

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY SENATE

Minutes of the meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, December 2, 2002 at 7:00 pm in Room 3210 WMC

Open Session

Present:

Stevenson, Michael
President and Chair of Senate

Al-Natour, Sameh
Andrews, Ian
Apaak, Clement
Atkins, Stella
Beynon, Peter
Bourke, Brynn
Blackman, Roger
Brokenshire, David
Clayman, Bruce
Copeland, Lynn
D'Auria, John
Driver, Jon
Dunsterville, Valerie
Gerson, Carole
Gordon, Robert
Grimmett, Peter
Hauerland, Norbert
Higgins, Anne
Horvath, Adam
Jackson, Margaret
Kemper, Michelle
Krane, Bill
Love, Ernie
Mathewes, Rolf (representing W. Davidson)
Mauser, Gary
Percival, Paul
Peters, Joseph (representing B. Lewis)
Phipps, Kate
Poirier, Guy
Russell, Robert
Smith, Don
Tyab, Azam
Vaisey, Jacques
Waterhouse, John
Weldon, Larry
Zaichkowsky, Judith

Absent:

Aloi, Santa
Chen, Danny
Garcia, Carlos
Gupta, Kamal
Heaney, John
Hill, Ross
Jensen, Britta
Jones, Colin
Jones, John
McArthur, James
McFetridge, Paul
Naef, Barbara
Poletz, Taira
Thandi, Ranbir
Van Aalst, Jan
Warren, Joel
Wessel, Silvia
Wong, Milton
Yerbury, Colin

In attendance:

Brockman, Joan
Dinning, Mike
Kimball, Meredith

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 November 4, 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

Reference was made to the announcement by the Minister of Advanced Education regarding funding for the new Technology and Applied Science Complex to accommodate the expansion of programs in Computing Science and Engineering Science. Senate was advised that this would complete the full funding with respect to the Double The Opportunity Program (DTO).

The Chair reported that consultations had begun with respect to the development of the budget for the next fiscal year. The Chair advised that the budget has to be built around issues such as the downward adjustment of the core grant as a result of the three year grant announcement last year; the cost of inflation and the currency disadvantage of the Canadian dollar when buying specialized research equipment and books; compensation increases that have been properly signed with employee groups under compensation guidelines approved by the preceding Government but not honored by the current Government, and the restoration of quality in academic programs and in student services as a result of a long period of budget constraint. All of these factors represent significant financial problems in terms of the budget and the Chair indicated that the university community would be widely consulted in the budget process. In addition, as reported at the last meeting, impacts on accessibility as a result of tuition fee increases were currently being examined and the Chair will meet with individual Faculties in order to discuss specific circumstances.

5. Question Period
Reference was made to an article published in the Vancouver Sun in which statements concerning the quality of graduating students' basic skills and knowledge outside their specialty areas and the introduction of entrance exams were attributed to the Vice-President, Academic. The Vice-President, Academic was asked if there was evidence that students were graduating without adequate skills/knowledge outside their specialty areas; if the University was contemplating entrance exams; and if he was misquoted what action was being taken to correct the information.

The Vice-President, Academic advised Senate that there has been considerable interest and a number of stories by the news on this matter. Although he felt he had been misquoted, the Vice-President Academic felt that not much would be gained in seeking either a retraction or by writing a letter to the editor since the coverage was basically positive for the University.

6. Reports of Committees

- A) Senate Nominating Committee
i) Paper S.02-80 – Elections

Senate received information that one nomination had been received and that Maureen Hoskyn, Faculty of Education was elected by acclamation to the Research Ethics Board for term of office to May 31, 2005. All other vacancies would be carried forward to the next meeting of Senate.

- B) University Board on Student Discipline/Senate Committee on Disciplinary Appeals
i) Paper S.02-81 – Annual Report on Student Discipline Matters – 2001/2002 (For Information)

The following persons were in attendance in order to respond to questions: J. Brockman, Co-Ordinator of the UBSD, J. Peters, Senator and member of SCODA, M. Dinning, Director, Campus Community Services, and R. Heath, Dean of Student Services and Registrar.

In response to an inquiry concerning the large number of cases before the UBSD in the reporting period, Senate was informed that was the result of a unique situation in which 46 students from one class (BUEC 333) were referred to the UBSD. On average, the Committee dealt with approximately nine cases per year.

Comment was made that the report was very informative and suggestion was made that it would be useful if the report were on the Web so that students could be directed to this information when the issue of academic dishonesty was being discussed at the beginning of each semester. The Chair indicated that this would be done.

Reference was made to UBSD case 01-9 and an inquiry was made about the unusual procedure which was followed in this particular case. Questions were raised as to why normal procedures were not followed and why the case was not referred to the Senate Committee on Disciplinary Appeals.

Since the questions were directed to the President, J. Waterhouse, Vice-President, Academic took over as Chair at this point.

The President advised that after reviewing the report of the case and the submission made by the student, an alternate course of action was proposed that could not subsequently be carried out. Eventually, an agreement was made with the student because of the unusual circumstances of the case.

It was noted that the University has well developed procedures to deal with incidents of academic dishonesty and concern was expressed that the wording of the summary in this particular case did not give the appearance of openness or

that justice had been carried out. The authority of the President to overturn the findings of the UBSD as opposed to changing a penalty recommendation was questioned and request was made that the policy be reviewed and a response to this issue be provided at a meeting of Senate in the near future.

M. Stevenson resumed the Chair.

Brief discussion followed with respect to the role of a "tutor" involved in some cases, and whether or not he/she was also subject to penalties for academic discipline. Senate was advised that the tutor in these cases was not employed by SFU so the University had no jurisdiction but if the tutor had been at SFU, he/she could be disciplined for engaging in academic dishonesty.

Senate's attention was drawn to page 8 of the document and the following corrections were noted. The first sentence should say that "The Senate Committee on Disciplinary Appeals dealt with *four appeals....*" and the last sentence should read "A summary of the *cases ...*".

On behalf of the University, the Chair thanked the Co-ordinator and members of the UBSD for the quality of work and their service to the university community in this regard.

C) Senate Committee on University Priorities

i) Paper S.02-82 – New Program: Minor in Gender Studies

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by R. Blackman

"that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors of the proposal for a Minor in Gender Studies in the Department of Women's Studies in the Faculty of Arts as outlined in S.02-82"

M. Kimball, Chair, Department of Women's Studies was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Paper S.02-83 – External Review – Faculty of Education

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by P. Grimmett

"that Senate concur with the recommendations from the Senate Committee on University Priorities concerning advice to the Faculty of Education on priority items resulting from the external review as outlined in S.02-83"

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

- iii) Paper S.02-84 – Dissolution of the SFU-UBC Centre for the Study of Government and Business

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by B. Clayman

“that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors the dissolution of the Schedule B SFU-UBC Centre for the Study of Government and Business as outlined in document S.02-84”

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

- D) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

- i) Paper S.02-85 – Faculty of Arts – Undergraduate Curriculum Revisions (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved three new courses, deleted four courses, and revised existing courses within the Department of French; and revised an existing course in the Department of Women’s Studies.

- ii) Paper S.02-86 – Faculty of Science – Undergraduate Curriculum Revisions (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved revisions to existing programs and courses in Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Environmental Science, Geography, Mathematics, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, Physics, and Statistics and Actuarial Science.

- iii) Paper S.02-87 – Faculty of Education – Undergraduate Curriculum Revisions (For Information)

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

- iv) Paper S.02-88 – Faculty of Applied Sciences – Undergraduate Curriculum Revisions (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved changes to existing courses and programs in the School of Computing Science and the School of Kinesiology.

- E) Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules

- i) Paper S.02-89 – Change in membership: SCUP and SCEMP

Motion 1

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by P. Percival

“that Senate approve the revision of the membership/selection of the Senate Committee on University Priorities relating to the positions of Faculty Senator, so that in the event that a Faculty Senator from a Faculty that is not represented by a Dean, is unable to attend a meeting of SCUP, the Faculty Dean is authorized to appoint a replacement”

Senate was advised that some Faculties were represented on SCUP by the Faculty Dean and if the Dean could not attend the meeting, the Acting Dean attended in his/her place. Other Faculties were only represented by a Faculty Senator and under the current procedures if the Faculty Senator was absent there was no representation from that Faculty. Due to the nature of SCUP's business, it was felt that it was important that all Faculties be represented and the motion provided a procedure for a short term replacement if a Faculty Senator could not attend a meeting. Brief discussion followed.

Amendment moved by J. D'Auria, seconded by R. Russell

“that the words ‘faculty member’ be inserted prior to the word ‘replacement’ in the last sentence”

Opinion was expressed that faculty members had slightly different ways of viewing issues from administrators and the intent of the motion was to ensure that the replacement was a faculty member rather than another administrator. It was noted however that Deans were faculty members and many of the issues before SCUP required background knowledge of the issues within the Faculty. The Dean would be in the best position to have that knowledge or to find an appropriate replacement.

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

AMENDMENT FAILED

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

MOTION CARRIED

Motion 2

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by R. Blackman

“that Senate approve the revision of the membership of the Senate Committee on Enrolment Management and Planning to include the Associate Vice-President, Academic as a non-voting member”

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Paper S.02-90 – Proposed Policy R20.05 – Non-Ionizing Radiation Safety (For Information)

Senate received information with respect to the proposed policy on Non-Ionizing Radiation Safety and the type of sources covered by the policy. A senator inquired about why the Safety Officer would be a non-voting member of the University Radiological Safety Committee (URSC). Senate was advised that the URSC dealt mostly with policy related issues and since the Safety Officer was essentially an administrative appointment with duties to carry out procedures mandated by the policy, it was important for him/her to attend meetings as a resource person but in terms of decision making it made more sense for the person to be a non-voting member.

7. Other Business

i) Paper S.02-91 – President's Agenda (For Information)

The Chair explained that this information was required in terms of the policy governing the performance appraisal of the President and the documentation before Senate was an update of the fuller policy statement on the President's web page and presented to Senate last year.

One Senator asked why there was no reference to the Burnaby Mountain Development. The Chair explained that although he sits on the Board of Directors and represents the University's interest in that capacity, the issue was not strictly speaking his agenda. The management of the affairs of the Simon Fraser UniverCity Community Corporation and the trust that will hold the income from the development for the benefit of the University has been fixed by agreements between the Corporation and the Board of Governors.

Reference was made to the paragraph concerning faculty renewal through Leadership Chairs and Canada Research Chairs and a comment was made that all new faculty renewals should be treated equally, rather than some being given special status.

Referring to the statement about senior administrators becoming more involved in external fundraising concern was expressed that this would give them less time to carry out their administrative responsibilities. The Chair expressed his belief that the senior academic leadership of the University should be actively engaged in external fundraising but that this should not in any way compromise their ability to fulfill their administrative duties. He felt that the Deans are best positioned to provide the advocacy needed on the academic content of projects and programs within Faculties and that the most effective fund raising was done on a team basis which included the academic leaders of an institution.

Discussion turned to the improvement in student services. The Chair expressed his belief that the University has not provided sufficient residence accommodation in relation to growth in student population and hoped to go forward beyond the project currently underway to build a new undergraduate

student residence. With respect to facilities for Athletics and Recreation, the Chair reiterated his concern that facilities have not matched the growth in student numbers and he believed efforts should be made to explore possibilities and budgetary options to improve the state of recreation and athletic facilities on campus.

In response to an inquiry about improved student financial assistance, the Chair explained that one of his priorities was to lobby the Government for grant improvements, especially full funding for the Government's New Era commitments. Continued efforts were being made to convince the Government to restore funding and honour the commitment that higher education would be protected against a decline in funding. With respect to student financial assistance, the Chair stressed that one of his top objectives was to sustain and improve student financial assistance with respect to bursaries and scholarships so that tuition increases do not negatively impact accessibility. Consequently, one of the priorities of fund raising must be to secure funds from private sources that go to the improvement of financial assistance endowments.

ii) Paper S.02-92 – Notice of Senate Vacancy (For Information)

Senate received information that Alison Gill would be absent from Senate until August 2003 and that a by-election to seek a replacement for the period of her leave would be necessary.

8. Information

The date of the next regularly scheduled meeting of Senate will take place on Monday, January 6, 2003.

The Open Session adjourned at 8:20 pm. Following a brief recess, Senate moved into Closed Session.

Alison Watt
Director, University Secretariat