



**SENATE ACADEMIC BUILDING NEEDS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday 14 December 2021 2-3:30 p.m. via Zoom

Attendance

Senators: Laia Shpeller (Chair), Anisha Sandhu (Vice-Chair), Ben Fischer, Andre Ivanov, Shaktiraj Kandola, Alex Scott, Jaclyn Stewart

Ex Officio: Pam Ratner

Guests: Odessa Corletto, Robbie Morrison

Regrets: Adlai Fisher, Kate Ross, Richard Topping, Austin Uzama

Senate Staff: Michael Jud

Call to Order The meeting of the Senate Academic Building Needs Committee (the “Committee”) was called to order at 2:05 p.m. on 14 December 2021 by Laia Shpeller, Chair.

Agenda ***THAT THE** Senate Academic Building Needs Committee adopt the 14 December 2021 agenda as presented.*

Moved: B. Fischer
Seconded: A. Sandhu
Carried

Meeting Minutes ***THAT THE** Senate Academic Building Needs Committee approve the meeting minutes of November 16, 2021 as presented.*

Moved: A. Scott
Seconded: J. Stewart
Carried

**Presentation –
UBC Course
Scheduling System** The presentation was delivered by Robbie Morrison, Associate Registrar & Director, Scheduling, Records & Systems Management, and Odessa Corletto, Change Management Analyst.

The University is in the midst of implementing a new course scheduling system. The new scheduling system is the culmination of several years of planning and consultation with campus stakeholders. UBC’s approach to course scheduling has traditionally been based on tiered model with priority access to space for some units. The new approach is intended to deliver a more appropriate and efficient allocation of space based on the requirements of each unit, while making the process simpler and more equitable to all units.

The new model is expected to lead to a number of tangible benefits, including reduced administrative workload and a more rational utilization of existing academic space. It is also hoped that a shift toward departmental zone allocation will help to reduce travel times between classes.

Academic units are being asked to support the new system by ensuring that no more than 55% of course sections are scheduled during prime-time (10am-1:59pm). Coordination between units is also being strongly encouraged in support of the new multi-block scheduling pattern soon coming into effect.

The results of the new scheduling system will be evaluated following completion of first annual cycle. Enrolment Services staff plan to organize a tour of campus to discuss their findings. It is expected to take several years for the process to mature and settle in.

- A. Ivanov stated that there was a surprising lack of automation in the new process. With respect to the 55% course target for the prime-time scheduling slot, what does the modelling say about the effects of setting this target higher or lower? R. Morrison responded that they are working within the limitations of the current software system (Scientia) to assign courses to physical spaces. A significant amount of human intervention is unfortunately required. The 55% target is the product of simulations that were done earlier in the process to identify a viable target and good baseline to start with. O. Corletto added that a more automated process had been considered, but scheduling partners wished for more human control.
- B. Fischer commented that some schools and faculties have dedicated their priority access to certain rooms for use by professional programs. R. Morrison replied that this is referred to as restricted teaching space and falls outside the scope of the present project.
- L. Shpeller stated that some students rely on the Tuesday/Thursday scheduling pattern to plan work and other outside responsibilities. Were students' preferences considered in the design of the new system? R. Morrison replied that the multi-block scheduling pattern responds to requests to provide teaching in different ways. There are already a very large number of courses diverging from the regular pattern, so that issue was already present. O. Corletto added that surveys were collected to build data on student attitudes.
- L. Shpeller asked about the presenters' understanding of hybrid teaching and how it will affect the scheduling process. R. Morrison answered that they are still gathering more information on this through conversations with partners, observations etc. No firm conclusions at this point. O. Corletto said that the hybrid scheduling system allows for more flexibility to use spaces more efficiently when different teaching models are used.

Discussion ensued following the conclusion of the presentation Q&A session. Several Committee members expressed concerns as to whether sufficient student consultation had taken place.



Action: The Chair undertook to contact staff for more information about the incorporation of student perspectives in the new scheduling system.

Principles for recording classroom activities (circulated)

The Chair introduced the document titled *Principles for recording classroom activities* and spoke to its context. Committee members were invited to share their reactions to the document.

- A. Scott stated his takeaway from the document that good work being done in identifying how best to use this technology for the benefit for the benefit of both instructors and students. It may not be necessary to continue examining the specifics from a building needs perspective.
- L. Shpeller stated that the document ought to have addressed situations in which instructors and students may disagree about how lecture capture technology is used in specific circumstances.
- J. Stewart stated that it is for the instructor alone to determine whether or not to record their lectures. The Faculty of Science has adopted an approach whereby the decision to record is driven by pedagogical considerations.
- P. Ratner suggested that the document may have failed to make a connection between the personal choice of faculty member to record or not and the faculty member's intellectual property interest in the contents of the lecturer.
- J. Stewart added that lecture capture equipment can be useful in a variety of situations and so promoting its general availability is something to be supported.
- B. Fischer commented that instructors in the Faculty of Law typically do not record their lectures, as the development of law overtime quickly causes recorded material to become unhelpful to students.

The Chair then sought the Committee's opinions on whether this topic called for any particular further action on the Committee's part. Discussion followed in which it was generally agreed that the Committee should continue to inform itself of developments in this area. The Committee will pay particular attention to work being done in this area by the Office of the Associate Provost, Teaching and Learning, and will make inquiries where appropriate.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Tuesday January 18, 2022 at 2:00pm – 3:30pm.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:03 pm.