

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY SENATE

Minutes of a meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, January 8, 2007 at 5:30 pm in Room 3210 WMC

Open Session

Present:

Schellenberg, Betty, Vice-Chair of Senate

Breden, Felix
Copeland, Lynn
Corbett, Kitty
Dagenais, Diane
Dickinson, Peter
Driver, Jon
Dunnet, Margo
Easton, Steve
Fizzell, Maureen
Fox, Graham
Gençay, Ramo
Gordon, Irene
Gordon, Robert
Gregory, Titus
Haunerland, Norbert
Hayes, Michael
Javed, Waseem
Joffres, Michel
Jones, John (representing B. Lewis)
Krane, Bill
LaBrie, John
Lewis, Glyn
MacKenzie, Christine
MacLean, David
Percival, Colin
Percival, Paul
Peters, Joseph
Pierce, John
Pinto, Mario
Plischke, Michael
Russell, Robert
Schellenberg, Betty
Shaker, Paul
Shermer, Thomas
Smart, Carolyne
Vaid, Bhuvinder
van Baarsen, Amanda
Warner, D'Arcy
Waterhouse, John
Weeks, Daniel
Williams, Peter
Wong, Josephine

Absent:

Black, Sam
Brennand, Tracy
Caufield, Sarah
Delgrande, James
Ester, Martin
Francis, June
Halpern, Erica
Harder, Derrick
Honda, Barry
Kelly, Vanessa
Li, Wei
Liljedahl, Peter
Louie, Brandt
McArthur, James
Rebman, Rachelle
Smith, Don
Stevenson, Michael
Zandvliet, David

In attendance:

Godyn, Luis
Hinchliffe, Jo
MacAlister, David
MacLeod, Richard
Williams, Tony

Angerilli, Nello, Associate Vice-President, Students/International, and Acting 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 December 4, 2006
The Minutes were approved as distributed.
3. Business Arising from the Minutes
In follow-up to questions raised at the last meeting relating to information contained in the Annual Report of the Diverse Qualifications Adjudication Committee, Senate was provided with the following information. With regard to the inconsistency in the report concerning a particular group of students - 50% of whom had completed at least 30 credits with a particular GPA versus a later statement that indicated 71% of the group had graduated with a degree, Senate was informed that the last statement actually had a footnote that clarified that the population of students for these two statements were different. One analysis was based on ten years of data, the other analysis, which focused on graduating rates, was based on six years of data. A further statement in the report indicated that almost 40% of students admitted to SFU in the timeframe covered by the report went on academic probation within two years of their admission. Senate received clarification that 40% of students *with an admission GPA of 3.0 or less* went on academic probation within the first two years, and approximately 25% of students *with an admission GPA over 3.0* went on academic probation. Even with this clarification, the Associate Vice-President, Academic noted that further review of this issue was required.
4. Report of the Chair
There was no report from the Chair.
5. Question Period
A reference was made to the recent news report that the Chinese Ministry of Education was advising students not to attend private colleges in Canada, and a question arose as to what impact that might have on SFU and plans to increase international student recruitment through the use of a private college. Senate was advised that the University had not yet had an opportunity to fully explore the potential impact but has been working with the Canadian Embassy in Beijing in an attempt to clarify the situation.
6. Reports of Committees
 - A) Paper S.07-1 - Annual Report on Student Discipline (For Information)

D. MacAlister, Co-ordinator of the University Board on Student Discipline (UBSD), R. MacLeod, Secretary of the Senate Committee on Disciplinary Appeals (SCODA), N. Angerilli, Acting Registrar, and J. Hinchliffe, Student Services were in attendance in order to respond to questions.

A brief discussion took place about the case that had been reported to the Registrar involving 117 students in one course; (this case had not been handled by either UBSD or SCODA). Concern was expressed that an environment existed that would allow this to happen and it was hoped that steps were being taken so that the situation could not be repeated. Senate was advised that student discipline procedures, both academic and non-academic, were under review with an aim to devising a policy to minimize the opportunity for such large scale cheating, and to create a central tracking system, likely

within the Registrar's Office, to identify and deal with repeat offenders or offenders in multiple departments. Senator R. Gordon, Chair of the Senate Committee on Academic Integrity and Student Learning and Evaluation (SCAISLE), reported that the Committee will be coming forward with a number of initiatives this year, including a revision to the policy and reporting system, which should result in significant improvements.

Following discussion, the report was received by Senate.

B) Senate Committee on University Priorities

i) Paper S.07-2 – External Review – Department of Biological Sciences

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by M. Hayes

“that Senate approve the recommendations of the Senate Committee on University Priorities concerning advice to the Department of Biological Sciences and the Dean of the Faculty of Science on priority items resulting from the external review”

T. Williams, Chair, Department of Biological Sciences, was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

A concern was expressed about the perceived difference in support for Ph.D. students at UBC as compared to SFU, and hope was expressed that this issue would be addressed. Senate was advised that, subject to existing financial constraints, active steps will be taken through the Dean of Graduate Studies to deal with this issue.

It was noted that the Dean of Science took issue with the Review Committee's comments that the environmental science program appeared to be sound in curricular design, and clarification of this issue was requested. Senate was advised by the Dean of Science that in his opinion the program had been languishing for several years. Under a separate special process, an internal review of the program took place and that review concurred that the program's curriculum should be completely redesigned, and this was in progress.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Paper S.07-3 – External Review – Department of Mathematics

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by S. Easton

“that Senate approve the recommendations of the Senate Committee on University Priorities concerning advice to the Department of Mathematics and the Dean of the Faculty of Science on priority items resulting from the external review”

L. Godyn, representing the Chair of the Department of Mathematics, was in attendance.

Referring to the second bullet under Section 1 dealing with the representation of female faculty in the Department, Senate was advised that upon investigation and comparison to math departments in other universities, it was found that the small number of female

faculty members in mathematics was not unique to SFU but in fact was a global issue. The following change in wording was accepted as a revision:

From: Address the under representation of female faculty in the Department.

To: To attempt to increase the representation of female faculty in the Department.

It was noted that one of the recommendations in the External Review was to consolidate existing courses in order to increase the scheduling of some courses. A question was raised about whether any courses could be consolidated without reducing material coverage. Senate was advised that this had already been done in some algebra courses, and the Department was considering options in other areas.

A Student Senator commended SCUP and the review for advocating for more student common space on campus and was pleased to see the value placed on the importance of student common rooms within the university community.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iii) Paper S.07-4 – External Review – Faculty of Business Administration

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by D. Weeks

“that Senate approve the recommendations from the Senate Committee on University Priorities concerning advice to the Faculty of Business Administration on priority items resulting from the external review”

An issue raised in the External Review touched on overload teaching to which C. Smart replied that this had been a concern several years ago, but this was not now the case. Similarly, the reviewers reported on a concern with the tenure process, and M. Fizzell indicated that this could have been raised in a private discussion with the reviewers concerning a situation which occurred more than a decade ago, and this was not a current issue.

Reference was made to a statement at the top of page 24 indicating friction with the Dean of Graduate Studies office, and clarification was requested. Senate was advised that some difficulties perceived by the Dean of Graduate Studies with the administration of some of the graduate programs in the Faculty were brought to the attention of the reviewers. Contrary to the recommendation of the reviewers that the graduate programs in Business be removed from the rest of the university and treated differently, the Dean’s office and the Faculty were successfully working together to implement a better communication process in order to achieve a smoother administrative structure.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

C) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

i) Paper S.07-5 – Revision – BC and Yukon College Admissions

Prior to moving the motion, B. Krane made a minor revision to the wording from “BC and Yukon College...” to “BC and Yukon *Community* and University Colleges”

Motion 1

Moved by B. Krane, seconded by A. van Baarsen

“that Senate approve changes to the criteria for Admissions from B.C. and Yukon Community and University Colleges to read: ‘Applicants who met the University’s admission requirements after completing grade 12 may be admitted on the basis of those requirements, provided that they have attempted fewer than 24 semester hours of transfer credit’ ”

A brief discussion took place on how this would affect a student who had attempted 24 credit hours but had successfully completed 23 credit hours and Senate was advised that such a student would not be eligible for admission.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Prior to moving the next motion, B. Krane made an editorial change to insert the words ‘at least’ prior to 24 credit hours.

Motion 2

Moved by B. Krane, seconded by A. van Baarsen

“that Senate approve B.C. College students be guaranteed admission to all Faculties at SFU (except Business Administration) on completion of at least 24 credit hours of transferable work with a minimum grade point average of 2.5”

In response to an inquiry as to why Business Administration was exempt, Senate was advised that the admission GPA for Business Administration was 3.0 and the Faculty did not have the resources to teach more students.

It was noted that the motion, as currently worded, implied that students from the Yukon were not eligible for this guaranteed admission. Senate was informed that this was not the intent and that the wording should be further revised as follows:

“that Senate approve B.C. and Yukon Community and University College students be guaranteed admission to all Faculties at SFU (except Business Administration) on completion of at least 24 credit hours of transferable work with a minimum grade point average of 2.5”

It was noted that the Fraser International College web site guaranteed students admission to SFU with a 2.4 GPA, and inquiry was made as to why there was difference from other colleges. The Associate Vice-President, Academic was not aware that there was a discrepancy and indicated that he would look into this issue.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION (AS AMENDED) CARRIED

ii) Paper S.07-6 – Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Applied Sciences (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the deletion of courses, new courses, and minor changes to existing programs and courses in the following areas: Interactive Arts and Technology, Engineering Science, Kinesiology, and Computing Science. Senate also

received information that SCUS approved, under delegated authority, a list of Writing designations for courses within the Faculty of Applied Sciences.

iii) Paper S.07-7 – Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved a list of WQB designations for courses within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, minor changes to the Certificate in Explorations in Arts and Social Sciences, a change to the course abbreviation for International Studies, and new courses in World Literature.

iv) Paper S.07-8 – Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Education (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved new courses and minor changes to existing courses and Minor programs in French Education and Learning Disabilities.

D) Senate Committee on Continuing Studies

i) Paper S.07-9 – Annual Report (For Information)

The 2005/2006 Annual Report of the Senate Committee on Continuing Studies was received by Senate for information.

E) Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules

i) Paper S.07-10 – Changes to the Senate Committee on International Activities (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules approved the following revisions as editorial changes to SCIA: a return to the original membership with regard to positions held by the President (or designate) as Chair, the VP Academic (or designate), and the Director, SFU International (or designate), and the removal of item 3 under Procedures.

ii) Paper S.07-11 – Changes to University Policy GP 35: Named Recognition of Buildings, Academic Endowments and Academic Units

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by S. Easton

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the revision of GP 35 which substitutes the Senate Committee on University Priorities for the Senate Committee on University Honours in section 4.2 of the policy”

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

F) Senate Nominating Committee

i) Paper S.07-12 – Elections

Senate was advised that no further nominations had been received. Jason Chan was therefore elected by acclamation as the Undergraduate Student Alternate (dual position) on the Senate Library Committee and the Library Penalties Appeal Committee, and as an

Undergraduate Student representative on the Senate Committee on University Teaching and Learning. The remaining vacancies will be carried forward to the next meeting.

7. Other Business

i) Paper S.07-13 – Academic Amnesty Motion

Reference was made to the wording of a previous motion dealing with this issue in 2003, and M. Dunnet stated that since this seemed to be a preferable wording, she would like to substitute the wording of the motion before Senate

Moved by M. Dunnet, seconded by P. Percival

“Senate requests that instructors do not penalize students academically for their participation in the February 7, 2007 National ‘Day of Action’,
and
Senate requests that faculty make every effort to accommodate those students who wish to participate in the February 7, 2007 National ‘Day of Action’ ”

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Senate was advised that this was the last meeting for N. Angerilli as Acting Registrar. The Chair, on behalf of Senate and the University, expressed appreciation and thanked Dr. Angerilli for his service.

8. Information

The date of the next regularly scheduled meeting of Senate is Monday, February 5, 2007.

The Open Session adjourned at 6:15 pm and Senate moved directly into Closed Session.

Alison Watt
Director, University Secretariat