

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY SENATE

Minutes of a meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on  
Monday, February 2, 1998 at 7:00 pm in Room 3210 WMC  
Open Session

Present: Blaney, Jack, President and Chair

Barrow, Robin  
Bawa, Parveen  
Berggren, J. Len  
Boland, Larry  
Chan, Albert  
Clayman, Bruce  
Coleman, Peter  
D'Auria, John  
Dobb, Ted  
Dunsterville, Valerie  
Emmott, Alan  
Etherington, Lois  
Gagan, David  
Gillies, Mary Ann  
Jones, Colin  
Jones, John  
Kanevsky, Lannie  
Kirczenow, George  
Mathewes, Rolf  
Mauser, Gary  
Morris, Joy  
Naef, Barbara  
Ogloff, James  
Osborne, Judith  
Overington, Jennifer  
Percival, Paul  
Peterson, Louis  
Pierce, John  
Russell, Robert  
Sanghera, Balwant  
Selman, Mark  
Tam, Lawrence  
Waterhouse, John  
Wickstrom, Norman  
Winne, Phil  
Wong, Tim  
Wortis, Michael  
Yagi, Ian

Absent: Baert, Jessica  
Beattie, Suzan  
Blazenko, George  
Bowman, Marilyn  
Cleveland, William  
Giffen, Kenneth  
Hassan, Nany  
Lewis, Brian  
Marteniuk, Ron  
McInnes, Dina  
Nip, Harry  
Parmar, Neelam  
Reed, Clyde  
Segal, Joseph  
Warsh, Michael

In attendance:  
Schoner, Bertram

Heath, Ron, Dean of Student Services and 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 January 5, 1998  
The Minutes were approved as distributed.
3. Business Arising from the Minutes

- i) S.98-13 - Changes in Proposed Harassment Policy (For Information)

The Chair reported that the Board of Governors approved the proposed Harassment Policy with two amendments which roughly paralleled the two recommendations of Senate. Firstly, the term 'human rights' was replaced by the term 'harassment resolution', and secondly, under the reporting section 13.1 'findings and reasoning' was included in the reporting process for cases that are resolved after an investigation is completed. In addition, it was proposed and agreed that the Vice-President Academic or the President could comment on cases, as appropriate, throughout the year prior to distribution of the annual report.

- ii) Paper S.98-14 - Report on first-year level teaching (For Information)

Senate was informed that in addition to points (a) and (b) relating to Point 1 - Methodology, it was also discovered that Maclean's only counts those instructors who are teaching a course on the first of September each year.

Concern was expressed about the basis of the data chosen for the report to Senate in regard to Point 2 - Performance by Faculty and it was pointed out that using the same data entirely different statistics can be arrived at depending on whether or not Laboratory Instructors are included as faculty. In addition, it appeared that the category of courses contained errors which were not addressed in the report to Senate. Chemistry 150 and its corresponding laboratory course Chemistry 155 was referred to as an example of how misleading the Maclean's methodology is. The Chem 150 lecture course had 14 tutorial sections but since there was a common set of lectures this was counted as one course, taught by one professor. In contrast, the same body of students were divided into 6 laboratory sections. All students did the same work and were graded by the same Laboratory Instructor, but because the sections were at different times they were counted as 6 courses. Opinion was expressed that the problem arises in the use of the Instructional Activity analysis data, which classifies Teaching Assistants as Instructors. It was suggested that the Registrar's records could better identify courses and instructors.

Senate was advised that the Vice-President Academic has instructed W. Wattamaniuk, Director of Analytical Studies to raise SFU's concerns with Maclean's.

4. Report of the Chair  
There was no report from the Chair.

5. Reports of Committees

a) Senate Nominating Committee

i) Paper S.98-15 - Elections

The following are the results of elections conducted by Senate for the following Senate committees:

*Senate Committee on University Teaching and Learning (SCUTL)*

One Undergraduate Student (at-large) to replace Jennifer Overington for term of office from date of election to May 31, 1998.

Elected by acclamation:

Jessica Stanley

*Committee to Review Undergraduate Admissions (CRUA)*

One Student (at-large) to replace Tim Van Allen for term of office from date of election to May 31, 1998.

Elected by acclamation:

Jennifer Overington

*Senate Committee on Academic Planning (SCAP)/Senate Committee on University Budget (SCUB)*

One Student Senator to replace Jennifer Overington for term of office from date of election to May 31, 1998.

Candidates: L. Tam, T. Wong

Elected:

Lawrence Tam

b) Senate Committee on Academic Planning/Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

i) Paper S.98-16 - Department of Political Science - Undergraduate Curriculum Revisions (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved minor curriculum revisions to existing courses and programs in the Department of Political Science, as well as the addition of the following new courses: POL 211, 319, 329, 339, 349, 359.

ii) Paper S.98-17 - Proposed Intensive English for International Students - Pilot Program (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved a pilot program for Intensive English for International Students.

Concern was raised that no report to Senate was required following completion of the trial period. Senate was advised that if the result of the pilot program suggested that a change in the University's English requirements was necessary, this would come to Senate for approval because it involved a change or an addition to SFU's admission requirements.

- c) Senate Committee on Academic Planning/Senate Graduate Studies Committee
- i) Paper S.98-18 - Faculty of Business Administration - Graduate Diploma in Business Administration

Moved by D. Gagan, seconded by B. Clayman

"that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, the proposed Graduate Diploma in Business Administration as set forth in S.98-18, including the following new courses: BUS 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559"

B. Schoner, Faculty of Business Administration, was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

A philosophical concern was expressed about the general notion of professional programs charging higher fees to students who can then make more money thereby ensuring that jobs go to those people who can afford the higher fees in the first place. Referring to the 500-level courses, a further concern was expressed about introductory courses being offered at the graduate level.

It was pointed out that the program is targeted to students who are fully employed, not students attending full-time at university, and since these students are likely to benefit by completing such a program, it was felt that charging them the full cost of the program was justified. Senate was informed that virtually all graduate programs in Business Administration at the Masters level start off with introductory 500-level courses. This has been the practice at all universities for many years.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

- d) Senate Committee on Academic Planning/Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies/Senate Graduate Studies Committee
- i) Paper S.98-19 - Course Audit - Undergraduate/Graduate

Motion #1

Moved by D. Gagan, seconded by J. Osborne

"that Senate approve the following Calendar entry for undergraduate course audit:

Audit will be recorded as "AU" on a student transcript if the student fulfills the requirements agreed to by the student and the department at the time of registration. Minimally, these requirements should comprise regular attendance at class meetings, completion of readings and participation in activities. Audited courses will not count towards degree requirements."

Discussion ensued with respect to the meaning of 'regular attendance' and concern was expressed about this requirement when applied to large classes of students.

It was noted that the proposal was meant specifically for students who want formal recognition of an audit on their transcript. Since both the student and the instructor have to reach an agreement as to what constitutes an audit in a particular course attendance may, or may not, be part of that agreement. Senate was advised that most formal auditing is thought to take place at the 300 and 400 level and this motion is expected to cover a small group of students who want formal recognition on their transcript. Even if this regulation was adopted, it was hoped that the informal auditing process would continue amongst undergraduate students and instructors.

Concern was expressed about the audit notation appearing on a student's transcript and it was pointed out that under current regulations as long as students register for audit and pay half the course fees, the notation appears on their transcript. This proposal attempts to give the instructor the opportunity to negotiate what is required for an audit in his/her course. Opinion was expressed that without a well-defined meaning for audit, the notation on a transcript does not mean anything. However, it was pointed out that under the proposed regulation more information is available if the instructor were to be contacted to find out what constituted the audit arrangement for a course.

Senate was advised that a review of Calendars from across Canada showed that the proposed regulation was standard and that audits are granted in virtually all institutions for graduate and undergraduate students based on what an instructor and a student agree upon.

An amendment by L. Tam to replace the word 'should' by 'may' failed for want of a seconder.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION #1 CARRIED

Note: With the approval of the above change, the following minor procedural change would occur:

For those students who have registered for "Course Audit", the grade list provided to the instructor will continue to carry an automatic entry of "AU" but the instructor may report that the student has not met the agreed conditions for audit. In such cases, the student's record for the semester will not carry any notation of registration for audit status for that course. An appeal of that decision would be handled under the grade appeal policy.

Motion #2  
Moved by D. Gagan, seconded by B. Clayman

"that Senate approve the following Calendar entry for graduate course audit:

Graduate students should be allowed to audit graduate courses, with the permission of the instructor, the Senior Supervisor and the Graduate Program Chair of the student's department and such audits should be recorded as "AU" on the student's transcript, if the student has fulfilled the requirements agreed to by the student and instructor at the time of registration. Minimally, these requirements should comprise regular attendance at class meetings, completion of readings and participation in class activities. Audited courses will not count toward degree requirements."

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION #2 CARRIED

- e) Senate Committee on Continuing Studies
  - i) Paper S.98-20 - Annual Report (For Information)

Senate received the Annual Report of the Senate Committee on Continuing Studies for information.

- f) Senate Committee on University Budget
  - i) Paper S.98-21 - Annual Report (For Information)

Concern was expressed about the poor quality of information provided by the administration to SCUB with respect to the non-recurring budget and opinion was expressed that there appears to be a communication problem between the administration and SCUB which should be addressed.

G. Kirczenow moved the following Notice of Motion:

"that SCUB establish guidelines to be followed by the administration in communicating budgetary information to SCUB"

P. Percival, former Chair of SCUB, provided Senate with background information as to the communication process which had occurred over the past year. He expressed opinion that senior administrators should be taking advice from a committee such as SCUB whose membership covers a wide range of interests and experience and has an overall view of the institution.

The Chair indicated that he would be happy to meet with the current Chair of SCUB, L. Boland, to discuss some of the concerns, particularly those regarding the non-recurring budget, which were raised in the report and during debate. He

expected that the meeting could take place in time for the him to report back to the next meeting of Senate.

Concern was raised about items of a routine, continuing nature being funded from the non-recurring budget and discussion ensued in this regard. Discussion then turned to the issue of early retirement for faculty members and its budgetary implications.

Following the above discussion, the annual report was received by Senate.

6. Other Business

Inquiry was made with respect to the status of harassment cases handled under the old policy in which participants were given an opportunity to have them reviewed. Senate was advised that the University has employed the services of L. Smith of the Faculty of Law at UBC and all cases are being considered except for one.

7. Information

The next regularly scheduled meeting of Senate will take place on Monday, March 2, 1998.

The Open Session adjourned at 8:20 pm and, following a brief recess, moved into Closed Session.

Alison Watt  
Director, Secretariat Services