



OKANAGAN SENATE SECRETARIAT

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OKANAGAN SENATE

MINUTES OF 11 FEBRUARY 2009

Attendance

Present: Dr. D. Keyes (Acting Chair), Ms. S. Morgan-Silvester (Chancellor), Mr. F. Vogt (Acting AVP and Registrar), Dr. A. S. Abd-El-Aziz (Provost), Mr. P. Arthur, Mr. G. August, Dean R. Belton, Ms. S. Bertrand, Mr. N. Cadger, Dean R. Campbell, Dr. J. Castricano, Mr. R. Chavarie, Dr. J. Cheng, Dr. J. Cioe, Ms. C. Cody, Dr. F. de Scally, Mr. C. Devenish, Dr. M. Duran-Cogan, Dr. J. Gustar, Dr. C. Hodge, Dr. J. Johnson, Dr. A. Joy, Mr. M. Koovisk, Dean M. Krank, Ms. R. L'Orsa, Dr. R. Lalonde, Dr. G. Lovegrove, Dr. S. McCoubrey, Acting Dean C. Mathieson, Dr. H. Najjaran, Dr. B. Nilson, Dr. B. O'Connor, Ms. T. Palynchuk, Dr. G. Pandher, Ms. L. Patterson, Dr. M. Rheault, Dr. C. Robinson, Acting Dean K. Rush, Dr. C. Scarff, Dr. B. Schulz-Cruz, Dean I. Stuart, Ms. S. Syal, Ms. J. Walker, Dr. S. Yannacopoulos.

Videoconference: President S. J. Toope.

By Invitation: Ms. L. Collins (Associate Secretary), Mr. C. Eaton, Mr. J. Preston, Ms. M. Kruiswyk, Dr. D. Tannant.

Regrets: Deputy Vice-Chancellor Dr. D. Ooram (Vice-Chair), Mr. B. Silzer (AVP and Registrar), Ms. M. Burton, Ms. L. Driscoll, Mr. G. Lepp, Dr. C. Mitton, Ms. G. Zilm.

Recording Secretary: Ms. K. Ross.

Call to Order

Acting Chair Dr. Keyes called the meeting to order. The President participated in the Senate meeting via videoconference.

Senate Membership

Mr. Vogt introduced the recommendation from the UBC Students' Union Okanagan that Ms. Jennifer Walker be elected as the Representative of the Graduate Students.

Motion: Mr. Koovisk
Seconded: Ms. L'Orsa

That Ms. Jennifer Walker be appointed as the Representative of the Graduate Students (to replace Mr. Ryan Whitehouse) until March 31, 2009 and thereafter until a successor is elected.

Carried.

Senators welcomed Ms. Walker by applause.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting, 14 January 2009

Moved: Dr. Cioe
Seconded: Dr. McCoubrey

That the minutes of the Okanagan Senate Meeting of 14 January 2009 be adopted as circulated.

CORRECTION

Dr. Bernard Bauer was added to the Attendance section, under *Guests*.

The meeting minutes were approved as amended.

Business Arising from the Minutes

ORAL UPDATE ON THE GRADUATE STUDIES REVIEW

Dr. Cioe reported that the Academic Policy Committee would present their recommendations through a draft discussion paper that would be widely circulated to the UBC Okanagan community. The Committee remained hopeful to present a comprehensive recommendation to the Senate at its May meeting.

President's Remarks and Related Questions

FEDERAL BUDGET UPDATE

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

The President reported that that overall there had been some positive news in relation to provincial and federal support. The federal government had recently committed \$2 billion to a special fund for infrastructure improvement for universities and colleges across Canada. The President expressed that this commitment had been designed to leverage provincial support, which should be announced as significant investments to university infrastructure in the near future. He noted that UBC continues to work with the governments to design the most appropriate allocation system of the infrastructure funds.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The President was encouraged to report that an additional \$87.5 million had been contributed towards Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships, which was positive news. The Vanier Scholarship Program had been created in the previous federal budget. He added that there was an additional investment of \$750 million in the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI), which would assist the UBC campuses to improve its facilities in the future. The President expressed that overall the federal budget responded positively to recent discussions with Canadian universities. The President noted that the government should be given credit for thinking through how a research strategy could be related to infrastructure projects.

GENOME CANADA AND RESEARCH

The President reported two areas of concern announced in the budget. The first was that there was no indication of new funding for Genome Canada in this budget. It was likely that the government understood that large inputs from the previous budget had been allocated to the project, which was why there was no new money. The President remained hopeful that new funding would continue for Genome Canada in the future. The second was the reduction of five percent of the three research councils (Tri-Council). This reduction had been part of the government's overall strategic reallocation exercise, which asked where five percent could be saved. The President expressed that there has been a tendency in previous budgets to target new money into the Tri-Council for areas related to business or certain areas of science and technology. The President emphasized that his recent discussions with Mr. Gary Goodyear, Minister of State for Science & Technology, reassured him that the government strategy had not been intended in any way to diminish the role of the granting councils.

The President noted that work continues by the G13 (Group of Thirteen), a group of leading research-intensive universities in Canada, and the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) to strongly advocate for the continued and increasing support for the costs of research including people, infrastructure and operating revenue.

The President invited information from the UBC community particularly on new research projects and on new grants received from outside of Canada. He expressed that positive news related to research at UBC could advocate for a larger impact at the provincial and federal levels.

UBC BUDGET UPDATE

The President reported that his office had circulated a letter on February 11, 2009 entitled *Update on UBC and the Endowment*. The letter was available on the UBC website at: http://www.president.ubc.ca/endowment_feb1109_FINAL.pdf.

The President shared the following key elements of the Letter to the UBC Community.

- The global economic downturn has affected the University's Endowment and the programs it supports. The University's Board of Governors has carefully analyzed the situation and is moving forward with prudence and confidence.
- The UBC Endowment is a fund – peaking at over \$1 billion before the financial turmoil of 2008 – comprising monetary gifts that individuals and groups have entrusted to UBC in perpetuity to advance the University's mission.
- Although UBC's Endowment has fared better than other universities, it has lost roughly 20 percent of its value over the past nine months. Because of that and of continued concerns around economic volatility, it was felt important to ask the Board of Governors to consider a new endowment policy.
- In 2008, UBC embarked on a comprehensive review of its endowments. That review has resulted in a revised policy, approved on February 5, 2009 by the Board of Governors. Key principles include the following. UBC will continue to honour the objectives established by our donors for their gifts. Further, the policy commits UBC to a stable pay-out of Endowment income that preserves gifts against inflation and allows Faculties and students alike the predictability to plan for the future. Finally, UBC will adopt practices that anticipate restoring individual endowments to their original value with 10 years.
- To put the principles into practice, the new Endowment Management Policy requires that UBC spend no more than 3.5 percent of the value of the endowment fund. This is a 30 percent reduction from the previous five percent spending rate, a rate that is no longer sustainable. This newly established rate will protect the principal from inflationary loss; it is also in line with the pay-out rate at other major universities.
- For UBC Okanagan there will be relatively little impact due to the newness of the campus and relatively small endowment fund. However, there are points of concern since the net amount available to be spent from the Endowment will decline by approximately 50 percent in the next fiscal year (April 1, 2009 – March 31, 2010), which could create hardship. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor at UBC Okanagan, and the Vice-President, Students are working closely with finance and treasury officers in the affected units to find ways to ameliorate the negative effects, and to allow for a smooth transition to the new spend rate.
- Notwithstanding this reduction, UBC's Board of Governors remains staunchly committed to its Access Policy, which affirms that no otherwise eligible domestic student will be denied a UBC education for financial reasons alone and therefore no needs-based awards will be cut. Students who are receiving Endowment-supported financial assistance in the current academic year will continue as expected.

Discussion

In response to a question about undergraduate student support by the federal and provincial governments, the President noted that the previous federal budget had significantly repositioned its support mechanisms for undergraduate students. In its 2008 budget, the Government of Canada declared its intention not to renew the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation though those funds would be invested into basic Canada student scholarship schemes. The President stated that much work had been done by UBC to coordinate provincial and federal government support for undergraduate students. He had been encouraged by government signals that there would be a continuation - and perhaps an expansion - of student scholarships.

Acting Chair's Remarks and Related Questions

Dr. Keyes briefly noted that the Standing Committee Chairs from both UBC Senates and from the Board of Governors had recently met in Vancouver. It had been a productive meeting to collaborate on various high-level items related to the three academic bodies.

From the Board of Governors

The Senate received for information confirmation that the following items approved by the Okanagan Senate had been subsequently approved by the Board of Governors as required under the *University Act*.

Senate Meeting of October 8, 2009

- 1. Curriculum from the Faculties of Arts and Sciences, Health and Social Development, and the College of Graduate Studies*
- 2. New Awards*

Senate Meeting of November 5, 2009

- 1. Curriculum from the Faculty of Arts and Sciences*

Nominating Committee

SENATE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Acting Chair Dr. Cioe presented the proposed Senate Committee Assignments.

Moved: *Dr. Cioe*
Seconded: *Mr. Koovisk*

Academic Policy Committee

That Dr. Kathy Rush be appointed to the Academic Policy Committee as Faculty Representative until 31 August 2011 and thereafter until replaced.

That Ms. Jennifer Walker be appointed to the Academic Policy Committee as a Student Representative until 31 March 2009 and thereafter until replaced.

Learning and Research Committee

That Ms. Carolyn Cody be appointed to the Learning and Research Committee as a Student Representative until 31 March 2009 and thereafter until replaced.

Carried.

APPOINTMENTS TO THE COUNCIL OF SENATES

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Acting Chair Dr. Cioe presented the proposed the Appointments to the Council of Senates.

Moved: Dr. Cioe
Seconded: Dr. Abd-El-Aziz

Standing Committee Chair to the Council of Senates

That Senate recommend that the Chair of the Learning and Research Committee be appointed to the Council of Senates ex-officio.

Appointment of Senators to Council of Senates Representatives Committees One (1) and Four (4)

That Senate appoint the following Senators to the Committees as specified below until 11 February 2012, so as to allow them to serve on the Council of Senates.

Council of Senates Okanagan Representative Committee One

Dr. Carol Scarff (to replace Mr. Peter Arthur)

Council of Senates Okanagan Representative Committee Four

Dean Robert Belton (to replace Dean Bernard Bauer)

Carried.

Curriculum Committee

As a non-member of Senate, Acting Chair Mr. Eaton was granted leave by the Senate to present the report of the Curriculum Committee. Mr. Eaton briefly announced that the Curriculum Committee remains in need of a permanent Chair.

See also, 'Appendix A: Curriculum Summary.'

Moved: Dr. Cioe
Seconded: Mr. Koovisk

That Senate approve the new courses brought forward by the Faculty Arts and Sciences as set out in the attached proposals.

Carried.

Admissions and Awards Committee

NEW AWARD

The Committee had circulated a new award for approval by the Senate.

Moved: Dr. McCoubrey
Seconded: Ms. L'Orsa

That Senate accept the award as listed and forward it to the Board of Governors for approval; and that a letter of thanks be sent to the donor.

IODE Silver Star Achievement Award: To commemorate its services and achievements for over 50 years, awards totalling \$1,000 have been endowed by IODE Silver Star for second, third or fourth year students at The University of British Columbia Okanagan. Consideration is given to students who demonstrate a combination of academic achievement and extracurricular involvement. The awards are made on the recommendation of the Faculties and Schools at UBC Okanagan, with final selection to be made by the Office of Student Financial Assistance and Awards, with preference given to students with financial need. (First award available for the 2009/10 Winter Session)

Discussion

In response to a question from Ms. L'Orsa, Dr. McCoubrey confirmed that the Student Financial Awards Office would determine the number of awards to be given to students. She added that the proposed award would not be renewable. In response to a query from Mr. Cadger, Dr. McCoubrey noted that the acronym IODE stands for the *Independent Order of the Daughters of the Empire*. Dr. McCoubrey confirmed that the awards totaling \$1,000 would be annually granted.

The motion was put and carried.

ADMISSIONS PROPOSALS

Committee Chair Dr. McCoubrey presented the reports.

Revisions to Visiting Classification

Moved: Dr. McCoubrey
Seconded: Ms. L'Orsa

That Senate approve the revised calendar entry to for Visiting Students, first effective for the 2009 summer admission to UBC Okanagan.

Carried.

Changing Degree Programs

Moved: Dr. McCoubrey

Seconded: Mr. Koovisk

That Senate approve the proposed changes to the admission evaluation timeline for current students changing their degree program, first effective for students entering in 2009.

Carried.

Canadian Aboriginal Applicants

Moved: Dr. McCoubrey

Seconded: Dr. Cioe

That Senate approve the proposed changes for Canadian Aboriginal Applicants considered for admission UBC Okanagan, effective for the 2010 admission year.

Discussion

In response to a question from Mr. Emerson, Dr. McCoubrey confirmed that the proposed changes for the Canadian Aboriginal Applicants proposal had been submitted by the Aboriginal Student Recruiter-Advisor in collaboration with the Director of Indigenization and Internationalization at UBC Okanagan.

In response to a question from Ms. L'Orsa, Dr. McCoubrey stated that the Admissions and Awards Committee had not discussed the rationale to why the Supplemental Application Form deadline would be set as June 1 although she remained confident that the choice of date had been thought through.

Senators had noted various grammatical errors in the proposed Supplemental Application Form; McCoubrey confirmed that the errors would be addressed.

The motion was put and carried.

English Language Admission Standard (ELAS)

Moved: Dr. McCoubrey

Seconded: Ms. Patterson

That Senate approve the proposed change to the English Language Admission Standard at UBC Okanagan, effective for the 2010 admission year.

Discussion

In response to a question by Dr. Najjaran, the Committee Chair stated that the proposal had been presented to the Senate as approved by the Admissions and Awards Committee and that further comments in relation to this matter could be directed to Dr. Hatt.

Dr. McCoubrey confirmed that all applicants, regardless of their country of origin or of citizenship status, would be required to demonstrate competence in the English language prior to admission to UBC Okanagan.

The motion was put and carried.

Other Business

Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics

Ms. Cody presented a petition to extend the Term 2 midterm break in 2010 on behalf of UBC Okanagan students, faculty and staff. She moved the following motion.

*Moved: Ms. Cody
Seconded: Mr. Emerson*

That the Senate refer to the Learning and Research Committee consideration of the petition received from members of the campus community regarding participation in the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics, with specific reference to if the 2009/2010 Academic Year should be amended to extend the Term 2 midterm break by one week and if any other changes to that academic year are necessary as a result; and

That the Committee report back to the Senate by 11 March 2009 with any necessary recommendations.

Discussion

Dr. Duran-Cogan reminded Senators that a motion to approve a two-week break from classes in February 2010 in order to accommodate the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics had failed at a meeting of the Senate in February 2008. She recalled that at that meeting, the student Senators had not supported the motion as proposed. Dr. Duran-Cogan questioned why this matter should be reconsidered. Mr. Emerson suggested that perhaps since the Olympic Games were approaching that members of the UBC Okanagan community had had a change of heart. Dr. Cioe asked whether students were aware of the implications that could arise with amending the 2009/2010 Academic Year so late in the year. In response to discussions, Ms. Collins stated that the motion at-hand was to refer the matter to the Senate Learning and Research Committee.

In response to a suggestion from Ms. L'Orsa that student Senators could be more responsible to their constituents; Dr. Keyes replied that the suggestion could be best directed to the UBC Student Union Okanagan.

Mr. Arthur indicated that the short report-back timeline could limit potential consultations with the UBC community. Ms. Collins noted that as more time passes it could become more problematic to adjust the Academic Year with respect to already scheduled conferences or other on-campus commitments. In response to a comment by Dr. Duran-Cogan, Dr. Cioe commented that there could be multiple options related to this item and that he supported the referral of it to the Learning and Research Committee for investigation.

The motion to refer was put and carried.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm.

The following regular meeting was scheduled to be held on Wednesday, March 11, 2009 at 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm in Library 317.

Appendix A: Curriculum Summary

Faculty of Arts and Sciences

1. The following new courses:
 - a. CHEM 424 (3) Organometallic Catalysts
 - b. CHEM 426 (3) Advanced Inorganic Synthesis
 - c. PSYO 509 (3) Directed Studies in Psychology