

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY SENATE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, November 3, 2003 at 5:15 pm in Room 3210 WMC

Open Session

Present: Stevenson, Michael
President and Chair of Senate

Apaak, Clement
Beynon, Peter
Cameron, Rob (representing B. Lewis)
Clayman, Bruce
da Silva, Gisele
D'Auria, John
Dickinson, John
Driver, Jon
Dunsterville, Valerie
Fairey, Elaine (representing L. Copeland)
Fizzell, Maureen
Fung, Edward
Giacomantonio, Chris
Gill, Alison
Gillies, Mary Ann (representing J. Pierce)
Gregory, Titus
Grimmett, Peter
Haunerland, Norbert
Heaney, John
Higgins, Anne
Hira, Andy
Horvath, Adam
Krane, Bill
Lemay, Joanne
Love, Ernie
McFetridge, Paul
Percival, Paul
Plischke, Michael
Rozell, Sara
Sears, Camilla
Shaker, Paul
Thandi, Ranbir
Tombe, Trevor
Van Aalst, Jan
Waterhouse, John
Weeks, Dan
Wessel, Sylvia
Wong, Josephine
Yerbury, Colin

Absent:

Atkins, Stella
Brennand, Tracy
Budd, James
Gordon, Robert
Gupta, Kamal
Honda, Barry
Jones, Colin
Kaila, Pam
Kalanj, Tiffany
Mauser, Gary
McArthur, James
Naef, Barbara
Peters, Joseph
Scott, Jamie
Smith, Don
Wong, Milton
Woodbury, Rob
Yoo, Rick

In attendance:

Brandhorst, Bruce
Brohman, John
French, Charlotte
Gupta, Arvind
Kenny, Michael
Smith, Michael

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

Following the announcement by the Chair of the very sad and sudden death of Senator Jacques Vaisey, Senate held a minute of silence in his memory.

1. Approval of the Agenda

The Chair gave notice that in closed session there would be a motion to amend the agenda in order to add an important item. The agenda for the open session was approved as distributed.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of September 15, 2003

The Minutes were approved as distributed.

Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of October 6, 2003

Reference was made to the last sentence of the second paragraph on page 10 of the minutes. The option of teaching buy-outs was also mentioned as a possibility and suggestion was made that reference should be included in the minutes, and the last sentence was amended as follows:

“With respect to the joint appointment process, departments would not lose half the teaching services of a faculty member as faculty members *could* be similarly cross-appointed from the new Faculty to existing departments/schools *or funds for teaching buy-outs could be provided.*”

Following this amendment, the Minutes were approved.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from either set of Minutes.

4. Report of the Chair

i) Paper S.03-102 – President’s Agenda (For Information)

The President’s Agenda which included a statement of objectives for the coming year was received by Senate for information.

The Chair reported on meetings in Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal with the Association of Universities and Colleges (AUCC) regarding issues related to the financing of universities, and with various Government representatives with respect to federal policy related to the funding of capacity and accessibility with respect to post-secondary education across Canada. Meetings were also held in Vancouver with the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance respecting the need for a new federal-provincial partnership to address questions of accessibility nationwide and in British Columbia particularly. In addition, a meeting with the new Provincial Deputy Minister of Advanced Education to discuss questions of financing and Government commitments that were not adequately covered in the current budget letters had also taken place. The Chair believed that issues of quality and accessibility in universities was now better understood at both levels of Government and there appeared to be a more positive attitude towards issues surrounding post-secondary education, especially at the federal level.

5. Question Period

There were no questions submitted.

6. Reports of Committees

A) Senate Committee on University Priorities

i) Paper S.03-103 – External Review – Latin American Studies Program

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by M.A. Gillies

“that Senate concur with the recommendations from the Senate Committee on University Priorities concerning the advice to the Latin American Studies Program on priority items resulting from the external review as outlined in S.03-103”

J. Brohman, Director, Latin American Studies Program and M. Kenny, Department of Sociology and Anthropology were in attendance in order to respond to questions.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Paper S.03-104 – Graduate Diploma in Bioinformatics

Prior to the formal motion, Senate was advised that since the use of the numbers 601, 602, and 603 for the new courses in MBB would create difficulty with the cross listing of in Computing Science, both departments had agreed to change these numbers to 611, 612, 613.

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by P. Percival

“that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors the proposal for a Graduate Diploma in Bioinformatics as outlined in S.03-104, including new courses MBB 505, 506, 611, 612, 613, 659, 669, 679”

B. Brandhorst and M. Smith, Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, and A. Gupta, School of Computing Science were in attendance in order to respond to questions.

A question was posed as to how much more work was required for a Master’s degree and why students would want the diploma versus a master’s degree. Senate was advised that the diploma was designed as part of the master’s program but did not require a thesis and would attract students who were already in the industry and wanted to come back for updating and some additional advanced education.

A Senator asked how the new courses being introduced for this program would be offered without the addition of new faculty. Senate was advised that since the diploma program

was a subset of the existing Master's program, many of the new courses were already offered as special topics courses so that resources were already in place.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iii) Paper S.03-105 – Final Update Report External Review – Faculty of Business Administration (For Information)

Senate received the final update report from the Faculty of Business Administration and received information that the Faculty had successfully fulfilled the recommendations put forward by SCUP in September 2001 as a result of the February 1999 external review report.

B) Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries

i) Paper S.03-106 – Annual Report (For Information)

J. D'Auria, Senator and Chair of SPCSAB, and C. French, Director, Academic Resources, Registrar's Office were in attendance in order to respond to questions.

It was noted that the value of the Open Scholarships was less than the cost of a credit hour and inquiry was made as to when the value was decreased from an exact match. Senate was advised that the dollar value of the Open Scholarship had started to decrease in 2000/2001 in order to stay within the budget allocated for scholarships. A follow-up question asked why it had been decided to adjust the value per credit hour rather than adjust the GPA requirement which has been maintained at 3.70. Senate was advised that although there was no set policy, the Committee tried to maintain a reasonable GPA and tried to balance the funds between the different types of scholarships and bursaries so that as many students as possible received something.

Reference was made to statistics on page 35 and inquiry was made with respect to the balance remaining for graduate fellowship allocations in Business Administration. Senate was advised that this particular table was produced in Fall of 2002 and was intended to show the allocation to departments, not the total number of awards given. Most departments award their graduate fellowships during the Spring but Business Administration awards their fellowships in the Fall so the table reflected the difference in the way graduate enrolment and award disbursement was done in different Faculties.

A question arose as to whether there was a minimum bursary amount for students in need and reference was made to students who had applied for approximately \$1000-\$1500 and only received \$50. Senate was advised that the needs assessment not only takes into consideration what the student has requested, it also includes a reasonableness factor used to make adjustments up or down and an expectation of a minimum contribution from the student. Amounts allocated also depend on what the total assessed need is in any given semester and what the budget allocation is in any given year. It was pointed out that there was no difference between assessments for international and domestic students.

In response to a question as to how SFU compared to other universities in terms of scholarships and bursaries, Senate was advised that in terms of Entrance Scholarships SFU was competitive with UBC, slightly better than University of Victoria and the University of Calgary, but slightly behind some of the schools in Ontario where, over the past several years, there have been significant fee increases with a proportion of the money directed to scholarships. However the \$3000 value of the Entrance Scholarship at SFU is better than the average range which is usually between \$2000-\$2500. The Open Scholarship at SFU is one of the best supports for in-course students at any university in Canada.

C) Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules

i) Paper S.03-107 – Membership – Senate Committee on University Honours

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by B. Clayman

“that the Chair of the Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries be added as an *ex officio* member of SCUH with voting privileges”

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

D) Senate Nominating Committee

i) Paper S.03-108 – Elections – Senate Committee Vacancies

Senate was advised that two nominations had been received resulting in the election by acclamation of Derrick Harder to the Undergraduate Student (at-large) position on the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies for term of office to May 31, 2004, and the election by acclamation of Trevor Tombe to the Undergraduate Student (at-large) position on the Senate Library Committee and the Library Penalties Appeal Committee for term of office to May 31, 2005. No nominations were received for the outstanding positions on the Senate Appeals Board, the Senate Committee on University Teaching, and the Senate Committee on Continuing Studies and those vacancies would be carried forward.

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Information

The date of the next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, December 1, 2003.

Open Session adjourned at 5:55 pm and Senate moved into Closed Session following a short break.

Alison Watt
Director, University Secretariat