

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY SENATE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on  
Monday, December 3, 2007 at 5:30 pm in Room 3210 WMC

Open Session

Present: Easton, Stephen, Vice-Chair of Senate

Abdulwahab, Kamal  
Atkins, Stella  
Black, Sam  
Brebner, Sarah  
Corbett, Kitty  
Cormack, Lesley  
Dagenais, Diane  
Driver, Jon  
Fizzell, Maureen  
Fox, Amy  
Gencay, Ramo  
Gordon, Robert  
Hannah, David  
Harder, Derrick  
Harding, Kevin  
Haunerland, Norbert (representing M. Pinto)  
Hemingway, Alex  
Krane, William  
Laba, Martin  
LaBrie, John  
Lee, Benjamin  
Letourneau, Michael  
Lewis, Brian  
Li, Paul  
Liljedahl, Peter  
Malcoe, Lorraine Halinka  
Mundle, Todd (representing L. Copeland)  
Paling, Joe  
Percival, Colin  
Percival, Paul  
Peters, Joseph  
Plischke, Michael  
Popadiuk, Natalee  
Russell, Robert  
Shaker, Paul  
Shermer, Thomas  
Thompson, Steve  
Tiffany, Evan  
Tse, Karen  
Vaid, Bhuvinder  
van Baarsen, Amanda  
Wakkary, Ron  
Warner, D'Arcy  
Waterhouse, John  
Weeks, Daniel  
Williams, Tony

Absent

Brennand, Tracy  
Dickinson, Peter  
Francis, June  
Hayes, Michael  
Javed, Waseem  
Lein, Adam  
Louie, Brandt  
McArthur, James  
O'Neil, John  
Smart, Carolynne  
Smith, Don  
Stevenson, Michael  
Williams, Peter

In attendance:

Duguid, Stephen  
Hinchliffe, Jo  
Wister, Andrew

Ross, Kate, Registrar and Senior Director Student  
Enrolment

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 November 5, 2007  
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  
There was no report from the Chair.
5. Question Period  
There were no questions.
6. Reports of Committees
  - A) Senate Committee on University Priorities
    - i) Paper S.07-140 – PhD Program in Gerontology

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded on K. Harding

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors, the proposal for a PhD program in Gerontology in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences”

A. Wister, Chair, Department of Gerontology, was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

A Senator congratulated the Chair, and his colleagues in the Department, for the outstanding proposal and for all of the work that has been done in bringing this academic unit up to this point.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

- ii) Paper S.07-141 – External Review – Department of Humanities

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by M. Letourneau

“that Senate approve the recommendations from the Senate Committee on University Priorities concerning advice to the Department of Humanities and the Dean of Arts and Social Sciences on priority items resulting from the External Review”

S. Duguid, Chair, Department of Humanities, was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iii) Paper S.07-142 – Audain Visiting Chair in Visual Arts – Terms of Reference

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by K. Harding

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors, the terms of reference for the Audain Visiting Chair in Visual Arts”

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iv) Paper S.07-143 – Merck Frosst LEEF Chair in Pharmaceutical Genomics and Bioinformatics in Drug Discovery

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by P. Percival

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors, the terms of reference for the Merck Frosst LEEF Chair in Pharmaceutical Genomics and Bioinformatics in Drug Discovery”

A general discussion took place with respect to concerns expressed about the corporate naming of Chairs and the appointment process followed with respect to this particular Chair. Senate was reminded that Merck Frosst had provided an endowment, not a research grant or contract, and advised that there were absolutely no conditions attached to the donation. Assurance was also given that the proposed terms of reference were followed for this targeted search. In response to a question it was noted that the appointee has an outstanding research record and it was confirmed that he had retired from the position of Director of Research from that company.

Reference was made to page 3, point 4, under the heading of Appointment. A suggestion was made to delete the words ‘in the relevant department’ in the last sentence pertaining to teaching load since teaching loads were specified by policy. Since the suggestion was not considered a friendly amendment, the following formal amendment was made.

An amendment was proposed by D. Weeks, seconded by M. Letourneau

“that the four words –in the relevant department- at the end of point 4 under The Appointment be deleted and a period added to end the sentence”

Discussion ensued in which it was pointed out that teaching loads vary across departments and Faculties and therefore the norm for a faculty teaching load could be quite different from one academic unit to another so reference to the relevant department was in fact required.

Question was called on the amendment, and a vote taken.

AMENDMENT FAILED

Brief discussion followed about why approval of the terms of reference had been delayed. Senate was advised that the appointment was made in early 2007 but the formal announcement of the Chair was not made by the Provincial Government until quite some time later.

Question was called on the main motion,  
and a vote taken.

MAIN MOTION CARRIED

B) Senate Committee on Academic Integrity in Student Learning

i) Paper S.07-144 – Annual Report (For Information)

R. Gordon, Senator and Chair of the Committee, and J. Hinchliffe, Secretary of the Committee were in attendance in order to respond to questions.

Support was expressed for the use of the incident reports but concern was raised that their use was inconsistent with current policy. Clarification was requested as to how the multiple copies of the reports were being used and whether central record keeping had been established. In addition, a question was raised as to whether there would be a mechanism in place allowing faculty to check through a central location for multiple infractions. Senate was advised that the Assistant Registrar and Academic Integrity Coordinator in the Registrar's Office was responsible for accumulating and analyzing the content of incident reports received, and the intent was to produce reports from time to time. Access to information about a student's record was not something that would be available to individual instructors under the new policy, but Chairs/Directors and departmental Academic Integrity Advisors, when determining an appropriate penalty in cases of academic dishonesty, would be able to check with the Registrar's Office to find out if there were previous incidents of academic dishonesty in other departments. Senate was advised that the current policy does not prohibit the use of the incident forms and faculty and academic integrity advisors are encouraged to use them.

Reference was made to page 3 regarding the paragraph on Turnitin.com. It was pointed out that although faculty members were not required to use this service, some departments require students to do so and, a concern was expressed that there was no alternate option available for assignment submission for students not wishing to use Turnitin.com.

Concern was expressed that there was no discretionary provision allowing instructors to treat varying degrees of academic dishonesty differently. It was noted that the current policy allows discretion at the instructor level, and if the incident is relatively minor, nothing goes beyond the instructor level. However, under the new procedure, all incidents have to be reported on an incident form with copies going to the Chair and the Registrar's Office. Senate was advised that instructors would still be able to exercise the same discretion with respect to the level of penalty under the proposed policy. The Committee was concerned with trying to standardize practice/penalties across campus

and it was hoped that as the Academic Integrity Advisor system begins to operate, more standardized practices will evolve.

It was pointed out that the advantage of filling out the forms for even minor cases was that the central record keeping unit would become aware of students who received warnings in several departments across campus.

An opinion was expressed that having to fill out paperwork for every case and deal with individual students involved in incidents of academic dishonesty puts a considerable burden on instructors and Academic Integrity Advisors.

The Committee was commended for its work, and there was general agreement that the Committee was headed in the right direction but more work needed to be done so that the issues raised could be clarified.

C) Senate Committee on Continuing Studies

i) Paper S.07-145 – Annual Report (For Information)

The 2006/2007 Annual Report of the Senate Committee on Continuing Studies was received by Senate for information.

D) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

i) Paper S.07-146 – Curriculum Changes – Faculty of Applied Sciences (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved curriculum revisions in Communication, Interactive Arts and Technology, and Engineering Science.

ii) Paper S.07-147 – Curriculum Changes – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved curriculum revisions in Political Science, History, Criminology, and Explorations Program, SFU Surrey.

iii) Paper S.07-148 – Curriculum Changes – Faculty of Education (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved curriculum revisions in the Faculty of Education.

iv) Paper S.07-149 – Curriculum Changes – Faculty of Science (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved curriculum revisions in Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics, Management and System Science.

v) Paper S.07-150 – Annual Report (For Information)

The 2006/2007 Annual Report of the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies was received by Senate for information.

E) Senate Graduate Studies Committee

i) Paper S.07-151 – Revision to Graduate General Regulation 1.5.1 regarding DE notations

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by M. Letourneau

“that Senate approve the change of wording to Graduate General Regulation 1.5.1”

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Paper S.07-152 – New Course – International Studies (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved a new course in the School for International Studies.

iii) Paper S.07-153 – Course Deletions – Health Sciences (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved seven courses in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

iv) Paper S.07-154 – New Course – Earth Sciences (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved a new course in the Department of Earth Sciences.

F) Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules

i) Paper S.07-155 – Changes to Terms of Reference – Senate Committee on Enrolment Management and Planning (SCEMP)

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by K. Harding

“that Senate approve that the word ‘limiting’ be replaced with ‘managing’ in article 3; that the word ‘limitation’ be replaced with ‘management’ in articles 4 and 5; and a new article be added:

7. To coordinate and monitor student enrolment and retention activities between the Faculties and Student Services”

In response to an inquiry as to why the change in wording was required, Senate was advised that the revision was intended to convey a change in the Committee’s perspective signifying that it was more concerned with managing a range of issues related to student recruitment, retention, and attrition rather than a simply limiting student enrolment.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

- ii) Paper S.07-156 – Changes to terms of reference – International Student Exchange Committee (ISEC)

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by M. Letourneau

“that Senate approve that ISEC membership include on faculty member from each Faculty”

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Brief discussion took place with respect to Part B of Paper S.07-156 which dealt with a proposal to change the eligibility criteria for students wishing to go on an exchange. The intent of the change was to delete the priority given to domestic students over international students. Opinion was expressed that international students were already having an international experience by being at SFU, and a suggestion was made to give domestic students going on their first exchange program priority, following which all other students – both domestic and international – would then be considered. Senate was advised there were insufficient students applying for international exchanges and ISEC felt that the current criteria reduced the pool of potential applicants by signaling to international students that they would be low on the priority list. The Committee would like to see if this change makes a difference.

Brief discussion followed with respect to whether it was appropriate for this change to come to Senate for information or whether it should have come for approval. It was pointed out that under the existing terms of reference, ISEC has responsibility for formulating the selection criteria for student participation in exchange programs, therefore the change was within the committee’s mandate.

- G) Senate Nominating Committee

- i) Paper S.07-157 – Elections

Senate was advised that two nominations had been received for the Research Ethics Board and that balloting was required. Balloting resulted in the election of Benjamin Lee

to the Member from the University position on the Research Ethics Board (REB) for term of office from January 1, 2008 to May 31, 2008. The remaining vacancy for the Senate Committee on International Activities (SCIA) would be carried forward to the next meeting.

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Information

The date of the next regularly scheduled meeting of Senate is Monday, January 7, 2007.

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

Alison Watt  
Director, University Secretariat