

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY SENATE

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

Open Session

Present:

Stevenson, Michael, President and Chair

Black, Sam
Breden, Felix
Copeland, Lynn
Corbett, Kitty
Dagenais, Diane
Dickinson, Peter
Driver, Jon
Easton, Stephen
Ester, Martin
Fox, Graham
Francis, June
Gençay, Ramo
Gordon, Irene
Gordon, Robert
Harder, Derrick
Haunerland, Norbert
Hayes, Michael
Joffres, Michel
Krane, Bill
LaBrie, John
Lewis, Brian
Percival, Colin
Percival, Paul
Peters, Joseph
Pierce, John
Pinto, Mario
Plischke, Michael
Rebman, Rachelle
Russell, Robert
Shaker, Paul
Smart, Carolyn
Vaid, Bhuvinder
van Baarsen, Amanda
Warner, D'Arcy
Waterhouse, John
Williams, Peter

Absent:

Caufield, Sarah
Delgrande, John
Dunnet, Margo
Fizzell, Maureen
Gregory, Titus
Honda, Barry
Javed, Waseem
Kelly, Vanessa
Lewis, Glyn
Li, Wei
Liljedahl, Peter
Louie, Brandt
MacKenzie, Christine
MacLean, David
McArthur, James
Schellenberg, Betty
Shermer, Thomas
Smith, Don
Weeks, Daniel
Zandvliet, David

In attendance:

Amundsen, Cheryl
Dawkins, Heather
Hibbitts, Pat

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 January 8, 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
 - i) President's Annual Open Forum
Referring to the Annual Open Forum which had been held on January 31, 2007, the Chair advised that since he had given a lengthy report on the state of the university at that time, he would not repeat matters but would be pleased to respond to any questions.
 - ii) Registrar and Senior Director, Student Enrolment
On behalf of Senate and the University, the Chair welcomed SFU's new Registrar and Senior Director, Student Enrolment, Kate Ross, to Simon Fraser University.
5. Question Period

In light of circumstances that occurred during recent adverse weather conditions and the concerns raised about SFU's safety precautions, Senator Gençay wondered whether it would be prudent for the University to subject their internal procedures to an external review. The Vice-President, Finance and Administration advised Senate that existing policies and procedures are currently under an internal review but there are no plans to implement an external review. A variety of issues including better communication to all sectors of the University, a plan to accommodate those who might find themselves stuck on campus, and control of traffic on the roads were under consideration.

The Chair reported that the University currently has a policy with respect to emergency preparedness that is, in a sense, externally reviewed because it has to meet Provincial legislation and integrate with provincial and local government agencies.

Senators were advised that the internal review of procedures was taking place and if anyone had specific suggestions or comments on this issue, they were invited to submit them to the Vice-President, Finance and Administration.
6. Reports of Committees
 - A) Senate Committee on University Priorities
 - i) Paper S.07-14 – Institute for the Study of Teaching and Learning in the Disciplines

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by B. Vaid

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the creation of the Institute for the Study of Teaching and Learning in the Disciplines as a Schedule B Institute reporting to the Vice-President, Academic”

C. Amundsen, Faculty of Education, was in attendance to respond to questions.

In response to questions about the meaning of the word 'Disciplines' in the title, and why this was being proposed as a Schedule B institute rather than a Schedule A institute, Senate was advised that 'Disciplines' referred to all the disciplines taught at SFU. Since the intent of the new institute was to encompass individuals from all faculties and programs across the university, it was felt that a Schedule B institute was more appropriate.

Discussion turned to the issue of funding and review mechanisms. Senate was advised that the Vice-President Academic agreed to provide funding for a two-year period, and before funding was renewed, the activities of the Institute would be reviewed prior to determining whether funding would be continued. The process for review had not yet been determined but could include an external person in addition to consultation with the Director of the Institute. It was also pointed out that centres and institutes are required to complete an annual report, a summary of which is submitted to Senate and the Board of Governors for information. The annual report for this Institute will be submitted to the Vice-President, Research by the Vice-President, Academic. In answer to a question about which other centres report to the Vice-President, Academic, it was noted that the David See-Chai Lam Centre also reports to the Vice-President, Academic.

In response to questions concerning capacity and space, Senate was advised that capacity will depend on the research funding that can be attracted, and that appropriate accommodation for the institute will be provided following several departmental moves to new buildings that will take place towards the end of the Spring semester.

The question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Paper S.07-15 – Major, Minor and Honors in World Literature

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by J. Pierce

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors, the proposal for a Major, Minor and Honors Program in World Literature”

H. Dawkins, Associate Dean of Arts and Social Sciences, was in attendance to respond to questions.

Referring to page 7, a minor error was noted for the course entitled Human Rights Literature. It should be listed as WL 204 and not WL 205.

In response to a question about the location of course offerings, Senate was advised that most of the courses in the program would be offered at Burnaby.

A question arose about students having an opportunity to read selected texts in the original language, and a concern was expressed that the wording about this on page 6 seemed rather loose, especially since this was felt to be a very appropriate requirement for this type of program. Senate was advised that the language requirement and reading proficiency in another language was targeted to the honors students since it was felt that this was a good place to start, but the issue would be assessed as the program develops.

The question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

B) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

i) Paper S.07-16 – Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Applied Sciences (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved new courses, and minor changes to existing programs and courses in the following areas: Interactive Arts and Technology, Computing Science.

ii) Paper S.07-17 – 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 the deletion of non-W version calendar entries for Writing courses, and changes to the Statistics program in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

iii) Paper S.07-18 – Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Business Administration (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved an Undergraduate Honors Semester at Segal Graduate School of Business, including three new courses; changes to the breadth requirement for the Major Program, minor changes to Management Science concentration, and a change of credit hour for an existing course.

iv) Paper S.07-19 – Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Education (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved changes to description and prerequisite for existing courses in Education.

v) Paper S.07-20 – Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Health Sciences (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved five Co-op Practicum courses.

vi) Paper S.07-21 – Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved new courses, and minor changes to existing programs and courses in the following areas: Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, Physics, Statistics and Actuarial Science, Mathematics, and Earth Sciences. It was also noted that CHEM 120 would not be deleted as it was required for the Mechatronics program.

vii) Paper S.07-22 – Second Degree WOB Requirements

Prior to moving the motion, B. Krane made a minor revision to delete reference to the review prior to 2011. He explained that an issue had been raised at SCUS by the representative of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences who requested that a time limit be placed on the action until the matter had been reviewed by the Faculty. Subsequently

the FASS member advised that there was no objection by the Faculty to the time limit being removed.

Moved by B. Krane, seconded by J. Waterhouse

“that Senate approve that students admitted to a second degree program be deemed to have met the Breadth requirements, one of the Q requirements and one of the W requirements”

An opinion was expressed that without verifying the courses taken in a first degree, there was no guarantee that the breadth requirements of the core curriculum had been met, and concern was expressed about giving a blanket exemption based solely on the fact that a student already had a degree. The Committee felt that within bachelor degree programs at most institutions, particularly within Canada, students have obtained sufficient exposure to other disciplines and would have appropriate breadth experience.

The issue of having writing and quantitative requirements for a second degree program at all was raised, especially for students who complete a first degree at SFU and have already satisfied the WQB requirements, and a suggestion was made that any further WQB requirement for those students be waived. Senate was advised that the intent was that any student taking a second degree, including students whose first degree was from SFU, must take additional WQB requirements. It was noted that the first students subject to graduation requirements with WQB were admitted in Fall 2006 and therefore they would not graduate until 2010 or 2011 at the very earliest and perhaps a review around 2011 would be appropriate.

In order to clarify the Q requirement, a suggestion to change the wording from ‘one of the Q requirements’ to ‘three credits of Q requirements’ was accepted as a friendly amendment.

Brief discussion ensued about the writing requirement. It was pointed out that one of the W requirements must be an upper division course within the student’s discipline so if a student engaged in a second degree in a different discipline from the first, exposure to a discipline specific upper division writing course would be beneficial.

An amendment was moved by T. Brennand, seconded by B. Krane

“that the phrase - one of the W requirements - be changed to read: the lower division W requirement”

The vote was called on the amendment.

AMENDMENT CARRIED

An amendment was moved by P. Dickinson, seconded by J. Waterhouse

“that the phrase “and that this be reviewed prior to 2011” be reinserted in the motion”

The vote was called on the amendment.

AMENDMENT CARRIED

The motion, as amended, was read prior to a vote being taken.

“that Senate approve that students admitted to a second degree program be deemed to have met the Breadth requirements, 3 credits of the Q

requirements, and the lower division W requirement, and that this be reviewed prior to 2011”

The question was called, and a vote taken. MAIN MOTION, AS AMENDED, CARRIED

C) Senate Graduate Studies Committee

i) Paper S.07-23 – Change to Terms of Reference – SGSC

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by S. Easton

“that Senate approve the addition of the following sentence to the Terms of Reference of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee: To consider and decide on policy recommendations concerning graduate course registration, course and program withdrawal procedures, and on the administration of graduate records”

The question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Paper S.07-24 – Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Applied Sciences (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved two new courses and a minor change to an existing course in Interactive Arts and Technology.

iii) Paper S.07-25 – Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved new courses and minor changes to existing courses and program requirements in the following areas: Linguistics, Sociology and Anthropology.

iv) Paper S.07-26 – Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Health Sciences (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved the deletion of four courses, two new courses, and minor revisions to existing courses in Global Health.

D) Senate Nominating Committee

i) Paper S.07-27 – Elections

Senate was advised that no further nominations had been received. Peter Tingling (Faculty Member position) and Derrick Harder (Undergraduate Student position) were therefore elected by acclamation to the Senate Committee on Academic Integrity in Student Learning and Evaluation (SCAISLE); Amanda van Baarsen (Student Senator position) was elected by acclamation to the Electoral Standing Committee (ESC); and June Francis (Senator position) was elected by acclamation to the Senate Committee on Continuing Studies (SCCS). Balloting to elect one Student resulted in the election of Naava Smolash to the Research Ethics Board (REB). The remaining vacancies will be carried forward to the next meeting. *[Secretary’s note: Naava Smolash could not take*

up her position on the REB because of a teaching conflict, so the candidate with the next highest number of votes, Karen Tse, was declared elected.]

7. Other Business

i) Declaration of Vacancy – Senate Membership

Senate was advised that due to resignation, two Student Senator positions were currently vacant. Since there was insufficient time to hold a by-election, the positions will remain vacant for the balance of the term of office.

8. Information

The date of the next regularly scheduled meeting of Senate is Monday, March 5, 2007.

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

Alison Watt
Director, University Secretariat