

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



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Council of Senates

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH REGULAR MEETING

JUNE 10, 2008

Meeting Location

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

Attendance

Present: Prof. S. J. Toope (Chair), Ms. L. M. Collins (Acting Secretary), Dr. P. Arthur, Dr. J. Berger, Dean M. A. Bobinski, Dr. J. Cioe, Dr. M. Duran-Cogan, Dr. D. Farrar, Mr. B. Frederick, Dr. S. Grayston, Dr. J. Gustar, Dr. P. G. Harrison, Dr. D. Keyes, Dr. P. L. Marshall, Dr. S. McCoubrey, Mr. R. McLean, Dr. C. Scarff, Dr. M. Williams, Dr. R. Windsor-Liscombe, Dr. R. Yaworsky.

By Invitation: Mr. C. Eaton, Ms. A. Mann, Ms. K. Ross, Ms. G. Vallée.

Regrets: Dr. P. Adebar, Mr. G. August, Dr. G. Bluman, Dean J. Bottorff, Mr. M. Koovisk, Mr. D. Lubbers, Dr. D. McLean, Dr. D. Owram, Ms. A. Shaikh, Mr. B. J. Silzer (Secretary), Ms. M. Wilson.

Recording Secretary: Ms. L. M. Collins.

Call to Order

The President called to order the fifth regular meeting of the Council of Senates.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda

Dr. Cioe }
Dr. Berger } *That the agenda be adopted as circulated.*

Carried.

Council Membership

The Secretary had circulated for information a revised Council of Senates membership list. Ms. Collins announced that Mr. Blake Frederick had been elected to replace Mr. Tariq Ahmed on the Council of Senates Executive Committee.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Dr. McCoubrey }
Dr. Marshall } *That the minutes of the meeting of June 7,*
2007 be adopted as circulated.

The minutes were adopted by unanimous consent.

Business Arising From the Minutes

Referring to p. 39 of the minutes, Dr. Cioe requested an update on the process for allocating the \$12-million University Investment Fund. Prof. Toope replied that a committee with wide representation had been struck to make recommendations, and that the committee's recommendations had been accepted and implemented.

Referring to p. 41 of the minutes, Dr. Cioe asked whether the Board of Governors had considered requesting an adjustment to its composition under the *University Act* to equalize faculty and student representation between the two UBC campuses. Prof. Toope replied that this matter had not been considered by the Board of Governors, and that interested Councillors could consider raising it with their counterparts on the Board.

Chair's Report

UNIVERSITY BUDGET AND THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

Prof. Toope expressed disappointment with what he described as an unusual provincial government approach to university budgets. UBC had received notice that a projected budgetary increase was to be cut from the 2008/2009 budget. UBC was in communication with the Office of the Premier with the goal of fully understanding the reasons for the cut and advocating for its restoration. Internally at UBC, the administration was working assiduously to address frustration with respect to this government decision, while also communicating with the UBC Faculty Association and student leaders to ensure coordination of advocacy efforts. The University Presidents' Council (TUPC) was also considering strategies.

THE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS' COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA (TUPC)

Dr. Harrison asked about the status of TUPC in light of the recent establishment of new special purpose, teaching universities within the province. Prof. Toope responded that, although he was not yet at liberty to discuss the details, TUPC was to undergo some changes to more clearly differentiate research-intensive universities from other universities in the province.

Budget Committee

ORAL REPORT ON COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Dr. Yaworsky delivered the report in the absence of Committee Chair Dr. Adebar.

Dr. Yaworsky reminded Councillors that the Budget Committee conducted much of its advisory work through a subcommittee at each campus. The full Committee had also met with the President on system-wide budgetary issues. Topics for discussion generally included:

Budget Committee, continued

- General purpose operating budgets;
- Allocation of revenues from land development and land use;
- The health of the UBC Endowment; and
- Status of ancillaries.

Members of the Committee had observed that each campus-based subcommittee was too small to be fully effective, which had led to the recommendation for enlargement from the Executive Committee that appeared later on the meeting agenda. As Chair of the Okanagan subcommittee, Dr. Keyes, agreed that larger subcommittees would work better.

Dr. Harrison stated that the Vancouver subcommittee felt that it had been unable to fulfill its mandate with respect to consultation on the budget, and that members hoped for earlier interaction with the administration as budgets were developed. Given the relatively late timing of past consultations, members felt that they were reacting to decisions that had already been made. Prof. Toope thanked Dr. Harrison for this helpful commentary, and noted that he and Dr. Farrar had discussed the problem and agreed to make additional efforts in this area. He pointed out the challenge of tight timelines for budgetary decision making.

Prof. Toope stated that an external review of UBC's finance operations was scheduled to take place in late June. He looked forward to obtaining an outside perspective. The review committee was to meet with a wide variety of people to identify challenges and opportunities within the finance portfolio. Prof. Toope stated that there had been some changes to the organization of the Administration and Finance portfolio and that a search for a new Vice-President had been launched under UBC Policy #18. In response to a question from Dr. Keyes, Prof. Toope confirmed that the new Vice-President would have system-wide responsibilities.

Elections Committee

2008 TRIENNIAL ELECTIONS

At the request of Committee Chair Dr. Yaworsky, the assembly recognized Mr. Eaton to deliver an oral update on the 2008 triennial elections. Mr. Eaton gave an overview of the available seats, which included the Chancellor as well as various positions on the Board of Governors and the two Senates. There were a total of 66 elections, with electorates ranging in size from several dozen faculty members in a small Faculty to over 228 000 members of the UBC convocation. Many of the elections had already been completed, with five still in progress. A new Chancellor was to take office on July 1, 2008, while new members of Senate would begin their terms on September 1. Mr. Eaton invited Councillors to contact him with any questions about these elections.

In response to a question from Dr. Williams about a recent call for nominations for one representative from the Faculty of Arts & Sciences to the Okanagan Senate when there were two positions, Mr. Eaton explained that an earlier call had elicited one nomination, leaving one seat available at the time of the second call.

CHANGES TO THE CHANCELLOR SELECTION PROCESS

Dr. Yaworsky drew attention to recent amendments to the *University Act* that changed the process for selecting the Chancellor. These changes had been passed by the British Columbia Legislature and been granted royal assent. He noted that the opposition critic for advanced education had identified concerns about this change during the debate, and Dr. Yaworsky encouraged Councillors to read the Hansard record. The Minister of Advanced Education had reported to the Legislature that the amendments had been drafted in response to recommendations from the University Presidents' Council with support of chairs of university boards of governors.

Elections Committee, continued

Under the new process, the Chancellor would be appointed by the Board of Governors on nomination of the Alumni Association and after consultation with the Council of Senates. Dr. Yaworsky stated that the Council would need to consider, at some point in the future, what form that consultation should take.

Prof. Toope stated that he had received notice of the proposed changes from the provincial government with the indication that the government was not open to discussion. Prof. Toope recalled that TUPC had expressed to the Minister and Deputy Minister of Advanced Education general support for changes to the selection process, based on concerns identified about the electoral process at another BC university. In response to a question from Dr. Yaworsky, Prof. Toope stated that he understood that the Chair of the UBC Board of Governors had neither advocated for change, nor had he been consulted.

In response to a question from Mr. Frederick, Prof. Toope confirmed that the results of the recent election of the Chancellor would stand, and that the changes would take effect to select the subsequent Chancellor.

There was general agreement that the Executive Committee would work with the Board of Governors on the consultation process and report back to the Council.

Executive Committee

Committee Chair Dr. Harrison presented the reports.

CHANGE TO THE RULES & PROCEDURES OF THE COUNCIL OF SENATES RE: BUDGET COMMITTEE

The Committee proposed that the composition of the Budget Committee be adjusted as follows (new text in bold, removed text struck through):

44. The Budget Committee shall be composed of:

Executive Committee, continued

- a. Three (3) Councillors, elected by and from the Council of Senates;
- b. ~~Four (4)~~ **Nine (9)** members of the Okanagan Senate appointed by and from the Okanagan Senate, who must include at least ~~two (2)~~ **six (6)** faculty members and ~~one (1)~~ **two (2)** students; and
- c. ~~Four (4)~~ **Nine (9)** members of the Vancouver Senate appointed by and from the Vancouver Senate, who must include at least ~~two (2)~~ **six (6)** faculty members and ~~one (1)~~ **two (2)** students.

Dr. Harrison } *That the Council approve the changes to the*
Dr. Cioe } *composition of the Budget Committee as set*
 } *out above.*

DISCUSSION

Dr. Frederick noted that the proportion of student representation would be reduced. Mr. Eaton stated that the new composition would mirror the composition of the former Senate Budget Committee prior to the establishment of the Council of Senates, where the faculty-to-student ratio had been three to one.

The motion was put and carried by the required two-thirds majority.

EMAIL CONSIDERATION OF ROUTINE COUNCIL BUSINESS

The Committee had circulated the following report.

At present, the Council of Senates must meet in person to conduct any business. The Executive Committee is of the opinion that for routine matters, approval by email – provided that no concerns are raised by any Councillors within a reasonable period of time – should be adopted in the interests of efficiency in decision making and out of respect for Councillor’s time.

As such, the Committee recommends that the Council amend its Rules and Procedures to allow for email consideration of matters. The proposed new rule is as follows:

Part 4 – Meetings of Council of Senates

Executive Committee, continued

36: Matters may be considered by the Council of Senates or any committee thereof via email under the procedures set out in this section.

a. The matter in question and shall be sent via email to every member of the body

b. The email sent under Section 36 shall specify the text of the resolution to be considered for approval and include any necessary supporting documentation.

c. A matter sent out via email is approved if no objections are sent to the Secretary within seven (7) days of the email being sent.

d. If an objection is raised by any Councillor under Section 36 (c), the matter is not approved and shall be considered at the next meeting of either the Council of Senates or the committee in question as a normal item of business.

e. All Councillors shall specify one or more email address(es) for the purposes of email consideration of matters and shall apprise the Secretary of any changes to those addresses in a timely manner.

f. A change to this section of the Rules and Procedures shall not be considered under this section.

Dr. Harrison } *That the Rules and Procedures of the*
Dr. Duran-Cogan } *Council of Senates be amended to include*
 } *the new Section 36 as set out above.*

Carried by the
required two-
thirds majority.

STUDENT MOBILITY AGREEMENTS WITH DURHAM UNIVERSITY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

The Committee had circulated for approval two new system-wide student mobility agreements. Both agreements had been circulated to the Okanagan Senate Admissions and Awards Committee and the Vancouver Senate Admissions Committee for member review

Executive Committee, continued

and comment. No concerns had been raised. Several members had indicated support for the proposed agreements.

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| <i>Dr. Harrison</i> | } | <i>That the Council of Senates approve the proposed Student Mobility Agreements with Durham University and the University of Bristol as presented.</i> |
| <i>Dr. Windsor-Liscombe</i> | | |
| | | |

Carried.

Other Business

ELECTIONS PROCEDURES

Dr. Williams expressed concern that he had received a call for nominations for faculty representatives from the Faculty of Arts & Sciences at noon on the day nominations were to close at 4:00 p.m. He requested that communications be adjusted to allow for appropriate response time. Mr. Eaton replied that the message in question had begun its cascading distribution over one week prior to the deadline, and that he too was concerned that it had not made its way to the entire electorate earlier. He noted that the Registrar did not have direct access to distribution lists, but relied on the cooperation of administrators within each Faculty and unit to distribute messages. President Toope suggested that Provost Abd-El-Aziz be consulted about possible improvements to communications systems at the Okanagan campus.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:07 p.m.