

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY SENATE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on  
Monday, January 11, 2010 at 5:30 pm in Room 3210 WMC

Open Session

Present:

Williams, Tony, Vice-Chair of Senate

Chapman, Glenn  
Chiu, Christina  
Copeland, Lynn  
Cormack, Lesley  
Dow, Greg  
Driver, Jon  
Easton, Stephen  
Fizzell, Maureen  
Francis, June  
Funt, Elliot  
Geisler, Cheryl  
Godson, Ali  
Gordon, Robert  
Harding, Kevin  
Janes, Craig  
Joffres, Michel  
Krane, Bill  
Laba, Martin  
Lee, Shara  
Lewis, Cynthia  
Leznoff, Daniel  
Li, Fiona  
Myers, Gordon  
Nesbit, Tom  
Noble, Cameron  
O'Neil, John  
Parkhouse, Wade  
Patel, Ravi  
Pavsek, Christopher  
Percival, Colin  
Percival, Paul  
Peters, Joseph  
Pierce, John  
Pinto, Mario  
Plischke, Michael  
Rajapakse, Nimal  
Ruben, Peter  
Russell, Robert  
Thompson, Steve  
Toohey, Kelleen (representing K. Magnusson)  
van der Wey, Dolores  
Wakkary, Ron  
Warner, D'Arcy  
Zelezny, Joseph

Ross, Kate, Registrar and Secretary of Senate  
Grant, Bobbie, Recording Secretary

Absent:

Beale, Alison  
Bezglasnyy, Anton  
Brennard, Tracy  
Golnaraghi, Farid  
Hannah, David  
Hiscocks, Graham  
Louie, Brandt  
MacGrotty, Alysia  
McArthur, James  
Moubarak, Cristel  
Nadison, Ada  
Paterson, David  
Sahinalp, Cenk  
Scott, Jamie  
Shapiro, Daniel  
Stevenson, Michael  
Tiffany, Evan  
Woodbury, Rob

In attendance:

Bhakthan, Manoj  
Dench, Sarah  
Geiger, Andrea  
Hinchliffe, Jo  
Kiai, Mehran  
Lindsay, William  
Rahilly, Tim  
Rose, Gordon  
Smith, Judy

1. Approval of the Agenda  
The Agenda was approved as distributed.
2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of December 7, 2009  
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 and the University, the Chair welcomed newly elected Convocation Senator, Dr. Cynthia Lewis to the meeting and expressed thanks to her for undertaking this service to the University.
5. Question Period  
There were no questions in Question Period.
6. Reports of Committees

A) Paper S.10-1 – Annual Report on Student Discipline Matters (For Information)

The following persons were in attendance in order to respond to questions: T. Rahilly, Sr. Director, Student and Community Life (Statistical Summary for Non-Academic Discipline Incidents); Jo Hinchliffe, Assistant Registrar and Academic Integrity Co-ordinator (Statistical Summary for Academic Discipline Incidents); Gordon Rose, Co-ordinator, University Board on Student Discipline, and Andrea Geiger, Chair, Senate Committee on Disciplinary Appeals.

Clarification was requested with regard to the notation that cases involving mental health issues had been excluded from the report on non-academic discipline incidents. Senate was advised that the exclusion would only apply to students who had documented disabilities related to mental health or were identified as such through other services. Such cases were best resolved through informal resolution by providing assistance through other services.

Reference was made to UBSD Case #09-1 and inquiry was made as to why the submission of fraudulent information on loan and bursary applications which was concerned with financial matters constituted academic dishonesty. Senate was advised that the reference was related to the policy itself in that document fraud was handled in similar ways as fraudulent transcripts under the responsibility of the Registrar.

Following the above discussion, the Report was received by Senate.

B) Senate Committee on University Priorities

i) Paper S.10-2 – Annual Report on Fraser International College (For Information)

S. Dench, Director, University Curriculum and Institutional Liaison was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

Although it was noted that the academic performance of FIC students was strong – in fact better than the academic performance of other college transfer students, concern was expressed about the demographics of the students recruited by FIC. It was noted that in the UTP II level, 71% of students were in Business Administration. Business Administration is in high demand and has no difficulty recruiting students on its own. Opinion was expressed that FIC had not met its goal to increase international students in areas where increased enrolment was needed.

Senate was reminded that one of the stated purposes of FIC was to increase the diversity of SFU's international student population. Opinion was expressed that data in the report does not reflect the kind of diversity hoped for. Although overall recruitment had decreased slightly from the countries where the majority of FIC students were recruited, concern was expressed that the percentage of FIC students from China had increased and that greater diversity from areas outside of Asia had not occurred. Inquiries were made as to whether the Vice President Academic had any recruitment targets vis-à-vis specific areas and whether any efforts were being made to improve the situation. Senate was informed that there were no targets and that the University continues to work with FIC to recruit students from a wider range of countries.

In response to an inquiry as to what challenges were standing in the way of FIC attaining better performance with respect to diversification in recruitment, Senate was advised that every Canadian university was heavily recruiting in China, not necessarily to meet a primary goal of recruitment activity but simply because there was such an overwhelming proportion of international students from this area wishing to study abroad. In addition, difficulties experienced with Canada Immigration in terms of visa approvals also had a significant impact on recruitment activity in certain areas. Senate was advised that approximately 75% of FIC's recruitment budget at the local level was being spent on recruitment from countries outside of Asia and, even though the numbers were small, the range of countries continues to grow.

It was noted that there were standing committees on immigration that consider submissions on issues which affect access of people from abroad to Canadian institutions and inquiry was made as to whether the University was involved in any process to ensure that these committees were aware of the difficulties being experienced. It was pointed out that national organizations rather than individual universities would typically lobby such committees so SFU was not directly involved in any action in this regard.

Senate was reminded that when FIC was established, Senate was told that they were experts in international recruitment and that they would do much better than the University in recruiting a diverse range of international students. Given the fact that SFU has actually done a better job of recruitment, suggestion was made that perhaps their original claim was not justified and SFU should offer advice on recruitment to them. The

Vice President Academic indicated that he would rather not comment on this issue until the review of FIC was complete. Senate was advised that a self-study had taken place and that the review team would be on campus to meet with people very shortly. Over the next couple of months the review report would be developed and that report, as well as the self-study, would come to Senate with his recommendations.

- ii) Paper S.10-3 – Deletion of the Post Baccalaureate Diploma in Teaching English as a Second Language

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by S. Easton

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the deletion of the Post Baccalaureate Diploma in Teaching English as a Second Language”

It was noted that the rationale for the deletion of this program implied that it was being deleted because of a jurisdictional dispute between Education and Linguistics. Senate was advised that the collaboration between these two units did not work out as well as expected. However, the topic is fairly well covered already by existing courses and attempts were being made by the Faculty of Education to replace the PBD with an alternative program.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

- C) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

- i) Paper S.10-4 – Aboriginal Bridge Program

Moved by B. Krane, seconded by K. Harding

“that Senate approve the Aboriginal Bridge Program”

The following persons were in attendance in order to respond to questions: S. Dench, Director, University Curriculum and Institutional Liaison, J. Smith, Director, Community Education Program in Continuing Studies, and W. Lindsay, Director, Office of First Nations.

Clarification was requested as to whether this was simply a formalization of an existing program and whether the intent was to give credit for non-credit courses. Senate was advised that the proposal combines two existing programs in Continuing Studies within which students take both credit and non-credit courses. Credit would be given for credit courses but not for the non-credit courses. Having the two programs packaged into one program provides a formal pathway for students to be granted conditional admission to SFU, receive credit for the credit courses they have taken, and will provide continuity for the funding students receive.

Inquiry was made as to who qualified under the term Aboriginal. Senate was informed that this was a broadly defined category that included First Nations, Métis, Inuit, etc. and that the University primarily relied on self identification. However, the Province has recently created a self reporting standard that all institutions will be using in order to achieve consistency between institutions.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Paper S.10-5 – Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Applied Sciences (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved minor revisions to existing courses and program requirements in the School of Engineering Science.

iii) Paper S.10-6 – Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Education (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the new 'Professional Linking Program', options within the Bachelor of Education as a Second Degree program, new courses, and minor revisions to existing courses and program requirements within the Faculty of Education.

iv) Paper S.10-7 – Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Environment (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved new ENV courses, and the deletion of one course in the Department of Geography.

v) Paper S.10-8 – Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the deletion of courses in the Department of Biological Sciences and the Department of Earth Sciences.

vi) Paper S.10-9 – SCUS Annual Report (For Information)

The 2008-2009 Annual Report of the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies was received by Senate for information.

D) Senate Graduate Studies Committee

i) Paper S.10-10 – Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved a change to the requirements for PhD Comprehensive Examinations in the Department of Gerontology.

ii) Paper S.10-11 – Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved new courses in the Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry and the Department of Earth Sciences.

E) Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards & Bursaries

i) Paper S.10-12 – Annual Report (For Information)

The following persons were in attendance in order to respond to questions: S. Easton, Senator and Chair, SPCSAB; M. Kiai, Director, Enrolment Services, and M. Bhakthan, Associate Director, Financial Aid & Awards, Student Services.

Reference was made to the first bullet on the second page of the report, and clarification was made that this data referred to undergraduate students only.

The Annual Report of the Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards & Bursaries for the fiscal year 2008-2009 was then received by Senate for information.

F) Senate Nominating Committee

i) Paper S.10-13 – Elections

Senate was advised that no nominations had been received and that vacancies will continue to 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, February 8, 2010.

Open Session adjourned at 6:05 pm and Senate moved directly into Closed Session.

Kate Ross  
Registrar and Secretary of Senate