bauer (Okanagan)

Dr. Paul Harrison (Vancouver)

Mr. Matt Koovisk (Okanagan)

Dr. David McLean (Vancouver)

Mr. Philip Orchard (Vancouver)

Dr. Daniel Salhani (Okanagan)

Mr. Brian Silzer (Secretary)

Appendix B: Composition of the Council of Senates, continued

Dr. Maurice Williams (Okanagan)

By invitation: Ms. Lisa Collins and Mr. Christopher Eaton

Note: Appendices A and B to the ad hoc Committee's report are not included in the Council Minutes. Copies are available from the Assistant Registrar, Senate & Curriculum Services.