

*As amended by
Senate 1 Nov 04*

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY SENATE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University
held on Monday, October 4, 2004 at 5:30 pm in Room 3210 WMC
Open Session

Present: Percival, Paul
Vice-Chair of Senate

Apaak, Clement
Beynon, Peter
Blackman, Roger
Budd, James
Dean, Charmaine
Dickinson, John
Driver, Jon
Easton, Stephen
Fizzell, Maureen
Fung, Edward
Giacomantonio, Chris
Gordon, Irene
Gordon, Robert
Gupta, Kamal
Harder, Derrick
Hauerland, Norbert
Honda, Barry
Horvath, Adam
Hunsdale, Shawn
Johansen, Elinor
Jones, John (representing B. Lewis)
Krane, Bill
Li, Ze-Nian
MacKenzie, Christine
MacLean, David
McKinnon, Stephanie
McInnes, Marcia
Pierce, John
Pinto, Mario
Plischke, Michael
Rozell, Sara
Sears, Camilla
Schellenberg, Betty
Shaker, Paul
Tombe, Trevor
Waterhouse, John
Wessel, Sylvia
Wong, Josephine
Woodbury, Robert

Absent:

Breden, Felix
Brennand, Tracy
Copeland, Lynn
da Silva, Gisele
Delgrande, James
Dunsterville, Valerie
Grimmett, Peter
Hayes, Michael
Higgins, Anne
Love, Ernie
Mauser, Gary
McArthur, James
McFetridge, Paul
Scott, Jamie
Smith, Don
Stevenson, Michael
Weeks, Daniel
Wong, Milton
Yerbury, Colin
Zandvliet, David

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

P. Percival advised Senate that the President was at a conference in New York and as Vice-Chair of Senate he would chair the meeting.

On behalf of Senate, the Chair welcomed the following newly elected Senators: C. Dean and M. Hayes (faculty senators elected to the positions created after the establishment of the Faculty of Health Sciences), and D. Harder (student senator elected to retain the required balance between student and faculty positions on Senate).

1. Approval of the Agenda

Senate was advised that the Chair would add two items under 'Report of the Chair', and that Paper S.04-67 – Annual financial Statements was withdrawn from the agenda and would be brought forward to the next meeting of Senate. Following these amendments, the Agenda was approved.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of September 13, 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

i) Congratulations were extended to Dr. Larry Dill, Department of Biological Sciences who has been chosen as a co-recipient of the 2004 Ig Nobel Prize in Biology.

ii) Paper S.04-76 – Review of the President

The above-noted paper was distributed at the meeting. Senate was advised that the Board of Governors has started the process of considering the reappointment of the President whose current term expires in 2006. Senate will elect two faculty senators and one at-large graduate student to this committee at the next Senate meeting. Prospective committee members were requested to take note of the tentative meeting schedule outlined in the memo and candidates wishing to put their name forward should note the detailed information about the nomination process and deadline dates.

5. Question Period

There were no questions submitted.

6. Reports of Committees

A) Senate Nominating Committee

i) Paper S.04-68 – Elections

Senate was advised that no further nominations were received to those shown on the above-noted paper. Therefore, Charmaine Dean was declared elected by acclamation to the Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP) and the Senate Committee on University Teaching (SCUTL) for terms of office to May 31, 2005; and Christine

MacKenzie was elected by acclamation to the Senate Committee on University Honours (SCUH) for term of office to May 31, 2005. The student senator positions on the Senate Committee on Continuing Studies and the Senate Committee on International Activities remain vacant and will be carried forward.

B) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

i) Paper S.04-69 – Change to General Admission Requirements

Moved by R. Blackman, seconded by C. Apaak

“that Senate approve the addition of Instrumental Music 12 and Choral Music 12 in the Fine and Performing Arts group (List 3) of courses accepted for admission, effective Fall 2005”

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Paper S.04-70 – School for the Contemporary Arts – Changes to Admission Requirements and Curriculum Changes

Moved by R. Blackman, seconded by I. Gordon

“that Senate approve changes to the admission requirements in the visual art studio courses, and the visual art extended minor program, as set forth in S.04-70”

A question was raised about the deletion of courses concerning the history of art. It was pointed out that although reference was being deleted from the course title, the material would be rearranged and presented in a different format within the program.

Reference was made to the collapse of the 2-course-per-skill model which changed the emphasis to a broad ranging introduction to all aspects of the given skill. Opinion was expressed that this was a very large pedagogical change to the program and concern was raised about the lack of rationale to justify such a major revision. It was pointed out that this program has been extremely stretched with regard to its teaching resources and the Dean's office had worked closely with the School on this particular revision to make the program more effective.

In response to an inquiry as to why a representative from the School was not in attendance to respond to questions, Senate was advised that the level of interest in this curriculum matter was under estimated and no one had been requested to attend.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved minor curriculum revisions to existing courses and program requirements in the Visual Art program.

iii) Paper S.04-71 – Change to Admission Policy – Associate Degree

Moved by R. Blackman, seconded by M. Fizzell

“that Senate approve the proposed changes to the Associate Degrees Admission Policy wording from “graduates... from a public BC or Yukon community college or university college” to “graduates... from a BC or Yukon community college or university college recognized by the B.C. Ministry of Advanced Education”, as forth in S.04-71, in effect as of Spring Semester 2005” *set*

In response to an inquiry with respect to the degree completion statistics for Columbia College, it was pointed out that the completion rates were significantly higher than the average.

Discussion turned to the approval process of the Degree Quality Assessment Board. R. Blackman, a member of the Board, provided Senate with detailed information concerning the evaluation process for proposed degree programs. He noted that Columbia College went through a full evaluation by the DQAB which resulted in the Board recommendation to the Minister that approval be granted for Columbia College to grant Associate Degrees.

In response to concerns raised about quality control, Senate was advised that the DQAB carries out follow-up assessment to ensure that programs continue to be of sufficient quality to merit Ministry approval. It was pointed out that since Senate has the authority to establish admission standards if it were discovered that students admitted in a particular category or from a particular institution were performing below standard, Senate could recommend a change in policy.

Senate was advised that as of next year all students who apply for admission with an Associate Degree will be expected to have a grade point average that is no less than .25 lower than the floating average that applies to students without an Associate Degree. This change in admission policy was approved after a careful evaluation of the performance of the two groups of students and it was felt that the GPA differential levels the playing field for the two groups. It was noted that Columbia College was the first private institution to offer Associate Degrees, and opinion was expressed that should this motion fail, it would be discriminatory towards students just because they went to a private institution. It was noted that private institutions could be for-profit or not-for-profit.

Concern was expressed that the motion was based on the decision of the Ministry rather than the Review Board decision. It was emphasized that the Ministry, through the Minister, makes the decision on the basis of a recommendation from the DQAB. Degrees from any degree granting institution must receive approval from the Ministry before they can be offered so wording reflecting this process was appropriate.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

C) Senate Graduate Studies Committee

i) Paper S.04-72 – Change to Graduate General Regulation 1.12

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by C. Apaak

“that Senate approve the changes to Graduate General Regulation 1.12, as set out in S. 04-72”

Brief discussion ensued with respect to degree completion times and clarification was received that these deadlines had not changed.

It was noted that the proposed change did not lay out a process and a time limit for which students with disabilities should apply. Senate was advised that this was purposely left flexible because it was very difficult to legislate exactly what a student should do because each case dealt with individual circumstances and had to be handled through a process of negotiation between student, department, and the Centre for Students with Disabilities.

A question was raised as to why plans were to be approved by the Dean of Graduate Studies rather than the Director of the Centre for Students with Disabilities. It was pointed out that the Centre was a resource for providing expertise in the way that students can be assisted but there were other issues that also needed to be assessed. The outcome of discussions with the student, the department, and the Centre would result in a written plan and it was felt that someone from outside the negotiation process should approve it.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Paper S.04-73 – Curriculum Revisions – Master of Publishing Program (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved one new course, minor revisions to existing courses and admission requirements, and a change in calendar description of the internship and project report.

iii) Paper S.04-74 – Curriculum Revisions – Resource and Environmental Management Program (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved one new course and minor revisions to an existing course.

iv) Paper S.04-75 – Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science –(For Information) – Biological Sciences and Molecular Biology and Biochemistry

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved a change to the examination procedures for the project in the Masters of Environmental Toxicology, and a minor revision to one MBB course.

7. Other Business
There was no other business.

8. Information
The date of the next regularly scheduled meeting of Senate is Monday, November 1, 2004.

Open Session adjourned at 6:25 pm and moved directly into Closed Session.

Alison Watt
Director, University Secretariat