Vancouver Senate Admissions Committee

MINUTES OF 24 JANUARY 2024
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Via zoom

Attendance: Dr. Joanne Fox (Joint Faculties Senator – Faculty of Science)
Dr. James Charbonneau (Associate Dean, Faculty of Science)
Dr. Agnes d’Entremont (Senator, Faculty of Applied Science)
Kevin Doering (Convocation Senator)
Dr. Nancy Ford (Senator, Faculty of Dentistry)
Dr. Bhushan Gopaluni (Associate Vice-President Academic, as designated by
the Academic Vice-President)
Kareem Hassib (Student Senator, At-large)
Prof. Carol Jaeger (Associate Dean, Faculty of Applied Science)
Dr. Fawziaha Lalji (Senator, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences)
Dr. Laurie McNeill (Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts)
Brendan Morey (Assistant Dean, Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies)
Dr. Rella Ng, Associate Vice-President, Enrolment Services and Registrar
Dr. Marion Pearson (Associate Dean, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences)
Dr. Ingrid Price (Senator, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences)
Sam Saini (Head of unit responsible for undergraduate admissions, as
designated by the Registrar)
Elicia Salzberg (Senior Associate Dean, Faculty of Commerce and Business
Administration)
Dr Jackie Stewart (Joint Faculties Senator – Faculty of Science)
Dr. Zhaoming Xu (Associate Dean, Faculty of Land and Food Systems)

Regrets: Dr. Zul Kanji (Director, Admissions and Student Affairs, Faculty of Dentistry)
Samuel Kenston (Student Senator, Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies)
Catherine Rawn (Chair, Senate Curriculum Committee)
Dr. Shahin Shirzad (Assistant Dean, Faculty of Medicine)

Guests: Christopher Eaton (Associate Registrar & Clerk to the Senate)
Antje Ellermann (Centre for Migration Studies)
Lena Kang (School of Population and Public Health)
Hedy Law (Curriculum Committee Chair, Faculty of Law)
Daniel Steel (School of Population and Public Health)

Secretariat: A. Breen and B. Menard

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted by general consent.
ITEM 3: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 25 OCTOBER 2023 (approval)

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That the Minutes of the meeting of 25 October 2023 be approved, as circulated.

Approved

ITEM 4: BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 25 OCTOBER 2023

None.

ITEM 5: MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 22 NOVEMBER 2023 (approval)

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That the Minutes of the meeting of 22 November 2023 be approved, as circulated.

The attendance was corrected to indicate that B. Morey was in attendance and C. Rawn had sent regrets.

Approved, 1 abstention

ITEM 6: BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 22 NOVEMBER 2023

None.

ITEM 7: COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND ENGAGEMENT WITH THE INDIGENOUS STRATEGIC PLAN (discussion)

The Committee considered Recommendation 2C of the 2020-2023 Vancouver Senate Triennial Review:

That each standing committee be directed to consider how best to engage with the Indigenous Strategic Plan within the committee’s area of responsibility and propose revisions to its terms of reference in support of such activities as appropriate and that each committee report to the Nominating Committee by November 2023, and

That the Nominating Committee report to Senate by January 2024 on progress made on these recommendations.

Committee members offered questions and comments on the following topics:
Members should engage available tools and resources such as the ISP Self-Assessment Toolkit;

Committee should have a better understanding of the barriers to admission for Indigenous students;

Clarify the Committee’s purview/authority and potential restraints in decision-making;

Better understanding of what faculty/departmental initiatives are in place that are working towards increasing access for Indigenous students to UBC; the Faculty of Medicine MD Indigenous Admission Pathway was highlighted as a successful initiative to increase the number of Indigenous admitted to the program.

It was noted that the Faculty of Arts Indigenous Student Advising office, in connection with the Long House, offers wrap-around support on course planning, academic concession etc. and would be a good unit for the Committee to consult.

The Chair noted that this will be standing item on the Committee’s agenda and that a specialist (i.e., a member of the Indigenous Strategic Plan Implementation Committee) may be invited to a future Committee meeting.

ITEM 8: 2023/24 REPORT ON ENROLMENT (discussion)

The Chair invited the Registrar to present the report.

With respect to the data regarding graduate student targets and actuals, it was clarified that there are no targets set for graduate students; the data reflected on Slide 5 of the presentation more accurately reflects graduate FTE numbers.

With respect to areas of concern, the Registrar noted that international student numbers have decreased due to geo-political considerations.

In response to a question regarding increased data on equity-seeking groups, the Registrar clarified that UBC has historically not collected demographic data but has recently started to do so. The data will be reported in the future. The census has only gone out to current UBC students but did not go out to applicants for 2024W admission; questions for applicants are still in development.

In response to a question regarding institutional risk resulting from the recent federal government announcement to cap international student enrolment which is likely to result in a significant decrease in international student enrolment, the Registrar stated it is too early to know the impact on UBC as the decisions around provincial allocations have yet to be made.

A member noted that the rate of Indigenous student enrolment significantly higher at UBC Okanagan as compared to UBC Vancouver, and that it would beneficial for the Committee to know more about recruitment and support initiatives at the Okanagan campus that enable greater Indigenous student enrolment.

The Chair thanked the Registrar for the presentation.
ITEM 9: 2024/25 ENROLMENT TARGETS

The Chair invited the Associate Vice-President, Academic to present the enrolment targets.

It was noted that yield rates that are higher than expected contribute to over enrolment. It was also noted that planning and finalizing targets was done well in advance of the recent government announcement restricting international student numbers and was not considered in the planning and target setting process.

The Chair called for a motion as follows:

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{That the Committee approve and recommend to Senate for approval the 2024/2025 Academic Year Enrolment Targets.

ITEM 10: EXTENSION OF APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS (discussion)

The Chair reminded members that a request to approve the extension of the application deadline for undergraduate applicants to 2024W from 15 January to 31 January, as outlined in the memorandum from the Registrar and Associate Vice-president that was circulated on 18 January, along with the request for approval.

Committee members asked if data would be available on who applied during the extension (e.g., domestic vs. international), how many applicants met admission requirements and how many were admitted. It was confirmed that such data can be made available to the Committee, at the conclusion of the current admission/enrolment process.

Committee members noted that the memo suggests that the policy of the University be changed to allow the Registrar the authority to extend (but not shorten) the undergraduate admissions application deadlines without the approval of Senate or SAC so as to deal with time-sensitive proposals to adjust deadlines due to low applications, technical difficulties, or other exigent circumstances. Such changes would be reported to SAC at future meetings. Committee members agreed that this request should be discussed further before it makes a decision on the matter.

ITEM 11: MASTER OF GLOBAL HEALTH – ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS (approval)

The Chair invited Lena Kang and Daniel Steel to present the proposal.

The rationale for the program includes:
1. Enhance scholarship on systemic factors that impact health on a global scale and solutions to counter the inequities these factors create, within BC, Canada and internationally.
2. Support local, provincial and national efforts to effectively respond to global health challenges, such as climate change, pandemics, and inequities related to colonization.
3. Create a focal point for UBC’s extensive but currently dispersed global health expertise.
4. Strengthen UBC’s position as a national leader in global health education and research.
5. Fill a gap in post-graduate education in global health in British Columbia.

L. Kang added that the program aligns with the Faculty of Medicine strategic plan, as well as the UBC strategic plan. It also aligns with the Ministry of Health’s priority to support a high quality sustainable health care system supported by a skilled and diverse workforce, and effective and efficient systems and structures. The program also contributes towards the Ministry’s commitment towards true and meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous communities in BC.

It was noted that following review at the Senate Curriculum Committee, the course code was revised from MGH to GLBH.

The Chair called for a motion as follows:

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J. Fox
C. Jaeger
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That the Committee approve and recommend to Senate for approval admission requirements for applicants to the Master of Global Health (MGH) program, effective for entry to the 2025 Winter Session and thereafter.
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Approved

ITEM 12: GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN MIGRATION STUDIES – ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS (approval)

The Chair invited Antje Ellermann and Hedy Law to present.

The program is targeted at graduate students who are enrolled at UBC and whose research and/or professional interests focus on migration and mobilities. It will provide students with a foundation for the development of interdisciplinary migration and mobilities research and equips them to effectively communicate their expertise to audiences spanning multiple disciplines.

The certificate pursues 3 distinct objectives: (1) provide students with multi- and interdisciplinary training in migration and mobilities research; (2) provide students with knowledge about pathways to non-academic employment in the migration and immigrant integration sector; (3) foster an inclusive, engaged, and interdisciplinary academic community that provides students with a sense of belonging.
The Committee noted that evaluating ‘demonstration of interest’ as part of the admission process is somewhat subjective and in the absence of clear criteria, may result in appeals to the Committee. The proponents responded that there are a range of factors that are considered to evaluate their interest in the program including grades, statement of interest etc. Acceptance into the program will be based on the strength of demonstrated interest in migration/mobilities research and/or professional practice, fit with the objectives of the program, and academic preparation and performance as shown by academic records. Establishing a cohort with diverse disciplinary backgrounds will also be taken into consideration when making admission decisions.

Committee members suggested that more detailed information be made available to applicants on the Program’s website regarding the range of factors/considerations in the assessment of ‘demonstration of interest.’

J. Fox  
J. Charbonneau

| That the Committee approve and recommend to Senate for approval admission requirements for applicants to the Graduate Certificate in Migration Studies, effective for entry to the 2024 Winter Session and thereafter. |

ITEM 13: OTHER BUSINESS

None

ITEM 14: NEXT MEETING – 21 FEBRUARY 2024 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

ITEM 15: ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

ITEM 16: STUDENT APPEAL

The Committee considered an appeal for admission to the Master of Educational Technology. The appeal was denied.