

APPROVED BY SENATE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, April 12, 2010 at 7:00 pm in Room 3210 WMC

Open Session

Present: Williams, Tony, Vice-Chair

Absent:

Beale, Alison
Bezglasnyy, Anton
Brennand, Tracy
Chapman, Glenn
Chiu, Christina
Copeland, Lynn
Cormack, Lesley
Dow, Greg
Driver, Jon
Easton, Stephen
Fizzell, Maureen
Francis, June
Geisler, Cheryl
Harding, Kevin
Hiscocks, Graham
Janes, Craig
Joffres, Michel
Krane, Bill
Laba, Martin
Laitsch, Dan
Lee, Shara
Leznoff, Daniel
Magnusson, Kris
Myers, Gordon
Nesbit, Tom
O'Neil, John
Parkhouse, Wade
Patel, Ravi
Paterson, David
Pavsek, Christopher
Percival, Colin
Percival, Paul
Peters, Joseph
Pinto, Mario
Plischke, Michael
Rajapakse, Nimal
Ruben, Peter
Russell, Robert
Sahinalp, Cenk
Scott, Jamie
Shapiro, Daniel
Thompson, Steve
Tiffany, Evan
van der Wey, Dolores
Warner, D'Arcy
Woodbury, Rob
Zelezny, Joseph

Funt, Elliot
Godson, Ali
Golnaraghi, Farid
Gordon, Robert
Hannah, David
Lewis, Cynthia
Li, Fiona
Louie, Brandt
MacGrotty, Alysia
McArthur, James
Moubarak, Cristel
Nadison, Ada
Noble, Cameron
Pierce, John
Stevenson, Michael
Wakkary, Ron

In attendance:
Busumtwi-Sam, James
Collins, Colleen
Kitsos, Rob
Laycock, David
Liljedahl, Peter
McArthur, Doug
Yellowhorn, Eldon

Ross, Kate, Registrar & Senior Director Student Enrolment
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 March 1, 2010

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

The Chair acknowledged that this was Senator Nesbit's last meeting as Acting Dean of Continuing Studies and on behalf of Senate, thanked him for his service. The Chair also reported that this was Bobbie Grant's last meeting. A letter from President Michael Stevenson to Bobbie regarding her 38 years of service was read. Shelley Gair was welcomed as the new Senate Assistant.

5. Question Period

There were no questions in Question Period.

6. Reports of Committees

A) Senate Appeals Board

Paper S.10-50 - Annual Report (For Information)

P. Liljedahl, Chair of the Senate Appeals Board, was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

It was noted that out of 40 appeal cases, 39 concerned the withdrawal of courses. An inquiry was made regarding whether this was unusual, how it compared to previous years and whether there was a need to look at the regulations, policies and communication with students to help avoid so many cases coming forward each year.

Senate was advised that these numbers are very similar to previous years. In future annual reports, the numbers from previous years will be provided with the report so that comparisons can be made. The cases that the Senate Appeals Board deals with are students who find themselves in unplanned and unanticipated circumstances where no amount of communication or changing of drop deadlines are going to alleviate things for these students.

A question was raised regarding the policy or course of action taken when a student submits false documents at an appeal hearing. Senate was advised that when false documentation is discovered, the appeal is not heard and instead is handled according to the student discipline policies.

B) Senate Committee on International Activities

Paper S.10-51 – Annual Report (For Information)

J. Busamtwi-Sam, Chair of the Senate Committee on International Activities, was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

The Annual Report of the Senate Committee on International Activities was accepted by Senate for information without comment or question.

C) Senate Committee on University Priorities

i) Paper S.10-52 – Creation of the Centre for the Study of Public Opinion and Political Representation within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

D. Laycock, from the Department of Political Science, was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by R. Patel

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the creation of the Centre for the Study of Public Opinion and Political Representation as a Research Centre based in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences”

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Paper S.10-53 – Proposal for BusOne within the Faculty of Business Administration

C. Collins, Associate Dean of Business, was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by M. Fizzell

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Full Program Proposal for BusOne within the Faculty of Business Administration”

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

- iii) Paper S.10-54 – Proposal for Systems One First Year Program within the Faculty of Applied Sciences

J. Peters, Senator & Assoc. Director of Computing Science at Surrey, was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by J. Peters

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Full Program Proposal for Systems One First Year Program within the Faculty of Applied Sciences”

It was noted that two new lecturer positions are being requested for this program and an inquiry was made as to whether approval of the program is contingent on those two positions being filled. Senate was advised that there was a possibility that the teaching responsibilities could be done by existing faculty. It was also noted that some funding from the old TechOne program was available and could be used for additional faculty resources in the future.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

- iv) Paper S.10-55 – Proposals for Honours Programs in the School for the Contemporary Arts within the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology

R. Kitsos, Undergraduate Chair of the School of Contemporary Arts, was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by J. Zelezny

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Full Program Honours Proposals in the School for the Contemporary Arts within the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology”

In response to requested clarification regarding the spelling of honours, Senate was advised that the spelling of honours will be changed in the calendar to the correct spelling.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

- v) Paper S.10-56 – Proposal for a Major in First Nations Studies within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

E. Yellowhorn, from the Department of Archaeology, was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by K. Harding

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the Full Program Proposal for a Major in First Nations Studies within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

In response to questions concerning student demand for a major in First Nations Studies, Senate was advised that enrollment depends on the courses that are offered. The lower division courses are typically very high at approx. 120 students and the upper division courses are around 15 to 20 students. In the academic three year plan, there is a plan to increase the number of courses and students in First Nations. Adding this major is more about providing a program to attract students than responding to student demand.

A question was raised regarding the name of the major since the Office of the First Nations was being changed to the Office for Aboriginal Peoples. There is an interest by faculty in changing the name of the major but it was noted that changing the course prefixes in SIMS causes problems that the Registrar is looking into. There has been a minor in First Nations for a number of years which would also make it more complicated to change the name.

Concern was expressed over the lack of faculty and in particular, senior faculty, that are available to teach the classes and manage the program. Senate was advised that there are some senior faculty from other departments that will be teaching some of the classes required for this major and that some of the instructors hired over the past few years will be considered for tenure soon. It was noted that there have been a number of very successful programs that have run with relatively small groups of core faculty members, so this seems to be a reasonable starting point.

An opinion was expressed that a program on First Nations Studies can be prone to attract primarily First Nations students and that the administrators of the program should be strongly encouraged to aggressively attract non-First Nations students in order to have some variety of background within the program. Senate was advised, based on first hand instruction experience, that most First Nations minor students are non-native students. Several people commented that SFU is already behind other universities within B.C. as it has a very small number of Aboriginal students in the undergraduate student complement and it would be beneficial to the university to attract more Aboriginal students. In fact, the addition of the major would help address this issue.

Overall, there was strong support for the program and a belief that there will be continuing interest in the program.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

- vi) Paper S.10-57 – Name Change of Master of Public Policy Program to the School of Public Policy

D. McArthur, from the Public Policy Program, was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by G. Dow

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the name change of Master of Public Policy Program to the School of Public Policy”

In response to a question regarding the possibility for undergraduate education being offered through the School of Public Policy, Senate was advised that this has been discussed and although they do not currently have the capacity to do so, it will be considered again in terms of future options.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

- vi) Paper S.10-58 – Strategic Research Plan, 2010 – 2015 (For Information)

Senate received information on the Strategic Research Plan for 2010 to 2015. An inquiry was made about those who felt left out and whether they should change their research plans to reflect the themes of research noted in the document. This was not the intent of the report and Senate was advised that all sections of each Faculty fully participated in this plan and that no one should feel left out. The opinion was expressed that the University is well represented in the crafting of this plan and that the authors of the report paid very serious attention to the input they received.

- vii) Paper S.10-59 – Report of the Task Force on Teaching and Learning (For Information)

Senate received information on the Report of the Task Force on Teaching and Learning.

Clarification was requested on the meaning of “making learning experiences and expectations more explicit”. Senate was advised that at different levels of organization of the curriculum, there would be some understanding by the students of the expectations, in terms of content, skills or knowledge and how certain courses, in particular required courses, fit into the overall structure. As well, this would also help the relevant academic unit to plan the activities in which students would be involved.

Several Senators expressed concern over the funding required for the Associate Deans’ role in this report, University Teaching Fellows and the new University Teaching and Learning Council. Senate was advised clearly that new resources would not go into any administrative structures but only into special programs or initiatives that would benefit either Faculties or students.

There would not be additional funding needed for Associate Deans because it is anticipated that the existing Associate Deans would take this work on.

There is one University Teaching Fellow for each Faculty and an arrangement has been made to consider their service work as the equivalent of doing a course overload which gives faculty members the opportunity to be paid in the same way they would be paid if they took on an overload course. Alternatively, if no stipend was granted, the work would be considered as equivalent to their service activity and they would not be requested to do additional service work in their department/Faculty. It is a new allocation of resources that goes directly to faculty members who are enthusiastic about teaching. If all the University Teaching Fellows were paid a stipend it would cost approximately \$80,000.

The intention of the University Learning and Teaching Council is to hear from faculty members and students as to what their primary concerns are around teaching and learning because right now there isn't a place for that to happen. An inquiry was made as why the Senate Committee for University Teaching and Learning could not fill this need. Senate was advised that most of the Senate committees consist of senators and faculty members and students who may be elected to those committees. The concept for the council is that it includes administrators, people who are expert in the delivery of teaching in various ways, but it does not have power independent of Senate. Essentially it is a steering oversight committee for the teaching support unit that is going to eventually replace the Learning and Instructional Development Centre.

Clarification was requested regarding an earlier statement that the council was not yet created even though Teaching Fellows have already been hired. Senate was advised that a temporary committee was formed to review the recommendations, offer advice to the Vice President on how to implement the recommendations and start to move the processes forward. This temporary committee is to be dissolved on August 31, 2010.

A concern was raised as to how much is actually going to come out of the recommendations made by the Task Force. Senate was advised that the report gives the Vice President a checklist of items to be aware of and that need to be implemented properly. It's a fairly comprehensive document that provides plenty of ideas for what can be done but not everything will be implemented.

It was noted that the report makes recommendations that suggest increased evaluation which can lead to increased documentation and result in an increased workload for faculty. The concern was raised that an increase in workload would only decrease the quality of teaching or research on campus. Senate was advised earlier in the discussion that the way recommendations from this report are implemented and prioritized are the responsibility of the individual academic units.

D) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

- i) Paper S.10-60 – Elimination of Direct Admission to Bachelor of General Studies in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Moved by B. Krane, seconded by L. Cormack

“that Senate approve the elimination of direct admission to the Bachelor of General Studies for all incoming students to be effective January 2011”

Clarification was requested with respect to the motion referring to “all incoming students”. A friendly amendment was accepted to specify “all incoming students in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences”.

A question was asked about how this motion will affect the future of the Integrated Studies program. Senate was advised that this is the last year the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences will be involved in the intake into the Integrated Studies program. Further explanation was offered that the Faculty of Business has given notice that they can no longer be involved and there are concerns that students receive a full university degree in a 60 credit program which does not meet accreditation standards. The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences is exploring the SFU NOW program, which requires students to complete a full degree, to bring in students with diverse qualifications.

Reference was made to the second item in the rationale that states “FASS is trying to dissuade students from the BGS option in favor of the BA” and the question was raised as to why even continue offering the BGS. Senate was advised that although the program cannot be eliminated in the short term, it is a future goal of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

- ii) Paper S.10-61 – Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Applied Sciences (For Information): Computing Science, Engineering Science

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved a new course and minor revisions to existing courses and program requirements in the Faculty of Applied Sciences.

- iii) Paper S.10-62 – Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (For Information): Criminology, French, International Studies, Psychology, WQB Designations

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved new courses and minor revisions to existing courses and program requirements in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

- iv) Paper S.10-63 – Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Business Administration (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 Faculty of Business Administration.

- v) Paper S.10-64 – Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology (For Information): Communication, Contemporary Arts

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved a new course and minor revisions to existing courses in the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology.

- vi) Paper S.10-65 – Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Education (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 Faculty of Education.

- vii) Paper S.10-66 – Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Environment (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved minor revisions to existing courses in the Faculty of Environment.

- viii) Paper S.10-67 – Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Health Sciences (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved new courses and minor revisions to existing courses and program requirements in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

- E) Senate Graduate Studies Committee

- i) Paper S.10-68 – Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Applied Sciences (For Information): Computing Science

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved a new course in the School of Computing Science.

- ii) Paper S.10-69 – Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (For Information): Economics, French, Public Policy Program

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved new courses and minor revisions to existing courses and program requirements in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

- iii) Paper S.10-70 – Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Education (For Information): Educational Psychology Program

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved a new course and minor revisions to existing courses and program requirements in the Faculty of Education.

- iv) Paper S.10-71 – Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Environment (For Information): Program in Development and Sustainability

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved a new course in the Program in Development and Sustainability.

- F) Senate Committee on Scholarships, Awards & Bursaries

Paper S.10-72 – President's and Dean's Honour Rolls (For Information)

Senate was advised that this paper was reconsidered by the Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards & Bursaries and that the changes that were suggested at the March 2010 Senate meeting were incorporated.

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Information

The date of the next regularly scheduled meeting of Senate is Tuesday, May 25, 2010 and will be held at the Diamond Alumni Centre.

Open Session adjourned at 8:15 pm and Senate moved directly into Closed Session.

Kate Ross
Registrar and Secretary of Senate