

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY SENATE

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SENATE OF SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 1997 AT 7:00 PM IN ROOM 3120 WMC

OPEN SESSION

Present: Stubbs, John, Chair

Akins, Kathleen  
Arnason, Kristjan  
Alderson, Evan  
Barrow, Robin  
Berggren, J. Len  
Blaney, Jack  
Blazenko, George  
Boland, Larry  
Cellik, Peter  
Chan, Albert  
Clayman, Bruce  
D'Auria, John  
Dobb, Ted  
Dunsterville, Valerie  
Emmott, Alan  
Gagan, David  
Jones, Colin  
Kanevsky, Lannie  
Kozminuk, Angela  
Luk, Wo Shun  
Marteniuk, Ron  
Mathewes, Rolf  
McInnes, Dina  
Morrison, Tim  
Naef, Barbara  
Osborne, Judith  
Percival, Paul  
Peterson, Louis  
Pierce, John  
Rawicz, Andrew  
Reed, Clyde  
Sanghera, Balwant  
Shapiro, Stan  
Ukrainetz, Mark  
Warsh, Michael  
Winne, Phil  
Wortis, Michael

Absent: Aujla, Angela  
Beattie, Suzan  
Cleveland, William  
Crawford, Charles  
Dahl, Veronica  
Etherington, Lois  
Giffen, Ken  
Hansen, Joey  
Hewitt, Kevin  
Howlett, Michael  
Lewis, Brian  
Mauser, Gary  
Nip, Harry  
Ross, Douglas  
Roth, W. Michael  
Segal, Joseph  
Whitbread, Katherine  
Wickstrom, Norman

In attendance:

Blackman, Roger  
Hanson, Kathryn  
Heath, Nick

Heath, W. Ron, Dean of Student Services and Registrar  
Watt, Alison, Director, Secretariat Services  
Grant, Bobbie, Recording Secretary

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Since several visitors were in attendance in order to speak to agenda items, it was suggested that the agenda be amended to allow consideration of their items early in the meeting. There were no objections to moving Items 5-h and 5-e forward on the agenda and, following this change, the agenda was approved as amended.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION OF DECEMBER 2, 1996

The Minutes were approved as distributed.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising.

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

The Chair welcomed everyone back to the start of a new semester and extended congratulations to Michael Warsh for the successful completion of his PhD. Senate was also advised of the resignation of Tim Morrison, and on behalf of Senate, the Chair extended thanks for his service on Senate and its various committees.

No news has been received with respect to 97/98 funding and Senate was reminded of the information which had already been widely circulated with regard to clawbacks for the 96/97 funding period. Senate was advised of the recent appointment of Paul Ramsey as the new Minister responsible for post-secondary education.

5. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

a) Senate Nominating Committee

i) Paper S.97-1

Senate was advised that no further nominations had been received. A. Chan has therefore been elected by acclamation to the Senate Nominating Committee; all other positions remain vacant and will be carried forward. The Chair advised that SCAR and the Nominating Committee wished to see committees fully constituted and noted that Student Senators are primarily required to fill the remaining vacancies.

b) Senate Committee on Academic Planning/Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

i) Paper S.97-2 - School of Computing Science - Specialist Program in Software Engineering

Moved by D. Gagan, seconded by R. Marteniuk

"that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, the new Specialist Program in Software Engineering, as set forth in S.97-2"

Senate was advised that a lengthy meeting between representatives of the University and representatives of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia had taken place. The profession has not been consistent in objecting to the use of the word 'Engineering' and recommendation was that Senate proceed with consideration of the proposed new Specialist Program in Software Engineering.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Paper S.97-3 (Formerly S.96-75) - Undergraduate Curriculum Revisions - Faculty of Business Administration (For Information)

Concern was reiterated about the difficulty students have registering in BUS 346, a required course in the International Business concentration. Senate was advised that the Faculty of Business Administration has made adjustments to add additional sections, and expectations are the subsequent curriculum changes will relieve some of the pressure on the introductory International Business courses.

Concern was also expressed about conflicts which occur in lectures and exams of core critical courses within concentrations and it was suggested that the Registrar's Office try to avoid scheduling such conflicts. It was noted that while the Registrar's Office assigns rooms, the Faculty essentially sets the course timetable and schedules individual courses. Senate was assured that the Registrar's Office is willing to work with the Faculty to improve scheduling.

iii) Paper S.97-4 - Transfer Credit for D Grades

Moved by D. Gagan, seconded by J. Osborne

"that Senate approve, as set forth in S.97-4, the changes to the policy on transfer credit for D grades"

N. Heath, Director of Admissions, and R. Blackman, Chair of the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies were in attendance in order to respond to questions.

It was noted that existing policy permits transfer credit for D grades except in two specific circumstances of admission which would affect a very small number of students. Senate was advised that the proposed change to policy would effectively provide transfer credit to new students for all passed courses, regardless of the student's admission average or admission standing.

The wisdom of the existing university policy of regarding a D grade as a pass was questioned. Opinion was expressed that awarding transfer credit for D grades, especially D grades from colleges where programs of study are quite different from university study, might erode academic standards, and the question was raised as to what impact not giving transfer credit for any D grades would have on admission to SFU. In an attempt to establish comparability of transfer credit within the province, the BC Council on Admission and Transfer has been working fairly successfully in having all member institutions recognize the same grades for transfer credit. If SFU failed to recognize D grades, difficulties might result for potential transfer students. A recent report prepared by Analytical Studies has in fact established that transfer students perform very well and opinion was expressed that academic standards do not seem to be at issue.

Concern was also expressed about D graded courses being used to meet prerequisite standards. However, it was pointed out that prerequisite requirements are a separate issue and acceptance of a D grade for transfer does not imply acceptance of that course as a prerequisite.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iv) Paper S.97-5 - Revision to Policy Minimum Admission Averages

Moved by D. Gagan, seconded by J. Osborne

"that Senate approve, as set forth in S.97-5, the changes to the policy on minimum admission averages"

N. Heath, Director of Admissions, and R. Blackman, Chair of the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies were in attendance in order to respond to questions.

Senate was advised that the underlying change to the policy is that admission for students from BC institutions should not be different from admission from other Canadian provinces. Brief discussion followed with respect to the operational process of this policy and Senate was provided with details of procedure for specific types of admission.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

v) Paper S.97-15 - Faculty of Science - Diverse Qualifications

Motion 1-a)

Moved by D. Gagan, seconded by J. Osborne

"that Senate approve the following amendments to the Diverse Qualifications Admissions Policy, section 3:

that when a Faculty opts out of the Diverse Qualifications policy, the overall maximum target for Diverse Qualifications admissions will be amended from 10% of the total university admissions, to 10% of the total university admissions less the proportion of admissions relating to the opting out Faculty"

A suggestion to delete the words '*proportion of*' was accepted as a friendly amendment.

Senate was advised that the policy as previously passed by Senate did not contain provisions for Faculties wishing to opt out, and motions 1-a and 1-b are before Senate to establish procedures in this regard.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION 1-A AS AMENDED  
CARRIED

Motion #1-b

Moved by D. Gagan, seconded by J. Osborne

"that when a Faculty opts out of the Diverse Qualifications policy, the status of that Faculty's representative on the Diverse Qualifications Admissions Committee be changed to become a non-voting observer on the Committee"

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION 1-B CARRIED

Motion #2

Moved by C. Jones, seconded by M. Wortis

"that the Faculty of Science be permitted to opt out of the Diverse Qualifications Admissions Policy starting with admissions for the Spring Semester 1998"

Senate was advised that following the approval of the DQ policy by Senate, the Faculty of Science engaged in a lengthy debate relating to the question of opting out of the policy. A special referendum was held within the Faculty and the Faculty voted to opt out. A brief summary of the reasons for the Faculty's decision was presented to Senate as follows. Firstly, there are very strong sentiments within the Faculty that academic success in SFU's Science program is strongly linked to a student's level of academic achievement in secondary schools. Secondly because of space and resource limitations, the Faculty wishes to maximize the number of students completing the first year program and going on to complete degrees. Thirdly, in order to compete with UBC and other universities who make offers of admission as early as January, the Faculty is moving towards offering students earlier admission. DQA will delay consideration for admission which might lead admissible students to take up offers of admission elsewhere and could in turn lead the Faculty to admit

students with lower than desired GPAs. The Faculty feels that students who have a lower GPA (plus other skills/qualifications that may well suit them eventually for a university education) have other options available to them such as attending community college. In addition, students who are admitted under the DQA policy can still take Science courses at SFU provided they have the required prerequisites and space is available. In summary, Senate was advised that the Faculty of Science, particularly in times of financial restraint, wishes to put their time, effort, and energy in attracting students who excel in their academic studies at secondary school and to ensure those students continuance in the Majors program within the Faculty.

A question was raised as to why this motion was before Senate since the policy approved by Senate contained a clause which allows Faculties to opt out. It was pointed out that the policy wording was contradictory as it also contained the caveat 'as Senate wishes'. Brief discussion on this issue ensued.

Opinion was expressed that it was inappropriate to reject the DQA process without having any direct experience with the policy. However, there was a general feeling that policy decisions of this sort should remain at the discretion of the Faculty and since Senate had already approved the option of opting out, it should allow the Faculty of Science to do so. It was suggested that the performance of any Science students admitted under the DQA policy between now and Fall 1997 be formally measured as part of the impact review of the Diverse Qualifications Admissions policy.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Senate was advised that the first intake of DQA students occurred this Spring 1997 semester. The Committee considered approximately 150 cases and admitted approximately 35 students, two of whom were admitted to the Faculty of Science. In that total, approximately five students would most likely have been admitted in the next 10% of descending GPA rank. Three out of the total were Grade 12 students, the others were transfer students, degree holders and mature students. This ratio reflects the general make-up of admissions for the Spring as the largest admission of Grade 12 occurs in the Fall semester.

e) Senate Committee on Academic Planning/Senate Committee on Continuing Studies

i) Paper S.97-12 - Proposed Non-Credit Certificate Programs

Motion #1a

Non-Credit Certificate Program in North American Business Practices

Moved by D. Gagan, seconded by A. Chan

"that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, as set forth in S.97-12, the Non-Credit Certificate Program in North American Business Practices"

Kathryn Hanson, Associate Director, Extension Credit was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

Reference was made to the statement of general purpose, and opinion was expressed that this appeared to be a non-academic program which was not directly related to the central purpose of the University to provide educational opportunities to residents of Canada and, in particular, to the people of BC. Suggestion was made that the program was being proposed to make money for the University and concern was expressed that no financial information with respect to costs and revenue had been presented to Senate for consideration.

It was pointed out that the program, although targetted toward international students, was open to Canadian students, and that the abbreviated courses, taught by SFU faculty members, were similar to second and third year Business Administration courses. In response to a concern expressed about taking teaching resources away from core academic programs, Senate was advised that the courses taught in non-credit programs are taught on overload with stipend.

Discussion ensued with respect to budget implications and Senate was advised that this was expected to be a cost-recovery program which would be cancelled if all expenses could not be met by tuition revenue. It was noted that, in general, successful non-credit programs in Continuing Studies which generate money support basic teaching and research needs within the University and that Continuing Studies initiatives service a very important need and demand in the community which result in benefits to SFU's reputation and economy. It was noted that there is nothing in the University Act to preclude Senate from considering the economics of new programs as part of its criteria of approval and it was suggested that budget information should be part of future discussions of all new credit and non-credit programs.

Discussion followed with respect to the process of selection for admission and evaluation procedures for successful completion of the certificate.

Moved by M. Wortis, seconded by P. Percival

"that the motion be tabled"

Senate was advised that the intent of the motion to table was to obtain additional details on budget information, and required a majority vote.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION TO TABLE FAILED

Question was called on the main motion, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion #1-b

Non-Credit Certificate Program: UniGIS - A Telelearning Program in Geographic Information Systems

Moved by D. Gagan, seconded by J. Pierce

"that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, as set forth in S.97-12, the Non-Credit Certificate Program: UniGIS - A Telelearning Program in Geographic Information Systems"

The program is built on the work and success of programs that have already been offered in Austria and England in Geographical Information Systems and offers instruction through the Internet and other forms of distance education. If approved, SFU, through the Department of Geography, will become the North American distributor of this module. Senate was advised the program is structured in such a way that if it meets the requirements of students, it may be upgraded at some point to a degree program.

Discussion ensued with respect to budget requirements of the program. Senate was advised that SFU and the UniGIS Consortium have agreed to forego overhead for the first year in order to get the program operational, and once operational, the program is planned to provide full cost recovery. It was pointed out that an important ongoing function of a university is to develop ideas and new programs, and it is important to recognize that the time and energy faculty and staff put into program development are inherent costs to the university. In response to a concern expressed about the level of computing resources required to support a telelearning program, it was noted that the majority of students will be located all around North America and will be using local service providers.

Brief discussion took place with respect to the market demand for this type of program. Senate was referred to Page 12 of the documentation which provides information about market analysis, and the success of the program already offered in numerous universities in Austria and England was noted.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

- c) SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC PLANNING/SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES/SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENROLMENT MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING

N. Heath, Director of Admissions, and R. Blackman, Chair of the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies were in attendance in order to respond to questions.

i) Paper S.97-6 - Faculty of Science - Admission requirement changes

Moved by D. Gagan, seconded by C. Jones

"that Senate approve, as set forth in S.97-6, the changes to the admission requirements in the Faculty of Science"

Senate was provided with a brief summary of the differences between the current regulations and the proposed changes. The proposed changes will bring the admission requirements of the Faculty of Science more into line with SFU general admission requirements and also into alignment with current admission practices at other universities in the province. These changes will assist students applying to more than one university for admission, allow a cleaner calculation of GPA for admission, and more clearly inform students of the standards the Faculty of Science is setting for admission. In light of the fact that the Faculty of Science has removed itself from the DQA policy, concern was expressed that students who may have had a bad year in Grade 12 would now not be considered for a Science program.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

d) SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC PLANNING/SENATE GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEEi) Paper S.97-7 - Graduate Curriculum Revisions - Faculty of Applied Sciences

Moved by D. Gagan, seconded by B. Clayman

"that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors the curriculum revisions for the Faculty of Applied Sciences, as set forth in S.97-7 as follows:

S.97-7a School of Computing Science

Non-thesis option for the M.Sc. in Computing Science"

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Senate received information that SGSC, acting under delegated authority, approved new courses as set forth in S.97-7b in the School of Engineering Science.

ii) Paper S.97-8 - Curriculum Revisions - Faculty of Arts

Moved by D. Gagan, seconded by B. Clayman

"that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors the curriculum revisions for the Faculty of Arts as set forth in S.97-8 as follows:

S.97-8a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Program -  
Addition of a non-thesis course option

S.97-8b Department of Psychology -  
Changes to Program in Clinical Psychology

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Senate received information that SGSC, acting under delegated authority, approved new courses and revisions of a minor nature to existing courses as set forth in S.97-8a Liberal Studies Program, and S.97-8b Department of Psychology.

iii) Paper S.97-9 - Graduate Curriculum Revisions - Faculty of Business Administration

Moved by D. Gagan, seconded by B. Clayman

"that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors the curriculum revisions for the Faculty of Business Administration as set forth in S.97-9 - Co-op Education Program in the MBA Program"

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Senate received information that SGSC, acting under delegated authority, approved new courses as set forth in S.97-9.

iv) Paper S.97-10 - Graduate Curriculum Revisions - Faculty of Education (For Information)

Senate received information that SGSC, acting under delegated authority approved minor revisions to the Administrative Leadership Program.

v) Paper S.97-11 - Revision to Graduate Regulation 1.3.6 - Admission as a Special Student

Moved by D. Gagan, seconded by B. Clayman

"that Senate approve, as set forth in S.97-11, revisions to Graduate Regulation 1.3.6 - Admission as a Special Student"

Amendment moved by L. Boland, seconded by C. Reed

"that the phrase '*for more than one semester*' be added to the end of the last sentence of the first paragraph of Graduate Regulation 1.3.6"

Senate was advised that some departments find it useful to make limited use of this regulation to allow graduate students to take undergraduate courses and the amendment would allow limited use while preventing an abuse of the regulation.

It was noted that the original intent of the Special Graduate Student status was to allow graduate students, who are not seeking a degree at SFU, to take an occasional course. Students intending to enter a graduate program at SFU who do not meet program qualifications, should be admitted as Qualifying Students or be given provisional admission. Degree holding students who wish only to enrol in undergraduate courses can enrol as second degree holders or as Special Undergraduate Students. Some departments are using the Special Graduate Student status to circumvent the original intention of the regulation.

Question was called on the amendment,  
and a vote taken.

AMENDMENT FAILED  
(11 in favour, 12 opposed)

Discussion took place with regard to process, and Senate was provided with examples of how this category can be used to benefit both the student and the university. It was noted that since the regulation was prefaced by the word 'normally', exceptions would still be possible.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

f) SENATE COMMITTEE ON CONTINUING STUDIES

i) Paper S.97-13 - Annual Report (For Information)

Senate received the Annual Report of the Senate Committee on Continuing Studies for information.

g) SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY BUDGET

i) Paper S.97-14 - Annual Report (For Information)

Following a very brief discussion about the capital budget and SCUB's role with respect to it, Senate received the Annual Report of the Senate Committee on University Budget for information.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

7. INFORMATION

The next regularly scheduled meeting of Senate will take place on Monday, February 3, 1997.

The Assembly moved directly into Closed Session at 9:50 pm

Alison Watt  
Director, Secretariat Services