

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY SENATE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, October 6, 2008 at 5:30 pm in Room 3210 WMC

Open Session

Present: Stevenson, Michael, President and Chair of Senate

Arsenault-Antolick, Haida
Bart, Brad
Bocking, Natalie
Brennand, Tracy
Collinge, Joan
Copeland, Lynn
Cormack, Lesley
de Castell, Suzanne
Dow, Greg
Driver, Jon
Easton, Stephen
Fairey, Elaine (representing L. Copeland)
Francis, June
Gibson, Eli
Golnaraghi, Farid
Gordon, Irene (representing D. Shapiro)
Gordon, Robert
Hannah, David
Harding, Kevin
Hayes, Michael
Janes, Craig
Joffres, Michel
Jones, John (representing C. Jones)
Krane, Bill
Laba, Martin
Lee, Benjamin
Letourneau, Michael
Leznoff, Daniel
MacDonald, Camille
O'Neil, John
Paling, Joseph
Parkhouse, Wade
Patel, Ravi
Percival, Colin
Percival, Paul
Peters, Joseph
Pinto, Mario
Plischke, Michael
Popadiuk, Natalee
Seal, Brent
Tapia, Earl Von
Thompson, Steve
Wakkary, Ron
Warner, D'Arcy
Williams, Tony

Absent:

Bains, Aman
Chapman, Glenn
Fergusson, Andrew
Fizzell, Maureen
Gençay, Ramo
Liljedahl, Peter
Louie, Brandt
McArthur, James
Pavsek, Christopher
Russell, Robert
Shermer, Thomas
Tiffany, Evan
Vaid, Bhuvinder
van der Wey, Dolores

In attendance:

Harriss, John
Verdun-Jones, Simon
Weinberg, Hal

Ross, Kate, Registrar & 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 September 15, 2008

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

On behalf of Senate, the Chair welcomed and thanked the newly elected Student Senators Eli Gibson and Brent Seal and thanked them for undertaking service to the University.

The Chair noted that a former Senator and very distinguished member of the University community, John F. Ellis died on September 15, 2008. Dr. Ellis was a Charter Faculty Member and Founding member of the Faculty of Education. He served in many positions during his tenure at SFU including Acting President, Dean of Education, and member of the Board of Governors. He also instigated many changes in the teacher education system and established essential connections with school districts, all of which remain in use in the teacher education program in the Faculty of Education. He produced, in consultation with an Advisory Committee, a comprehensive admissions and standing policy for the University at a critical point in SFU's development. Dr. Ellis was also on the founding board of Capilano College, the first principal of the Open Learning Institute, the lead author in the planning that led to the creation of the University of Northern British Columbia, and was involved in important international educational developments in Indonesia, Bangladesh, Norway, Cambodia and Thailand. SFU mourns his passing and, on behalf of the University, the Chair has conveyed sincere condolences to his wife Gladys and their family.

5. Question Period

There were no questions.

6. Reports of Committees

A) Research Ethics Board

i) Paper S.08-104 – Annual Report (For Information)

S. Verdun-Jones, Chair, Research Ethics Board and H. Weinberg, Director of Research Ethics were in attendance in order to respond to questions.

A question arose with respect to the secondary use of data and the principle of proportionate review. Concern was expressed about how long it took for applications to be approved and the reluctance of agencies to release data. Senate was provided with an explanation and rationale for the process of proportionate review and was provided with

information on the internal policy for the secondary use of data. Brief discussion also occurred with respect to the definition of anonymous data.

It was noted that all applications noted in the report had received approval, and an inquiry was made as to whether any applications were rejected. Senate was advised that extensive consultation and meetings with researchers occur leading up to the point of approval so that by the time an application was submitted any concerns were already dealt with.

The Chair of the REB was asked to convey Senate's thanks and appreciation to the members of the Research Ethics Board for all of the very complicated work they do on behalf of the academic community.

B) Senate Committee on University Priorities

i) Paper S.08-105 – New Program: Master of Arts in International Studies

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by S. Easton

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors, the full program proposal for a Master of Arts in International Studies in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences”

J. Harriss, School of International Studies, was in attendance to respond to questions.

In response to an inquiry as to whether the program was contingent on the appointment of two faculty members as noted on page 13, Senate was advised that the program has been offered for a number of years as a Special Arrangements Program so the addition of two faculty members was not necessary but would certainly strengthen the program if they were appointed.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

C) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

i) Paper S.08-106 – Change in Allowable Transfer Credits for the BGS Degree, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Moved by B. Krane, seconded by C. MacDonald

“that Senate approve the change in program requirements for the Bachelor of General Studies degree in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences”

An opinion was expressed that there were insufficient grounds to change the structure of the degree. Many students who take a BGS degree do not want to specialize, want to move through their studies quickly, and the current structure allows them to do so. Reference was made to preliminary discussions about the creation of a BA in

Interdisciplinary Studies and it was suggested that this revision appeared to be a transitional move towards that new degree.

Senate was advised that requiring 60 internal units of work was a standard practice at most universities, and giving an SFU degree for 30 credits of work at SFU was an anomaly that needed to be changed regardless of whether there was a move to a BA in Interdisciplinary Studies. It was also noted that it was almost impossible for students to meet the W requirements for the BGS if they only have 30 units at SFU.

The following suggestion by K. Harding was accepted as an amendment to the underlined sentence on page 4 under the 'To' section: Students admitted into the BGS degree in the Fall of 2009 or later may ~~receive~~ use up to 60 units of transfer credit *towards their SFU degree.*

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

- ii) Paper S.08-107 – New Calendar language for Second BA Degree, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Moved by B. Krane, seconded by R. Patel

“that Senate approve the new calendar language for Second BA Degrees in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences”

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

- iii) Paper S.08-108 – New Calendar language for Concurrent Degrees, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Moved by B. Krane, seconded by C. MacDonald

“that Senate approve the new calendar language for Concurrent Degrees in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences”

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

- iv) Paper S.08-109 –Revision to Transfer Credit for International Baccalaureate Diploma

Moved by B. Krane, seconded by K. Harding

“that Senate approve the transfer credit awarded to students who have completed the International Baccalaureate Diploma be changed to a maximum of 30 units for all standard level and higher level subjects that are passed with a grade of 4 or higher. If assigned credits are less than 30 units, general elective credit will be assigned to bring the total to 30.”

Brief discussion ensued regarding the use of grade level 4 for entry. Although the historical reasons for using this level were unknown, it was pointed out that the data on page 3 suggested that students entering from the IB program appear to be better than average so it appeared that this was not at issue.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

v) Paper S.08-110 – Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved new courses, deletion of courses, changes to program requirements, and minor revisions to existing courses in the following areas: Archaeology, Canadian Studies, Contemporary Arts, Criminology, Economics, English, French Cohort Program, Geography, International Studies, Latin American Studies, Linguistics, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology and Anthropology, Women's Studies, History, Psychology, First Nations Studies, Italian Studies, and Integrated Studies Program. Senate also received information concerning WQB course designations.

vi) Paper S.08-111 – Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Business Administration

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved a change to the Management Information Systems concentration, and minor revisions to existing courses in the Faculty of Business Administration.

D) Senate Nominating Committee

i) Paper S.08-112 Revised – Elections

Senate's attention was drawn to Senate Paper S.08-112 Revised which was distributed at the meeting and showed those positions which had been elected by acclamation. Names of candidates elected by acclamation can be found on Senate Paper S.08-112 Revised. Two outstanding vacancies will be carried forward.

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Information

The date of the next regularly scheduled meeting of Senate is Monday, November 3, 2008.

The Open Session adjourned at 5:55 pm, and Senate moved directly into Closed Session.

Alison Watt
Director, University Secretariat