

20210910 Vancouver Senate Agenda Committee – Final Minutes

Present: Julia Burnham (Chair), Paul Harrison (Vice-Chair), John Gilbert, Joanne Fox, Kin Lo, Claudia Krebs, Sally Thorne, Anisha Sandhu, Guy Faulkner, Janine Benedet, Kate Ross

Regrets:

Clerk: Chris Eaton

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| Call to Order | Paul Harrison, Vice-Chair of the Senate Agenda Committee, called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm. |
| Election of a Chair | The Clerk issued a call for nominees for Chair of the Committee. One was received for Senator Burnham who was acclaimed as elected. |
| Minutes | Minutes of 7 May 2021 were approved as presented. |
| In Camera – 22 September 2021 Senate Agenda Discussion on University Autonomy | N/A |
| Adjournment | Senator Harrison expressed a concern with the Provincial Government acting contrary to the institutional autonomy of UBC and other universities in BC with respect to the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Other senators expressed a concern with the lack of clarity with regards to authority over a vaccinate mandate at BC universities. Members discussed if this was a matter of communication and approach or of substance. Members also discussed on what basis the Minister of Finance, rather than the Minister of Advanced Education, could give directives to the University. The Clerk noted the complications of the <i>Public Sector Employers Act</i> with regards to UBC's relationships with its employees and suggested that if the Committee needed more information there it could consult with an employment lawyer. Senator Krebs asked what UBC could do if it felt that the Government was not respecting our institutional autonomy. Dean Benedet suggested that the public health issue and the National Day were distinct issues and did not represent a pattern. The Clerk noted that the Agenda Committee's terms of reference included matters related to the implementation of the <i>University Act</i> ; he suggested that if the Senate felt this was a concern it may wish to reach out to the other academic senates in British Columbia to see if they shared concerns. The Chair suggested that the Committee could explore this idea further. The meeting was adjourned at 1:01 pm. |