

*As amended by Senate
5 Apr. 04*

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY SENATE

Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on Monday, March 1, 2004
at 7:00 pm, Asia Pacific Hall, Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue

Open Session

Present: Stevenson, Michael
President and Chair of Senate

Brennand, Tracy
Copeland, Lynn
da Silva, Gisele
D'Auria, John
Dickinson, John
Driver, Jon
Dunsterville, Valerie
Fizzell, Maureen
Fung, Edward
Giacomantonio, Chris
Gill, Alison
Gregory, Titus
Grimmett, Peter
Hauerland, Norbert
Heaney, John
Honda, Barry
Horvath, Adam
Krane, Bill
Lewis, Brian
Love, Ernie
Percival, Paul
Peters, Joseph
Pierce, John
Plischke, Michael
Rozell, Sara
Sears, Camilla
Scott, Jamie
Shaker, Paul
Smith, Don
Tombe, Trevor
Van Aalst, Jan
Waterhouse, John
Weeks, Daniel
Wong, Josephine
Woodbury, Rob
Yerbury, Colin

Absent:

Apaak, Clement
Atkins, Stella
Beynon, Peter
Budd, James
Clayman, Bruce
Gordon, Robert
Gupta, Kamal
Higgins, Anne
Hira, Andy
Kaila, Pam
Kalanj, Tiffany
Mauser, Gary
McArthur, James
McFetridge, Paul
Naef, Barbara
Thandi, Ranbir
Wessel, Sylvia
Wong, Milton
Yoo, Rick

In attendance:

Blackman, Roger
Gillies, Mary Ann
Gobas, Frank
Peterman, Randall
Schmidt, Margaret
Wister, Andrew

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

The Chair welcomed Senate to its first meeting downtown, in the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue, saying that it was important for the culture of the University to view all campuses as integral parts of the University as a whole and that it was appropriate for Senate and other academic activities to make use of these facilities.

1. Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of February 2, 2004

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 reported on the impact of the recent throne speech and budget announcement by the Provincial Government, but informed Senate that he could not be absolutely precise with respect to the information since the formal budget letters from the Ministry have not yet been transmitted to the University. The Chair felt this particular budget represented a significant change in the recognition of higher education as a priority in public policy, as the problem of accessibility to universities and the underfunding of university spaces has been recognized, and a commitment has been made to increase the post secondary system in BC by 25,000 FTEs. Funding is expected to flow for this enrolment growth over the next five years. However, it is not yet known what proportion of the 25,000 will be allocated to SFU and the other universities. The restoration of operating funding was achieved by the Ministry abolishing the grants to students in the BC financial assistance program, and this is problematic in what otherwise would be considered a very positive budget. He noted that the grant program funds were being increasingly used up by grants to students of private post-secondary institutions. However, although details are not yet known, the Government intends to expand loan programs for students and introduce a loan remission/completion grant program. The Chair advised Senate that with the advice of the Senate Committee on University Priorities, the University is working very hard to model the impact of the restored operating grant to mitigate tuition fee increases and to adjust the student financial assistance programs within the university, particularly the bursary program, in ways which will help the least well off students and mitigate further hardships due to the elimination of the Government grant program.

A Student Senator pointed out that it was hard to view the budget announcement in a positive light when less money was coming to students, which makes it more difficult for students to finish their education and harder for students to participate in university activities such as being on Senate.

5. Question Period

Referring to the recent distribution of T2202A tax forms to students, P. Percival advised that many of the forms, particularly the ones for students with tuition waivers contained

errors. A question was raised as to whether these errors were the result of deficiencies in the new Peoplesoft system. R. Heath advised that there were a number of problems associated with the T2202A forms, not the least of which was that the forms were not received from the Government and special forms had to be printed internally by Reprographics. With regard to the new system, the Canadian tax elements had to be specifically input and mistakes could have occurred. R. Heath advised that he was not aware of errors but if the specific error could be identified he would investigate.

6. Reports of Committees

A) Senate Committee on University Priorities

i) Paper S.04-16 – External Review – School of Resource and Environmental Management

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by J. Pierce

“that Senate concur with the recommendations from the Senate Committee on University Priorities concerning advice to the School of Resource and Environmental Management on priority items resulting from the external review as outlined in S.04-16”

F. Gobas, Director, School of Resource and Environmental Management, was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Paper S.04-17 – Proposal for a Graduate Diploma in Quantitative Methods in Fisheries Management

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 Quantitative Methods in Fisheries Management, as set forth in S.04-17”

R. Peterman, School of Resource and Environmental Management was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

It was noted that the documentation indicated that the students interested in taking this program would be persons who are working full-time and concern was expressed about the requirement to attend normal day sessions. A question was raised if the development of courses over the Internet had been considered. Senate was advised that the nature of the material made it very difficult to teach over the Internet and it was much more effective to have direct classroom interaction between faculty and students. It was noted that full-time employees from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans who are current

students had managed to arrange changes in their work hours to attend daytime courses and in discussions with them this did not seem to be a particular problem.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iii) Paper S.04-18 – Departmental Status for Gerontology

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by D. Weeks

“that Senate approve the proposal for Departmental status for Gerontology”

A. Wister, Director, Gerontology Program was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

Concerns were raised about the small number of faculty members and the effectiveness of an administrative unit of this size with respect to administrative functions such as search committees for new faculty, and tenure, promotion and salary committees. Senate was advised that this would not change with departmental status because current members of the unit already carry out these responsibilities. It was also expected that once Gerontology becomes a department, one or two individuals from the Steering Committee would likely become Associate Members.

Opinion was expressed that it ~~was~~^{may be} logical for Gerontology to become involved with the new Faculty of Health Sciences, and concern was expressed that this would spread faculty resources even thinner. Question was raised if there were any plans for possible expansion if departmental status were granted. Senate was advised that there were no immediate plans for expansion beyond one possible cross appointment with Health Sciences, and expectations were that any involvement of Gerontology with Health Sciences would balance out between the two Faculties.

A question was raised as to why Gerontology was seeking departmental status. It was noted that Gerontology had become a discipline in its own right, the current program had a very strong national and international reputation, and it was logical to move the discipline forward in this way. Becoming a department would provide more appropriate status within the University, on committees, and within the larger academic community, and it would also help to attract research grants.

It was noted that the main focus of Gerontology was at the graduate level and question was raised about possible plans to meet undergraduate needs. Senate was advised that there was a very successful PBD program and that a minor program had recently been introduced, so there was currently a strong undergraduate curriculum.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iv) Paper S.04-19 – Dissolution of the Centre for Environmental Biology

Senate was advised of an error on the front page of the documentation. The first sentence should be a recommendation from the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, not the Dean. The paper was amended accordingly with no objection.

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by N. Haunerland

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the dissolution of the Centre for Environmental Biology effective immediately”

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

v) Paper S.04-20 – 2002/2003 Centres and Institutes Report (For Information)

Reference was made to Section 3.6 on page 21 of the documentation. It was noted that the policy requires the President to take this report to the Board of Governors and, even though the report routinely comes to Senate for information, there is no formal requirement for presentation to Senate in the Policy. Suggestion was made that the Policy be amended to include transmission of the report to Senate. The Vice-President Academic indicated that although this seemed like a logical revision he would like to review this suggestion with the Vice-President, Research and report back.

Following the above discussion, Senate received the above-noted report for information.

B) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

R. Blackman, Chair of SCUS, M.A. Gillies, Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts, and M. Schmidt, Chair, Department of Geography were in attendance in order to speak to the following SCUS items.

i) Paper S.04-21 – Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Arts

Motion 1

Moved by J. Pierce, seconded by J. Waterhouse

“that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors as set forth in S.04-21, a new Joint Program between the Departments of Political Science and French – French Language Cohort Program in Public Administration and Community Services, effective Fall Semester 2004”

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion 2

Moved by J. Pierce, seconded by J. Waterhouse

“that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, as set forth in S.04-21, the new B.Sc. in Geographic Information Science Program in the Faculty of Applied Sciences, effective Fall Semester 2004”

Reference was made to the "contingent" note with respect to approval by SCUP. Senate was informed that the issue was not considered at the February 25th meeting of SCUP because SCUP was deeply engrossed in discussions and deliberations over advice to the President on budget matters. However, since all members of SCUP were also Senators and could express their views at Senate, suggestion was made that Senate and SCUP could simultaneously consider the motion. There were no objections to this suggestion.

In response to an inquiry about funding for this new program, Senate was advised that funds were available from the Double the Opportunity Fund created by the Government to increase the number of students in Computing Science and Engineering. The grant funding under the DTO program, plus tuition paid by students in the program will be allocated in support of the program. Senate was assured that this was a very large growth area with considerable student demand.

Discussion turned to the curriculum design of the program. Opinion was expressed that the program appeared to be largely technical and a question arose as to why the social application area was relatively light. Senate was advised that Geography already has full programs in social application areas and this program was meant to be quite a technical program for students who want to make advances in geographic information science and have some amount of background in various application areas.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority approved a change to the application procedure for students admitted to the School of Criminology, Major, Minor and Honors programs; and a new course and calendar revisions to reflect the new course in the Department of French. In response to an inquiry, a brief explanation was provided with respect to the change in application procedure in Criminology.

ii) Paper S.04-22 – Curriculum Revision – Faculty of Business Administration

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved a change of credit hour for BUS 417.

iii) Paper S.04-23 – Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Applied Sciences

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved six new courses, deleted three courses, and approved minor revisions to existing courses and programs in the School of Computing Science.

C) Senate Nominating Committee

i) Paper S.04-24 – Elections

The following are the results of elections to the following Senate Committees:

Senate Committee on International Activities (SCIA)

One Faculty Senator to replace C. Jones for term of office to May 31, 2004.

Elected by acclamation:

Dan Weeks

Diverse Qualifications Adjudication Committee (DQAC)

One Undergraduate Student (at-large) to replace J. Lemay for term of office to May 31, 2004.

Elected by acclamation:

Shawn Hunsdale

Committee to Review University Admissions (CRUA)

One Undergraduate Student Alternate (at-large) to replace J. Lemay for term of office to May 31, 2005.

Elected by acclamation:

Shawn Hunsdale

Research Ethics Board (REB)

One Student (at-large) to replace J. Lemay for term of office to May 31, 2005.

Candidates: S. Hunsdale, S. McGrath

Elected:

Spencer McGrath

The remaining vacancies on the Senate Committee on International Activities (one Undergraduate Student Senator), the Senate Committee on Continuing Studies (one Student Senator), and the Electoral Standing Committee (One Student Senator) were carried forward.

7. Other Business

The Chair reported that this was the last meeting for two Order-In-Council Senators, Barbara Naef and Ranbir Thandi. Although neither were present, the Chair wished to acknowledge their service, particularly B. Naef who has long served Senate and done extensive committee work. On behalf of Senate, the Chair expressed thanks to both Senators. Senate was reminded that under recent amendments to the University Act, OIC appointments were being retired as their terms expire.

8. Information

The date of the next regularly scheduled meeting of Senate is Monday, April 5, 2004 at the Burnaby campus.

The Open Session adjourned at 8:20 pm and Senate moved directly into Closed Session.

Alison Watt
Director, University Secretariat