

Minutes of a meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on Monday,
September 15, 1997 at 5:30 pm in Room 3210 WMC

Open Session

Present: Blaney, Jack, President *pro tem* and Chair

Barrow, Robin
Bawa, Parveen
Berggren, Len
Boland, Larry
Bowman, Marilyn
Chan, Albert
D'Auria, John
Dunsterville, Valerie
Emmott, Alan
Etherington, Lois
Gagan, David
Hassan, Nany
Jones, John
Kanevsky, Lannie
Kirczenow, George
Lewis, Brian
Little, Jack (representing B. Clayman)
Marteniuk, Ron
McInnes, Dina
Morris, Joy
Naef, Barbara
Overington, Jennifer
Parmar, Neelam
Percival, Paul
Peterson, Louis
Pierce, John
Pinfield, Larry (representing J. Waterhouse)
Sanghera, Balwant
Tam, Lawrence
Warsh, Michael
Winne, Phil
Wortis, Michael
Yerbury, Colin

Absent:

Baert, Jessica
Beattie, Suzan
Blazenko, George
Cleveland, William
Coleman, Peter
Dobb, Ted
Giffen, Ken
Gillies, Mary Ann
Howlett, Michael
Jones, Colin
Mathewes, Rolf
Mauser, Gary
Nip, Harry
Ogloff, James
Osborne, Judith
Reed, Clyde
Segal, Joseph
Whitbread, Katherine
Wickstrom, Norman
Wong, Tim
Yagi, Ian

In attendance:

Ward, Roger

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

On behalf of Senate, the Chair extended a welcome to newly appointed Faculty Deans John Pierce (Faculty of Arts) and John Waterhouse (Faculty of Business Administration) and to the following newly elected Senators: Marilyn Bowman, Faculty of Arts and James Ogloff, Faculty of Arts. The Chair was saddened to report the passing of Professor Douglas Cole who was a long time member of the University in the Department of History.

1. Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of July 7, 1997

G. Kirczenow felt that the Minutes were incomplete and did not contain some of the substantive issues that had been discussed and he presented a written summary of what he felt should be incorporated in the Minutes for consideration. Approval of the Minutes was tabled to the next meeting in order to review the submission.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

i) Paper S.97-59 - Board noted Senate's request for discussion on Harassment Policy (For Information)

Senate was advised that expectations are that a revised policy will likely be presented to Senate for discussion at the December meeting. The Chair of the Board is then prepared to call a special meeting of the Board in December in the hopes of having a new policy approved by the end of the year. Senate was assured that any comments, including a vote of approval or non-approval, will be forwarded to the Board for consideration in their deliberations.

It was noted that comments being submitted with regard to the revised harassment policy were being posted on the Web. However, cases where the comments refer to specific cases as illustrations of what may be wrong with the proposed policy were not being posted, and clarification was requested with regard to this issue. Senate was advised by the Vice-President, Academic that he had ruled, on his own authority, that it was inappropriate for submissions to the Web to contain references to specific cases. He explained that certain information was protected by FOI/POP regulations and he did not have sufficient resources in his office (or in the FOI Office) to review and screen all submissions that contained specific references. It was pointed out that in one particular case the specific information had already been made public by one of the parties involved in the case and inquiry was made as to whether that would change matters. D. Gagan indicated he was aware of the submission in question but it was not clear that the individual who originated the information had the right to do so but he would check the regulations in this regard.

4. Report of the Chair

i) Paper S.97-60 - Annual Financial Statement (For Information)

R. Ward, Vice-President, Finance and Administration, was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

In response to an observation that the 1997 Annual Financial Statement did not contain the same amount of information as the 1996 Statement, Senate was advised that there were substantial changes between this year's report and reports from previous years due to changes in reporting regulations. Although the reports basically cover the same activities, the information is presented in a simplified format rather than separate columns and the unaudited, additional schedules included in previous reports are no longer provided. Opinion was expressed that the more detailed information was very useful and a strong recommendation was made to include this information with the budget information on the Web.

In response to an inquiry about the current financial status of the SFU Bookstore since moving to its new location in Maggie Benston Centre, Senate was advised that the Bookstore has not yet experienced a full year of operation at its new location but a review of its monthly statement indicates that it is not in an overall deficit position at this time. It was pointed out however that the Bookstore's income varies month by month.

Clarification was requested with regard to the reference on page 14 to an endowment fund of 15 million dollars from the sale of land, and inquiry was made as to what will happen to this money. Senate was advised that the reference refers to the land agreement between SFU and the City of Burnaby and the Province, and Senate was provided with a brief summary of the agreement. It was noted that at the moment there is only a general statement with respect to the use of the endowment money but it was possible that funds could be available for scholarships.

Clarification was requested with regard to the reference on page 20 to several unresolved statements of claims. Senate was advised that the specific number of unresolved claims was not available at this time.

Request was made for an explanation with respect to long term debt and Senate was provided with a brief summary of the two categories in which the University can incur long term debt: Financing through the Capital Financing Authority for approved new government controlled capital debt, and financing through Section 55 of the University Act for operations such as the parkade.

In response to an inquiry about the freeze on capital funding, Senate was advised that the freeze has been in effect for several years and although the University was receiving funds to deal with ongoing capital renovations, serious consideration for new buildings was not expected for several years.

ii) Referring to the Burnaby land agreement the Chair reported that the University's objectives are to create an interesting, integrated, viable community within the ring road, and to create a sizable endowment to help the University become more sustainable financially. Recommendations will go forward to the Board of Governors at its next meeting with respect to the Board of Directors for this new corporation. Expectations are that the consultations will take place about the corporation's mandate and how the consultative process to the Board will be structured.

iii) The Chair reported his intention as President *pro tem* to focus on three areas: a move towards better communication and making the University community more cohesive; a focus on the future to create some sense of priority and direction, and a focus on the fundamentals - teaching, learning, research, discovery and the infrastructure to support those fundamentals.

5. Reports of Committees

- a) Senate Nominating Committee
i) Paper S.97-61 - Elections

Senate was advised that no further nominations were received with respect to Senate paper S.97-61. The following candidates have therefore been elected by acclamation: Len Berggren and Peter Coleman to the Senate Committee on Continuing Studies; Andy Heard to the International Undergraduate Student Exchange Committee; John D'Auria as Chair of the Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries; and Irene Gordon as Chair of the Senate Committee on University Teaching and Learning. I. Gordon had held a faculty at-large position on SCUTL but by taking on the role of Chair her position became vacant, and therefore both Lannie Kanevsky and Larry Weldon were elected by acclamation to the two vacant at-large positions.

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

7. Information

The next regularly scheduled meeting of Senate will take place on Monday, October 6, 1997.

The Open Session adjourned at 6:00 pm and the Assembly moved directly into Closed Session.

Alison Watt
Director, Secretariat Services