



# OKANAGAN SENATE

MINUTES OF 26 MARCH 2020

**DRAFT**

## Attendance

**Present:** D Buszard (Vice-Chair), A. Mukherjee-Reed, G. DiLabio, G. Binsted, J. Eikenaar, S. Lawrence, Y. Lucet, S. McNeil, S. O’Leary, D. Roberts, J. Cioe, B. Marcolin, C. Comben, J. Naqvi.

**Clerk:** C. Eaton

## Call to Order

The Vice-Chair of Senate, Dr Deborah Buszard called the sixth regular meeting of the Senate to order at 3:30 pm.

## Agenda Committee

### SUSPENSION OF THE RULES AND PROCEDURES OF SENATE TO ALLOW REMOTE ATTENDANCE

Senate Cioe spoke on behalf of the Senate Agenda Committee. A report was distributed noting that the Committee has met recently to discuss the evolving COVID-19 situation. Noting that public health authorities have issued a Public Health Order prohibiting gatherings of more than 50 persons, this presents a challenge for Senate to meet in person given that it has a membership of 60 and often has upwards of a dozen guests at its meetings. The Rules and Procedures of Senate prohibit remote attendance at meetings. The Senate Agenda Committee would recommend that the relevant rules – Rules 20 and 21 – be suspended and replaced by new text until 31 December 2020, with the understanding that the Senate may need to revisit and extend that deadline should the public health situation not improve by this fall.

Jan Cioe  
Catherine Comben

} *That Rules 20 and 21 of the Rules and Procedures of Senate be suspended until 31 December 2020 and be replaced by the following amended rule during that time:*

*Senators may only attend and participate in debate at Meetings of Senate in person or via such remote attendance means deemed acceptable to the Secretary.*



Approved

### Attendance (continued)

**Present via Videoconference:** K. Ross (Secretary), H Berringer, J. Jakobi, B. Traister, B. Frank, R. Sugden, P. Arthur, D. Carter, M. Hoorfar, J. Hossain, R. Lalonde, R. Lawrence, F. Pena, K. Ragoonaden, S. Alam, B. Rutherford, J. Gustar, R. Campbell, G. Wettertrand, T. Ebl, A. Alnaar, R. Jain, J. Lafontaine, K. Morgan, A. Shields, H. Kang, V. Tamandong, S. Chong

**Regrets:** S. Ono (Chair), L. Gordon, S. Bates, C. Yan, G. Jayathilake, L. Mudde, G Newry, K. DesRoches, D. Efretuei, S. Sandhu

### Minutes of 27 February 2020

Jan Cioe	}	<i>That the Minutes of the Meeting of 27 February be adopted as corrected.</i>
Gordon Binsted		

*Corrections:*

*p. 5; Insert “enrolment” before targets*

*p. 8 replace November 2019 with February 2020*

Approved

### Remarks from the Provost

The Provost, Dr Ananya Mukherjee-Reed, thanked faculty and staff for their work to transition courses to online delivery for the remainder of the term due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She noted that there was still a lot of work to do and that our students have provided a lot of advice and asked a lot of questions about concerns regarding how we will address matters now and going forward. She reinforced the principle of fairness in dealing with extraordinary circumstances.

Senator Cioe said that a consultation policy was being undertaken around the syllabus policy, and that policy asks instructors to have a fair process for changes that may be required to courses as a general principle.



## Remarks from the Deuty Vice-Chancellor

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr Deborah Buszard, thanked everyone for their efforts this month in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. She gave the Senate an overview of the emergency structures in place at UBC generally and at the Okanagan campus, including the executive meeting as a Crisis Management Team and the establishment of an Emergency Operations Centre.

Dr Buszard noted that the Provincial government has deemed post-secondary institutions as essential services, along with childcare facilities. She advised that we were expected to work with local governments to provide support as needed. The Province has activated a provincial supply chain coordination plan, and they may direct post-secondary institutions to provide a list of space available for pandemic response, including housing. As of this meeting, parking was also now available without charge at the Okanagan campus, and the Province has allowed for a temporary exception to privacy laws that generally limited 3<sup>rd</sup>-party data storage outside of Canada. Dr Buszard assured the Senate that the administration would provide the campus with regular updates as matters progressed.

Senator Lucet said that the outside of Canada data storage was a huge issue. He asked if this was a time limited decision.

Dr Buszard said that it was likely limited by the emergency order's duration.

Senator Jakobi asked if parking fees could be donated to student support if not charged.

Dr Buszard said they would look into this suggestion.

The Registrar, Dr Kate Ross, added that UBC would be doing a campaign for donations to the general bursary fund.

Senator Roberts noted the delays for student support from granting councils and the impact on graduate students.

## Council Budget Committee

Senator R. Lawrence presented on behalf of the Budget Committee/Academic Building & Resources Committee. He noted that this budget was last seen by the Committee in early march and clearly the financial situation has changed since then and things will be modified.

The Provost said that what was circulated is what was supposed to go to the Board in April. Clearly this has changed and we will come back to the Budget Committee with a modified budget. Going forward, the general provincial direction has been to continue as much as



possible and redeploy things as we can. In moving forward we will try to keep key initiatives supported.

Senator Rutherford said that she was surprised that the 2021 budget didn't reflect the division of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

The Provost said that they were still one faculty until July 1.

Senator Rutherford asked if we could have an appendix with the budget broken down between the two. The administration agreed that this could be prepared.

### Agenda Committee

The Chair of the Senate Agenda Committee, Dr Peter Arthur, presented. He noted that the Agenda Committee has discussed the COVID-19 pandemic and was proposing two rule changes for UBC to help governance operations continue.

#### AMENDMENTS TO FACULTY COUNCIL TERMS OF REFERENCE TO AUTHORIZE VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Dr Arthur advised that the Agenda Committee has noted that not all Faculty, College, School Council terms of reference authorize remote meetings, despite our larger bodies exceeding the 50-person limit set by the Public Health Order. While generally the Senate considers proposals from those bodies to amend their rules, in this instance, it is not practicable to do so. Therefore, the Senate Agenda Committee would recommend as follows.

Peter Arthur Gino DiLabio	}	<i>That all faculty, college, and school terms of reference to insert the following section:          Notwithstanding any provision in these terms of reference or terms of any other policy or regulation, a member shall be considered present if attending via such remote attendance means deemed acceptable to the Registrar.</i>
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The Clerk to Senate, Mr Christopher Eaton, clarified that each could rescind the addition if and when it saw fit with the approval of Senate.

Approved

#### AGENDA COMMITTEE DELEGATION OF POWERS

Dr Arthur advised that under Rule 25 (d) of the Rules and Procedures of Senate, the Senate has delegated the following power to the Senate Agenda Committee: to - by a resolution of  $\frac{3}{4}$  in



favour when a quorum is established as being present - approve any matter - except for amendments to the *Rules and Procedures of Senate* - on behalf of the Senate during the months of June to August(inclusive). Matters approved under this power must be reported to Senate at its next regular meeting for information. The Senate Agenda recognizes and respects the importance of Senate as a deliberative body and the senior academic authority of the University. There may be situations however where a timely meeting of the Senate is not possible before an important decision must be made due to the size of the body, scheduling of its members, and the 10-day notice requirement for meetings. That is currently acknowledged during the summer months, and giving the current COVID-19 pandemic situation, the Agenda Committee would respectfully request that it be granted this authority for the remainder of this academic year. The Committee assures the Senate that it will have as many decisions as possible.

Peter Arthur  
Ananya Mukherjee-Reed

} *That Rules 25(d) of the Rules and Procedures of Senate be suspended until 31 December 2020 and be replaced by the following amended rule during that time: Agenda Committee (to - by a resolution of  $\frac{3}{4}$  in favour when a quorum is established as being present **either in person or by such remote attendance means deemed acceptable to the Secretary** - approve any matter - except for amendments to the Rules and Procedures of Senate - on behalf of the Senate ~~during the months of June to August (inclusive)~~. Matters approved under this power must be reported to Senate at its next regular meeting for information).*

Approved

## Curriculum Committee

The Chair of the Senate Curriculum Committee, Dr Peter Arthur, presented.

## MARCH CIRRCULUM

*See Appendix A: Curriculum Report*

Peter Arthur  
Jan Cioe

} *That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors for approval the revised program requirements, and new course brought forward from the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, the revised program requirements, and new and revised courses brought forward from the Faculty of*



*Education, and the new and revised courses  
brought forward from the Faculty of Applied  
Science.*

Approved

## **Joint Report of the Admission & Awards and Curriculum Committees**

### **NEW PROGRAM: BACHELOR OF SUSTAINABILITY**

Senator Arthur presented on behalf of the Committees. He noted that this matter was being returned to Senate following the referral made back to their committees at the previous Senate meeting due to the 123-credit requirement for this new program. The Curriculum Committee reviewed the new degree program brought forward by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at both the 11 February 2020 and 3 March 2020 Committee meetings and recommends to Senate the Bachelor of Sustainability program remain at 123-credits.

Peter Arthur	}	<i>That Senate approve the Bachelor of Sustainability program and related new courses brought forward from the Faculty of Arts and Science</i>
Barbara Marcolin		

Senator Cioe asked for a further explanation of the 123-credit requirement. He said that while he understood the justification for the 1 credit over 3 years, he was concerned by the argument of maintaining the upper-level credit requirements. There was a wide range in variations between options, upwards of 50 credits, and thus he did not understand why 3 credits of electives could not be omitted to go to the normal 120 credits.

Associate Dean Momer spoke to the proposal with permission of Senate. He said that in some concentrations the program wanted to leave flexibility for electives that need pre-requisites. One of the consultation comments we received was a desire for students to have breadth.

Senator Cioe said he could not support the degree, not because he did not think it was a good program, but because there was no justification for the additional 3 credits.

Senator Marcolin took a different view from Senator Cioe, saying that it was critical for degrees to have flexibility and community-based learning was required for degrees such as this.

Senator Roberts said she was in support of sustainability but wasn't sure if one degree could encapsulate this field. She also asked if students outside of the degree could take its courses.



Senator McNeil said that the rebuttal document conflated contact hours with workload. He said we should be mindful of contact hours not being a measurement of effort.

Senator Cioe asked if this was a cohort- based program so only those students in the program will be able to take its classes.

Dr Momer said that this was the original intent but they changed things so most courses will be open to all students who meet the pre-requisities. Only 3 or 4 have restrictions.

Senator Naqvi said that students will like this new degree but the additional credits were a cost pressure on students without justification.

Senator Morgan said that no student wants additional costs, but they very much do want experiential learning recognized with credit.

Senator Cioe said Senator Morgan's points were useful, but supporting community-based learning was separate from supporting this specific degree structure.

Senator Lucet said that he was disappointed that they were faced with wanting community-based learning or having the additional credits.

Approved

## Other Business

### CREDIT/D/FAIL STANDING

*See Appendix B: Credit/D/Fail Standing*

Dr Ananya Mukherjee-Reed presenting, noting that this proposal was being brought forward on behalf of the deans.

Ananya Mukherjee-Reed	}	<i>That Senate approve the Academic Regulations for Credit/D/Fail Standing as set out in the attached proposal, retroactively to 1 September 2019 and effective for the 2019W and 2020S academic sessions.</i>
Gordon Binsted		

Senator Ebl asked if students from a previous term could ask for Credit/D/Fail standing.



The Provost said that it would only be allowed for Term 2 or full-Session 2019 Winter Session courses or for 2020 Summer Session courses.

Senator Cioe said that with all due respect, he had a procedural concern with the Provost having sent an email to students presenting Credit/D/Fail as an option prior to it coming to Senate for a decision. He said that this was inappropriate, and while he understood the rationale and the timing, he could not accept the Provost usurping the power of Senate in making a public declaration on this element. He further said that while he was not suggesting that this policy was wrong or even disagreed with it, but rather than it was procedurally wrong to communicate it ahead of this meeting. He suggested that we could have delayed that and given Senate an opportunity to decide before this being public.

The Provost said that her email clearly noted it was pending Senate approval and not something she decided unilaterally. She advised that she was receiving a huge number of anxious queries for students and parents and noted that this already was an option for the Vancouver campus which caused particular confusion for students in dual-campus faculties. She said that this was a global pandemic and some procedural concerns, with respect, have to be overtaken by human concerns.

Senator Cioe said that he did not wish to say in any way that this was an inappropriate action on the part of the Provost and agreed that the email did say that it was subject to approval. He understood that emergency situations can override processes, but said that he did not want this to become a pattern.

Senator Lalonde asked for clarification made to specify that the course had to be completed normally.

*By general consent, the policy was amended to clarify that all academic requirements had to be completed for courses taken for Credit/D/Fail standing.*

Senator Rutherford was concerned by the timeline. It would be possible for a student who was completing their degree to have only Credit/D/Fail courses?

Mr Eaton said no, only courses currently in progress or this summer.

Senator Roberts asked when students would be able to select Credit/D/Fail for courses.

The Provost said that we are working on that with the faculties. The intention is to coordinate with Vancouver. Most Vancouver faculties had selected May 6<sup>th</sup> as the last usual date to be able to change to Credit/D/Fail.

Senator Reekie asked about the percentage assigned for BSN course 60% is required.

Senator Binsted said that in such cases it would become Credit/F.





Senator Olson said that this wasn't going to be universal for all courses in all programs. In the case of Applied Science they planned to allow it for almost all courses except for their capstone courses.

Senator Traister said that the deans had considered this matter at length. Ultimately the decision to accept credit is up to the programs, and this needs to be a conversation between students and their advisors. There are considerations that need to be made and students need to be empowered to make decisions in consultation with their advisors and faculties.

Senator Eikenaar said he intended to abstain from this motion. He was supportive of the rationale, however in his unit, this has been communicated as having already been decided and in force. He was hesitant to vote in favour of this because he could not support Senate's powers being bypassed.

The Chair reminded the Senate that our students and faculty were being faced by extraordinary circumstances.

Approved

*NB: Senators Cioe and Eikenaar abstained.*

### Amendment to Agenda

Kristen Morgan	}	<i>That the Agenda be amended to have the following motion considered immediately:</i>
Romil Jain		

*That the academic regulations around withdrawals and Credit/D/Fail notwithstanding, that undergraduate students be allowed to withdraw with W standing or elect to take a course for Credit/D/Fail Standing until at least 6 May 2020 for either full-session 2019W or Term 2 2019W undergraduate courses*

Approved

### Credit/D/Fail in 2020 Winter

Kristen Morgan	}	<i>That the academic regulations around withdrawals and Credit/D/Fail notwithstanding,</i>
Romil Jain		

*that undergraduate students be allowed to withdraw with W standing or elect to take a course for Credit/D/Fail Standing until at least 6 May 2020 for either full-session 2019W or Term 2 2019W undergraduate courses*

Dean Olson said that the proposed motion was too broad and that individual choices can harm students in some cases. He also noted that he needed to consult with his Faculty on such a proposal.

Ms Morgan said that they would be happy to consider amendments to address the dean's concerns.

*By general consent, the motion was amended to add “with the proviso that a faculty may decline to allow CRDF standing in a course for sound academic, accreditation, or licensure reasons.”*

Approved as  
Amended

*NB: Senator Eikenaar abstained.*

## Amendment to Agenda

Jannik Eikenaar } *That the Agenda be amended to have the following*  
 Tamara Ebl } *motion considered immediately:*

*That Ms Kristen Morgan be appointed to the Senate Agenda Committee until 31 March 2020 and thereafter until replaced, to replace Ms Simran Sandhu*

Approved

*By general consent, the time to adjourn was extended by 10 minutes.*

## Appointment to Agenda Committee

Jannik Eikenaar	}	<i>That Ms Kristen Morgan be appointed to the Senate Agenda Committee until 31 March 2020</i>
Tamara Ebl		



*and thereafter until replaced, to replace Ms  
Simran Sandhu*

Dr Eikenaar noted the importance of ensuring student representation on our decision-making bodies during the COVID-19 pandemic situation. This appointment was recommended so that a student would be a member until the new student senators are in office and can be appointed to committees.

Approved

### **Adjournment**

Seeing no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5::35 p.m.



## Appendix A: Curriculum Report

### **FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

#### *Revisions to Program Requirements:*

##### BA Degree Requirements:

BSc Degree Requirements for students who entered the program prior to 2020/2021

Major in Mathematics, BSc

Major in Mathematical Sciences

Combined Major in Physics and Mathematics

Major in Microbiology

Major in Physics

Major in Psychology, BSc

Major in Statistics

Major in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Major in Biology

Major in Chemistry

Major in Computer Science, BSc

Major in Data Science

Major in Economics, BSc

Major in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Major in Earth and Environmental Sciences

Major in Environmental Chemistry

Major in Freshwater Science

Major in Zoology

#### *New Course:*

INDG 319 (3) Indigenous Perspectives on Health and Physical Activity

### **FACULTY OF EDUCATION**



*Revised Program:*

Master of Education, Program Requirements

*New Courses:*

EDUC 562 (3-9) d Special Topics in Education

EPSE 407 (3) Developmental Disabilities

**FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE**

*New Courses:*

APSC 504 (3) Solar Cell Engineering

ENGR 411 (3) Technology Entrepreneurship for Engineers

ENGR 511 (3) Technology Entrepreneurship for Engineers

ENGR 412 (3) Signals, Systems, and Inference

ENGR 512 (3) Signals, Systems, and Inference

ENGR 418 (3) Applied Machine Learning for Engineers

ENGR 518 (3) Applied Machine Learning for Engineers

ENGR 496 (3) Aerospace Materials and Manufacturing Processes

ENGR 500 (3) Advanced Coatings

ENGR 501 (3) Deep and Reinforcement Learning for Engineers

ENGR 509 (3) Intelligent Wireless Robotics

ENGR 547 (3) Distributed Power Generation



## Appendix B: Credit/D/Fail Standing

### CREDIT/D/FAIL GRADING FOR UNDERGRADUATE COURSES (EFFECTIVE FOR THE 2019 WINTER AND 2020 SUMMER SESSIONS ONLY)

Students in undergraduate programs may elect to attempt percentage-graded courses with Credit/D/Fail (Cr/D/F) standing instead of a percentage grade. This standing will be recorded on a student's Official Transcript of Academic Record in lieu of their percentage grade in the course. All course requirements must be completed normally. For accreditation and licensure reasons, not all programs allow and some courses may not be taken for Credit/D/Fail at the discretion of the faculty offering the course.

Students registered in graduate programs are not eligible for Credit/D/Fail grading in any course.

Credit/D/Fail standings shall not count towards a student's weighted-credit average for academic performance evaluations under Academic Performance Evaluations (LINK) in a student's program of study, but courses taken as Credit/D/Fail shall still be considered in adjudicating requirements under those evaluations based upon percentages of courses passed or failed.

The deadline to opt for Credit/D/Fail standing shall be the same as the deadline to drop a course without Withdrawal (W) standing. (as published in the Academic Year (LINK)). A student cannot change from a percentage grade to a Cr/D/F standing, or vice-versa, after the deadline for opting for a Cr/D/F standing.

It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the course he or she wishes to take as Credit/D/Fail complies with all regulations set out for their program. Students are strongly encouraged to consult with their program advisor.

Should a student change their program of study (including adding a declared specialization), and a course previously taken as Credit/D/Fail would not normally be acceptable to their new program of study, the new program of study may accept a Credit or D standing in place of a percentage grade. In such cases where a Credit or D standing is unacceptable to the new program of study, with the consent of the student and the dean of the faculty offering the program of study, the Credit or D standing may be converted back to the students originally-assigned percentage grade. In such cases where either the student or the Faculty does not consent, the Faculty, at its discretion, may require the student to:

- take the course again under its normal percentage basis (credit shall still be granted only once for the course under these circumstances);
- take another comparable course in its place; or
- not register in that program of study.

Opting for Credit/D/Fail standing may impact that course's standing to be considered for financial assistance and awards. Courses taken for Credit/D/Fail will be counted towards the credit load but will not be included in the calculation of weighted-credit averages for UBC awards. Students are encouraged to talk to an Enrolment Services Advisor if they have concerns



with the financial assistance or awards implications of taking a course with Credit/D/Fail standing.

The Academic Regulations around Withdrawals and Credit/D/Fail notwithstanding, undergraduate students may withdraw with W standing or elect to take a course for Credit/D/Fail standing until at least 6 May 2020 for either full-session 2019W or Term 2 2019W undergraduate courses with the proviso that a faculty may still decline to allow Credit/D/Fail standing in a course for sound academic, accreditation or licensure reasons.