

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY SENATE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on  
Monday, May 13, 2002 at 7:00 pm in Room 3210 WMC

Open Session

Present:: Stevenson, Michael  
President and Chair of Senate

Aloi, Santa  
Atkins, Stella  
Chan, Albert  
Copeland, Lynn  
D'Auria, John  
Driver, Jon  
Dunsterville, Valerie  
Gerson, Carole  
Hauerland, Norbert  
Heaney, John  
Hill, Ross  
Jackson, Margaret  
Jones, Colin  
Krane, Bill  
Lewis, Brian  
Love, Ernie  
Mathewes, Rolf (representing W. Davidson)  
McFetridge, Paul  
McInnes, Dina  
Naef, Barbara  
Percival, Paul  
Perry, Tom (representing J. Pierce)  
Peters, Joseph  
Russell, Robert  
Steinbach, Christopher  
Stephenson, Brock  
Van Aalst, Jan  
Waterhouse, John  
Weldon, Larry  
Wortis, Michael  
Zaichkowsky, Judith

Absent: Barrow, Robin  
Chang, Jack  
Clayman, Bruce  
Delgrande, James  
Dempster, Peter  
Gill, Alison  
Grimmett, Peter  
Jensen, Britta  
Jones, John  
Klymson, Sarah  
Mauser, Gary  
McArthur, James  
Muirhead, Leah  
Paterson, David  
Sekhon, Devinder  
Sirri, Odai  
Tansey, Caralyn  
Thandi, Ranbir  
Warren, Joel  
Wessel, Silvia  
Wong, Milton  
Yerbury, Colin

In attendance:  
Grieve, Tom  
Heath, Nick  
Kaufman, David  
Khan Hemani, Rummana

Heath, Ron, Dean of Student Services/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 April 8, 2002  
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

The Chair acknowledged the recent loss of two senior, highly respected colleagues – Ted Wells, recently retired member of the Department of Chemistry and John Hutchinson, faculty member, Department of History. On behalf of Senate, the Chair expressed condolences to members of their families.

On behalf of Senate, the Chair wished to express thanks and appreciation to retiring members of Senate – Student Senators: Jack Chang, Peter Dempster, Sarah Klymson, Leah Muirhead, Odai Sirri, Brock Stephenson, Christopher Steinbach, and Caralyn Tansey; Faculty Senators: Parveen Bawa, Paul Budra, James Delgrande, Michael Wortis; Convocation Senator: Albert Chan. Retiring members who were in attendance were presented with a certificate acknowledging their contributions to Senate.

The Chair noted the re-election of the following Senators and, on behalf of Senate, expressed appreciation for their continued service: Student Senators: Britta Jensen and Joel Warren; Faculty Senators: Stella Atkins, Carole Gerson, Colin Jones, Gary Mauser, and Paul McFetridge; Senators elected by Convocation: Chancellor Milton Wong, Valerie Dunsterville, James McArthur, and Silvia Wessel. Albert Chan will continue as a Convocation Senator until a replacement has been elected.

The Chair reported that he had just completed a successful two-week trip to East Asia in which he and other members of the University had met with Alumni and friends of the university in a number of cities. Connections were developed regarding institutional partnerships and projects in the following areas: a project in Vietnam with the Asia Development Bank, a twinning program with institutions in Malaysia and the establishment of articulation programs, consultation in the development of a new university in Malaysia, the offering of the Object Technology Program in Hong Kong, and an exchange agreement with Hong Kong University along with guarantees of accommodation for SFU exchange students.

5. Question Period  
There were no questions submitted.
6. Reports of Committees
  - A) Senate Committee on University Teaching and Learning

i) Paper S.02-30 – Annual Report (For Information)

Tom Grieve, Acting Chair of SCUTL, and David Kaufman, Director of LIDC and Secretary to the Committee were in attendance in order to respond to questions.

Reference was made to recent email correspondence from the Faculty Association concerning the role and use of teaching evaluations, and surprise was expressed that reference to the work of SCUTL was not part of the debate.

Senate was informed that SCUTL had been occupied recently with the preliminary report from the Ad Hoc Senate Committee to Review Undergraduate Curricula and has just begun discussing teaching evaluations.

B) Senate Appeals Board

i) Paper S.02-31 – Annual Report (For Information)

Nick Heath, Director of Admissions and Secretary to the Senate Appeals Board was in attendance in order to respond to questions. No questions were raised.

C) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

i) Paper S.02-32 – CRUA 2000-2001 Report (For Information)

Rummana Khan Hemani, Acting Director of Student Academic Resources and Secretary to the Committee was in attendance in order to respond to questions. No questions arose.

ii) Paper S.02-33 – Revisions to Academic Standing and Continuance Regulations

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by P. Percival

“That Senate approve that the current regulations governing Academic Standing and Continuance be revised, as set forth in S.02-33, effective Fall Semester 2003”

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

Concern was expressed about the deletion of the 9 credit hour requirement during the probation period. Senate was advised that the proposed revision would still enable a student to take a light course load such as one course for example but if the student did poorly he/she would be required to withdraw.

It was generally agreed that the document required editing.

Reference was made to the section entitled ‘Required to Withdraw’ and lengthy discussion ensued as to the intent of the revised wording and what conditions resulted in required to withdraw status.

A question was posed as to why the statement with regard to repeating courses while on academic probation was being deleted. Senate was advised that the University limit on duplicate courses was a sufficient safeguard against a student repeating too many courses to maintain a grade point average.

It was moved by M. Wortis, seconded by R. Hill

“that the motion be tabled and the document sent back to the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies for changes in the wording”

It was pointed out that the regulation was extremely complicated and technical in nature and although the document required editing, the revised document greatly improved the situation and SCUS had done a good job in clarifying the rules. It was suggested that the exact Calendar text could be edited for clarity. It was pointed out that since the regulations were to take effect in September 2003, it was more appropriate for SCUS to make the necessary changes and have the exact wording brought back to Senate for approval.

Senate was informed that the original documentation contained several examples which described a variety of GPA scenarios but SCAR had decided that Senate would not want to see that much technical information and the material had been deleted. This may have contributed to the lack of clarity felt by Senate.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION TO TABLE CARRIED

ii) Paper S.02-34 – Undergraduate Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Business Administration (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the deletion of BUEC 333 from the Upper Division Core for the Business Administration Major and Joint Majors (with the exception of the Joint Major and Joint Honors with Economics).

iii) Paper S.02-35 – Deletion of Courses Not Offered – Faculty of Science (For Information)

Senate regulations provide that any courses not offered within a six semester period be deleted from the Calendar unless adequate justification for retaining the course is presented.

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the deletion of ACMA 455, MATH 452, MATH 466 and MATH 471 under this regulation.

iv) Paper S.02-36 – Reinstatement of courses from TWC Status – Computing Science and Criminology (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the reinstatement from the

Temporary Withdrawn Category of the following courses: CMPT 411 and CRIM 430.

D) Senate Committee on University Priorities

i) Paper S.02-37 – External Review – Department of Linguistics

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by P. McFetridge

“that Senate concur with the recommendations from the Senate Committee on University Priorities concerning advice to the Department of Linguistics on priority items resulting from the external review as outlined in S.02-37”

In response to an inquiry about follow-up to the recommendations, Senate was advised that there was a mechanism for reporting back as part of the function of SCUP.

Reference was made to recommendation six with respect to the implementation of faculty colloquia. It was suggested that departmental colloquia were an important part of academic life and should be more widely advertised by Simon Fraser University News. Concern was expressed about the lack of information about ongoing campus events on the SFU web site. More co-ordination of information by departments and Media and PR is probably required, to ensure that the community is aware of colloquia and other events.

Reference was made to the external review procedure in general. It was noted that Senate appeared to be micromanaging in setting priorities for a department and a Senator asked if this was normal. Senate was advised that for the past several years the practice has been for SCUP, in consultation with the Dean of the Faculty and the Chair of the Department, to develop a detailed set of priorities. Question arose as to what would happen if a department did not meet the priorities agreed to. It was pointed out that the priorities are phrased as recommendations and comment was made that they can also be used by a department as leverage to request the support they need from the Dean.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Paper S.02-38 – Annual Report – Senate Committee on University Priorities (For Information)

Question arose with respect to the external review procedure for non-academic departments and how it is determined whether or not reviews come to Senate. Senate was advised that non-academic departments are not reviewed on a regular cycle and it is not customary for such reviews to go to SCUP or Senate unless the focus of the review is centrally-related to the academic mission of the university, such as the Library. In the case of Student Services, the review was presented to SCUP because of the potential impact the review would have on the university budget.

iii) Paper S.02-39 – Mandate and Membership of SCUP Committees (For Information): SFU at Surrey Short-Term and Long-Term Academic Planning Committees

Senate received information with respect to the mandate and composition of the two academic planning committees for SFU at Surrey.

iv) Paper S.02-40 – External Reviews Scheduled for the 2002/2003 Academic Year (For Information)

Senate received information that the following external reviews have been scheduled for the 2002/2003 academic year: Engineering Science, Resource and Environment Management, Contemporary Arts, Economics, Sociology and Anthropology, and Earth Sciences.

E) Senate Graduate Studies Committee

i) Paper S.02-41 – Graduate Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Business Administration (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following special topics courses: BUS 770, 771, 772, 773, 561 and 562.

ii) Paper S.02-42 – Graduate Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Education (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the following new courses: EDUC 854, 856, and 861.

F) Senate Committee on Enrolment Management and Planning

i) Paper S.02-43 – Undergraduate Admission Targets for 2002/03

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by B. Lewis

“that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors the undergraduate admission targets, as set forth in S.02-43, for each basis-of-admission group and for each semester in 2002/03, and that SCEMP be delegated authority to make adjustments based on actual enrolment experience in 2002-2 and 2002-3; and

that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors the undergraduate admission targets to each Faculty as indicated in the Tables set out in S.02-43, and that SCEMP be delegated authority to make adjustments based on actual enrolment experience in 2002-2 and 2002-3”

Typographical errors were noted in the semester dates in the last part of Table 1.

Reference was made to the proposed increase of admissions to the Faculty of Education. Senate was advised that the Faculty had decreased the number of students being admitted to graduate professional programs which resulted in a related increase in the undergraduate enrolment.

Question arose about the decrease to proposed enrolments in the Faculty of Business Administration and Senate was advised that this was an attempt to compensate for an over enrolment in the current semester.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

7. Other Business

i) Paper S.02-44 – Student Senator Parking Privileges

Moved by A. Chan, seconded by C. Steinbach

“That Senate recommend to the Vice-President, Finance and Administration that effective September 2002, free parking privileges should be removed from student senators who attended fewer than 75% of all Senate meetings that were held within their term of office during the previous semester”

Senate’s attention was drawn to the attendance rate of the student senators over the past year. It was pointed out that Lay Members of Senate and the Board are entitled to receive a Special Parking Pass but students were the only members of Senate to receive a regular parking permit free of charge. This had been the practice for many years. As a result, it was felt that some students were running for Senate in order to obtain a parking pass and if the pass was revoked due to poor attendance at Senate, it might discourage students who are only interested in the parking permit from running for office.

Discussion followed with respect to the proposed 75% attendance requirement.

It was suggested that revocation of a parking permit was not an appropriate way to deal with the problem of non-attendance. Furthermore, the penalty for poor attendance was that the designated group was not represented. It was also mentioned that Student Senators participate in a variety of university and Senate committees and perhaps parking passes could be supplied on a meeting to meeting basis. Discussion ensued as to how this might be organized for the +/- 250 meetings per year.

Amendment moved by J. Zaichkowsky, seconded by A. Chan (for constructive debate purposes only)

“That parking privileges be provided only on a meeting to meeting basis”

Question was called, and a vote taken.

AMENDMENT FAILED

Amendment moved by P. Percival, seconded by J. D'Auria

"That Senate advise the Vice President Finance and Administration that some student senators are not fulfilling their responsibilities and request that the award of parking privileges be reconsidered"

Question was called, and a vote taken.

AMENDMENT FAILED

Question was called on the original motion and a vote taken.

MAIN MOTION FAILED

The Chair noted that there was obviously sympathy in principle and that serious efforts should be devoted to considering how to improve student participation on Senate.

ii) Notice of Motion – J. Warren

The following Notice of Motion was received from Senator Joel Warren:

"Whereas; there have been revelations of administrative misconduct with regard to the candidacy of David Noble to the Woodsworth Chair on the part of President Stevenson, Vice-President Academic Waterhouse, Dean of Arts John Pierce, and Associate Vice-President Academic Judith Osborne;

Be it resolved that Senate demands the resignation of Stevenson, Waterhouse, Pierce, and Osborne"

It was suggested that such a motion would be out of order since it calls upon Senate to exercise a power which it does not have. This will be considered by the Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules.

iii) Paper S.02-45 – Election Report – Spring 2002 – Senate and Board of Governors (For Information)

Senate received a report of the results of the Convocation Election (Chancellor and Convocation Senators) and the results of student and faculty elections to Senate and the Board of Governors for information.

8. Information

The date of the next regularly scheduled meeting of Senate is Monday, June 3, 2002.

Open Session adjourned at 8:30 pm and moved directly into Closed Session.

Alison Watt  
Director, University Secretariat