

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY SENATE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, October 16, 2006 at 5:30 pm in Room 3210 WMC
Open Session

Present:

Stevenson, Michael, President and Chair of
Senate

Black, Sam
Brennand, Tracy
Caufield, Sarah
Collinge, Joan (representing J. LaBrie)
Copeland, Lynn
Corbett, Kitty
Dagenais, Diane
Dickinson, Peter
Driver, Jon
Easton, Steve
Ester, Martin
Fizzell, Maureen
Fox, Graham
Gençay, Ramo
Gordon, Irene
Gregory, Titus
Harder, Derrick
Haunerland, Norbert
Hayes, Michael
Joffres, Michel
Lewis, Glyn
Liljedahl, Peter
Parkhouse, W. (representing B. Lewis)
Percival, Colin
Percival, Paul
Perry, T. (representing J. Pierce)
Peters, Joseph
Plischke, Michael
Rebman, Rachelle
Russell, Robert
Smart, C.
Tingling, Peter
Vaid, Bhuvinder
Van Baarsen, Amanda
Warner, D'Arcy
Waterhouse, John
Williams, Peter
Wong, Josephine

Absent:

Breden, Felix
Delgrande, James
Dunnet, Margo
Gordon, Robert
Halpern, Erica
Honda, Barry
Javed, Waseem
Kelly, Vanessa
Krane, Bill
Li, Wei
Louie, Brandt
MacKenzie, Christine
McArthur, James
Pinto, Mario
Schellenberg, Betty
Shaker, Paul
Shermer, Thomas
Smith, Don
Weeks, Dan
Zandvliet, David

In attendance:

Bérubé, Denis
Laba, Martin
Marshall, Dan
Weinberg, Hal
Whittlesea, Bruce

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 September 18, 2006
The Minutes were approved as distributed.
3. Business Arising from the Minutes
In response to an inquiry as to whether there was any information on the ability to implement the additive credit option for Co-op Education, Senate was advised that this initiative is still expected to be implemented on schedule.
4. Report of the Chair
On behalf of Senate, the Chair welcomed two new Student Senators: Bhuvinder Vaid from the Faculty of Education, and Graham Fox from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

In a brief report about budget, the Chair advised that the Ministry is expected to operate within the parameters of the previous announcement to fund 25,000 new student spaces in post-secondary education. However, the Chair wanted Senate to be aware that if no provisions for inflation and no provisions for cost overruns on the infrastructure already committed were forthcoming, the University would be facing a serious classroom, office and laboratory shortfall. The universities were pressing the Government strongly on the issues of inflation funding and graduate student funding. Information on the budget is expected in early November and internal consultations will take place on the budget in mid-November.

Senate was advised that under Other Business, the Vice-President Academic would report on enrolment.

- i) Paper S.06-110 – Annual Financial Statements (For Information)
D. Bérubé, Acting Associate Vice President Finance was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

Reference was made to page 10, under Scholarships, Bursaries and Prizes. It was pointed out that the Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries (SPCSAB) allocated approximately \$11m of the \$22m noted in the Financial Statements, and a question was asked about the balance of these funds. Senate was advised that there were a number of scholarships allocated through the operating fund and a large part of scholarships were funded through the endowment fund and this figure is a combination of all the scholarships from all of these funds. The Chair of the SPCSAB requested that the Committee be appraised of the full scope of financial assistance funding in the University, and the Chair indicated this would be done.

Clarification was requested with respect to the difference between the 2005 and 2006 amounts under Accounts Receivable on page 9. Senate was advised that because the Government wanted all of the collective agreements settled by March 31st, the University made one-time payments according to the terms of the various agreements to employees but the funding had not been received from the Government by that date.

A question was raised about the impact on the operating budget of opening and maintaining new buildings. It was noted that the Government has not provided additional funds for new buildings which is why the University was strongly arguing for inflation adjustments.

Reference was made to Sponsored Research Revenue on page 5 and question was raised as to whether there was a public list detailing the source of the money. No one was available to respond to the question so the Chair indicated that he would ask the Vice President Research about this issue and report back.

Following discussion, the Annual Financial Statements were received by Senate.

5. Question Period

A question was raised as to whether the University was engaged or had plans to engage in the Campus 2020 process. The Chair advised that, as a member of the Advisory Committee to the Minister of Advanced Education, he had just met with the Commission on Campus 2020. The Commission had been advised that the timing of the Burnaby event coincided with the Senate meeting. However, the Chair indicated that SFU would participate in the Surrey and Vancouver sessions of the Commission. It was the Chair's belief that the Commission is of significant importance since policy issues and long term structural issues affecting the quality of higher education in this Province could be addressed. The University Presidents' Council (TUPC) is preparing a system-wide brief to Campus 2020. A submission is also being prepared on behalf of SFU by former VP Academic, Dr. John Munro, which will largely reflect statements and ideas in public statements and agendas. This document will be reviewed by SCUP and will then be available to Senate for information. At the request of the Ministry, nominations for the non-public sessions had been submitted, and the Chair commented that he was amenable to submitting additional names. In answer to a question, the Chair indicated that student nominations had been included.

Referring to the email about Campus 2020 that was circulated by the President to the university community, it was suggested that the distribution list could be expanded to the entire student body. The Chair indicated that he would be happy to work with the Student Society on ways to most effectively provide that communication to students.

Reference was made to the Arts and Social Sciences and Health Sciences buildings and whether the openings were on schedule. Senate was advised that the Arts and

Social Sciences building probably would not be finished until mid-February although the teaching spaces (except for the large lecture hall) would open in January. It was reported that the Health Sciences building was on schedule for opening in January 2008, provided that additional infrastructure funding is forthcoming.

6. Reports of Committees

A) Research Ethics Board

i) Paper S.06-111 – Annual Report (For Information)

B. Whittlesea, Chair of the Research Ethics Board, and H. Weinberg, Secretary of REB, were in attendance in order to respond to questions.

The Annual Report of the Research Ethics Board was received by Senate for information.

B) Senate Committee on University Priorities

i) Paper S.06-112 – External Review – School of Communication

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by S. Easton

“that the School of Communication and the Dean of Applied Sciences be advised to continue the pursuit of the priority items as set out in Paper S.06-112”

M. Laba, Director of the School of Communication, was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

Reference was made to point 4 of the priority items, and clarification was sought as to whether Communication was being explicitly supported as opposed to other Schools in the Faculty of Applied Sciences. Senate was informed that there was no intent that resources would be re-directed from other Schools in Applied Sciences to Communication.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Paper S.06-113 – Faculty of Science – New Streams in Earth Sciences

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by Peter Williams

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors, the proposal for changes to the Earth Sciences Major and Minor programs to include the addition of three new streams: Geology, Environmental Geoscience, and General”

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iii) Paper S.06-114 – Faculty of Health Sciences – B.Sc. Major, Minor and Honors

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by M. Hayes

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors, the proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences (Major, Honors, and Minor in Health Sciences) offered by the Faculty of Health Sciences”

It was noted that courses not offered by the Faculty of Health Sciences, such as Geography, History, Philosophy and Sociology/Anthropology were part of the degree requirements but no funds had been allocated to any of those departments to service the students being projected in the program. Senate was advised that funds were allocated to Faculties and from Faculties to Departments based on the number of students registered in courses. Departments experiencing an increase in student enrolment as a consequence of this program should then receive funding. Concern was expressed that if funding followed student enrolment increases, departments would not be able to accommodate students in the first year of the program. The funding for Health Sciences has been based on projections for student enrolments and has been provided on a planning basis. Currently funding is allocated according to an enrolment plan approved by Senate for Faculties, and if additional funding was necessary on a planning basis for courses to be taught in other departments, then discussions should be undertaken with the appropriate Dean.

Referring to the FTE targets on page 11, it was noted that actual enrolment had not met the targets and the accuracy of the projected enrolments was questioned. It was pointed out that there was a difference between the number of students admitted to a program and the number of students taking courses offered in the program. It was suggested that the projected enrolment for Health Sciences seemed overly optimistic and a question was raised about funding if the targets were not met. The VP Academic noted that if enrolments did not materialize, the allocation of resources would be reduced.

A few errors were pointed out in the Senate paper that will be corrected. Discussion then followed about the specific selection of statistics courses for this program. The Chair suggested that follow-up with the Department of Statistics could take place and any necessary amendments could be brought back to Senate. It was noted that the Senior Seminar (HSCI 481) was not an option for the B.Sc. students.

Fundamental concerns were expressed about the lack of mathematics in the program. Several senators stated that B.Sc. programs universally include first year mathematics, especially basic calculus. A lengthy discussion of this point took place, with those involved in the development of the program explaining that the interdisciplinary nature of the program required compromise in the selection of the

courses, and on balance, it was felt that the program should include mathematics courses which are listed as recommended courses. However it was pointed out that a B.Sc. program without a year of mathematics was not unique; there were other B.Sc. Health Science programs being offered at other recognized universities, such as the University of Western Ontario, McMaster and Queens, that do not require mathematics, and this program met the benchmark of these other programs.

A concern was expressed about the effectiveness of bringing students together from the BA and the B.Sc. in Health Sciences to take the common core courses, when their preparation for these courses would be quite different. It was noted that the four courses 211-215 will include units that cover a wide range of subjects, and in order to accommodate the different groups of students, sections and labs will be associated with the units to provide sufficient background for those students who might lack the necessary preparation. It was pointed out that the Foundation course – HSCI 130 – will also help prepare all students to take the 200-level courses mentioned above.

It was noted that the Calendar entry would have been a useful addition to the documentation.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

C) Senate Graduate Studies Committee

- i) Paper S.06-115 – SFU Participation in the Canadian Graduate Student Research Mobility Agreement – Visiting Research Students

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by M. Hayes

“that Senate approve SFU participation in the Canadian Graduate Student Research Mobility Agreement (CGSRMA) as set out in Paper S.06-115”

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

D) Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules

- i) Paper S.06-109 – Scheduling of Senate meetings

The Chair advised Senate that SCAR sought advice from Senate on this issue and recommended that Senate should move into a Committee of the Whole.

Moved by S. Easton, seconded by J. Waterhouse

“that Senate move into a Committee of the Whole for 15 minutes to discuss the scheduling time of Senate meetings”

The following is a brief summary of the points raised during discussion:

- an earlier time of day would cause inconvenience to students with regard to class scheduling and would be a detriment to students serving on Senate;
- most faculty members in addition to their teaching duties have administrative duties which need to be carried out between 9-5 and to block another afternoon once a month would make it impossible to schedule a class on a Monday afternoon;
- a daytime meeting would be more accommodating to people with families;
- the survey should be undertaken to find out whether there are members of the community who are interested in serving on Senate but cannot because of their unavailability in evenings;
- the survey should note that Senators are also expected to sit on some of the Senate committees and that those committees are scheduled in daytime hours;
- the survey should include a sampling of students to determine how they would find an evening versus an afternoon meeting;
- the survey should identify all the barriers to sitting on Senate;
- the Alumni Association should be consulted to see if their members would be more or less able to come to meetings during the day since Senate includes four Convocation Senators who likely work off campus;
- Senate could be scheduled on Saturday.

The Chair felt that there were conflicting equity and time management obligations to students and to those teaching that are quite difficult to balance and that the sense of Senate was that it would be useful to survey faculty, a sample of students, and alumni, on this issue. Staff will be asked to prepare a survey proposal for consideration by SCAR.

Moved by I. Gordon, seconded by L. Copeland

“that Senate move out of the Committee of the Whole”

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

E) Senate Nominating Committee

i) Paper S.06-116 – Elections

Senate’s attention was drawn to the finalized version of S.06-116 distributed at the meeting. The following candidates were elected by acclamation: Waseem Javed, Undergraduate Student (regular position) on the Senate Appeals Board; Bhuvinder Vaid, Student Senator on the Senate Committee on University Honours; Graham Fox, Undergraduate Student (regular position) on the Senate Library Committee and the Library Penalties Appeal Committee. Amanda van Baarsen was elected as the Student Senator Alternate on the Senate Committee on University Priorities. The remaining vacancies were carried forward to the next meeting of Senate.

7. Other Business

The VP Academic provided Senate with a brief update on the status of registrations at SFU following the Fall semester enrolments. This semester, the total FTE target for domestic undergraduate student enrolment has been met. Students are taking slightly larger course loads and more students are returning to take courses, but the number of new admissions is below target. International student enrollments and new admissions were also below target for the University as a whole. These results are consistent with the experience of the University of Victoria and some other universities.

In some quarters there has been concern expressed that the new English language admission requirements have been confusing. This will be looked at as soon as data are available from this year's admissions cycle to see whether they have influenced the applications and admissions patterns. Requiring the Language Proficiency Index (LPI) as a condition of admission for students who received less than 80% in English 12 may have caused difficulties. A better strategy might be to admit students and, if they receive less than a certain grade point average in English 12, require them (after admission) either to register in the Foundations of Academic Literacy (FAL) course or to earn exemption from that course by successfully completing the LPI at a certain level. Senate was assured that this issue was being looked at and that any adjustments would be recommended quickly. One Senator urged caution about dispensing with the LPI requirement as it was, in his view, sometimes a better indicator of language proficiency than the Grade 12 English mark.

In response to a question about the number of admissions to Fraser International College, Senate was advised that 81 students were admitted to FIC and the number is expected to increase to over 100 in January. Enrollment for 2007/08 is expected to be on target.

In response to a question about enrolments across Faculties, Senate was advised that specific figures could be obtained from Analytical Studies but generally speaking the Faculty of Business Administration and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences had exceeded their domestic undergraduate targets, whereas Computing Science, Engineering Science and the Tech One program in Surrey were under-enrolled. A suggestion was made that perhaps the new WQB requirements and the lack of support around the requirements were factors which influenced students to attend other institutions. It was pointed out that there was significant infrastructure associated with the WQB requirements, including the new Student Learning Commons in the Library and the foundation courses in literacy and numeracy. The Chair provided brief background information relating to the general decline of admissions not only at SFU but other institutions: the increase of degree granting options, the competition for applicants from the same pool, and significant reductions in transfer from other institutions to universities because of incentives and the environments at these other institutions. Regarding international students, enrolment declines are being experienced across the country because of

competition and because there are difficulties with federal immigration and visa requirements which put Canada at a disadvantage.

8. Information

The date of the next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 6, 2006.

The Open meeting of Senate adjourned at 7:20 pm and moved directly into Closed Session.

Alison Watt
Director, University Secretariat

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
University Secretariat
MEMORANDUM

To: Senate
From: Alison Watt, Secretary, Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules
Subject: Changes to the time of Senate Meetings
Date: 4 October, 2006

At the meeting of the Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules (SCAR) today, SCAR reviewed the notice of motion that was presented to Senate at the last meeting and the rationale outlined in the attached memorandum.

Members of SCAR felt that this matter could benefit from a discussion at Senate that touched on the following matters:

1. Is the current membership of Senate interested in changing the time of Senate from 7 p.m. or 5:30 p.m. to an earlier time of 2:30 p.m.?
2. Would other members of the university community be more likely to seek to participate in Senate if the time of Senate was in the afternoon and not in the evening?
3. Would Senators like SCAR to pursue this matter further and seek advice from the university community?

SCAR recommends that discussion of this matter at Senate take place in "committee of the whole" with no formal motion on the floor at the outset of the discussion.



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
University Secretariat
MEMORANDUM

To: Senate
From: Alison Watt, Director, University Secretariat
Subject: Scheduling of Senate meetings
Date: 5 September, 2006

Notice of Motion

Time of Senate meetings

A senator recently raised the issue of the difficulty of engaging faculty in governance and service roles in the University. As evidence of this, it was noted that all the Faculty Senator positions, except one, were elected by acclamation this spring.

One problem that has frequently been raised as a barrier to involvement in Senate has been the timing of Senate – scheduled in the evening since 1965. This item has been considered a couple of times by Senate but has been rejected in the past.

The original rationale for the evening meetings has been that it would not conflict with classes. However, this is not the case now. SFU runs classes until 10 p.m. and there is no time that this would be “class-free”.

Another concern is the availability of off campus members of Senate. In a recent change to the University Act, the Government eliminated four of the eight off-campus members of Senate (the Order-in-Council members) and currently there are four Convocation Senators, two of whom are connected to the campus and two who are employed off campus. The Convocation elections will take place in 2008 and if the change in the time is approved by Senate, we can ensure that candidates are aware of the new times.

Some of the advantages include:

- a) Consistency of time. Senators and staff would know that the meeting was scheduled at the new time, rather than the fluctuation between 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. that we have seen frequently in the last few years.
- b) Making Senate more visible and accessible to the community by having it held in the day-time when more people are around.
- c) Service on Senate is a service to the University that is one of the responsibilities of faculty members and it should be included within the regular work-day, as are all Senate’s committees.

d) A 2:30 p.m. start would allow for Senate meetings to end at 5:30 p.m. in time for people to collect their children from Childcare.

e) The elimination of the Senate dinner would be a cost saving.

SCAR is agreeable to having this debated at Senate in October with a suitable motion which would include an automatic review of the time of Senate in May 2009.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Galt", is located on the right side of the page.