

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY SENATE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, October 15, 2007 at 5:30 pm in Room 3210 WMC
Open Session

Present:

Stevenson, Michael, President and Chair of Senate

Abdulwahab, Kamal
Black, Sam
Brennand, Tracy
Collinge, Joan (representing J. LaBrie)
Copeland, Lynn
Corbett, Kitty
Dagenais, Diane
Dickinson, Peter
Driver, Jon
Easton, Stephen
Fizzell, Maureen
Fox, Amy
Francis, June
Gordon, Robert
Harder, Derrick
Harding, Kevin
Hayes, Michael
Hemingway, Alex
Krane, Bill
Laba, Martin
Lee, Benjamin
Letourneau, Michael
Lewis, Brian
Li, Paul
Liljedahl, Peter
Malcoe, Lorraine Halinka
O'Neil, John
Percival, Colin
Percival, Paul
Perry, Tom (representing L. Cormack)
Peters, Joseph
Pinto, Mario
Plischke, Michael
Popadiuk, Natalee
Russell, Robert
Shaker, Paul
Shermer, Thomas
Smith, Don
Thompson, Steve
Tiffany, Evan
Tse, Karen
van Baarsen, Amanda
Wakkary, Ron
Waterhouse, John
Williams, Peter
Williams, Tony

Absent:

Brebner, Sarah
Gencay, Ramo
Hannah, David
Javed, Waseem
Lein, Adam
Louie, Brandt
MacArthur, James
Vaid, Bhuvinder

In attendance:

Angerilli, Nello
Beale, Alison
Dench, Sarah
Hoffer, Andy
Laitsch, Dan
Marcuse, Judith
Murray, Catherine
Popowich, Fred
Snowber, Celeste
Vaughn, Rodney

Ross, Kate, Registrar and Senior Director, Student Enrolment
Watt, Alison, Director, University Secretariat
Grant, Bobbie, Recording Secretary

On behalf of the University, the Chair welcomed the following new members to Senate: Lorraine Halinka Malcoe, Faculty member, Faculty of Health Sciences; Paul Li, Faculty member, Department of Chemistry; and Benjamin Lee, Student representative, Faculty of Health Sciences.

1. Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of September 17, 2007

The Minutes were approved as distributed.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

M. Letourneau expressed thanks and appreciation to Senate for its approval of the amnesty motion that accommodated students wishing to attend the Student Society General Meeting. He reported that the meeting was able to achieve quorum and pass very important business relating to the reorganization and operation of the Student Society.

4. Report of the Chair

i) Paper S.07-110 – President’s Agenda (For Information)

Reference was made to the information concerning GPA levels for BC 12 for 2005 and 2006. In response to a request for the same information for 2007, the Chair stated that the information could be provided later since the data was not immediately available.

Referring to a statement that indicates that the University wishes to increase undergraduate course availability, an inquiry was made as to the University’s plans in this area. Senate was advised that approximately two years ago Senate passed motions respecting a timetable that would provide for standard time slots for certain courses in order to allow better planning for both students and departments. Due to technical difficulties the timetable has not yet been implemented but work is continuing. Course turnaway data has identified certain courses that students have a greater difficulty accessing and the Deans are focussing on these courses in order to provide better access. In addition, plans are to carry out a more detailed study of this issue with a specific department that has volunteered to take part. In terms of enhanced planning, the potential of enabling students to register for one, two or three semesters was being investigated.

It was noted that an occurring theme within the document was that of budgetary concerns, issues of FTE grant funding, and the potential diversification of funding through private sources. In response to an inquiry as to whether SFU supports a primarily publicly funded post-secondary system, the Chair confirmed that the University absolutely supported a primarily publicly funded system and that SFU remains overwhelmingly publicly funded. Discussion followed in which the Chair briefly summarized the ways in which the University advocates for public funding, including meeting with various officials from the Provincial and Federal Governments, working with the other BC universities to formulate submissions on post-secondary education issues to various committees and levels of government, working with AUCC with respect

to federal funding, and annual meetings between the executive of the University and representatives from the Ministry of Advanced Education.

In response to a question with respect to whether or not there was a list of corporations which have made donations to SFU, the Chair did not believe a list existed but explained that the majority of donations come with terms of reference for endowments which are approved by Senate or as gifts in support of capital plans publicly approved by the Board of Governors. A list of donating corporations was requested.

Reference was made to page 6 concerning the proposed increase in graduate enrolments, and an inquiry was made as to whether consideration had been given to enhanced provision of daycare spaces at the various SFU campuses as a recruitment tool for graduate students. The Chair reported that on the Burnaby campus, the University is involved in negotiations with the Society that runs the Daycare Centre for the expansion of daycare facilities covering both the expanded university population and the residents of UniverCity. With respect to Surrey and Vancouver campuses since there is no SFU resident population, SFU has not pursued a specific SFU provision of service.

Concern was expressed by a Student Senator that the creation and retention of student space was not given priority, especially in light of the many complaints being received by the Student Society with respect to loss of common rooms, and a couple of examples were given. The Chair explained that he was not aware of a decrease in student space in the current year and that several years ago when this issue arose, a review was undertaken and it was determined at that time that there were very marginal adjustments in student space. The University recognizes the importance of providing space to students and has made a regular provision for the refitting of student spaces, lounges, and furnishing to upgrade the quality of existing spaces. In addition, as new facilities come on-line student space is built into the plans as much as possible. Active consultation and negotiation are underway with the Student Society to create a strong strategic plan for improved facilities including a possible student centre at SFU. The Chair suggested that complaints or inquiries about specific reductions in student space should be forwarded to the Chair or to the Associate Vice-President, Students and International.

5. Question Period

There were no questions.

6. Reports of Committees

A) Senate Committee on University Priorities

i) Paper S.07-111 – International Centre for Art and Social Change

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by P. Shaker

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the creation of the International Centre for Art and Social Change as a Schedule A Centre”

C. Snowber, Faculty of Education and J. Marcuse, Director of Judith Marcuse Projects were in attendance in order to respond to questions.

An inquiry was made as to why the Centre was only associated with the Faculty of Education and not a broader range of departments within the University, including units such as the School for Contemporary Arts and the School of Interactive Arts and Technology. It was pointed out that the Faculty of Education was concerned with social justice and had many faculty and graduate students already doing the type of work envisioned for the Centre. However, expectations were that collaboration and dialogue would take place with many other areas in the University and it was hoped that the Centre would eventually become a nexus for participants from a variety of fields including contemporary arts, health, justice, business etc.

It was noted that even though a Schedule A Centre allowed participation from a broad range of participants, and the Dean can appoint external members, they would not be able to be members of the Steering Committee. It was pointed out that the intent was simply to get the Centre started and there was no intent to exclude.

There was general enthusiasm for the proposal and suggestion was made that the governance procedure be relaxed with respect to membership. The Chair encouraged the proponents of the Centre to actively include those interested outside the Faculty of Education and asked the Dean of Education to make sure the adjustments are made.

On that understanding, the question was called, and a vote taken. MOTION CARRIED

It was suggested that the Senate committees scrutinizing Centres and Institutes should review the material more closely in order to avoid debate of issues that should have been dealt with at an earlier stage.

ii) Paper S.07-112 – Centre for the Study of Educational Leadership and Policy

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by P. Shaker

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the creation of the Centre for the Study of Educational Leadership and Policy as a Schedule A Centre”

D. Laitsch, Faculty of Education, was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

The question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iii) Paper S.07-113 – Centre for Applied Research in Mental Health and Addiction

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by J. O’Neil

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the creation of the Centre for Applied Research in Mental Health and Addiction (CARMHA) as a Schedule A Centre”

Discussion ensued about the issue of core and affiliate categories of membership and the procedure used by the Faculty for the appointment of Adjunct Professors. A concern was expressed about the nature of the governance structure, such as the decision-making power of the Director, which appeared to be contrary to principles of democratic governance. The Chair suggested that perhaps a review of the governance language of the proposal was in order.

The question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iv) Paper S.07-114 – Centre for Policy Studies on Culture and Communities

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by W. Parkhouse

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the creation of the Centre for Policy Studies on Culture and Communities as a Schedule A Centre”

A. Beale and C. Murray, School of Communication, were in attendance in order to respond to questions.

A suggestion to amend point 3.1 on page 6 to insert ‘at the most two Directors’ was accepted as a friendly amendment.

The question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED

v) Paper S.07-115 – Sierra Wireless Professorships in Mobile Communication – Terms of Reference

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by W. Parkhouse

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the terms of reference for the Sierra Wireless Professorship in Mobile Communication”

R. Vaughn, School of Engineering Science, was available to respond to questions.

Brief discussion took place with respect to the guidelines for the naming of professorships. A brief summary of the support and financial contributions that Sierra

Wireless has given to SFU over the past five years was provided to Senate. In response to a question concerning the number of professorships named after corporations, the Chair indicated that the information was not immediately available but could be provided.

The question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

vi) Paper S.07-116 – Centre for Disability Independence Research and Education

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by D. Smith

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the creation of the Centre for Disability Independence Research and Education as a Schedule B Centre”

A. Hoffer, School of Kinesiology, was available to respond to questions.

In response to a concern that the Centre appeared to focus only on people with physical disabilities, Senate was advised that there was no intended exclusion and that the research will address all unmet needs and disabilities. A suggestion was made that the wording be modified to clarify the broader intent and the Chair asked Dr. Hoffer to make an adjustment to recognize that point.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

vii) Paper S.07-117 – Cognitive Science Minor Program, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by T. Perry

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors, the Cognitive Science Minor Program in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences”

F. Popowich, Director, Cognitive Science Program, was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

The question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

viii) Paper S.07-118 – International Experiential Learning Certificate, Faculty of Business Administration

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by M. Fizzell

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors, the International Experiential Learning Certificate”

Brief discussion took place with respect to the motivation for recommending one area of study. Senate was advised that although students were free to choose a different country and a different region of the world for the second international activity, it was felt that since students had already put in considerable effort with the language and coursework with one of the Faculty's partner schools for their first activity, the Faculty felt they should have the opportunity to continue in the same area for their second activity.

In response to a question about possible options for the two activities, Senate was advised that students could spend approximately two semesters in another part of the world which could be 8 months at the same institution, or could spend four months at a partner institution and 4 months at a different region on the world in a co-op job for example.

The question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ix) Paper S.07-119 – *Liber Ero* Chair in Coastal Studies – Terms of Reference

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by M. Plischke

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors, the terms of reference for the *Liber Ero* Chair in Coastal Studies”

Clarification concerning the home department of the Chair took place and M. Plischke noted that the Deans of Applied Sciences, Arts and Social Sciences and Science would likely be the deans consulted with respect to this matter.

The question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

x) Paper S.07-120 – Report on Academic Operations at Fraser International College September 2006 to August 2007 (For Information)

S. Dench, Director, University Curriculum and Liaison, and N. Angerilli, Associate Vice-President, Students and International were available to respond to questions.

Concern was expressed that the majority of international students still appear to be coming from one specific area with large concentrations in one or two areas of study within the University, and a question was raised about greater diversity. It was noted that the University acknowledges that insufficient numbers of students have been recruited from other Provinces or from the United States and recruiting efforts are being developed to increase numbers from those sources. With respect to the concentration of Asian students in FIC and a heavily weighted preference in terms of study areas, this has partially resulted because FIC was late getting into the recruiting process for Fall 2006 due to delays in the completion of physical facilities for the College. Assurances have been given that greater number of students will be recruited from areas such as Latin America, Africa, and other parts of Asia. However, it should be noted that due to the size and population in China and related areas, there will likely always be a majority of students coming from that region of the world. In addition, enrolments in FIC have been

restricted by the capacity of Canadian Consulates in various parts of the world to process visas. In response to an inquiry for an estimate as to how long it might take FIC to increase the diversity of international students, Senate was reminded that the decision of students to attend a particular institution is a function of many things, including recruitment, but strong efforts were being made to recruit from many parts of the world.

A further concern was expressed that the University may rely too heavily on FIC and not develop strong internal processes with respect to international recruitment. Senate was advised that Student Services had significantly expanded and enhanced its international recruitment activities.

A question arose as to whether FIC policies were harmonized with SFU policies with respect to disabilities, human rights, harassment, protection of academic freedom, etc. Senate was advised that FIC has a code of conduct in place dealing with harassment that applies to both students and faculty and is consistent with their obligations under BC Human Rights. An opinion was expressed that because of the association between SFU and FIC, the University has a responsibility to ensure that their policies are in line with SFU standards and values. The Vice-President Academic stated that he was confident that the written contract between the University and FIC provided adequate coverage with respect to the issues raised but he would examine the contract language to make sure and report back to Senate.

In response to an inquiry about attrition rates for FIC, Senate was advised that their attrition rate has been low as only a couple of students had left thus far due to academic performance issues, but it was still quite early in terms of numbers.

An inquiry was made to student consultation with the Academic Advisory Committee (Appendix A). Senate was advised that FIC has undertaken to consult regularly with groups of students once the student body had reached a critical mass.

A correction to the Senate paper to change January 2006 to February 2006 was noted.

In response to an inquiry concerning whether or not departments would be required to develop courses for FIC, Senate was given assurance by the Vice President Academic that academic units at SFU would not be required to develop course offerings for FIC. Senate was advised that the Department of English had voted twice not to participate but were told by senior administrators that they had no choice. Brief discussion followed with respect to the circumstances surrounding this incident, and the Chair requested that the Vice President Academic investigate the situation.

As part of the original agreement, it was noted that SFU was to receive a portion of the revenue collected from tuition fees charged by FIC, and that a part of that income would help to expand scholarship and bursary programs for all students. In response to an inquiry about this issue, Senate was advised that part of the income has been directed back to departments as a consequence of their participation in offering courses, some of the money has gone to provide provision of ancillary or other services by SFU to FIC

students, and some has been applied to pay off the capital costs of renovations in the multi-tenant facility.

xi) Paper S.07-121 – Library Three Year Plan 2007-2010 (For Information)

L. Copeland, Librarian and Senator, was available to respond to questions.

A concern was expressed that in a document as essential as a three year plan, there was little mention of the SFU Surrey campus especially with respect to future plans, capacity for holdings, and outreach programs. L. Copeland indicated she would be pleased to meet with faculty and staff at Surrey to initiate discussions in this regard.

B) Senate Library Committee

i) Paper S.07-122 – Annual Report (For Information)

It was noted that the Senate Library Committee had approved a Designated Borrower Card, an External Organization Borrower Card, and a Spousal Card. An inquiry was made as to what action had been taken to publicize these new innovations. Senate was advised that information about these changes was available on the Library's web site and information was also provided at orientation sessions for new faculty but greater efforts to communicate the information to the campus community appeared to be required.

C) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

i) Paper S.07-123 – Revision to Admission Requirements for the School of Interactive Arts and Technology

Moved by B. Krane, seconded by W. Parkhouse

“that Senate approve the changes to the admission requirements for the School of Interactive Arts and Technology to remove the existing one science 12 course requirement”

The question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Paper S.07-124 – Undergraduate Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Applied Sciences (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority approved changes to program requirements, admission procedures and minor changes to existing courses in the School of Computing Science.

iii) Paper S.07-125 – Undergraduate 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 changes to program requirements and minor changes to existing courses in the following departments/programs: Asia-Canada, Cognitive Science, Criminology, Economics, English, Archaeology, First Nations Studies, French, and Geography. SCUS also approved, under delegated authority, WQB designations for a number of courses in History, International Studies, and Economics.

iv) Paper S.07-126 – Undergraduate Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Business Administration

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved changes to program requirements and minor revisions to existing courses in the Faculty of Business Administration.

v) Paper S.07-127 – Undergraduate Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Education

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved W designation for two courses in the Faculty of Education.

vi) Paper S.07-128 – Undergraduate Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved WQB designations for courses in Earth Sciences, Chemistry, Physics, and Mathematics.

D) Senate Nominating Committee

i) Paper S.07-129 Revised – Elections

A revised version of Senate paper S.07-129 was distributed. Senate was advised that one further nomination had been received for the Senate Committee on Continuing Studies – Paul Li was elected by acclamation for the Senator at-large position to May 31, 2008. The following candidates were also elected by acclamation: Timothy Beischlag, Faculty Member from Health Sciences to the Senate Committee on University Teaching and Learning; Lorraine Halinka Malcoe, Senator from Health Sciences to the Senate Committee on University Priorities; Geoffrey Poitras, Faculty Member Alternate to the Senate Committee on Disciplinary Appeals; Joe Paling (Regular Student member) and Karen Tse (Alternate Student member) to the Senate Committee on Disciplinary Appeals.

Balloting resulted in the election of Tara Azimi as the Undergraduate Student (Alternate) member on the Committee to Review University Admissions; and James Rankin as the Student at-large member of the International Student Exchange Committee.

Vacancies on the Senate Committee on Continuing Studies and the Senate Committee on International Activities will be carried forward to the next meeting of Senate.

7. Other Business

i) Paper S.07-130 – SFU Annual Library Report 2006/07 (For Information)

The Annual Report of the SFU Library for the period 2006/2007 was received by Senate for information.

ii) Paper S.07-131 – Revision of B10.06 – Presidential Search Policy

Moved by P. Percival, seconded by M. Fizzell

“that Senate approve the revision of B10.06 Presidential Search Policy dated 5 September 2007”

There were no objections to the following minor amendment to reflect the recent change to the Student Society – ‘President of the Student Society or designate’ changed to ‘President of the Undergraduate Student Society’.

Brief discussion followed with respect to election procedures for the students elected by the student body, and point 1.6 concerning the establishment of further operational procedures.

The question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

8. Information

The date of the next regularly scheduled meeting of Senate will take place on Monday, November 5, 2007.

The Open Session adjourned at 7:15 pm and Senate moved directly into Closed Session.

Alison Watt
Director, University Secretariat