OKANAGAN SENATE

MINUTES OF 24 November 2022

DRAFT

Attendance


Clerk: C. Eaton

Call to Order

The Chair of Senate, Dr Deborah Buszard, called the third regular meeting of the Senate for the 2022-2023 academic year to order at 3:36 pm.

Minutes of the Meeting of 27 October 2022

A number of typographical errors were sent to the Clerk in advance. Senator Legault’s attendance was corrected to confirm attendance at the October meeting.

Senator Ebl noted that it was her recollection that she had asked about the upcoming in-person graduation ceremonies, that there was some discussion of that in the Principal’s remarks and that her comments are not reflected in the minutes. The Clerk confirmed the minutes will be corrected accordingly.

Jan Cioe
Peter Arthur

That the Minutes of 27 October 2022 be adopted as corrected.

Approved as Amended
Remarks from the Acting President

Dr. Buszard highlighted the make-up Convocation ceremonies for graduates whose regular ceremony was cancelled due to the pandemic. She noted that these ceremonies were particularly meaningful given the circumstances and that many UBC graduands who had missed the opportunity to experience a graduation ceremony welcomed an opportunity to share it with friends and family.

Dr. Buszard shared confirmation from the Minister of Advanced Education that UBCO’s next Indigenous language fluency degree has been approved. She noted that the Okanagan campus was the first in British Columbia to offer an undergraduate degree of this kind when the Bachelor of Nsyilxen Language Fluency program was launched in 2021.

The Chair noted that the provincial framework for Indigenous language learning was initiated by the First Nations Education Steering Committee and the Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association and developed from a discussion paper prepared by Dr. Jeannette Armstrong. The Chair congratulated Dr. Armstrong, Dr. Mike Evans, Adrienne Vedan and the many other members the UBC Okanagan community who have worked to make a second Indigenous language fluency degree a reality. Dr. Buszard stated that she was extremely proud that such important, leading-edge work continues on the Okanagan campus.

The Chair updated Senators on the launch of the new Kelowna office for the Pacific Regional Economic Development Agency of Canada, noting that it is a reflection of the region’s growing importance for both BC and Canada, as well as of UBC’s central role in its development. Minister Harjit Sajjan attended on campus after the launch to meet with the resilient infrastructure research team and students and to open the UBCO Clean Tech Hub. The Honorable Minister Harjit Sajjan also announced a $1 million contribution from PacifiCan to support Dr. Abbas Milani’s research on accelerating circular economy practices in British Columbia.

The Chair congratulated Dr. Mary Clare Kennedy from the Faculty of Health and Social Development, who is among the new Canada Research Chairs announced this month by the Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry.

Dr. Kennedy was named the Canada Research Chair (Tier 2) in Substance Use, Policy and Practice. Her research examines the social-structural aspects of health among drug users evaluates the implementation and effectiveness of novel harm reduction interventions, including safe supply programs and innovations in supervised consumption service delivery. The Chair noted that Dr. Kennedy is currently co-leading the scientific evaluation of the Safer Alternatives for Emergency Response (SAFER) initiative as well as a study investigating the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on supervised consumption service delivery, access and outcomes in Vancouver and Surrey.
Dr. Buszard concluded her remarks by noting that UBC sent its largest ever delegation of students, faculty, and staff to the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) in Egypt last month. By participating in the COP as official observers, the delegates deepened their understanding of how global climate negotiations work, and also demonstrated UBC’s exemplary work on the climate emergency with this global gathering.

**Remarks from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor**

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor spoke of the makeup convocation ceremonies and the meaningful opportunity for graduates, their friends and families as well as faculty and staff to celebrate. Dr. Cormack also hosted the Length of Service celebration on Tuesday for 2020-21 recipients, and yesterday for 2022 recipients.

The budget for the coming year is under development and more information will be available shortly. There are budgetary restrictions anticipated due to two building projects and some payments will come due for those buildings, which will limit what other priorities can be funded. There are also fewer than expected international students enrolled in the current year, although the number is higher than the prior year. These factors both necessitate some re-organizing and re-budgeting for this year and the next. ICI Contracting should be breaking ground on the campus site before the end of this calendar year, with a target opening date remaining at September 2025. Dr Cormack shared that the downtown building construction is proceeding well with an anticipated opening date of 2026.

Dr. Cormack also highlighted Minister Sajjan’s visit to the campus for opening of the Pacific Economic Development Agency of Canada (PacifiCan) offices in Kelowna and Cranbrook and acknowledged the research funding they have given UBC Okanagan for the circular economy’s work this year.

**Remarks from the Provost**

The Vice-President Academic and Provost, Dr Rehan Sadiq, provided an update on the search for a new Dean of the Faculty of Health and Social Development, which is ongoing. Although slightly delayed due to an External Review Committee member becoming ill, there should be an official announcement before the next Senate meeting.

The Provost reported on the Anti-Racism and Inclusive Excellence (ARIE) Task Force Committee, which Senator J. Eikenaar is chairing. Through consultations, the intent is to collect data as to the current state and establish baselines and efforts and then move forward on implementation of task force recommendations. Dr Sadiq noted that there are opportunities to serve on this committee if senators are interested.

In response to a question from Senator Hafiz, the Provost shared that he and the Dr Cormack had a successful trip to the UAE and were able to establish good connections with several universities, international schools and governmental departments. The hope is to build on the rapport by exploring various opportunities for partnership.
Candidates for Degrees

Barb Marcolin  
Tanya Forneris

That the candidates the degrees as recommended by the Faculties and the College of Graduate Studies, be granted the degrees for which they were recommended, effective November 2022, and that a committee comprised of the Registrar, the dean of the relevant faculty, and the Chair of Senate be empowered to make any necessary adjustments.

Academic Policy Committee

DISCUSSION REGARDING SENATE RESPONSE TO ANTI-RACISM AND INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE TASK FORCE REPORT

The Chair of the Senate Academic Policy Committee, Dr Jan Cioe outlined the Committee’s discussion of the Report of the President’s Task Force on Anti-Racism and Inclusive Excellence. The Committee was particularly interested in a number of specific actions outlined in the report and how they interface with the Indigenous Strategic Plan (ISP). There is a specific recommendation that Indigenous engagement be broadly integrated into all aspects of the university’s academic and operational functions.

Senator Cioe noted that the Committee has started the process of engaging with the ISP via the implementation toolkit and considering what impediments or barriers are in place or have existed historically that must be removed to effective action the ISP, and encouraged other Senate committees to do the same.

Senator Ebl noted that it has been discussed on the Senate floor and in committees that demographic data is only available if students self-declare and the University’s current systems are not effectively gathering that data. She noted that there are initiatives that are either in place or are in development that will allow better data collection and asked for an update on their development.

The Registrar, Ms Ng, shared that there is a student demographic data project underway, and a report will be presented to the advisory committee in the coming days and will address issues such as what type of data can be collected and by whom. More information will be available to share following the advisory committee meeting.
Senator Hare noted that the Strategic Equity and Anti-Racism (StEAR) Framework is being developed by the Equity and Inclusion Office at the Vancouver campus which will guide the implementation of UBC’s various equity and anti-racism plans and recommendations. She asked how that work might also extend to the Okanagan campus so that the StEAR framework might also be a part of the kinds of processes and decision-making that may also be guided by the ISP so that both frameworks are part the work being done on anti-racism and inclusion.

Dr Cormack invited the Provost to comment. Dr Sadiq noted that the StEAR framework is in the early days of development and will be presented to the broader UBC community when ready. He noted that there are multiple plans being engaged, among them the ISP, the Inclusion Action Plan (IAP) and the ARIE Task Force Recommendations and part of the discussions include the overlaps and how to create more efficiency. Dr Sadiq noted that Associate Vice-President, Equity and Inclusion, Arig al Shaibah should be invited to a future Senate meeting to address these important questions in more detail.

Senator Eikenaar commented that as the lead on the Okanagan campus for implementation of IAP and ARIE Task Force recommendations, he is pleased to collaborate with Adrian Vedan on truth and reconciliation work and the implementation of the ISP. He noted that there are unique opportunities for collaboration in the discussion and implementation of the various plans.

Senator Hare noted that it is important to distinguish priorities articulated in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the work that will be done by the StEAR framework. The Provost added that the work on the IAP and ARIE recommendations is done under the purview of the Provost’s office while the ISP work is done under the DVC Office, so via two different portfolios. He noted that care is being taken to ensure that the priorities and recommendation of one plan are not subsumed by another.

Dr Cormack noted that Arig al Shaibah will be invited to a future Senate meeting, and that the first version of the StEAR framework was presented at a Board of Governors meeting and was very well received.

**Admissions and Awards Committee**

The Chair of the Senate Admissions and Awards Committee, Ms Tamara Ebl, presented.

**NEW AND REVISED AWARDS**

*See Appendix A: Awards Report*

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<th>Tamara Ebl</th>
<th>That the Senate accept the new and revised awards as listed, that they be forwarded to the Board of</th>
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Governors for approval, and that letters of thanks be sent to the donors.

Curriculum Committee

The Chair of the Senate Curriculum Committee, Dr Yves Lucet, presented.

CURRICULUM PROPOSALS FROM THE FACULTIES OF ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES AND CREATIVE AND CRITICAL STUDIES

See Appendix B: Curriculum Report

Yves Lucet
Jan Cioe

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors for approval the new course and program name change brought forward by the Faculties of Arts and Social Sciences and Creative and Critical Studies.

Learning & Research Committee

The Chair of the Senate Learning & Research Committee, Dr Sally Stewart, presented.

PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ANALYTICS IN MEDICAL SCIENCES INSTITUTE

Senator Stewart stated that the Institute will work to address major healthcare issues in the coming decades through integrated research and the training of future researchers in several health disciplines. She thanked Vice-Principal, Research, Dr. Phil Barker for presenting to the Committee.

Sally Stewart
Sandy Hilton

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the establishment of the Analytics in Medical Sciences (AiMS) Institute pursuant to Policy O-5.1 Research Institutes and Centres.
Ad Hoc Committee on Course Scheduling

The Chair of the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Course Scheduling, Mr Rob Johnson, presented.

FINAL REPORT TO SENATE

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The Chair of the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Course Scheduling, Senator Rob Johnson, presented the Committee’s Final Report to Senate. He thanked the members of the Committee for their time and energy and the course scheduling team within Enrolment Services for sharing their expertise. He noted that the report deals with complex and contentious issues which face many constraints and challenges. The Committee’s Report and its recommendations provide a snapshot of the issue and a possible way forward.

Dr. Rehan Sadiq expressed his appreciation for the Committee’s hard work and noted that issues around scheduling are long-standing and create significant stresses for both faculty and students. He additionally noted that both he and the Deans are fully committed to a student-centred timetable. He offered the recommendation that the Committee’s Report be referred to the Deans’ Council for review with the expectation that they will report back to Senate by the end of June 2023.

The Clerk clarified that Dr. Sadiq was essentially proposing a motion to refer, and that a deadline of May 2023 would be more appropriate as there is no Senate meeting in June.

With the consent of Senate, the Chair recognized Mr. Jay Graham, Associate Director, Enrolment Services.

Mr. Graham explained that he was appearing in place of Bert Annear, Deputy Registrar. He noted that the course scheduling team is very small and that they must prioritize the completion of the course schedule for the next year by April. The summer is therefore the optimal time to conduct any analysis of new scheduling scenarios.

Senator Ebl stated that the issue of course scheduling is closely connected with the issue of enrolment targets. She noted that the most recently approved set of enrolment targets were the subject of considerable debate at the Admissions and Awards Committee and Senate. She stated
that enrolment targets should be kept in mind when addressing the scheduling issue as they can contribute to skewed planning.

Senator Hilton spoke against adopting the Ad Hoc Committee’s recommendation involving the striking of a new committee, suggesting that it would be more sensible for the exiting Ad Hoc Committee to continue this work.

Dr. Sadiq emphasized the importance of making recommendations which are practical and realistic given the university’s present circumstances. He also noted that the Ad Hoc Committee’s recommendation to conclude a further investigation of scheduling issues by March 2023 would raise challenges.

Senator Lalonde commented on the importance of maintaining a high-quality academic experience for students despite challenges related to scheduling. He referenced the importance of labs for students in the sciences, as it was noted in the Ad Hoc Committee’s Report that scheduling labs can cause difficulties.

Senator Johnson elaborated in response on the complexities of scheduling labs, noting that labs are seen as very important and there was no discussion of curtailing them. The Committee’s recommendation touching on labs was aimed at reducing the extent of complicating constraints within the scheduling system.

Senator Cioe noted that there was a pattern of scheduling courses based on historical student registration behavior. He stated that it was a poor practice to create pathways which lock all students into a specific version of a program without taking account of the interests of others.

Senator McNeil stated that the fundamental problem underlying the scheduling issue is over-enrolment. He noted that enrolment on the UBC Okanagan campus currently stands at approximately 123% of provincially-funded full-time equivalent seats. He argued that the university does not have the space or resources to teach this many students effectively.

Senator Evans expressed a concern about the potential delay that could result from referring the matter to the Deans’ Council for further review. He stated that he considered it very important that department heads be permitted to work with scheduling staff to make adjustments to the teaching schedules of individual instructors. He noted that there are indications that this practice, which was allowed last year, would be disallowed going forward, and that this would make the situation for many faculty members much worse. He also emphasized the important of ensuring that faculty members can effectively integrate their teaching activities with their other responsibilities.

The Chair invited Dr. Sadiq to respond to the above comments and to put his proposed motion on the floor.

Dr. Sadiq responded to earlier comments regarding enrolment targets. He stated that increasing student numbers at UBC Okanagan are partially driven by increasing graduate student
enrolment, and that graduate students are critical to the university’s research enterprise. He indicated that the university has sought to secure additional government funding to reduce the percentage of unfunded full-time equivalent students currently reflected in the numbers. He then offered the following motion:

Rehan Sadiq
Jan Cioe

That the Ad Hoc Committee’s recommendations be referred to the Deans’ Council for review, and that the Deans’ Council be directed to report back to Senate by September 2023 with any recommendations it may have.

Senator Garrard suggested that in order to allay concerns with respect to timeliness it could be possible for Deans’ Council to submit an interim report to Senate in a much shorter timeframe than the proposed September 2023 deadline.

Dr. Sadiq indicated that he was not opposed to an interim report and would accept it as a friendly amendment to his motion, however he required clarity with respect to what specifically would be anticipated.

Senator Garrard responded that the interim report would discuss any issues in regards to which it was possible to reach clear conclusions by the deadline, leaving the more difficult issues for a final report.

By general consent, the motion was amended to read: “That the Ad Hoc Committee’s recommendations be referred to the Deans’ Council for review, and that the Deans’ Council be directed to report back to Senate by January 2023 with any interim recommendations they may have, and by September 2023 with any final recommendations.”.

Senator Hodges stated that she was very concerned about the proposed delay. She noted that many colleagues are being asked to teach impossible schedules, damaging their research and institutional goals with respect to EDI. She emphasized that showing respect for faculty members as human beings should be a core consideration.

Senator Johnson spoke to the considerations that led to the Committee’s recommended timeline for the recommendations found in its Report to Senate. He indicated that the recommended timeline was intended to allow for a possibility that any adopted changes to scheduling practices could be implemented in time to impact the 2024/25 academic year.

Senator Lasserre stated that a distinction should be drawn between what can be implemented for this year versus what cannot be implemented until next year. She stated her belief that there is a possibility right now to consider moving more teaching online in order to ease scheduling challenges.
Senator Eikenaar asked that Mr. Jay Graham be recognized to clarify whether department heads are at liberty to vary the teaching schedules of individual instructors.

Mr. Graham confirmed that this is within the purview of the heads, however they cannot necessarily request a specific day or time. Requests can only be accommodated within the constraints that otherwise apply to the scheduling process.

Senator Frost stated that six out of 18 colleagues in her department are teaching four days per week, and many have other obligations such as childcare responsibilities as well. Over time it has become more difficult to ensure that teaching is scheduled within a typical 9-5 window. If heads have the option to adjust individual teaching schedules then this is not necessarily being clearly communicated to them.

Senator Legault stated that she agrees with the comments of Senator Frost and has concerns around the potential dehumanization of teaching. She urged that the scheduling issue be approached with a degree of humanity.

Dr. Sadiq stated in conclusion that the institution is striving to provide the best possible experience to students under the circumstances. There is hope that the situation will improve once new buildings are constructed. He also noted that UBC Okanagan is a diverse campus where a variety of social values coexist. It is important that any solution to the scheduling issue not prioritize one set of values over another.

Rob Johnson
Robert Lalonde

That the Senate Ad-Hoc Committee on Course Scheduling be discharged with the thanks of Senate for its work.

Senator Ebl spoke against the motion, arguing that the Committee’s experience and institutional knowledge made it the appropriate body to continue working to address the issue.

Senator Tomášková stated that the Committee’s mandate had run its course as a result of the motion to refer which was just approved. In order to continue it would need a new mandate. She also expressed doubts as to whether continuing the committee or forming a new committee would add further value at this point.
Report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Dr Lesley Cormack, presented

WALL FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Dr Cormack noted that she will defer to the President to speak on this proposal, noting that it was considered in camera by the Vancouver Senate in October to maintain confidentiality. It is now presented to the Okanagan Senate for approval.

Dr Buszard stated that the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies was established in 1991, funded by a large donation from Peter Wall. It was the largest gift that UBC had received at the time and it created an institute with a vision to bring great scholars together in an innovative and interdisciplinary manner.

Dr Buszard stated that since its establishment, a relatively small community of scholars have benefited, and that the complexity of the funding model and governance issues have impacted the Institute's ability to effectively engage with the scholarly community. Following recent discussions with the donor, an agreement was reached to change the financial model and how the endowment will be funded and invested. This change also accompanies an overhaul of the Institute’s governance model. These discussions were kept confidential pending finalization of the financial details.

As part of the overall changes, two awards will be established: Wall Research Awards and Wall Fellowships. The President will create two advisory committees with representation from both campuses, from the Faculty of Graduate Studies and other interested parties and will seek membership for those committees going forward.

Senator Garrard asked for clarification on whether the Institute for Advance Studies’ model is being abandoned altogether and that it will just be Peter Wall awarding these fellowships.

Dr Buszard responded the exact details are not clear at this time but there will be a space, place and an administrative function. It will not be residential but the main idea being that it will be more outward looking in terms of funding these awards.

Senator Garrard stated that he had been in contact with Institute directors over the years to explore the possibility of having a form or extension of the IAS model at the UBCO campus. He voiced his disappointment that the IAS model is seemingly abandoned in favor of what looks like a large grant line that will likely be unattainable by smaller scale
scholars. He added that a collaborative interactive space is vital to the preservation and intent of IAS model.

Dr Buszard responded that it is her understanding that the advisory committees that will be established will determine whether to maintain the interdisciplinary studies approach and the intent of the awards and fellowships is more than a grant line.

Dr Buszard stated until recently, scholars from the Okanagan campus could only participate in a very small and exclusive basis. The awards and fellowships allow for a larger vision and that these fellowships may be put forward effectively with certain groups in mind.

Senator Ebl asked for clarification on whether there will be two President’s Advisory Committees, one for the Wall Research Awards and one for the Wall Fellowships or one committee for both or whether one committee is envisioned for the adjudication of both fellowships and awards. She also noted that the description of the fellowships references a President’s Advisory Committee but the description of the research awards does not.

Dr Buszard clarified that there will be one Presidential advisory committee that will consider both fellowships and research awards. She noted that discussions are still in the early phase but that a lot of consideration and thought is being given to how we can make sure the intention of these awards will be interdisciplinary and foster collaborative research.

Dr Cormack reminded senators that the award concept descriptions for the fellowships and research awards are under consideration for approval and that other details are still under development.

Senator Ebl noted that the current concept descriptions make reference to the ‘Senate Awards Committee’ and that it should be clear that the mandate will be presented the Senate Admissions and Awards Committee at the Okanagan campus. She noted that the motion for approval does reference the Senate Admissions and Awards Committee. Senator Ebl asked for clarification on whether the details of both awards will be presented for information or approval.

Dr Cormac noted that the proponents were unable to attend so the answer to Senator Ebl’s question cannot be confirmed. Dr Buszard responded that both Senates would be consulted widely with respect to review of the awards.

Senator Tomášková stated that she recently attended a week-long seminar for directors of advanced studies institutes from all over the world, held in South Africa. She added that several of the attendees stated that they were puzzled and disappointed that the Peter Wall Institute ceased to exist. She stated that she could not give them an answer. Senator Tomášková state that the discussion should be broader than fellowships and awards, that conversation around dissolution of the Institute is one that echoes globally and reflects on UBC’s global standing.
Dr Cormack responded that this was beyond the purview of the Senate however she would pass along the comment.

Senator Reeves asked for clarification on the value of the fellowships, noting that the proposal makes reference to two fellowships valued at $1 million each but also states the number and size of these fellowships are to be determined. She also inquired on how much of these funds will be allotted to UBCO scholars. Dr Buszard responded that these are the exact details that the committees will be looking at as no decisions could be made until the financial agreements were in place.

Deborah Buszard  
Gino DiLabio

That the Okanagan Senate concur with the Vancouver Senate in establishing the Wall Research Awards and Wall Fellowships based on the concept descriptions as set out below, with the proviso that the full details on both the awards and fellowship programs also be presented to the Okanagan Senate Admissions & Awards Committee when they are available.

Approved

Tamara Ebl  
Jan Cioe

That the Okanagan Senate extend the meeting by 30 minutes.

Approved

Other Business
Seeing no other business, the meeting moved to in camera.

IN CAMERA – Learning and Research Committee

HONORARY DEGREES