



Vancouver Senate Research and Scholarship Committee

DRAFT MINUTES OF 22 OCTOBER 2021

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Via zoom

- Attendance:** Dr. Guy Faulkner, Faculty of Education (Chair)
Dr. James Stewart, Allard School of Law (Vice-Chair)
Dr. Nancy Ford, Faculty of Dentistry
Dr. Rob Kozak, Dean, Faculty of Forestry
Dr. Anubhav Pratap-Singh, Faculty of Land and Food Systems
Lisa White, Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, Student Senator
- Regrets:** Dr. Robert Boushel, Faculty of Education
Mr. Ben Fischer, Convocation Senator
Dee Goyal, Faculty of Dentistry, Student Senator
Dr. Merje Kuus, Faculty of Arts
Dr. Gail Murphy, Vice-President Research & Innovation
Dr. Susan Porter, Dean, Faculty of Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies
Dr. James Olson, Dean, Faculty of Applied Science
Dr. Kate Ross, Associate Vice-President Enrolment Services and Registrar
- Guest:** Greg Martyn, Director, Vice-President Research & Innovation Portfolio
- Secretariat:** Aman Breen, Office of the Senate
Christopher Eaton, Office of the Senate

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and acknowledged that the Committee is gathered on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam people.

ITEM 2: APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

By general consent, the Committee adopted the Agenda as circulated.

ITEM 3: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF 17 September 2021

<p><i>G. Faulkner</i> <i>A. Pratap-Singh</i></p>	<p>}</p>	<p><i>That the Senate Research and Scholarship Committee approve the 17 September 2021 meeting minutes as circulated.</i></p>
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Approved

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

PWIAS: Committee Response to the Response to the 2020 PWIAS External Review by the PWIAS Interim Director and the Board of Trustees – review in light of the CAUT Report on Academic Freedom & Collegial Governance at the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies, UBC

The Committee’s report to Senate was approved at the last meeting. In light of the report recently issued by the Canadian Association of University Teachers, the Committee wished to reconsider its report and the recommendations to Senate outlined therein. The Chair called for a motion to reconsider the report previously adopted as follows:

<p><i>J. Stewart</i> <i>R. Kozak</i></p>	<p>}</p>	<p><i>That the Senate Research and Scholarship Committee reconsider the report ‘PWIAS: Committee Response to the Response to the 2020 PWIAS External Review by the PWIAS Interim Director and the Board of Trustees’ previously adopted at the meeting of 17 September 2021.</i></p>
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Approved

The Chair stated that following approval at the 17 September 2021 meeting, the report was reviewed by the Senate Agenda Committee. The Agenda Committee’s guidance was that the report outline a specific motion that Senate receive the Committee’s report and approve or adopt the recommendations outlined therein. In the meantime, the CAUT report was issued, which should be reviewed in advance and may require some modification to the Committee’s report. The report will be presented at the November Senate meeting.

The Vice-Chair added that the CAUT report raises a lot of very serious concerns and issues that should be included within the Committee’s recommendations to Senate. Throughout the discussions and drafting of the report, the approach taken by the Committee has been one that provides the parties a significant degree of autonomy to resolve their own dispute and their own governance challenges in ways that is most meaningful for them. The report should reiterate important principles, like academic freedom, like collegial governance, and good financial governance. The CAUT report is of central importance and should play an important role in the Committee’s

governance responsibilities. The Vice-Chair suggested that the Committee may want to convene another meeting in a week or so, once members have had more time to reflect on the CAUT report.

It was noted that the recommendations outlined in the CAUT report are not incongruous with the content of the Committee's report, which is a good sign, and that the CAUT report should play a role in the Committee's recommendations. The CAUT document points out a key problem in that the PWIAS is something that both is and isn't a UBC Institute; fundamentally the crux of the issue is that the entity acts and looks like it is a component of the university, but is not governed like any other component of the university. This presents a challenge in terms of whether this exception can exist and thrive within the University, or does it need to be corrected in some way?

Committee members felt that while the Committee may not have a role in telling the parties if and how they should create governance structures that are foundational to good governance. On the assumption that current structures are to remain in place, the Committee can articulate some principles that would allow greater transparency and for Senate to be a part of such discussions going forward.

It was noted that reference to preamble to the collective agreement between the University and the Faculty Association on academic freedom should instead refer to the definition of academic freedom as adopted by the UBC Senate and stated in the University Calendar.

The Committee noted that its report to Senate should make explicit reference to the CAUT report, specifically that while it was initially prepared in response to the external review, the conclusions of recently released CAUT report warrant Senate discussion as Senate must strengthen its governance relationship with the PWIAS. The report should also state the Committee should review the governance manual and suggest a timeline for its completion to ensure that the manual is produced and implemented in a timely manner. Finally, the report should recommend that Senate formally request that the governance manual specifically address the following:

- academic freedom and appropriate level of autonomy for the PWIAS Director to make decisions about programs that best fit the academic mission of the institute and the University;
- promote collegial governance and formalize communication between PWIAS, the Committee and Senate via regular reporting;
- recommendation that a member of the Committee serve in an ex-officio capacity on the PWIAS Board of Trustees to ensure regular and timely communication from the Board to the Committee and Senate;
- recommendation for an audit of the finances and financial governance of the PWIAS in light of the concerns raised by the Self-Study and the CAUT report.

The Committee called for an extraordinary meeting to be scheduled for October 29th for the Committee to finalize its report and recommendations to Senate. The Chair called for a motion to postpone further consideration of the report to the Oct. 29th meeting, which was approved by general consent.

ITEM 4: 2021/2022 PLANNING AND PRIORITIES

A document outlining the current status of centres and institutes at UBC Vancouver was circulated with the meeting materials, along with the UBC Okanagan Senate Policy O-5.1: Research Centers and Institutes. While the Okanagan Senate has created a clear and comprehensive policy on the establishment of centres and institutes, no such policy exists at UBC Vancouver. The status document outlines the process for establishing Institutes or Centres that represent an affiliation of Faculties across traditional Faculty boundaries, most often under the jurisdiction of the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. The status document sets out common characteristics of Institutes and Centres in Category 2, and recommends principles for their implementation, governance, review and closure.

It was noted that UBC has many centres and institutes, varying in size, complexity, budget etc. Currently, there is inconsistency and instability regarding centres and institutes at the Vancouver campus and a formal policy should be developed. The Okanagan policy would be a good starting point, recognizing there will be some variation between the policies at both campuses.

Other priorities discussed by the Committee included the establishment of a standing committee on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. Once established, the Research and Scholarship Committee should consider how to incorporate EDI principles into its functions. Also, the Committee should continue its study of the Indigenous Strategic Plan, specifically which sections apply to the Committee and how the Committee can support the goals outlined therein.

ITEM 5: 2021/2022 MEETING SCHEDULE

All meetings will be held from 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m:

19 November 2021
17 December 2021
14 January 2022
18 February 2022
18 March 2022
15 April 2022

ITEM 6: OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ITEM 7: NEXT MEETING

The Committee's next meeting is scheduled for 19 November 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.