

APPROVED BY SENATE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Tuesday, May 25, 2010 at 5:30 pm at the Diamond Alumni Centre

Open Session

Present: Stevenson, Michael President and Chair

Absent:

Beale, Alison
Bezglasnyy, Anton
Chapman, Glenn
Cormack, Lesley
Driver, Jon
Funt, Elliot
Geisler, Cheryl
Gordon, Robert
Hannah, David
Harding, Kevin
Hauerland, Norbert (representing M. Pinto)
Hiscocks, Graham
Janes, Craig
Joffres, Michel
Krane, Bill
Laba, Martin
Laitsch, Dan
Lee, Shara
Leznoff, Daniel
MacGrotty, Alysia
MacKenzie, Scott (representing L. Copeland)
Magnusson, Kris
Myers, Gordon
O'Neil, John
Parkhouse, Wade
Paterson, David
Percival, Colin
Percival, Paul
Peters, Joseph
Plischke, Michael
Rajapakse, Nimal
Ruben, Peter
Russell, Robert
Sahinalp, Cenk
Shapiro, Daniel
Stevenson, Michael
van der Wey, Dolores
Wakkary, Ron
Warner, D'Arcy
Williams, Tony
Woodbury, Rob
Wussow, Helen
Zelezny, Joseph

Brennand, Tracy
Chiu, Christina
Dow, Greg
Easton, Stephen
Fizzell, Maureen
Francis, June
Godson, Ali
Golnaraghi, Farid
Lewis, Cynthia
Li, Fiona
Louie, Brandt
McArthur, James
Moubarak, Cristel
Nadison, Ada
Noble, Cameron
Patel, Ravi
Pavsek, Christopher
Pierce, John
Scott, Jamie
Thompson, Steve
Tiffany, Evan

In attendance:

Collins, Colleen
Dench, Sarah
Legris, Louise
Lormier, Rowland

Ross, Kate, Registrar & Senior Director Student Enrolment
Gair, Shelley, Recording Secretary

1. Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of April 12, 2010

The Minutes were approved as distributed.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

4. Report of the Chair

On behalf of Senate, the Chair welcomed Andrew Petter, the next President of Simon Fraser University, who was in attendance to observe the meeting. Helen Wussow, the Dean of Continuing Studies, was welcomed as a new member of Senate. The Chair acknowledged and thanked the Senators whose terms of office expire on May 31, 2010 and the Secretary of Senate distributed certificates, to those Senators that were in attendance, honoring their service to Senate.

5. Question Period

There were no questions in Question Period.

6. Reports of Committees**A) Senate Committee on University Priorities****i) Status change of the Master of Publishing Program to the Publishing Program within the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology S.10-73**

Rowland Lormier, Director of the Master of Publishing Program, was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

Moved by Jon Driver, seconded by Kevin Harding

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the status change of the Master of Publishing Program to the Publishing Program, within the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology.”

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Creation of the Centre for Workplace Health and Safety as a Research Centre based in the Faculty of Business Administration S.10-74

Moved by Jon Driver, seconded by Peter Ruben

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the creation of the Centre for Workplace Health and Safety as a Research Centre within the Faculty of Business Administration for a five year term.”

Question was called, and vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iii) Proposal for a Certificate in Corporate Social Responsibility within the Faculty of Business Administration S.10-75

Moved by Jon Driver, seconded by David Hannah

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Full Program Proposal for a Certificate in Corporate Social Responsibility within the Faculty of Business Administration.”

It was noted that the number of certificates that Senate has approved over the last few years has increased. It was thought that this may be related to the fact that resources for new degree programs are not that available at the present. The Vice President Academic advised Senate that this will be looked at more closely over the next year.

A question was raised regarding the percentage of business students expected to be interested in this certificate and whether the average business student will be required to take any of these courses. Senate was advised that there are students waiting for this certificate and that approximately 30 students are expected in the first year. The average business student will not be required to take these courses since they are already required to take a course in Ethics and Society and a course in Business Law and Society.

Question was called, and vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iv) External Review of SFU-FIC Academic Operations (For Information): S.10-76
<http://www.sfu.ca/senate/FIC>

Sarah Dench, the Director of University Curriculum, was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

Background

In March 2006, Senate passed a motion approving the concept that SFU could recruit international students through an agreement with IBT Education Ltd., now called Navitas Ltd. and that the Vice President Academic would prepare a report for Senate by June 2010 with a recommendation as to whether the agreement between SFU and Navitas, the parent company of Fraser International College (FIC), should be renewed in March 2011. In 2009 it was decided that an independent review of the FIC-SFU relationship would be more comprehensive and subsequently the terms of reference and process were submitted and approved by Senate. A self-study document, a review team's report, and the Vice President Academic's response to the recommendations of the external review were prepared and submitted to Senate.

Recommendation

The Vice President Academic notes that the FIC-SFU relationship has positive benefits for students and recommends that the university explore renewal of the contract taking into account the recommendations of the external review. The position of the Senate Committee of Agenda and Rules (SCAR) is that the Vice President Academic seeks advice and guidance from Senate before negotiating a second contract with Navitas. If the decision is to negotiate a new contract then the Vice President Academic will seek approval from the Board of Governors.

Moved by Kevin Harding, seconded by Bill Krane

“that Senate move into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of a general discussion and advice on a matter without resolution”

Vote taken

MOTION CARRIED

Admission Requirements

Concern was expressed regarding the lack of clarity to prospective applicants regarding the requirements for entry to FIC and the requirements for entry to SFU. Senate was advised that if the Vice President Academic negotiates another contract with Navitas he would ensure that admission requirements are clearly articulated for students transferring from FIC to SFU.

Counselling Services

Concern was raised regarding an issue addressed in the external review, that students at FIC may not be receiving adequate information about available counselling services. Senate was advised that although the service has been advertised to students and included in their orientation, this is an issue that will be looked at seriously considering many of the international students have difficulty with the English language.

Final Exams

It was noted that a significant portion of students at FIC do not write their final exams which results in an N grade. While an N grade is treated as an F for GPA calculations, concern was raised as to why students are choosing to do this. [Note: FIC uses SFU's grading practices.]

Teaching of Mathematics

Concern was expressed regarding an issue raised in the external review, that teaching Mathematics in four hour blocks is not good pedagogy. The opinion was expressed that mathematical material should be taught in small amounts of time to allow students time to assimilate the concepts. Senate was advised that this was a valid point and that the comments from instructors would be considered. As well, it was noted that it would be helpful to look at the performance of students who transfer from FIC to SFU for some empirical evaluation of how well prepared or how poorly prepared students are for subsequent work in mathematics and other subjects.

Diversity

When the contract with Navitas first began, it was expected that FIC would recruit a broader international assortment of students which would then expand the internationalization of SFU. FIC has worked to recruit more widely but the largest undergraduate student market is China, where

FIC is attracting a group of students who do not meet the university's language requirements but have strong potential once they achieve those standards.

There seems to be less diversity every year which raises the question regarding SFU's internationalization strategy. It was agreed that it is time for this to be reviewed in terms of the number of students, the origin and the admission process. An opinion was expressed that the mix of international students at SFU could be changed if SFU was prepared to invest significant amounts of funding into building a larger recruiting department and increasing scholarship support targeted towards international students.

A comment was made to Senate that China is a diverse population and is not monolithic. Although earlier aspirations for FIC was to diversify, FIC's success has been in recruiting, reinforcing and expanding the number of students from Asia and this is vitally important to SFU.

On the topic of diversity, it was noted that 65% to 70 % of students going to FIC are in the UTP2 Business program. The Business faculty does not have any trouble recruiting students and as a result raises its admission standards regularly. It was expressed that putting a limit on the fraction of students at FIC which could be registered in the UTP2 Business program (i.e. 50%), should be considered to help diversify the population at FIC and reduce the number of disappointed students that don't get into the Business faculty at SFU.

Translation and Reputation Issues

Concern was expressed regarding the accuracy of translated materials, the perception of international students and how misrepresentation could affect SFU's reputation. The statistics support the finding that FIC is not an easy route into SFU but concern was expressed that this may not be the perception of international students. Senate was advised by the Vice President Academic that SFU is committed to reviewing all the English language documents and receiving translations of foreign language documents on an annual basis to ensure that the promises made in writing are in fact reflecting what SFU would want to convey to potential students.

In regards to the reputation of FIC at the undergraduate level, an idea was proposed that a student forum could be held regarding their perception of FIC. An opinion was expressed that SFU's reputation is not built on a relationship with a recruitment college but on the excellence of the programs offered and international outreach. The Chair shared that in the Canadian university community, SFU's relationship with FIC has been commented on favorably in regards to the success of the program and the transparent and open process utilized, for discussion and approval, within the university, including this review.

The Vice President Academic will inform Senate in the future of the steps taken as a result of this discussion and review.

It was moved by Anton Bezglasnyy to move out of the Committee of the Whole.

MOTION CARRIED

v) **SCUP Annual Report (For Information)** **S.10-77**

Senate received information on the Annual Report of the Senate Committee on University Priorities.

B) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

i) **Revisions to the English Language and Literacy Requirements** **S.10-78**

Louise Legris, Associate Director of Admissions, was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

Moved by Bill Krane, seconded by Norbert Haunerland

“that Senate approve the revisions to the English Language and Literacy Requirements”

Clarification was requested regarding whether the motion was changing the current requirement for the English language proficiency for entry to the university, for students who have not studied in an English speaking medium at all, from an International English Language Testing Score (IELTS) of 6.5 to 6.0. It was explained that currently the English language admission requirement and the requirement to register in a writing intensive course are blended so that students need an IELTS of 6.5 for admission to the university and for entry into a writing intensive course. This motion is proposing to change this into two separate processes: an IELTS of 6.0 for admission to the university and an IELTS of 6.5 for entry to a writing intensive course. Currently domestic students have an English admission requirement of 60% and so it was thought that an IELTS of 6.0 was more equivalent than an IELTS of 6.5. Also, students with an IELTS of 6.5 are automatically given access to a writing intensive course whereas the advantage of students being admitted with an IELTS of 6.0 is that it requires students to take FAL, or an equivalent transfer course, before registering in a writing intensive course which puts them in a pathway that has the potential for greater success.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) **Changes to the Eligibility Criteria for Undergraduate Exchanges (For Information)** **S.10-79**

Senate received information on the changes to the eligibility criteria for undergraduate exchanges.

iii) **Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (For Information): Political Science** **S.10-80**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved a reinstatement of a Political Science course in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

**iv) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Business Administration S.10-81
(For Information)**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved a minor revision to an existing course in the Faculty of Business Administration.

**v) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology S.10-82
(For Information): Publishing Program, IAT**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved new courses and a minor revision to an existing course in the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology.

**vi) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology S.10-83
(For Information): TechOne**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved a program requirement for TechOne in the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology.

vii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Education (For Information) S.10-84

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved a new course in the Faculty of Education.

**viii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (For Information): S.10-85
Mathematics, Chemistry, Molecular Biology
and Biochemistry**

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved minor revisions to existing courses and program requirements in the Faculty of Science.

C) Senate Graduate Studies Committee

**i) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences S.10-86
(For Information): Public Policy Program**

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved minor revisions to existing courses in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

ii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Education (For Information): S.10-87
Masters Program

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved minor revisions to existing courses and program requirements in the Faculty of Education.

iii) Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (For Information): S.10-88
Molecular Biology and Biochemistry

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved a minor revision to an existing course in the Faculty of Science.

7. Other Business

Report on the results of elections to Senate and Board of Governors S.10-89
(For Information)

Senate received a report on the results of elections to Senate and Board of Governors S.10-89
for information.

8. Information

The date of the next regular scheduled meeting of Senate is Monday, June 14, 2010 in the West Mall Complex (Room 3210).

Open Session adjourned at 7:15 pm and Senate moved directly into Closed Session.

Kate Ross
Registrar and Secretary of Senate