

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY SENATE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, November 1, 2004 in Room 3210 WMC at 5:30 pm
Open Session

Present: Stevenson, Michael, President and Chair of Senate

Beynon, Peter
Blackman, Roger
Breden, Felix
Brennard, Tracy
Budd, James
Copeland, Lynn
da Silva, Gisele
Dean, Charmaine
Delgrande, James
Dickinson, John
Driver, Jon
Dunsterville, Valerie
Easton, Stephen
Fizzell, Maureen
Giacomantonio, Chris
Gordon, Irene
Gordon, Robert
Grimmett, Peter
Gupta, Kamal
Harder, Derrick
Hayes, Michael
Honda, Barry
Hunsdale, Shawn
Johansen, Elinor
Jones, John (representing Brian Lewis)
Krane, Bill
Li, Ze-Nian
Love, Ernie
MacLean, David
MacKenzie, Christine
McKinnon, Stephanie
Percival, Paul
Pierce, John
Pinto, Mario
Plischke, Michael
Rozell, Sara
Sears, Camilla
Schellenberg, Betty
Waterhouse, John
Weeks, Daniel
Wong, Josephine
Woodbury, Robert
Zandvliet, David

Heath, Ron, Dean of Student Services/Registrar
Watt, Alison, Director, University Secretariat
Grant, Bobbie, Recording Secretary

Absent:

Apaak, Clement
Fung, Edward
Haunerland, Norbert
Higgins, Anne
Horvath, Adam
Mauser, Gary
McArthur, James
McFetridge, Paul
McInnes, Marcia
Scott, Jamie
Shaker, Paul
Smith, Don
Tombe, Trevor
Wessel, Sylvia
Wong, Milton
Yerbury, Colin

In attendance:

Allen, Diana
Berube, Denis
Hibbitts, Pat
Weinberg, Hal
Whittlesea, Bruce

1. Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of October 4, 2004

Reference was made to the motion on page 4. It was pointed out that the word 'set' was missing from the phrase 'as set forth'. Following this correction, the Minutes were approved.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

4. Report of the Chair

i) Paper S.04-77 – Annual financial Statements (For Information)

P. Hibbitts, Vice-President, Finance and Administration, and D. Berube, Director, Finance and Ancillary Services, were in attendance in order to respond to questions.

Brief discussion ensued with respect to the timing of the report and its presentation to Senate. Senate was advised that the report was normally forwarded to Senate in September but this year there were a number of circumstances, including systems changes, that resulted in a delay this year.

Reference was made to page 2 and concern was expressed about what appeared to be a budget surplus in the section entitled "Summary of Appropriations". It was noted that the carry over budget appeared to have significantly increased since last year and an inquiry was made about this growth. Senate was advised that the carry forward was not completely surplus money and one of the problems was the way it was reported in the statements and this is being looked into. Senate was advised that all of the amounts apart from the Departmental carryovers (\$18,228,000) were committed. Department carryovers identified as commitments by departments for spending were brought into budget, and the remainder would be available for the future. One significant reason for the increase in the Appropriations was the one-time-only funding received from the Provincial Government at the very end of the last fiscal year which was committed primarily to capital purchases in the current fiscal year.

In response to an inquiry about why there was a discrepancy between the amounts for revenue/expenses on page 2 and those on page 8, Senate was advised that the figures on page 2 reflected the operating fund of the University that was the budget approved by the Board of Governors. The numbers on page 8 incorporate all of the activities of the university and therefore reflect a larger number than just the operating budget. Suggestion was made that perhaps the title on page 8 should be changed since the current title implied an operations budget. Although the overlap between the terms operating fund and operations was acknowledged, it was pointed out that these terms have been used consistently as standard terminology in the report for many years and it was better to retain them in order to avoid potential confusion.

Reference was made to the debentures listed on page 14 and the repayment of principle and interest on the next page. Clarification was requested whether the figures cover the

principle and interest payments due on the total consolidated debt or just the 16 million. Brief discussion followed and Senate was advised that a detailed breakdown of the repayments could be provided on request to D. Berube.

Following further brief discussion about the increase in capital expenditure and revenue from student fees, the report was received by Senate.

ii) The Chair reported that the University Presidents' Council was actively lobbying the Government with respect to funding. The public advocacy statement prepared by TUPC "Our Universities Our Future" which was recently distributed to Senate was felt to reflect the general needs of the university system in British Columbia. In addition to the public document, Senate was advised that TUPC produced a confidential budget submission to the Ministry that attaches firm numbers to the expectations outlined in the public document, namely funding with respect to grants and research, enrolment growth, infrastructure needs, student financial assistance, and graduate student funding. The Chair hoped to be able to report favorable progress by the end of the year or early in the new year.

5. Question Period

There were no questions submitted.

6. Reports of Committees

A) Senate Nominating Committee

i) Paper S.04-78 (Revised) – Elections

Senate's attention was directed to the revised Senate paper S.04-78 that showed that additional nominations had been received. Senate was advised that Shawn Hunsdale had also been nominated to SCIA and his name should be added to the revised paper. The following are the results of elections to Senate committees.

Senate Committee on Continuing Studies (SCCS)

One Student Senator for term of office to May 31, 2006.

Elected by acclamation:

Shawn Hunsdale

Senate Committee on International Activities (SCIA)

One Undergraduate Student Senator to May 31, 2006.

Elected by acclamation:

Shawn Hunsdale

Senate Committee on Disciplinary Appeals (SCODA)

One Student (at-large) to May 31, 2005.

Elected by acclamation:

Patrick Smith

Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)

One Student Senator to May 31, 2005.

Elected by acclamation:

Shawn Hunsdale

Committee to Review the President Prior to Re-Appointment

Two Faculty Senators and one Graduate Student (at-large).

Elected by acclamation – Faculty Senators:

Paul Percival

Betty Schellenberg

Ballot required – Graduate Student (at-large)

Candidates: K. Beck, D. Grant

Elected:

Douglas Grant

B) Research Ethics Board

i) Paper S.04-79 – Annual Report (For Information)

B. Whittlesea, Chair, Research Ethics Board, and H. Weinberg, Secretary, Research Ethics Board were in attendance in order to respond to questions.

The Annual Report of the Research Ethics Board was received by Senate for information without questions.

C) Senate Committee on University Priorities

i) Paper S.04-80 – External Review – Department of Earth Sciences

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by C. Sears

“that Senate concur with the recommendations from the Senate Committee on University Priorities concerning advice to the Department of Earth Sciences on priority items resulting from the external review as outlined in S.04-80”

D. Allen, Chair of the Department of Earth Sciences, was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

The following is a summary of the points raised in a discussion concerned mainly with space and program recommendations:

- Space appeared to be the biggest issue facing Earth Sciences and an inquiry was made as to whether serious consideration was being given to the recommendations relevant to the space issue. Senate was assured that serious considerations were being given to this issue by the Administration and it was suggested that the motion before Senate commits the Dean of Science to seek every means possible to address this issue.
- Concern was expressed about two points in the report, namely reports of declining enrolments in Computing Science and new space opportunities available to Computing Science at the Surrey campus. Several Senators stressed that enrolment was not declining in Computing Science and the space issue at the Surrey campus was not relevant to the space issue at Burnaby.
- Reference was made to the departmental statement with respect to space being taken away from Earth Sciences in the new TASC1 building. Opinion was expressed that

the space allocations for the new building involved a considerable amount of complex negotiation resulting in the accommodation of most of Earth Sciences space needs. However, it was pointed out that the department's statement referred to the original building plans when the entire bottom floor was allocated to Earth Sciences.

- With regard to the recommendation that suggests that Earth Sciences was not included in the major requirements of other departments, opinion was expressed that there was more integration amongst programs than was implied in the document. It was pointed out that at least two Science programs – Physical Geography and the Pollutant Transport Stream in Environmental Science – required majors to take at least one introductory course in Earth Sciences and many of these students then go on to take additional courses in order to fulfill the requirements for the Association of Professional Geoscientists and Engineers of BC. However, it was noted that these courses represented very small numbers, approximately five to ten students per year, and was not the number of enrolments that the Department was hoping to attract. Senate was advised that the Environmental Science program was expected to expand as a result of the creation of different streams which it was felt would help to broaden the representation of Earth Sciences courses.
- Reference was made to the response from the Dean (recommendation 9 on page 3) with regard to the suggestion that Earth Sciences courses be substituted for some of the Geography courses in various streams. Opinion was expressed that the recommendation seemed to be against a spirit of collaboration. It was suggested that EASC courses may be underrepresented in the program, and the Steering Committee for the Environmental Science program was being asked to look at this issue.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

D) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

i) Paper S.04-81 – 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 seven new courses and minor revisions to existing courses, program and degree requirements in the following departments/programs: Archaeology, Canadian Studies, and School for the Contemporary Arts.

ii) Paper S.04-82 – 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 twenty new courses, fifteen course deletions, and minor revisions to existing courses, programs, and degree requirements in the following departments/programs: Economics, English, First Nations, French, Geography, History, Humanities, Linguistics, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology and Anthropology.

iii) Paper S.04-83 – Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved one new course, two course deletions, and minor revisions to existing courses, programs, and degree requirements in the following departments: Biological Sciences, Earth Sciences, Mathematics, and Molecular Biology and Biochemistry.

7. Other Business

A) SFU Library

i) Paper S.04-84 – Annual Report (For Information)

Senate received the Annual Report of the Library for information. Senators were reminded of the highly positive and excellent external review that was presented to Senate recently.

8. Information

The next regularly scheduled meeting of Senate is scheduled for Monday, December 6, 2004, with agenda items for the December meeting due November 18, 2004.

Open Session adjourned at 6:15 pm. Following a five minute recess, Senate moved into Closed Session.

Alison Watt
Director, University Secretariat