

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY SENATE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on  
Monday, November 4, 2002 at 5:30 pm in Room 3210 WMC

Open Session

Present: Stevenson, Michael, President and Chair of Senate

Al Natour, Sameh  
Andrews, Ian  
Atkins, Stella  
Beynon, Peter  
Bourke, Brynn  
Blackman, Roger  
Brokenshire, David  
Clayman, Bruce  
D'Auria, John  
Davidson, Willie  
Driver, Jon  
Dunsterville, Valerie  
Fizzell, Maureen (representing E. Love)  
Gordon, Robert  
Harris, Mary (representing L. Copeland)  
Hauerland, Norbert  
Horvath, Adam  
Jackson, Margaret  
Jensen, Britta  
Kemper, Michelle  
Krane, Bill  
Lewis, Brian  
Percival, Paul  
Phipps, Kate  
Poletz, Taira  
Smith, Don  
Tyab, Azam  
Van Aalst, Jan  
Waterhouse, John  
Wessel, Silvia  
Yerbury, Colin

Absent:

Aloi, Santa  
Apaak, Clement  
Chen, Danny  
Garcia, Carlos  
Gerson, Carole  
Gill, Alison  
Grimmett, Peter  
Gupta, Kamal  
Heaney, John  
Higgins, Anne  
Hill, Ross  
Jones, Colin  
Jones, John  
Mauser, Gary  
McArthur, James  
McFetridge, Paul  
Naef, Barbara  
Peters, Joseph  
Poirier, Guy  
Russell, Robert  
Thandi, Ranbir  
Vaisey, Jacques  
Warren, Joel  
Weldon, Larry  
Wong, Milton  
Zaichkowsky, Judith

In attendance:

French, Charlotte

Heath, Ron, Dean of Student Services/Registrar  
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 October 7, 2002  
Several grammatical/typographical errors were noted and would be corrected by the Secretary, following which the Minutes were approved.
3. Business Arising from the Minutes  
There was no business arising from the Minutes.
4. Report of the Chair

The Chair reported the sad news of the death of two colleagues – Iris Garland, recently retired faculty member, School of Contemporary Arts, and Ellen Gee, the serving Chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. On behalf of Senate, the Chair extended condolences to their families.

Senate received a brief report on the Chair's recent visit to China which included the renewal of the existing partnership with Jilin University and the discussion of possible exchange relationships with several other prominent universities in China.

The Chair reported on recent meetings in Ottawa of the AUCC. He noted that since the AUCC membership has expanded to include University Colleges and private institutions, the institutional identity and advocacy of AUCC have become more complicated. Support for the Federal Government's Innovation Agenda remains solid, although there are concerns that funding mechanisms will continue to favour the larger research institutions. There is a concern that these institutions increasingly operate in isolation.

Reference was made to recent press announcements concerning the future of the Open Learning Agency. The Chair reported that the Ministry has assured post secondary institutions that the role served by OLA in advanced education would continue to be served although details have not yet been announced. With respect to the OLA electronic library network, strong representation will be made to ensure the continuation of the quality and effectiveness of this library service.

Referring to a government press release about the future funding of student organizations, the Chair advised that the University has not been a party to any discussions of this issue within the university system or with government. The Chair felt that any legislative change would necessitate very careful thinking about how student society organizations would be structured and financed and the university's position would be to support the status quo.

6. Reports of Committees
  - A) Senate Nominating Committee

i) Paper S.02-76 (Revised) – Elections

Senate's attention was drawn to the revised copy of Senate paper S.02-76 which included additional nominations. Reza Pourvali was elected by acclamation to the Committee to Review University Admissions and the Senate Library Committee/Library Penalties Appeal Committee; Wojtek Gerwel was elected by acclamation to the Senate Committee on Disciplinary Appeals; and Nicola Kretz was elected by acclamation to the Senate Appeals Board.

Balloting was required for the student position on the Research Ethics Board. There were two candidates: K. Muis, R. Pourvali  
Elected for term of office to May 31, 2003: Krista Muis

All other vacancies would be carried forward to the next meeting of Senate.

B) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

i) Paper S.02-75 – Undergraduate Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Arts

Moved by R. Blackman, Seconded by M. Kemper

“that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, as set forth in S.02-75, the new Certificate Program in Labour Studies, effective Fall Semester 2003”

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved curriculum revisions in the following departments/schools/programs: Archaeology, Asia-Canada program, Contemporary Arts, Criminology, Economics, English, Geography, History, Humanities, Linguistics, Political Science and Sociology and Anthropology.

C) Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries

i) Paper S.02-77 – Annual Report – For Information

C. French, Director, Student Academic Resources, was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

Senate was advised that the report ended as of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2002 which was before the tuition fee increase was implemented.

In response to an inquiry about how the process worked with respect to self reporting of grades for entrance scholarships, Senate was advised that all grades were verified and offers were conditional until the grades were confirmed. In cases where students have estimated their grades, the final grades have been very close to those estimates. The process allows SFU to make connections with potential students much earlier in the year and appears to be working well.

Clarification was requested with respect to the sentence in the third to last bullet on page 2 of the report. It was noted that the word 'increases' was missing and that the last part of the sentence should read "...before the implementation of tuition fee increases."

Following this change, the report was received by Senate for information.

- D) Senate Committee on University Priorities  
i) Paper S.02-78 – Establishment of the Centre for Wildlife Ecology

Moved by B. Clayman, seconded by P. Percival

"that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors the establishment of the Centre for Wildlife Ecology as outlined in document S.02-78"

An error was noted on the cover sheet and the reporting authority was changed from the Vice-President, Research to the Dean of Science.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

- ii) Paper S.02-79 – Establishment of the Centre for Public Policy Research

Moved by B. Clayman, seconded by R. Blackman

"that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors the establishment of the Centre for Public Policy Research as outlined in document S.02-79"

A similar error was noted on the cover sheet and the reporting authority was changed from the Vice-President, Research to the Dean of Arts.

Concern was expressed about the success of the Centre when such a low budget was proposed. Senate was advised that the Faculty of Arts felt confident that the proposed funding would allow the Centre to get established and it was expected to attract sufficient funding to carry on.

It was suggested that from the perspective of accountability it would be more appropriate for the student representative on the Steering Committee to be appointed by the Graduate Issues Committee of SFSS rather than by the Dean of Arts. Brief discussion ensued with respect to the role of the Graduate Issues Committee. It was pointed out that the intent was that the student representative would be drawn from the student body of the Master of Public Policy Program and that the GIC would not be the appropriate body to make that appointment.

A suggestion that the Dean of Arts would consult with the MPP graduate students when making the student appointment was accepted as a **friendly amendment**.

Inquiry was made as to why Centres reported to Faculty Deans rather than the Dean of Graduate Studies. Brief discussion followed with respect to this issue. It was noted that while Centres in many universities report to the Dean of Graduate Studies, SFU was organized differently and Centres have historically reported to Faculty Deans. If there was an interest to change the reporting structure a process is available to make changes.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

- E) Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules
- i) Oral Report

The Chair reported that a motion had been received by SCAR from M. Kemper with respect to the establishment of a process to review questions of accessibility and the impact of tuition fees on accessibility. SCAR reviewed the motion and decided not to forward the motion to Senate since the intent of the motion overlapped a decision already taken by the Board of Governors. The Board felt it was important to review the questions raised last Spring by students and had instructed its Finance and Administration Committee to assess the impact of tuition fee increases on accessibility. This committee felt there were a number of other bodies, particularly Senate committees, which had jurisdiction over this issue, so SPCSAB had been asked to review and report back on the restructuring and increased funding of student financial assistance programs at SFU to see whether this meets demand and satisfies questions of accessibility for students in need. SCEMP has been asked to review the ways that tuition fee increases might have affected application, acceptance and retention rates and enrolment patterns at the university. In accordance with the legislative requirement that a Senate committee review budget priorities and advise the President on the budget, the Board has also asked SCUP to look at the framing of the budget and its implications with respect to accessibility. Senior administrators have been asked by the Board to support these review initiatives and the Office of Institutional Analysis is preparing a survey of students who applied to universities last year to find out what impact tuition fees had on their choice to attend or not. All of the committees have been asked to carry out their reviews and report back to the Board. Senate will be kept apprised of this matter and this exercise will assist the Board in framing the budget and tuition policy in the coming year. The Chair indicated that the consultative process of last year would be repeated and in fact expanded to include consultations with Faculties.

M. Kemper thanked the President and SCAR for their attention to the issue. She indicated that students feel quite strongly about increased fees and their impact on a student's access to post-secondary education. She acknowledged that there were different committees with jurisdiction for this issue but the purpose of the motion was to draw that mandate under one committee and she hoped that all the committees that will be reviewing this question would take their task seriously.

An opinion was expressed that many high school students are simply not applying to the University and a question was posed as to whether the survey would include high school students in general. The Chair indicated that to his knowledge the survey was not directed towards high school students.

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Information

The date of the next regularly scheduled meeting of Senate is Monday, December 2, 2002.

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

Alison Watt  
Director, University Secretariat