

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY SENATE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, April 2, 2001 at 5:30 pm in Room 3210 WMC

Open Session

Present: Stevenson, Michael, Chair and President
Atkins, Stella
Bawa, Parveen
Chang, Jack
Clayman, Bruce
Cooper, Kait
Copeland, Lynn
Davidson, Willie
Dill, Larry
Driver, Jon
Gerson, Carole
Gill, Alison
Gupte, Jaideep
Hill, Ross
Jackson, Margaret
Jones, John
LaRocque, Linda
Marteniuk, Ron
Mauser, Gary
McArthur, James
McFetridge, Paul
McInnes, Dina
Osborne, Judith
Percival, Paul
Pierce, John
Runyowa, Mac
Russell, Robert
Sirri, Odai
Smith, Michael
Steinbach, Christopher
Stewart, Ryan
Thompson, Janny (representing R. Barrow)
Waterhouse, John
Weldon, Larry
Wortis, Michael
Zazkis, Rina

Absent: Budra, Paul
Chan, Albert
D'Auria, John
Delgrande, James
Dunsterville, Valerie
Finley, David
Giffen, Ken
Grimmett, Peter
Hold, Angela
Klymson, Sarah
Livadiotakis, Georgia
Love, Ernie
Miralles-Sanchez, Veronika
Naef, Barbara
Ogloff, James
Paterson, David
Peters, Joseph
Sanghera, Balwant
Warsh, Michael
Wessel, Silvia
Wong, Milton
Yau, David
Yerbury, Colin
Zaichkowsky, Judith

In attendance:

Heath, Nick
McBride, Stephen

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

1. Approval of the Agenda
The Agenda was approved as distributed.
2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of March 5, 2001
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
 - i) On behalf of Senate, the Chair welcomed newly elected student senators J. Chang and O. Sirri to the meeting.
 - ii) The death of former Chancellor, Board member, and benefactor of SFU, Jack Diamond, was noted with sadness and, on behalf of Senate, the Chair expressed condolences to members of his family.
 - iii) The Chair reported that very little had changed with respect to the budget situation since his report at the previous meeting. Confirmation describing the broad parameters of the budget and the one-time only infrastructure funding as previously reported had been received but the official budget letter defining exact transfers to the university had not yet been received.
5. Question Period
A question as to whether Senate could be assured that everything possible was being done to include qualified female candidates in searches for senior administrative appointments was submitted by P. Percival. The Chair assured Senate that he and other members of the senior administration share the concern about the under representation of women in senior positions within the university and that he would not be satisfied that everything was being done until qualified female candidates were regularly included on short lists and appointed to senior administrative positions.
6. Reports of Committees
 - A) Senate Nominating Committee
 - i) Paper S.01-27 – Elections to Senate Committees
Senate was advised that no nominations had been received for student positions for any of the committees listed in S.01-27. These vacancies would be carried forward.
 - B) Senate Committee on University Priorities
 - i) Paper S.01-28 – External Review – Department of Political Science

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by J. Pierce

“that Senate concur with the recommendation from the Senate Committee on University Priorities concerning advice to the Department of Political Science on priority items resulting from the external review, as outlined in S.01-28”

S. McBride, Chair of the Department of Political Science was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

Reference was made to the Department’s success in increasing the proportion of female faculty and brief discussion took place with respect to the departmental hiring process.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Paper S.01-29 – SCUP Budget Guidelines (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on University Priorities had developed and approved a Budget Considerations document to provide a framework for how it would fulfill item 7 of its mandate which directed SCUP to provide advice to the President on the annual operating budget, annual capital budget, and Five Year Capital Plan before submission to the Board of Governors for approval.

C) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

i) Paper S.01-30 – Grade requirement for Transfer Credit – Exchange Students

Moved by P. Bawa, seconded by J. Osborne

“that Senate approve that SFU students who are participating in formal exchange programs receive exchange credit for courses completed at the host university with a passing grade (equivalent of 50%) effective immediately”

N. Heath, Director of Admissions, was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

It was noted that a level of C or 60% was required for transfer credit and that the base level GPA required to graduate was 2.0 or C-level. An objection to the motion was voiced, with concern expressed that allowing students to receive credit for courses passed with a grade equivalent of 50% would be lowering current standards. It was also pointed out that even though exchange credits were included in the total number of credits counted towards a degree they were not included in the GPA calculation so exchange students, unlike other students, were not required to offset poor grades by higher grades in order to meet the minimum GPA requirement for graduation.

Senate was advised that students were required to have at least a 2.76 GPA to participate in an exchange program and on occasion, because of cultural and

language difficulties experienced in a foreign country, these students may not perform at their normal level of achievement. Opinion was expressed that the current policy was a disincentive for students to participate in an exchange program, particularly in a foreign language, and that the proposed motion would provide students with a little more security to explore and broaden their academic experience.

It was suggested that since this pertained to a very small number of cases, it might be better to deal with each case on an individual basis. An alternative view was expressed that a clear policy would avoid inconsistent treatment on a case by case basis.

It was pointed out that 60% was considered an extremely good mark in some universities in other countries and opinion was expressed that the 50% figure may not be relevant.

Senate was advised that the reference to 50% was intended for clarification but seemed to be causing confusion. A suggestion by R. Heath to strike the phrase was accepted as a friendly amendment with the motion revised as follows:

“that Senate approve that SFU students who are participating in formal exchange programs receive exchange credit for courses completed at the host university with a passing grade, effective immediately”

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Information

Date of the next regularly scheduled meeting of Senate is Monday, May 14, 2001.

Open Session ended at 5:59 pm and Senate moved directly into Closed Session.

Alison Watt
Director, University Secretariat