

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY SENATE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, May 12, 2008 at 5:30 pm in Room 3210 WMC

Open Session

Present: Stevenson, Michael, President and Chair of Senate

Abdulwahab, Kamal
Brennand, Tracy
Corbett, Kitty
Cormack, Lesley
Dagenais, Diane
Driver, Jon
Easton, Stephen
Fox, Amy
Francis, June
Hannah, David
Harder, Derrick
Harding, Kevin
Hauerland, N. (replacing M. Pinto)
Hayes, Michael
Hemingway, Alex
Jones, John (replacing B. Lewis)
Krane, William
Laba, Martin
LaBrie, John
Lee, Benjamin
Lein, Adam
Letourneau, Michael
Li, Paul
Liljedahl, Peter
Mathewes, Rolf (replacing M. Plischke)
Mundle, T. (replacing L. Copeland)
Paling, Joe
Percival, Colin
Percival, Paul
Popadiuk, Natalee
Shaker, Paul
Shapiro, Daniel
Shermer, Thomas
Smith, Don
Tiffany, Evan
Tse, Karen
Vaid, Bhuvinder
Wakkary, Ron
Waterhouse, John
Williams, Peter
Williams, Tony

Absent:

Atkins, Stella
Brebner, Sarah
Dickinson, Peter
Fizzell, Maureen
Gençay, Ramo
Gordon, Robert
Javed, Waseem
Louie, Brandt
Malcoe, Lorraine Halinka
McArthur, James
O'Neil, John
Peters, Joseph
Russell, Robert
Thompson, Steve
van Baarsen, Amanda
Warner, D'Arcy
Weeks, Daniel

In attendance:

Hinchliffe, Jo

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 April 7, 2008
A correction changing the word 'Liberal' to 'Legal' was made to the title of Senate paper S.08-48 on page 5, sub-section iv). Following this amendment, the Minutes were approved.
3. Business Arising from the Minutes
Reference was made to the section of the Chair's Report on page 3 dealing with proposed cuts to the unspent portion of the scholarship budget. An inquiry was made as to whether a cut had taken place or whether existing funds were on hold to see if acceptance rates for scholarships improved. The Chair reminded Senators that budgets were estimates of revenue and expenses and if the acceptance of scholarships was higher than estimated, corrections would have to be made. C. Percival, a member of SPCSAB, advised Senate that, the Committee discussed the budget and expects it will be overspent. He thought it would be overspent by approximately \$800,000.
4. Report of the Chair
There was no report from the Chair.
5. Question Period
 - i) Paper S.08-77 – Question re use of vectors and temporary course changes
The response to the above-noted question was distributed by email to all Senators and required no further follow-up. There were no new questions.
6. Reports of Committees
 - A) Senate Committee on University Priorities
 - i) Paper S.08-54 – 2008/2009 Faculty Renewal Plan (For Information)
Reference was made to Table 9 on page 10. It was noted that when compared to past reports there appeared to be a sharp increase in the number of faculty leaving SFU for 'Other' reasons. Senators were referred to the last paragraph on page 9 which provided a detailed explanation. The report was subsequently received by Senate for information.
 - ii) Paper S.08-68 – Annual Report
The 2007/2008 Annual Report of the Senate Committee on University Priorities was received by Senate for information.
 - B) Senate Appeals Board
 - i) Paper S.08-69 – Annual Report (For Information)
P. Liljedahl, Senator and Chair, Senate Appeals Board was available to respond to questions. It was noted that a number of the Board's decisions rested on the validity of

medical documentation. A question was raised as to whether there was a place of reference to find out what standard was required for proper medical documentation. The Chair of the Board indicated that he was not aware of any such reference point and provided a brief explanation of how the Board makes decisions. The report was subsequently received by Senate for information.

C) Calendar Committee

i) Paper S.08-70 – Schedule of Dates 2009-2012

Moved by K. Harding, seconded by M. Letourneau

“that Senate approve the academic calendar schedule of dates from 2009
Fall term to 2012 Summer term”

J. Hinchliffe, Assistant Registrar and Secretary, Calendar Committee, was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

D) Senate Committee on International Activities

i) Paper S.08-66 – SCIA/ISEC Annual Report (For Information)

J. Driver, Senator and Chair, Senate Committee on International Activities was available to respond to questions. The Annual Report covering the period January – December 2007 was received by Senate for information.

E) Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries

i) Paper S.08-67 – Annual Report (For Information)

S. Easton, Senator and Chair, SPCSAB was available to respond to questions. Questions arose with respect to the criteria for work study, bursary applications and the amounts provided to individual students. It was noted that subsequent to the report the criteria for work study had changed and that students now had to apply for a student loan in order to be eligible for work study. It was also noted that bursary applications have fallen consistently for the past several years but funding for individual student bursaries had increased from 80% of need to 100% of need. The Chair of the Committee commented on the lateness of the 2006/2007 report coming to Senate and indicated that next year's report would hopefully be presented before the end of the current calendar year. The report was subsequently received by Senate for information.

F) Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules

i) Paper S.08-71 – SCAISLE – Extension to January 2009 Senate Meeting

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by K. Tse

“that Senate approve the extension of the term of the Senate Committee on Academic Integrity in Student Learning and Evaluation until the January 2009 meeting of Senate”

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

- ii) Paper S.08-72 – Suspension of Rules of Senate: On-line voting for Senate Committee Elections

Motion 1:

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by S. Easton

“that the Rules of Senate requiring a notice of motion for changes to the Rules of Senate be suspended”

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion 2:

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by K. Harding

“that Senate approve a change to the Rules of Senate that would permit on-line voting for Senate Committee elections effective June 2008 for a one-year trial period”

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Opinion was expressed that the process of suspending the Rules in order to make a change to the Rules was a bad precedent. Request was made for the Minutes to note that the nature of these motions were specifically to allow for the urgency of motion 2 and this process should not be considered as a precedent for future actions.

- iii) Paper S.08-73 – Student Alternates on Senate Committees

Moved by K. Harding, seconded by M. Letourneau

“that Senate approve the addition of student alternates to the Research Ethics Board, the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, the Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries, the two Awards Adjudication Committees (SUAAC, SGAAC), the Senate Committee on International Activities, and the International Student Exchange Committee, effective June 2008”

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

7. Other Business

i) Paper S.08-74 – Senate Time and Catering – Notice of Motion

Senate was advised that SCAR was considering changes to the timing of Senate meetings and to the expenses entailed for dining and catering. A motion will be brought forward to the next meeting for discussion. Meanwhile SCAR welcomes comments from Senators and from the University community. In response to an inquiry, Senate was advised that in the last fiscal year the cost of Senate dinners and catering was approximately \$16,000.

Since this was his last meeting and he would not be able to comment on this at the next meeting, D. Harder expressed opinion that given that everyone in the University was being asked to cut back, eliminating the extravagance of Senate dinner was a small but important step that Senate should take.

ii) Paper S.08-75 – Election Report – Spring 2008 Elections to Senate and the Board of Governors (For Information)

A report with respect to the results of elections (faculty, staff, and students) to Senate and the Board of Governors was received by Senate for information.

iii) Paper S.08-76 – Revisions to the Rules of Senate – Notice of Motion

The Chair indicated that the proposed revisions would be brought before Senate for discussion at the next meeting. Senators were asked to contact the Registrar prior to the next meeting if they required further clarification or believed further clarification was desirable.

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Information

The date of the next regularly scheduled meeting of Senate is Monday, June 2, 2008.

On behalf of Senate, the Chair expressed thanks to the following retiring Senators and presented them with a Certificate of Appreciation: K. Abdulwahab, K. Corbett, D. Dagenais, A. Fox, D. Harder, A. Hemingway, A. Lein, M. Letourneau, P. Li, D. Smith, K. Tse, and P. Williams. Thanks to retiring Senators not present at the meeting were noted [S. Atkins, S. Brebner, P. Dickinson, W. Javed, L.H. Malcoe, D. Weeks].

The Open Session adjourned at 5:50 pm, and Senate moved directly into Closed Session.

Alison Watt
Director, University Secretariat