



a place of mind

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Senate and the University

(in some contexts)

1 December 2018
Senate Office



Overview

- Higher Education in Canada
- Higher Education in British Columbia, and the Place of UBC
- The University Act
- Our Governing Bodies
- The Two Campus Structure
- The Academic Organization
- The Administrative Organization
- Senate vs Board vs Administrative vs Faculty Responsibilities
- Institutional Autonomy and Academic Freedom
- Detailed Senate Organization
 - Senate Membership
 - Rules and Procedures
 - Senate Meetings
 - Committees
 - Senate Website & Resources
 - Senate Staff
- Current Issues



Higher Education in Canada

- Just what is a university?
- A largely public system presently, with ecclesiastical, British, and American roots
- Several periods of growth
- Provincial area of responsibility, but almost entirely dependant on federal funding for research



Higher Education in British Columbia

- UBC was the first provincial university in BC
- False start in 1890 on a British model
- Current start in 1908, subsuming McGill University College of BC.
- Growth in the 1960s and a change of model with UVIC and SFU
- Development of the BC College System
- Conversion of College System to University Colleges, and then Special Purpose Teaching Universities
- Currently 11 public universities, 11 colleges, and three institutes, as well as private institutions.



The University Act

Our constitution and guiding legislation

- Current Structure from 1908 (1890s version was more British)
- Revised in 1927, 1932, 1940, 1962..
- Substantially changed in 1973 (More democratic Board and Senate Memberships), with further revisions in 1992 (enfranchisement of part-time faculty), 2005 (division of the Senate), 2009 (removal of the elected chancellorship).



Mandate, Purpose, and Goals of UBC

University Act, S. 47:

(2) A university must, so far as and to the full extent that its resources from time to time permit, do all of the following:

- (a) establish and maintain colleges, schools, institutes, faculties, departments, chairs and courses of instruction;
- (b) provide instruction in all branches of knowledge;
- (c) establish facilities for the pursuit of original research in all branches of knowledge;
- (d) establish fellowships, scholarships, exhibitions, bursaries, prizes, rewards and pecuniary and other aids to facilitate or encourage proficiency in the subjects taught in the university and original research in all branches of knowledge;
- (e) provide a program of continuing education in all academic and cultural fields throughout British Columbia;
- (f) generally, promote and carry on the work of a university in all its branches, through the cooperative effort of the board, senate and other constituent parts of the university.



Composition of The University of British Columbia

- The Chancellor
 - The Convocation
 - The Board of Governors
 - The Senates and the Council of Senates
 - The Faculties
-
- The President & the Administration
 - Our faculty, staff, students, and other learners

UBC's organizational structure is a composite, with a legislative basis from *the University of Toronto Act*, and an administrative and regulatory organization from the statutes of McGill.



Two places of mind

Vancouver
Okanagan

Administratively joined, academically separated

- One Board, one Council, one President, one Senior Appointments Committee
- Two Senates, two sets of Faculties, two sets of academic regulations
- Less than 5% of UBC's budget and staff are "System" rather than campus specific.



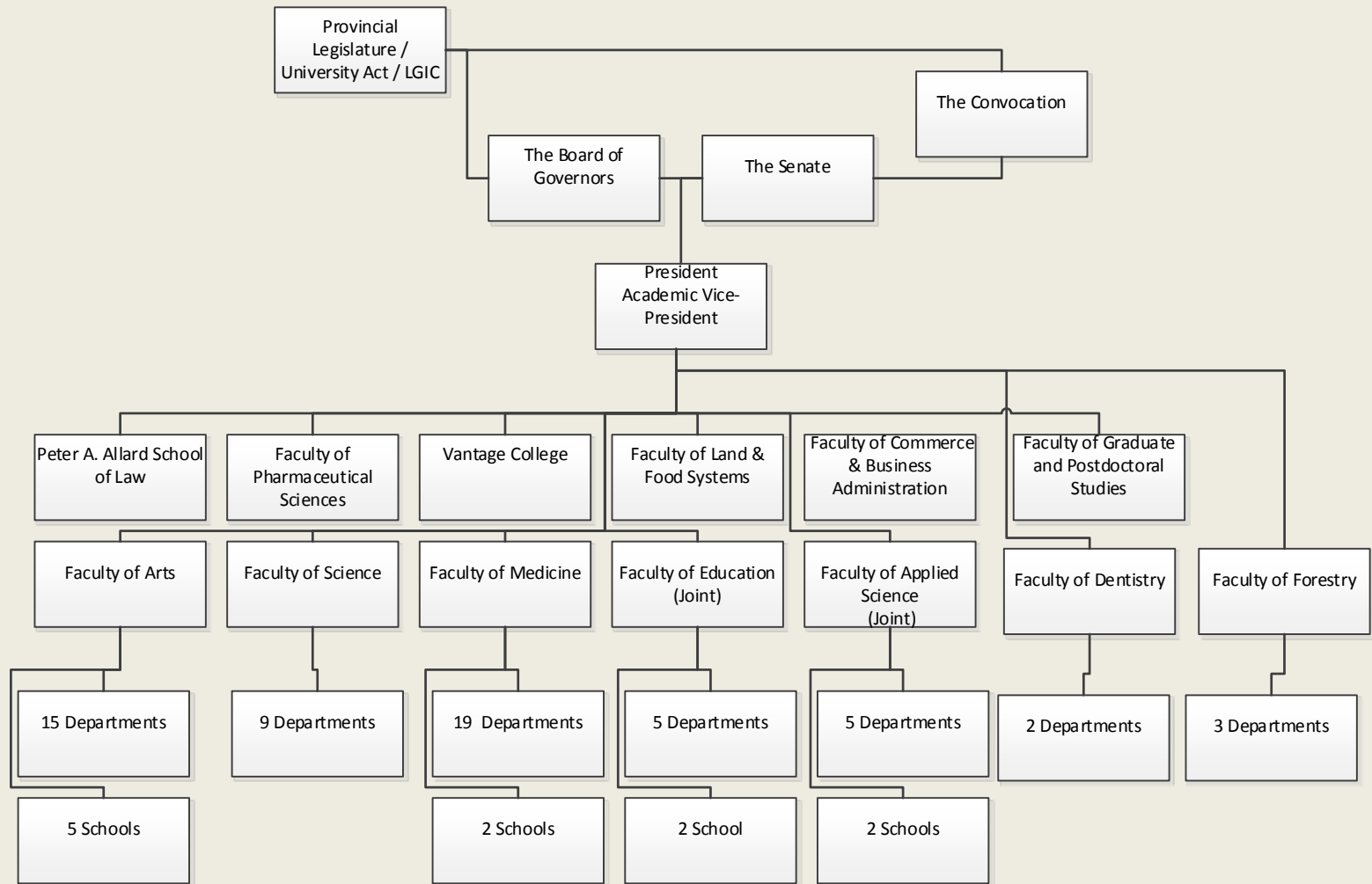
Academic Units

NB: Faculties have powers under S. 40 of the *University Act*; other academic units are referenced in the *Act* but undefined.

- Faculties
- Colleges
- Schools
- Departments
- Institutes
- Centres
- Divisions



The Academic Organization (Vancouver)

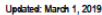




The Administration

Only the President and Registrar have powers under the *University Act*; the academic vice-presidents, bursar and chief librarian are referenced but without being given statutory authority. Deans only have a statutory role as chair of their respective faculties and members of Senate.

- One view: Roughly 7500 persons
- Another view: The President, 9 Vice-Presidents, 24 Associate Vice-Presidents, and increasingly, the Deans.
- The President's Executive
- The Committee of Deans





Senate, Board, Council Administrative, and Faculty Responsibilities

**This area is the most amended in *University Act* revisions.
In particular the 1962 and 1973 *Acts***

- Some powers are held singularly, some held collectively, and some delegated
- Challenges in understandings across jurisdictions



The Council of Senates

Differing views on its purpose. Does not often meet in person.

- Created along with the Vancouver and Okanagan Senate.
- The Council of Senates was an entirely new body. It has inherent jurisdiction over a few areas (Affiliations, elections etc), but also has the ability, at the request of a Senate, the Board, the President, or on its own motion, to assume authority over any matter that normally would be considered by one of the Senates.
- Conflicting views on if it was intended to be (A) A dispute resolution mechanism between two largely autonomous campuses, or (B) a replacement for the University Senate that would create University-wide academic regulations for all of UBC.
- In practice, it has been option (A).



Institutional Autonomy

University Act S. 48:

(1) The minister must not interfere in the exercise of powers conferred on a university, its board, senate and other constituent bodies by this Act respecting any of the following:

- (a) the formulation and adoption of academic policies and standards;
- (b) the establishment of standards for admission and graduation;
- (c) the selection and appointment of staff.

(2) Despite subsection (1), a university must not establish a new degree program without the approval of the minister



Academic Freedom

University Calendar Statement:

"The members of the University enjoy certain rights and privileges essential to the fulfilment of its primary functions: instruction and the pursuit of knowledge. Central among these rights is the freedom, within the law, to pursue what seems to them as fruitful avenues of inquiry, to teach and to learn unhindered by external or non-academic constraints, and to engage in full and unrestricted consideration of any opinion. This freedom extends not only to the regular members of the University, but to all who are invited to participate in its forum. Suppression of this freedom, whether by institutions of the state, the officers of the University, or the actions of private individuals, would prevent the University from carrying out its primary functions. All members of the University must recognize this fundamental principle and must share responsibility for supporting, safeguarding and preserving this central freedom. Behaviour that obstructs free and full discussion, not only of ideas that are safe and accepted, but of those which may be unpopular or even abhorrent, vitally threatens the integrity of the University's forum. Such behaviour cannot be tolerated."



Senate Overview

- Senate Membership
- Rules and Procedures
- Senate Meetings
- Committees
- Senate Website & Resources
- Senate Staff

Vancouver Senate Membership

- President
- Chancellor
- Academic Vice-President
- Deans (12)
- University Librarian
- Director of Continuing Education
- Representatives of Affiliated Colleges (4)
- Elected by the Faculties (24)
- Elected by the Joint Faculties (12)
- Elected by the Convocation (12)
- Elected by the Students (18)
- Elected by the Professional Librarians (1)

Students representatives are elected for a 1-year term; all other elected representatives are elected for a 3-year term.

Rules and Procedures

- The *Rules and Procedures of Senate* govern the work of Senate and its committees. A copy of the Rules and Procedures is provided to all new Senators in their Orientation Package, and the most recent version is available on the Senate website.
- In all cases in which they are not inconsistent with the Rules and Procedures, the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* governs the Senate and its committees.

Senate Meetings

- Meetings of the Senate are scheduled monthly from September to May. *Rule of Senate 16(a)*
- The Agenda Committee may cancel a regular meeting if there is neither urgent nor sufficient business. *Rule of Senate 16(d)*
- Senators may normally speak no more than twice on a question in debate. *Robert's Rules*
- Non-Members of Senate may only address Senate if granted leave to do so by the Chair or by Senate. *Rule of Senate 19(b)*
- In order for the Chair to easily identify senators from guests, senators should sit in the front section of the meeting room, and guests should sit at the back.

Committees

Vancouver Senate Committees

- - Academic Building Needs
 - Academic Policy
 - Admissions
 - Agenda
 - Appeals on Academic Standing
 - Curriculum
 - Library
 - Nominating
 - Student Appeals on Academic Discipline
 - Student Awards
 - Teaching & Learning
 - Tributes

Senate Website

- www.senate.ubc.ca
- Homepage has links to the Okanagan Senate, the Vancouver Senate and the Council of Senates
- Links to:
 - Membership
 - Minutes
 - Materials
 - Policy Abstracts
 - Committees
 - Rules and Procedures
 - and more...

Senate Staff

- Administer Senate, its committees, the faculties, and a variety of other processes such as the calendar, university appeals, elections, and standing reviews
- Conduct research for, draft, and review policies and regulations
- Advise on academic procedural matters



a place of mind

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Current Issues



Questions? Comments?

Further reading:

- *The Structure of University Governance in Canada*, and *An introduction to Higher Education in Canada* by Glen Jones, Dean OISE.

http://board.acadiau.ca/tl_files/sites/board/resources/PDF%20Files/Structure%20of%20University%20Governance%20-%20Jones.pdf

https://www.oise.utoronto.ca/hec/UserFiles/File/Research/Papers/Introduction_to_Higher_Education_in_Canada.docx

-- *Higher Education in British Columbia, 1945-1995*, by John D. Dennison

<https://books.google.ca/books?hl=en&lr=&id=trZ-BVsBUPOC&oi=fnd&pg=PA31&dq=%22Higher+Education%22+and+%22British+Columbia%22&ots=Zv-QmmPSC-&sig=h0B01UnQy8TitwllkDennHIVKig>

- *The Handbook of Canadian Higher Education Law*, T Shanahan, M Nilson and L. Broshko, Eds.

http://ubc.summon.serialssolutions.com/#!/search?bookMark=ePnHCXMw42LgTQStzc4rAe_hSmGGHKtkCmxWWJqYgK4_E9UITwxODQ7WBEe6EWhiycDIkgOaCGB8TgZdYEApeAD706DmpkJ-mgJsv74CZAmEAnwJhIJPYjk3g5Sba4izh25pUnl8dOgj3gJ00Z8I6FJcZUxJ2PROvCXoCHdL0L4dPEYAAJUzPoA

- *Canadian Federal Policy and Postsecondary Education*, D Fisher, K Rubenson, J Bernatchez, R Clift, G Jones, Eds.

<http://www.forschungsnetzwerk.at/downloadpub/chet2452487040.pdf>

- *A Brief History of UBC*, by the UBC Archives

<http://archives.library.ubc.ca/general-history/a-brief-history-of-ubc/>