

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



OKANAGAN SENATE SECRETARIAT

**Enrolment Services
Senate and Curriculum Services**

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THE OKANAGAN SENATE

MINUTES

Wednesday March 2, 2011

3:30 pm to 5:30 pm

ART 386 | UBC OKANAGAN CAMPUS

Attendance

Present: Prof. S. J. Toope, (Chair), Mr. F. Vogt (Acting Secretary), Dr. A. Abd-El-Aziz, Dean T. Aboulnasr, Dr. P. Arthur, Mr. N. Cadger, Dr. J. Castricano, Dr. J. Cheng, Dr. J. Cioe, Dean M. Courtney, Dr. F. de Scally, Mr. Christopher L. Gorman, Dr. C. Hodge, Dr. J. Holzman, Mr. A. Hu, Dr. J. Johnson, Mr. S. Joseph, Dr. D. Keyes, Dean M. Krank, Dr. B. Lalonde, Ms. E. Landry, Ms. S. Larose, Ms. M. Laviolette, Dr. G. Lovegrove, Dean C. Mathieson, Dr. S. McCoubrey, Dr. B. Nilson, Mr. C. Norman, Dr. B. O'Connor, Dr. G. Pandher, Ms. L. Patterson, Acting Dean K. Phillips, Dr. M. Rheault, Ms. L. Super, Mr. D. Vineberg, Mr. C. Wain, Ms. A. Weiss, Ms. M. Woodward,

Guests: Ms. L. Collins, Mr. C. Eaton, Ms. M. Kruiswyk

Regrets: Dr. P. Balcaen, Dean L. Bosetti, Ms. M. Burton, Dr. M. Duran-Cogan, Dr. G. Jones, Dr. R. Mack, Ms. S. Morgan-Silvester (Chancellor), Dean D. Muzyka, Dr. H. Najjaran, Dr. D. Owrarn, Mr. J. Ridge, Dr. B. Schulz-Cruz Dr. S. Yannacopoulos

Recording Secretary: Ms. N. Hager

Call to Order

Chair President Toope called to order the sixth regular meeting of the Senate for the 2010/11 academic year.

Approval of the Agenda

By general consent the agenda was approved as presented.

Senate Membership

Election to Fill Senate Vacancy

The Chair called for the following motion:

Moved: Dean Mathieson

Seconded: Dr. Cioe

That Mr. Christopher L. Gorman be appointed to Senate on the recommendation of the UBC Alumni Association as a representative of the Convocation pursuant to Rule 13 (a) of the Rules and Procedures of the Okanagan Senate and Section 36 (4) (b) of the University Act.

NB: As per Section 36 (1) and (5) of the University Act, Mr. Gorman's term shall be until August 31, 2011 and thereafter until replaced.

The motion was put and carried.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting, January 26, 2011

Moved: Dr. Abd-El-Aziz

Seconded: Mr. Cadger

That the minutes of the Okanagan Senate meeting of January 26, 2011 be approved as presented.

The motion was put and carried

President's Comments and Related Questions

Vice-President, Students

The President drew attention to his recent memorandum regarding changes to the Vice-President, Students portfolio. As a result of the recent portfolio review, and the difficulties of enacting the recommended expedited changes in the last year of his appointment, Brian Sullivan had decided to leave the vice-presidential position effective March 18, 2011 and had accepted an assignment in Development and Alumni Engagement. A *pro tem* appointment would be announced in the coming weeks while further consideration over one

recommendation in particular – the elimination of the Vice-President position – was further considered. Several recommendations had already been implemented, namely, the reassignment of Enrolment Services and the International Student Initiative to report to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Principal at the Okanagan campus, and the Provost and Vice-President, Academic at the Vancouver campus.

Okanagan Campus Review

The President recalled his February 28 announcement regarding the five-year review of the Okanagan campus. Scope and focus to include (see <http://president.ubc.ca>):

- Review current organizational structures and reporting relationships, including Senate
- Review two (or more) multi-campus systems from other leading research-intensive universities, paying close attention to innovative structures
- Analyze the effectiveness of the Okanagan campus' development to date
- Prepare a candid assessment of the gaps, challenges, capacity performance and effectiveness of the Okanagan campus
- Recommend the next steps for the Okanagan campus that would allow for effective use of resources to achieve the goals of Place and Promise: the UBC Plan.

The three external reviewers (Kevin Reilly, President of the University of Wisconsin System; Ian Orchard, former Vice-President and Principal, University of Toronto Mississauga; and Ramona Lumpkin, former Principal of Huron University College) would visit the Okanagan campus April 26 and 27 and would submit the final report by mid-June 2011. The President assured Senators that consultation would be broad-ranging and that all faculty were encouraged to submit their thoughts and feedback.

University Budget

The President reported that the 2011/12 University budget would soon be completed for both the Okanagan and Vancouver campus. The University remained in strong financial shape and presented a balanced budget with no cuts to faculties or other units anticipated. He thanked deans and directors of units for their continued sound planning and judgment.

UBC Credit Rating

UBC had been issued a new Standard & Poor credit rating of AA+, which was the best rating of any university in Canada. The University's strong financial management, great student demand, and increased success in securing research funding were key factors in the rating. The President explained that a strong credit rating directly lowered the University's cost of borrowing.

2011 Provincial Budget

The President was pleased to report that the 2011 provincial budget included a slight increase to the Ministry of Science and Universities with no cuts or other unexpected budgetary pressures. Referencing the late February BC Liberal Party leadership election, the President spoke hopefully for renewed progress within the portfolio for universities.

Noting that the province had come close to its limits for capital spending, the President explained that a rising debt-to-GDP ratio would mean that the government would need to exercise caution on decisions about capital funding. UBC had been fortunate with respect to capital development in recent years, with approximately \$1.5 billion in projects underway at its two campuses. The President expressed hope that the province's flexibility in this area would increase as the University felt able to take on additional capital budgets.

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 November 24, 2010

New awards

Senate Meeting of December 16, 2010

Curriculum proposals from the Faculties of Arts and Sciences, Creative and Critical Studies, and Education, and from the College of Graduate Studies

Senate Meeting of January 26, 2011

Curriculum proposals from the Faculties of Arts and Sciences, Education, and Management, and from the College of Graduate Studies

Academic Policy Committee

Committee Chair Dr. Jan Cioe presented the report.

Weighted Averages

A proposal had been received to clarify the calculation of weighted averages in the Academic Calendar.

Moved: Dr. Cioe

Seconded: Dean Krank

That Senate approve the proposed changes to the Academic Calendar entry for 'Weighted Averages'.

The motion was put and carried.

Admissions and Awards Committee

Committee Chair Dr. Sharon McCoubrey presented the report.

New Awards

See also, 'Appendix A: New Awards'.

Moved: Dr. McCoubrey

Seconded: Dr. Rheault

That Senate accept the new awards as listed and forward them to the Board of Governors for approval; and that letters of thanks be sent to the donors.

Discussion

Dr. Johnson questioned the accuracy of the reference to the Faculty of Applied Science "at the Okanagan campus" as the recommending body for the Community Leadership Award in Engineering. The President confirmed that the reference was appropriate as Applied Science was as a dual-campus faculty.

The motion was put and carried.

Admissions Proposals

Change of Degree Program, Change of Campus, and Master of Arts, English

Two proposals had been received to clarify Academic Calendar language on applying to change one's undergraduate degree program and applying to change one's campus, and a third proposal to revise the Academic Calendar entry for the Master of Arts in English to better reflect intended admission practice.

*Moved: Dr. McCoubrey
Seconded: Dr. Lalonde*

That Senate approve the proposed changes to the Academic Calendar entries for 'Change of Degree Program', 'Change of Campus', and 'Master of Arts, English'.

Discussion

Dr. Lalonde questioned the rationale behind the policy which limited students to a maximum of 60 credits for transfer to a new program. Dr. McCoubrey explained that in transferring to a new program, students were required to satisfy all program requirements and it would be highly improbable for a student to transfer more than 60 applicable credits. Dr. Lalonde maintained his objection regardless of probability. Ms. Collins cited the policy in question in the Policies and Regulations section of the Academic Calendar, 'Requirements to Receive a Degree or Diploma': "a student must satisfy at least 50% of the credits required for the program while registered in the program".

Dr. Cioe reported that a review of the policy, and any instances of its reference in the Academic Calendar, had been referred to the Academic Policy Committee. The President requested that the Academic Policy Committee report its review and any recommendations to Senate at a future meeting.

The motion was put and carried.

Brazilian Secondary School Evaluation

A proposal had been received to change the admission requirements for Brazilian secondary school applicants to direct-entry undergraduate programs. Applicants would be evaluated on the basis of courses presented for admission, the quality of the institution attended, and their performance on standardized tests (*Vestibular*; *Exame Nacional do Ensino Medio* or ENEM; the SAT; or ACT). Applicants would be required to satisfy program prerequisites in order to be admissible.

*Moved: Dr. McCoubrey
Seconded: Dr. Cioe*

That Senate approve changes in admission requirements for Brazilian secondary school applicants to direct-entry undergraduate programs at UBC's Okanagan campus effective for admission to the 2011 Winter Session and thereafter.

Discussion

The President noted that the proposed change in admission requirements had operated successfully as a pilot for admission to the Bachelor of Arts program at the Vancouver campus, had been fully evaluated, and was now being proposed for extension to all direct-entry undergraduate programs.

In response to an inquiry from Dr. de Scally, Dr. McCoubrey explained that Enrolment Services would conduct the academic assessment of the courses presented, the quality of the institution attended, and the performance on the standardized test presented.

In response to an inquiry from Dr. Pandher, the President explained that due to details and nuances between individual countries, a generic policy was not possible.

Admissions and Awards Committee Member Dr. Rheault reported that following the meeting in which this proposal had been discussed and approved for recommendation to the Senate, he had spoken with a Brazilian post-doctoral student and had learned that the standardized test, the *Vestibular* (a test administered for admission to Brazilian universities), varied between schools. He questioned how Enrolment Services would evaluate the *Vestibular* against such other standardized tests as the ENEM (the *Exame Nacional do Ensino*), the SAT or the ACT. The assembly recognized Ms. Kruiswyk from Undergraduate Admissions who explained that students who presented with the *Vestibular* would be ranked against other students who applied to the same program. She described the evaluation process as holistic and requiring the consideration of various factors.

Mr. Cadger noted that only the key prerequisite subjects of mathematics, physics and chemistry had been evaluated to determine if the courses met UBC's requirements. Ms. Kruiswyk reported that while Enrolment Services had not evaluated other subjects, they would be considered in the admissions process.

The motion was put and carried.

Policy J-51: Admission Based on Interim Grades for Applicants Following Canadian Extra-Provincial Curricula

A proposal had been received to provide a mechanism for an interim academic assessment of applicants from all Canadian extra-provincial educational jurisdictions to undergraduate direct-entry programs on the basis of Grade 11 course grades for in-progress Grade 12 courses. In early 2009 Senate had approved a proposal to substitute Grade 11 grades in place of required Grade 12 grades for the calculation of an admission average for out-of-province applicants to direct-entry undergraduate degree programs effective for admission to the

2009 Winter Session. Later that year the pilot was extended for entry to the 2010 and 2011 Winter Sessions.

Moved: Dr. McCoubrey

Seconded: Mr. Joseph

That Senate approve Policy J-51: Admission Based on Interim Grades for Applicants Following Canadian Extra-Provincial Curricula.

Discussion

Dr. Cioe inquired if a student who was admitted on the basis of Grade 11 grades but who performed poorly in Grade 12 would, under this policy, retain their offer of admission. The President noted that the pilot had clearly demonstrated that Grade 11 grades were a strong indicator of performance in Grade 12 and that 100% of offers based upon Grade 11 grades would have been made had Enrolment Services waited for final Grade 12 grades; however, the key advantage had been that offers of admission were extended much earlier. Dr. McCoubrey added that a student would retain their offer of admission if they met the University minimum of 67%.

Dr. de Scally sought clarification around the process for the recalculation of grades once final Grade 12 grades were submitted. Dr. McCoubrey explained that if upon submission of Grade 12 grades a student failed to meet the University minimum, their offer of admission would be withdrawn. In response to an inquiry from Dr. Lovegrove, Ms. Kruiswyk assured Senate that the recalculation of the admission average once final Grade 12 grades had been received would continue as standard admissions practice; any student who fell below the University minimum of 67% would have their offer of admission withdrawn.

In response to Dr. Cioe's concern over grade inflation, the President suggested that the issue could be further discussed by the Academic Policy Committee.

Dean Krank raised an issue around the list of Grade 12 courses approved for use in the calculation of an admission average at the UBC Okanagan campus. He noted that the list, which included such disciplines as math and science, excluded others. He further suggested that the University had lost touch with courses that were currently being taught in BC's high schools. Dr. McCoubrey reminded Senate that in late 2009 Senate had approved 'Criteria for Including Secondary Courses in UBC Admission Averages' (included in full as Appendix A in Policy J-51) and had delegated to the Admissions and Awards Committee the authority to grant final approval of the list of courses with the proviso that all courses approved met the criteria specified by Senate. The Admissions and Awards Committee had struck a subcommittee to review evaluated BC high school courses against the criteria listed and had reported their

recommendations back to the Admissions and Awards Committee for approval and implementation. Several courses had been approved in the past year, while others remained under consideration, requiring further evaluation.

Mr. Cadger referenced Appendix A and inquired after its footnote which stipulated that for high school courses to be included in an admission average that they must meet the criteria of being “academic in delivery”. He considered the footnote to be ambiguous and lacking clarity and meaning, and questioned how such disciplines as the humanities and fine arts fit into the definition provided for “academic courses”. The President questioned the inclusion of the footnote within Policy J-51, and suggested that the Admissions and Awards Committee consider the issues raised by the assembly’s discussion and report back to Senate.

Dean Aboulnasr cautioned Senate against any discussion that pitted science against the arts; she described the issue before Senate as being one of the general purposes of education, specifically, of the appropriateness of content delivered at the high school level versus the university level.

The motion was put and carried.

Curriculum Committee

Committee Chair Dean Marvin Krank presented the report. He noted a typographical error and clarified that the new English course was being proposed by the Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies.

See also, ‘Appendix B: Curriculum Summary’.

Moved: Dean Krank

Seconded: Dr. Hodge

That Senate approve the new courses brought forward by the Faculties of Applied Science, Arts and Sciences, and Creative and Critical Studies as set out in the attached proposals.

The motion was put and carried.

Report from the Associate Vice-President, Enrolment Services and Registrar

Revised Winter Session Term 2 Dates for the 2011/12 Academic Year, Revised Draft Term Dates to 2017/2018

For Senate’s information, Acting Secretary Mr. Vogt reported that in February 2011, after consultation with the Okanagan Senate Learning and Research Committee, Enrolment Services had moved forward with changes to the Winter Session Term 2 dates for the 2011/12 Academic Year (see: www.senate.ubc.ca/okanagan/termdates.cfm):

Dates in **bold** have been revised:

Term 1

Tuesday, September 6, 2011	Term 1 Begins
Thursday, November 10, 2011	Midterm Break
Friday, December 2, 2011	Classes End
Tuesday, December 6, 2010	Exams Start
Tuesday, December 20, 2011	Exams End
Number of Teaching Days	60

Term 2

Wednesday, January 4, 2012 (from January 9)	Term 2 Begins
February 20 to 24, 2012	Midterm Break
Thursday, April 5, 2012 (from April 12)	Classes End
Wednesday, April 11, 2012 (from April 16)	Exams Start
Wednesday, April 25, 2012 (from April 30)	Exams End
Number of Teaching Days	62

Note: These dates align with the term dates of the Vancouver campus (see www.senate.ubc.ca/vancouver/termdates.cfm).

Mr. Vogt reported that as part of its review of the 2011/12 Winter Session Term 2 dates, Enrolment Services had incorporated the advice of the Learning and Research Committee and had revised the draft term dates to 2016/17; one additional draft year has also been added: 2017/18. Mr. Vogt noted that the Okanagan and Vancouver terms dates were in parallel and followed the *Senate Policy and Current Practice on Term and Examination Scheduling* found on the Senate website: www.senate.ubc.ca/okanagan/policies.cfm?ID=8.

In conclusion, Mr. Vogt committed Enrolment Services to work further with the Learning and Research Committee on the 2013/14 term dates to explore options around avoiding, if possible, the current Term 2 end date of April 30.

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned. The following regular meeting of the Senate was scheduled for Wednesday March 30, 2011 at 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm in ART 386.

Appendix A: New Awards

Community Leadership Award in Engineering - A \$500 award is offered by a graduate of the first Engineering class to a student entering fourth year in the School of Engineering in the Faculty of Applied Science at The University of British Columbia, Okanagan campus. The award is made on the recommendation of the School, and is to be equally based on the student's academic achievement and extracurricular involvement. (First award available for the 2010/11 Winter Session)

Jacobs Family Bursary in Engineering: A \$1000 bursary has been endowed by Michael Jacobs for a third and/or fourth year student in Civil Engineering in the Faculty of Applied Science at The University of British Columbia, Okanagan campus. (First award available for the 2011/12 Winter Session)

Appendix B: Curriculum Summary

From the Faculty of Applied Science

1. The following new courses:
 - a. ENGR 503 (3) Selected Topics in Advanced Engineering Analysis
 - b. ENGR 531 (3) Infrastructure Management

From the Faculty of Arts and Sciences

2. The following new courses:
 - a. ASTR 210 (3) Physical Processes in the Universe
 - b. ECON 295 (3) Managerial Economics

From the Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies

3. The following new courses:
 - a. ENGL 234 (3) Indigenous Literature in Canada