

Minutes of a meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on  
Monday, May 11, 1998 at 7:00 pm in Room 3210 West Mall Centre

Open Session

Present: Blaney, Jack, President and Chair

Akins, Kathleen  
Aloi, Santa (representing J. Pierce)  
Berggren, J. Len  
Boland, Larry  
Chan, Albert  
Clayman, Bruce  
Cleveland, William  
D'Auria, John  
Dunsterville, Valerie  
Emmott, Alan  
Frindt, Robert (representing C. Jones)  
Gagan, David  
Gillies, Mary Ann  
Ho, Lawrence  
Jones, John  
Kanevsky, Lannie  
Kirczenow, George  
Morris, Joy  
Naef, Barbara  
Ogloff, James  
Osborne, Judith  
Overington, Jennifer  
Percival, Paul  
Reed, Clyde  
Selman, Mark  
Tam, Lawrence  
Waterhouse, John  
Wortis, Michael

Absent:

Baert, Jessica  
Beattie, Suzan  
Blazenko, George  
Bowman, Marilyn  
Coleman, Peter  
Dobb, Ted  
Etherington, Lois  
Giffen, Ken  
Hassan, Nany  
Lewis, Brian  
Marteniuk, Ron  
Mathewes, Rolf  
Mauser, Gary  
McInnes, Dina  
Nip, Harry  
Parmar, Neelam  
Peterson, Louis  
Russell, Robert  
Sanghera, Balwant  
Segal, Joseph  
Warsh, Michael  
Wickstrom, Norman  
Winne, Phil  
Wong, Tim  
Yagi, Ian

In attendance:

Gordon, Irene  
Knockaert, Joe

Heath, Ron, Dean of Student Services/Registrar  
Watt, Alison, Director, Secretariat Services  
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 April 6, 1998  
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) Paper S.98-41 - Election Report (For Information)  
As required by the Rules of Senate, Senate was provided with a report of the results of recent elections of faculty and students to Senate and the Board of Governors.
  - ii) Location of Senate Meeting  
In response to concerns expressed by Senate about the current meeting facilities, A. Watt reported that this matter had been discussed at SCAR and that the the only suitable replacement for Senate's current meeting room is the Halpern Centre. Halpern Centre will be used on a pilot basis for the June Senate meeting. Full audio and recording equipment will not be available for the June meeting. However, should Senate's view favour meeting at the Halpern Centre, inquiries will be made as to the cost of providing those extra facilities. Halpern Centre is not available in July should there be a Senate meeting scheduled at that time.
5. Reports of Committees
  - a) Senate Committee on University Teaching and Learning
    - i) Paper S.98-42 - Revised Terms of Reference and Membership - SCUTL

Moved by D. Gagan, seconded by J. Morris

"that Senate approve the revised terms of reference and membership of the Senate Committee on University Teaching and Learning, as set out in S.98-42"

I. Gordon, Chair of the Senate Committee on University Teaching and Learning was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

Senate was advised that the Committee had felt that too much time was being spent on matters related to teaching evaluation and thought there was equally valuable work that could be done in other areas related to teaching and learning. The membership and terms of reference were reviewed and revised, with the new mandate identifying a broader range of activities related to teaching and learning within the University.

Amendment moved by J. D'Auria, seconded by G. Kirczenow

"that the Director of Student Academic Resources be a non-voting ex-officio member"

Opinion was expressed that a non-academic resource person should not be a voting member on a committee which makes decisions and recommendations on university teaching. Senate was informed that the intent of the revision was to provide both Directors with full membership in the hope that they would become fully integrated into the work of the committee. It was pointed out that the Director of the Centre for University Teaching was a faculty member and therefore there was no concern with voting rights with respect to that position. Further opinion was expressed that since the Director of Student Academic Resources sees students on a daily basis in a slightly different role than that of a faculty member, he/she would be able to provide valuable input to the committee from a different perspective.

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

AMENDMENT FAILED

An inquiry was made as to whether the same level of advice and guidance on issues relating to teaching evaluation is expected to be provided under the expanded mandate. It was noted that Part B, Item (c) provides the same instruction with regard to this issue as before.

Reference was made to Part B, Item (g) (advice on efficacy of various teaching strategies), and concerns were expressed that the committee may not have the expertise or the resources to accomplish this objective. It was pointed out that the Committee has access to such resources through the Office of the Vice-President, Academic and the Centre for University Teaching.

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

MAIN MOTION CARRIED

ii) Paper S.98-43 - Annual Report - (For Information)

I. Gordon, Chair of SCUTL, advised Senate that the name of Dr. Larry Weldon had inadvertently been left off the list of committee members. I. Gordon apologized to Senate for this oversight and noted that Dr. Weldon had made positive and important contributions to the committee over the past year.

The Annual Report of the Senate Committee on University Teaching and Learning was received by Senate for information.

- b) Senate Committee on International Activities
- i) Paper S.98-44 - Proposed amendments to the University Policy on International Activities (GP 23)

Moved by D. Gagan, seconded by L. Berggren

“that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, as set out in S.98-44, the proposed revised University Policy on International Activities”

J. Knockaert, Director, Office of International Cooperation was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

Senate was advised that revisions have been made to ensure a proper review of international activities at all levels in the administrative process. An additional level of reporting and signing off by the Vice-President, Academic has been added but procedures have been sufficiently streamlined to provide for a timely flow of documentation from the beginning to the end of the process. Some changes to the policy have occurred as a result of the reorganization of the Office of International Cooperation which will become the central clearing house for information on international activities moving through the University.

Amendment moved by J. Morris, seconded by J. Overington

“that the following responsibility be added to section 6.3 of the Terms of Reference for the Senate Committee on International Activities: To ensure broad community consultation prior to the final approval of any major proposal for international activities that fall under GP 23 and for any proposal covered by GP 23 for which human rights considerations are likely to be a concern”

While there was no objection to the suggestion that SCIA should take a broadly consultative approach to approvals of international activities where there are particularly significant and sensitive issues involved, concern was expressed that serious problems dealing with the routine business of SCIA might occur depending on how the amendment was interpreted.

Following brief discussion with respect to clarification of intent and what was meant by a major proposal, the amendment was revised as follows:

“that the following responsibility be added to section 6.3 of the Terms of Reference of the Senate Committee on International Activities: To ensure broad community consultation prior to the final approval of any proposal covered by GP 23 for which human rights considerations are likely to be a concern”

Discussion ensued about past practices of the committee, especially in relation to the EIUDP project. It was noted that wide consultation had taken place at the time of the Phase II review and Senate had approved most of the Indonesian material. Opinion was expressed that regulations were being created because of unhappiness with a past project and concern was expressed about whether or not the amendment really addressed a general problem. Several members of SCIA expressed support for the amendment and noted SCIA's intent to follow this practice in any event.

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

AMENDMENT CARRIED

There were no objections to the following editorial amendments suggested by P. Percival: (i) 1.0 General: continuation of the strike through to include 'teaching and service responsibilities' in the fifth line; and (ii) 6.2-Membership: revision of the word 'or' to 'and' in first line following list of committee members so it reads: The Committee shall meet at least once each semester and at the call of the Chair.

General discussion ensued with respect to the difference between research activities covered under GP 23 as opposed to other university policies, the process for determining whether or not projects require Senate approval, and the issue of academic and diplomatic protocol.

Suggestion was made that future reports from SCIA include the procedures used by the committee for assessing criteria relevant to human rights considerations and that this information be provided as part of the annual report. Concern was expressed about the lack of information in general in past reports and request was made to enhance the amount of information provided to Senate. J. Knockaert noted the suggestions for future reports.

Opinion was expressed that the general statement relevant to projects in Section 1 was too restrictive in the sense that it referred only to projects in developing countries. A suggestion to eliminate this reference by deletion of the words 'development assistance' and changing the word 'developing' to 'host' was accepted as a friendly amendment .

Amendment moved by J. Morris, seconded by J. Overington

"that the membership under Section 6.2 be revised to include one at-large student, to be appointed by the Student Society, and one at-large faculty member, to be elected by Senate"

Opinion was expressed that the amendment served to broaden the representation by providing the possibility for undergraduate and graduate student representation without adding an additional burden on members of Senate.

It was pointed out that the workload of the committee was quite heavy and opinion was expressed that since the committee meets monthly immediately prior to the Senate meeting it is more feasible if members of the committee were also members of Senate. In response to a suggestion that both students be members of Senate, it was pointed out that there could easily be a time when there was only one graduate student on Senate and there are a number of existing committees that require a graduate student senator so it was important to leave it open for an at-large graduate student.

As a result of discussion, the amendment was revised as follows:

"that the membership under Section 6.2 be revised to include one at-large graduate student and one undergraduate student senator elected by Senate"

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

AMENDMENT CARRIED

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

MAIN MOTION (AS AMENDED) CARRIED

ii) Paper S.98-45 - Motion from Jennifer Overington

A motion to revise procedures of the Senate Committee on International Activities was withdrawn by J. Overington.

c) Senate Committee on Academic Planning/Senate Graduate Studies Committee

i) Paper S.98-46 - School of Computing Science - Graduate Curriculum Revisions (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved minor revisions to existing courses within the School of Computing Science; deletion of CMPT 811, 812, 824, 841, 851; and the following new courses: CMPT 816, 817, 820, 889.

ii) Paper S.98-47 - Faculty of Business Administration - Changes to the Graduate Diploma in Business Administration (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved minor revisions to existing courses and programs within the Faculty of Business Administration, including the Graduate Diploma in Business Administration.

iii) Paper S.98-48 - Faculty of Education - Changes to the MA and Ph.D. programs in Psychology of Education (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved minor revisions to existing courses within the Faculty of Education and a reorganization of program structure for the MA and PhD in Psychology of Education programs.

iv) Paper S.98-49 - Department of Mathematics & Statistics - Graduate Curriculum Revisions (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved minor revisions to the procedures for Comprehensive Examinations, and modified Calendar wording for the Applied and Computational Mathematics entry, Mathematics and Statistics entry, and the Statistics entry.

v) Paper S.98-50 - Graduate Appeals Policy - Amendments to terms of reference of SGSC, SAB and CRUA

Moved by D. Gagan, seconded by B. Clayman

"that Senate approve, as set forth in S.98-50, the amendments to the terms of reference and memberships of the following committees:

Senate Graduate Studies Committee

Senate Appeals Board

Committee to Review University Admissions

and that the Graduate Appeals procedure approved by Senate on January 9, 1989 be revoked. All these changes should take place on June 1, 1998"

Senate was advised that the original process while well-intentioned had some problems. The revised process which was discussed with the other committees was felt to be a major improvement and should not significantly increase workloads as the number of appeals is very low - perhaps one a year.

In response to a concern about decreased graduate student representation on committees hearing graduate student matters, it was pointed out that the composition of the previous appeal committee was predominantly faculty members and had only one graduate student. Under the proposed revision, student representation on the appeal committee is increased to two students thus broadening the expertise base and providing a more balanced approach.

Brief discussion took place with respect to departmental responsibilities in cases where student appeals are upheld.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

6. Other Business

i) Paper S.98-51 - Statement of Purpose

Moved by D. Gagan, seconded by J. Osborne

"that Senate endorse, and recommend to the Board of Governors for approval and adoption, the Simon Fraser University Statement of Purpose as provided in S.98-51"

Senators were reminded that the Statement of Purpose had been revised as a result of previous Senate debate and it is now before Senate for endorsement and recommendation to the Board of Governors.

Concern was expressed about applying the word "relevant" to curriculum as public connotation of that word may imply that it will produce a job. D. Gagan emphasized that the wording in the document had been very carefully chosen since the University will have to be able to publicly defend the document through the Provincial accountability process. He felt "relevant" was exactly the right word to use because it meant the curriculum was deemed to be relevant by the discipline that was teaching it.

Amendment moved by J. Morris, seconded by J. Overington

"that Point IX be amended to read: "An open and accessible institution that values and supports diversity, *strives for a fair treatment and high ethical standards in all of its dealings*, provides opportunities for participation, *encourages representative governance and broad based community input into major decisions*, and recognizes and supports the achievements of its employees, students and alumni."

It was pointed out that the document was not before Senate for amendment. Senate could endorse the document as a whole or refer it back for further consideration but it was not open for amendment. It was noted however that Senate could provide recommendations/suggestions that would be forwarded to the Board along with the document if approved. The Chair ruled that the motion to amend would stand down until discussion on the main motion concluded.

Brief discussion followed with respect to Point V and what was meant by the phrase 'essential student support'.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MAIN MOTION CARRIED

Moved by J. Morris, seconded by J. Overington



"that Senate recommend to the Board of Governors that Point IX be amended to read: "An open and accessible institution that values and supports diversity, *strives for a fair treatment and high ethical standards in all of its dealings*, provides opportunities for participation, *encourages representative governance and broad based community input into major decisions*, and recognizes and supports the achievements of its employees, students and alumni."

Opinion was expressed that the document as it is written captures the essence of the proposed amendment and the more words added, the more difficult accountability becomes.

Confusion arose over the meaning of the word community and suggestion was made that the wording be revised so that the intent which was to obtain input from the university community would be clarified.

Concern was expressed about the juxtaposition of the two phrases - one which encourages representative governance, the other calling for broad based community input. Opinion was expressed that the purpose of having representative governance was to avoid decision making by universal consensus.

Amendment moved by L. Boland, seconded by D. Gagan

"to strike the words 'and broad based university community input into major decisions' from the motion"

Brief discussion ensued.

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

AMENDMENT CARRIED

Question was called on the main motion  
(as amended), and a vote taken. MAIN MOTION (AS AMENDED) FAILED

b) Paper S. 98-52 - Amendments to Appointment of Deans Policy

Moved by D. Gagan, seconded by J. Osborne

"that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, as set out in S.98-52, the proposed amendments to the Appointment of Deans Policy"

Senate was informed that under the current policy, every time a decanal appointment ends at the end of a five year term, requirements are that a search committee be established and a formal search conducted. The only flexibility in the current policy is whether the search will be internal or external. This amounts to an enormous investment of time and money and is an area where

some realistic efficiencies of time, money and effort are possible. The proposed amendment would add an additional step (Stage One) in the process in cases where a Dean is eligible for and seeking re-appointment in order to carry out a review of the Dean's performance and of his/her suitability for re-appointment, including a ratification vote by the Faculty involved. In addition, a support staff person has been added as a member of a Faculty Dean search committee and the Dean of Continuing Studies Search committee.

Inquiry was made as to why there was only one student on the Dean of Continuing Studies search committee and why there was no staff person on the Dean of Graduate Studies search committee. It was pointed out that the community person on the Dean of Continuing Studies search committee would also most likely be considered to be a student from Continuing Studies, and there is no constituent group of support staff reporting to the Dean of Graduate Studies other than the three directly working in the Dean's office.

There appeared to be general support for the addition of Stage One in the process, but concerns were expressed about the standard required for ratification under the existing policy.

Doubt was expressed about the sense of adding a support staff member to the search committee because it would be very difficult for that person to have a truly independent voice because they are supervised by Chairs and Deans who may be candidates in the search process.

Discussion ensued about the impact of procedures of Stage One and Stage Two on incumbent candidates who may not be recommended for re-appointment after Stage One. It was pointed out that candidates not ratified as a result of Stage One are not excluded from participating in Stage Two. Concern was also expressed that the addition of Stage One requires a decision to be made about an incumbent before knowing who else may apply so the procedure may not result in the appointment of the best candidate.

Amendment moved by M. Wortis, seconded by L. Boland

"that a 60% majority of voters be required for ratification"

Following a brief discussion several suggestions were accepted as friendly amendments with the result that the amendment was revised as follows:

"that ratification votes at Stage One and Stage Two require a 60% majority of eligible votes cast"

Question was called, and a vote taken.

AMENDMENT CARRIED

Amendment moved by P. Percival, seconded by A. Chan

"that the addition of support staff members on those search committees where it is suggested be deleted"

It was pointed out that although responsibilities of a Dean lie primarily in the area of academic leadership, Deans also have various administrative responsibilities and set the tone of personal interaction within a Faculty and it was felt that support staff should be represented on a Dean's search committee. Concerns were raised about what protection support staff have to allow them to be independent voting members, and it was noted that they would have protection through grievance structures within their union/association. Opinion was expressed that it was critically important that the university be administered efficiently and having a support staff representative on the committee would provide some expertise in this area. It was noted that in other areas of employment within the University employees do not have the opportunity to select their supervisor and it was not appropriate for staff working within Faculties to have this provision.

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

AMENDMENT FAILED

Amendment moved by J. Overington, seconded by J. Morris

"that the membership of the Search Committee for the Dean of Continuing Studies be changed to accommodate two students, preferably one undergraduate and one graduate, selected by the Student Society"

Opinion was expressed that student representation on the committee needs to be characteristic of the group of students actually involved in Continuing Studies and concern was expressed with the thrust of the amendment because of the nature of Continuing Studies. A large number of students in Continuing Studies are students in the non-credit area and do not fall neatly into the normal student categories.

A suggestion that one of the students must be enrolled in a Continuing Studies course/program was accepted as a friendly amendment.

Discussion continued with respect to the nature of students in Continuing Studies, the difference in credit/non-credit courses and programs offered through Continuing Studies, the role of Departments/Faculties, and the relationship between Continuing Studies and Distance Education.

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

AMENDMENT FAILED

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

MAIN MOTION (AS AMENDED) CARRIED

- c) Paper S.98-53 - SCODA - Election of Chair and membership composition for hearing

Moved by P. Percival, seconded by J. D'Auria

"that Senate approve the changes to the policy on the Senate Committee on Disciplinary Appeals as set out in S.98-53"

Concern was expressed about the proposal to restrict the Chair's position to a faculty member. Although it was likely that the position would be filled by a faculty member most of the time the potential exists for a student who may have the necessary experience and be particularly suited to the position to be excluded simply by virtue of being a student.

Amendment moved by J. Morris, seconded by L. Tam

"that the word 'faculty' be deleted from Part A"

P. Percival explained that he had proposed the change because he felt it was important that somebody who had been on the committee for a number of years and had gained the appropriate experience with respect to procedures and conduct of business become Chair. He also felt that a faculty member would have an appropriate level of authority within the University to take whatever action was required, and expressed opinion that students could not be expected to have the appropriate experience or background for this position. The Chair of SCODA receives very sensitive information about students and opinion was expressed that it would be inappropriate for another student to see that information unless it came to a full appeal at which point the student making the appeal waives his/her right of privacy.

It was pointed out that the clause in the University Act requires the Committee, not specifically the Chair, to be informed so technically student members of SCODA already have access to confidential notices/information from the President. It was noted that there are student chairs on other appeal committees such as SAB and LPAC and concern was raised about excluding someone simply because of their student status.

Opinion was expressed that the issue of continuity and having experience in disciplinary matters really does make a difference in committees of this type and on the balance of probabilities the Chair ought to be a faculty member.

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

AMENDMENT FAILED

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

MAIN MOTION CARRIED

d) Paper S.98-54 - Senate Committee Terms

Moved by L. Boland, seconded by P. Percival

"that Senate approve the staggering of the terms of members for three Senate committees and the establishment of terms for

membership for three other Senate committees as set out in S.98-54"

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

7. Notice of Motion

i) Paper S.98-55 - Notice of Motion to amend the Rules of Senate regarding Elections

An amendment to change the Rules of Senate, Section IV.Elections, M. General Regulations for Elections Conducted at Senate was presented to Senate as a Notice of Motion for discussion at the next meeting of Senate.

8. Information

The date of the next regularly scheduled meeting of Senate is Monday, July 6, 1998.

The Open Session adjourned at 9:45 pm. Following a brief recess, the Assembly moved into Closed Session.

Alison Watt  
Director, Secretariat Services