



# VANCOUVER SENATE

MINUTES OF 19 JANUARY 2022

**DRAFT**

## Attendance

**Present:** S. Ono (Chair), K. Ross (Secretary), A. Szeri, S. Parker, S. Bates, J. Olson, R. Kozak, J. Hare, M. Aronson, M. MacDougall, M. Coughtrie, G. Averill, N. Pindell, R. Helsley, R. Yada, S. Gopalakrishnan, K. Lo, N. Ford, M. Kuus, J. Bulkan, A. Greig, A. Ivanov, L. Stothers, S. Grayston, G. Faulkner, R. Boushel, J. Dierkes, A. Pratap-Singh, J. J. Stewart, S. Matsui, K. Smith, C. Jaeger, C. Menzies, S. Forwell, H. Zerriffi, A. Scott, J. Fox, M. MacPhee, C. Krebs, A. Collier, V. Chitnev, P. Englezos, C. Marshall, S. Nicolaou, H. von Bergmann, I. Price, S. Pelech, S. Thorne, S. Singh, J. G. Stewart, F. Andrew, R. Spencer, L. Burr, H. Leong, A. Dulay, P. Harrison, A. Zhao, B. Fischer, J. Gilbert, G. Tsiakos, M. Higgins, R. Topping, L. Shpeller, E. Cantiller, A. Sandhu, S. Cooper, K. Yu, D. Agosti-Moro, E. Bhangu, G. Yee, J. Burnham, K. Khosla, S. Kandola, J. Schumacher, L. White, D. Born, S. Mehta, X. Jiang,

**Regrets:** S. Point, S. Porter, D. Kelleher, J. Bulkan, A. Greig, L. Stothers, A. Fischer, H. Leong, M. Stewart, M. Tan, A. Uzama, C. Godwin, J. Greenman, L. Wang, D. Goyal,

**Clerk:** C. Eaton

## Call to Order

The Chair of Senate, Professor Santa J. Ono, called the fifth regular meeting of the Senate for the 2021/2022 academic year to order at 6:06 pm.

## Senate Membership

### NEW MEMBER

The Registrar, Dr Kathleen U. Ross, announced the election of Dr Savvas Nicolaou as a member elected by the Joint Faculties until 31 August 2023 and thereafter until replaced.

## Minutes of the Previous Meetings

Sue Forwell  
Hsingchi Von Bergmann

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*That the Minutes of 15 December 2021 be adopted  
as corrected:*



*Correction: The point of order regarding repetitious debate was raised by Dean Coughtrie, not Dean Kelleher.*

*Spelling of Senator Zerriffi's surname.*

## **Remarks from the Chair**

Dr Ono noted with pleasure that UBC had been ranked the most international university in North America, and the twentieth most international university in the world by Times Higher Education.

The President advise Senate that that several UBC current and former faculty members and alumni have named to the Order of Canada. UBC alumni honoured were Harold Bassford, Lily Siewsan Chow, John Estacio, David Ross Fitzpatrick, Margo Laine Greenwood, Walter N. Hardy, Jane Heyman, Donald Chisholm McKenzie, and Angela Swan; and faculty and retired faculty included Pieter Cullis, Connie J. Eaves, Curtis A. Suttle, Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, and Peter Zandstra. Dr Ono also announced that that 22 UBC researchers were appointed as new and renewed Canada Research Chairs in the latest round of appointments announced on January 12, 2022. The new and renewed UBC chairholders represent an investment of \$19.5 million through the Canada Research Chairs program.

Dr Ono reminded the Senate that last week UBC announced that we will continue to deliver the majority of programs online until February 7. The President noted that this decision was made after extensive consultation with all of the university's Deans on both campuses, the AMS and other student groups and employee groups. Dr Ono said that there was unanimous feedback earlier in the month that UBC should extend the period for remote instruction. The recommendation from the Deans was to extend the remote learning period until reading week, while the AMS suggested that remote learning be extended to February 7 and that the university monitor the COVID-19 situation in the interim period to determine whether remote learning should extend beyond February 7. In making a decision, Dr Ono said that the University had considered advice and information from outside UBC, including that from the Provincial Health Officer who suggested that we could initiate the term in person. UBC also considered what other universities were doing in similar circumstances. The President further said that we were fortunate at UBC to have a wealth of expertise in public health, many of whom work within and with the BC CDC and provide direct advice to our health authorities. We consulted with them about the current situation with Omicron and they advised that the decision that we made to extend remote learning was warranted. Dr Ono said that he hoped UBC would return to in-person instruction as soon as possible, and that any decision must respect shared governance of the University rather than input or opinion from any one source. Dr Ono said it was therefore important that we weighed all of the information before us, considering the feedback that we



obtain from academic leadership across both campuses, the leaders of student and employee groups, and, of course, the Senates and the Board.

Senator Burnham, Chair of the Senate Agenda Committee, asked how Senate could have input into this decision.

Dr Ono said that they weren't able to do so earlier due to the Winter break but that he was open to suggestions for the best way to do so.

The Clerk to Senate recommended that the two Senate Agenda Committees be engaged in discussions.

Senator Pratap-Singh thanked the President for the for timely decision regarding the start of this term and noted the issues with mid-term examination scheduling and format if the extension to on-line learning was extended.

Dr Ono noted that mode of instruction decision could be made centrally by the Senate or by the deans. In this case the University was hoping for uniformity as much as possible

Senator Cooper raised the importance of having a singular approach, he noted that Allard Law was coming back earlier and how that would work with the approach taken.

The President said that he understood that Law's faculty members wanted to come back earlier and that this was a surprise to him.

Senator Szeri noted some courses already coming back earlier and that decisions were being made locally to respect instructional needs.

Senator Pindell said that they have been working to make a return to campus as safe as possible and that there were strong views from many in this matter.

Senator Von Bergmann noted last Friday's notice from the Provincial Health Officer only set a 5-day isolation period after infection. She asked if UBC would have a consistent position on this.

The President said that we needed to talk to more experts for advice on isolation periods; we hoped to have more information next week.

Senator Agosti-Moro asked what safety measures are being taken when we return to in-person learning, noting that rapid testing was not plentiful on campus. In particular he asked what safety equipment would be available.

The President noted that rapid tests were subject to a global shortage; UBC did not have enough and the Province has a limitation on their availability for asymptomatic testing. Dr Ono further



noted that personnel shortages were another area being looked into, and that UBC was trying to procure a large supply of N95.

Dean Pindell noted that Allard law had a large number of N95 masks on order and a policy on absences that allows for remote interactions.

Senator Gopalakrishnan said that a series of two-week decisions challenged a sense of continuity for teaching.

Dr Ono said that they originally thought a longer period but the AMS suggested a shorter one that could be re-examined. He noted that the K-12 education system was seeing similar continuity issues.

Senator Szeri said that the Committee of Deans had met earlier in the day and so far, no faculties have reported significant operational issues due to staff absences. He further noted that the Omicron variant of COVID-19 seemed to have a shorter duration.

Senator Aronson said that Science has been working on contingency plans since the start of the month. The primary complicating factor is absences; however, we are not yet close to the expected 30% absent rate.

Senator Gopalakrishnan said our model of education, focusing on 1 instructor per course is a stressor itself. He said that this situation may further the case for team instruction.

Dr Ono said we aren't unique in this as a university and have even talked about the potential for teaching across institutions in BC.

Senator Matsui asked if there were absence threshold for shutting down.

Senator Aronson said that there weren't specific numbers contemplated for UBC; 30% was a figure that the Provincial Health officer had suggested to businesses.

Senator Singh noted the challenges faced with absences and with travel limitations, and encouraged everyone to consider what contingencies and alternative arrangements were possible

### **Nominating Committee**

The Chair of the Senate Nominating Committee, Dr Paul Harrison presented.

### **PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEES**



Paul Harrison  
Charles Menzies

*That HsingChi von Bergmann, George Tsiakos, Susan Porter, and Eshana Bhangu be appointed to a President's Advisory Committee for the Selection of a Provost and Vice-President Academic (Vancouver); and  
That Julian Dierkes be appointed to a President's Advisory Committee for the Selection of a Registrar.*

Approved

#### FURTHER APPOINTMENTS

Dr Harrison noted that no valid nominations were received for the Vice-President Finance and Operations, and the Vice-Provost International extension committees. He encouraged interested senators to put their names forward to the clerk. He also noted that recent changes to committee compositions had excluded Convocation representatives, including alumni and emeriti, from most of these committees. He suggested that this deprived the University of great experience that could be of use.

#### COMMITTEE ADJUSTMENTS

Paul Harrison  
Julien Dierkes

*That Vita Chitnev be appointed to the Senate Admissions Committee until 31 August 2023 and thereafter until replaced, to replace Dr Peter Choi;  
That Ngai Pindell be appointed to the Senate Agenda Committee until 31 August 2023 and thereafter until replaced, to replace Janine Benedet;  
That Dee Goyal and Shaktiraj Kandola be appointed to the Senate Curriculum Committee until 31 March 2022 and thereafter until replaced, to replace Leonard Wang and Anisha Sandhu;  
That Dawson Born be appointed to the Senate Library Committee until 31 March 2022 and thereafter until replaced, to replace Shaktiraj Kandola;  
That Vita Chitnev be appointed to the Senate Library Committee until 31 August 2023 and thereafter until replaced, to fill a vacancy;*



*That Leonard Wang be appointed to the Senate Committee on Student Appeals on Academic Discipline until 31 March 2022 and thereafter until replaced, to replace Dawson Born; and  
That Anisha Sandhu be appointed to the Senate Research & Scholarship Committee until 31 March 2022 and thereafter until replaced, to replace Dee Goyal.*

Approved

### **Report from the Provost**

The Vice-President Academic & Provost, Dr Andrew Szeri introduced the following item.

#### **REPORT TO SENATE ON EXTERNAL REVIEWS, 2020-21**

Senate welcomed Vice-Provost Moira Quayle to present a summary on external reviews. Full copies of each were filed with the Secretary in accordance with policy:

Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Arts  
Department of Geography, Faculty of Arts  
Department of History, Faculty of Arts  
Department of Linguistics, Faculty of Arts  
Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts  
Craniofacial Science / Pediatric Dentistry Program, Faculty of Dentistry  
Department of Wood Science, Faculty of Forestry  
Centre for Health Education Scholarship, Faculty of Medicine  
Centre for Hip Health & Mobility, Faculty of Medicine  
Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine  
Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Science  
Department of Earth, Ocean & Atmospheric Sciences, Faculty of Science  
Institute for the Oceans & Fisheries, Faculty of Science  
Department of Statistics, Faculty of Science

The Vice-Provost also noted that the following units were at the approximate mid-point between reviews and have submitted update reports to the Office of the Provost & VP Academic on status of implementing the recommendations.

Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering, Faculty of Applied Science  
Department of Materials Engineering, Faculty of Applied Science  
Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts  
Teacher Education Office, Faculty of Education  
UBC Enrolment Services



Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies  
James Hogg Research Centre, Faculty of Medicine  
Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences  
Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science  
Department of Physics & Astronomy, Faculty of Science  
Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms Quayle noted that reviews were conducted entirely online. She expressed the University's gratitude to reviewers and reviewees for their hard work and time spent on these reports. She highlighted the following as recurring themes: equity, diversity, and inclusion; Indigenous engagement; funding challenges, especially for graduate education; faculty mentoring; workplace climate; and workload.

Ms Quayle noted that work continued on updating the external review policy, in particular to accommodate the needs of both campuses and differences between faculty and unit-level reviews. The new policy was being drafted by the Clerk to the Senate.

Senator Singh noted that most reviews were positive but some raise serious issues such as a hostile workplace. He asked how does the administration address these situations or ensure that they are addressed.

The Vice-Provost said the dean responds to the review as does the department and unit, and they need to state what they are going to do to address such situations. Further, her position at the provost's office needed to check in on this to ensure it was being addressed.

Senator Burnham asked if there were delays or issues with finding external reviewers in the pandemic.

Senator Szeri said that they had not encountered issues with finding faculty reviewers.

Senator Harrison said he appreciated these reviews, and especially the initial responses from the faculty and department in the case of Arts.

Senator Forwell said the recrafting the policy should consider the temporality of reviews and the number they may go through, with some units have interval reviews, external, and accreditation reviews mandated

Ms Quayle said this came up in their earlier considerations and that the administration did not either redundancy or unduly large reviews.

Senator Boushel asked what the timing would be on a revised policy.

The Clerk replied that he hoped to have a draft ready this term, but its consideration and implementation would depend on its reception.



Senator Gopalakrishnan said that equity initiatives at the university level is well articulated but it is more difficult to do so at a unit level. In particular he noted that in university ranking considerations, equity initiatives weren't given much considerations, and that often units were beholden to disciplinary senses of prestige.

## Report from the Registrar

The Registrar, Dr Kathleen Ross, presented.

### 2022/23 ACADEMIC YEAR

Key dates for the 2022/23 **Winter Session** are as follows:

Term 1 begins	Tuesday, September 6, 2022
Mid-term break	November 9-11, 2022*
Last day of Term 1 classes	Wednesday, December 7, 2022
First day of exams for Term 1	Sunday, December 11, 2022
Last day of exams for Term 1	Thursday, December 22, 2022
Number of Teaching Days	62
Term 2 begins	Monday, January 9, 2023
Mid-term break	February 20-24, 2023**
Last day of Term 2 classes	Thursday, April 13, 2023
First day of exams for Term 2	Monday, April 17, 2023
Last day of exams for Term 2	Friday, April 28, 2023
Number of Teaching Days	62

\*Inclusive of Remembrance Day (November 11) statutory holiday observed in British Columbia.

\*\*Inclusive of Family Day (February 20) statutory holiday observed in British Columbia.

Key dates for the 2023 **Summer Session** are as follows:

<b>Summer Session Term 1</b>	
Term 1 begins	Monday, May 15, 2023
Last day of Term 1 classes	Thursday, June 22, 2023
First day of exams for Term 1	Monday, June 26, 2023
Last day of exams for Term 1	Friday, June 30, 2023





Number of Teaching Days 28

### Summer Session Term 2

Term 2 begins	Tuesday, July 4, 2023
Last day of Term 2 classes	Friday, August 11, 2023
First day of exams for Term 2	Tuesday, August 15, 2023
Last day of exams for Term 2	Saturday, August 19, 2023
Number of Teaching Days	28

Graduate and professional programs may have their own term dates as set out in the Academic Calendar.

## BY-ELECTION RESULTS

### Faculty Member Representative of the Joint Faculties

Further to the call for nominations for faculty members of the Vancouver campus to fill one (1) vacancy on the Vancouver Senate for the remainder of the 2020-2023 triennium issued on 6 December 2021, Dr Ross advised that one (1) valid nomination was received. Therefore, pursuant to Section 15 of the *University Act*, the following faculty member was acclaimed as elected as representative of the Joint Faculties on the Vancouver Senate for a term ending 31 August 2023 and thereafter until a successor is elected:

- Dr Savvas Nicolaou, Professor, Faculty of Medicine

### Other Business

*By general consent, the Agenda was amended to add the following motion for immediate consideration.*

### 2021 WINTER TERM 2 DROP DATE

Eshana Bhangu  
Dante Agosti Moro

*That the faculties be directed to allow students to drop Term 2 courses for the 2021 Winter Session without a formal W-Withdrawal standing if such a request is made prior to 23:59:59 on 6 February 2022.*

Senator Bhangu noted that there were a lot of changes and uncertainty with the start of this term and the shift to on-line learning at its start. She said that an extension to the drop deadline to allow withdrawals without a W standing would show a compassionate and flexible approach given the disruption to student plans returning to campus or in some cases travel to Canada, especially when there was not currently a firm date for return to on-campus instruction.



Senator Matsui on if it would apply to the Law school.

The Clerk advised that as written it would apply to all students in all faculties and programs.

Senator Zhao noted the travel difficulties for some people to travel to or return to Canada.

Senator Agosti-Moro said that a vast majority of students were in favour on this motion. He realized there would be small effects on class composition and group learning but that the students on Senate felt that this would be a disruption their fellow students were willing to accept.

Senator Averill said that he wasn't opposed but the motion but had to note the adverse impact on advising office workloads. He asked if the process could be automated.

The Registrar, Dr Kate Ross said we cannot automate this and as a result, students would need to contact their faculties. She further noted that a W standing wasn't pejorative but that she recognized that many students believed it was.

Senator Harrison shared the workload concerns of Dean Averill but noted that this would give students an opportunity to be advised on the consequence of withdrawing.

Senator Aronson spoke against the proposal, noting that the faculties were already being compassionate in considering academic concession requests for late withdrawals.

Senator Shpeller said that the University should take a more holistic consideration of how withdrawals both with and without a W work.

Senator Yee suggested that this could reduce work for advisors as it would reduce the number of academic concession requests they would have to consider. She also noted the stigma around Ws and said this proposal would give students some more certainty in uncertain times.

Senator Spencer said that a review of the University's withdrawal policy generally would be an excellent idea, and noted that while the Calendar was clear on Ws not affecting averages, it did warn students that it may impact further studies and thus could be seen as negative.

Senator Pratap-Singh asked why 6 February when we weren't certain if we would be returning in in-person instruction on 7 February.

Senator Agosti-Moro agreed that this wasn't a certainty but that the idea was to select a date where they believed it was most likely that most of the University would return to in-person learning.



Senator Helsley noted that there were existing mechanisms and late withdrawals posed issues for group work and for eligibility for things such as student loans.

Senators Sandhu and Yu said that this proposal would help with student mental health in a difficult time, and that extending the drop date would give students more time to consider their options and the advice of advisors

Senator Gopalakrishnan said that he would have appreciated notice of the students' proposal rather than having it brought up from the floor. He agreed with the notion of needing review the Withdrawal policy.

Senator Burnham noted the capacity issue in advising offices and Enrolment Services in being able to meet with students over the course of this pandemic. While staff budgets were outside of the purview of Senate, she said these frustrated our ability to do thing sand encouraged this matter to be taken up by appropriate people. With respect to student loans, she said this risk should be communicated to students.

Senator Kandola said that she and her fellow Education students were in support of the proposal.

Senator Hare on spoke to the benefit of contact with advisors and holistic support so that students understand what options were available.

Senator Agosti-Moro noted that students wouldn't be blocked from talking with advisors, this proposal just left the final decision up to the student.

Senator Lo noted that there were significant potential costs to the faculty from this proposal with a loss of tuition revenue that was difficult to predict.

In response to questions from Senator Lo and Harrison, the Clerk set out how the University's fees were assessed, noting that tuition fees were automatically credited to students if a course was dropped without a W, but other fees, especially those paid to third parties, may still be assessed.

Senator Schumacher noted that due to the SIS not being changed, students would need to contact advising staff anyways.

Senator Singh suggested that on most students won't withdraw just for the sake of it and that he did not expect that this extra time would be abused.

Approved

## Adjournment

Seeing no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm