

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA | OKANAGAN



OKANAGAN SENATE SECRETARIAT

Enrolment Services

Senate and Curriculum Services

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OKANAGAN SENATE

MINUTES OF 25 APRIL 2007

Attendance

Present: Deputy Vice-Chancellor Dr. D. Owram (Meeting Chair), Dr. A. S. Abd-El-Aziz, Mr. R. Adl, Mr. P. Arthur, Mr. G. August, Ms. S. Barnard, Dean B. Bauer, Dean J. Bottorff, Dr. W. Broughton, Ms. M. Burton, Dr. J. Castricano, Mr. R. Chavarie, Dr. J. Cioe, Dr. R. Currie, Dr. M. Duran-Cogan, Mr. R. Gandha, Dr. J. Gustar, Ms. E. Johnston, Dr. D. Keyes, Dr. R. Klukas, Dean M. Krank, Dr. A. Labun, Dr. R. Lalonde, Mr. D. Lubbers, Ms. V. Lymberopoulos, Ms. M. Patapoff, Mr. O. Penner, Dr. S. Reid, Dr. C. Scarff, Dr. D. Senese, Dr. M. Ungureanu, Dr. M. Williams, Mr. C. Wilson, Ms. M. Wilson, Dr. P. Wrzesniewski

By Invitation: From Enrolment Services: Ms. L. M. Collins, Mr. C. Eaton, Mr. F. Vogt (Acting Registrar & Secretary)

Regrets: President Stephen Toope, Dr. J. Bassett-Smith, Dean R. Belton, Dr. E. Butz, Dean R. Campbell, Ms. L. Driscoll, Dean M. Isaacson, Mr. M. Koovisk, Mr. G. Lepp, Dr. S. McCoubrey, Chancellor Dr. A. McEachern, Ms. N. Neumann, Mr. B. Silzer, Dr. P. Wylie, Ms. G. Zilm

Recording Secretary: Ms. N. Limbos-Bomberg

Call to Order

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Doug Owram called the meeting to order.

Senate Membership

On behalf of the Secretary to Senate, Mr. Vogt welcomed Dr. Carol McFadyen as the Faculty Representative to Senate from the Faculty of Health & Social Development.

Moved: Dr. Cioe
Seconded: Mr. Lubbers

That Ms. Michelle Wilson be appointed as Student Representative to Senate from the Faculty of Creative & Critical Studies and Mr. Oliver Penner as Student Representative to Senate from the Faculty of Education.

CARRIED.

Members of the Senate welcomed all new Senators.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Moved: Dr. Cioe
Seconded: Dr. Abd-El-Aziz

That the minutes of the Okanagan Senate Meeting of 4 April 2007 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED.

Chair's Remarks and Related Questions

Campus 2020

The Chair offered his comments on the April 23rd release by Geoff Plant, QC, special advisor to the Premier and Minister of Advanced Education, of *Campus 2020: Thinking Ahead*, on the future of British Columbia's post-secondary education system (http://www.campus2020.ca/EN/the_report).

Of the 52 recommendations to government on how to build on the strengths of BC's existing system of higher education, the Chair noted several in brief:

- Signal of differentiation – UBC positioned as a major research institution among SFU and UVic ("Georgia Strait" research cluster);
- Repealing of the statutory designation of "university college" to create "regional universities";
- Establishment of a regulatory framework for tuition;
- Creation of a Higher Education Presidents' Council;
- Various performance measures.

The Chair summarized the strength of the report for UBC in its recognition of the University's national and international mandate.

The Chair called for comments. Dr. Lalonde observed that the recommendations are contrary to previous courses of direction and asked about the climate for reception of the recommendations. Dr. Owram responded that reaction depended on the stakeholder group, recalling that the President was pleased with the implications for UBC. In response to a question about the possibility of increased tuition fees, Dr. Owram stated that the report required further reading.

Mandatory Retirement

The Chair reported that on May 15th, pending the settling of several issues and legislation, a 2-year suspension of mandatory retirement would come into effect in a move towards complete abolition. The Chair noted that UBC was one of the last Canadian universities to abolish mandatory retirement.

From the Board of Governors

The Senate received confirmation that the following recommendations of Okanagan Senate were approved as required under the University Act Sections 37 (l) (i) (o) (p) and 38.

January 31, 2007 Meeting of Senate

Curriculum proposals from the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

March 7, 2007 Meeting Senate

Curriculum proposals from the Faculties of Applied Science, Arts and Sciences, Creative and Critical Studies (with the exceptions of SPAN 470 and 471, which were not approved by the Senate), Education, and Health and Social Development.

Discussion

In response to a question from Dr. Reid about the use in Senate documents of the name “Faculty of Arts & Sciences” as opposed to the “Irving K. Barber School of Arts & Sciences,” Ms. Collins explained that the unit retained its legal name as a Faculty so that it could conduct the affairs of a faculty as described in the *University Act*. Although the Faculty was also known as a School, formal reference to the unit by the Senate should be to the Faculty.

Nominating Committee

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Dr. Lalonde presented following recommendations to Senate:

Moved: Dr. Lalonde
Seconded: Dr. Gustar

That Dr. Scott Reid be appointed to the Senate Curriculum Committee until 31 August 2007, and thereafter until a successor is appointed.

and

That the following standing committee appointments be made, effective until 31 March 2008 and thereafter until successors are appointed:

Admissions & Awards:	Ms. Shannon Barnard Mr. Conner Wilson
Appeals of Standing & Discipline:	Ms. Erin Johnston Ms. Vanna Lymberopoulos
Curriculum	Mr. Grayson Lepp Mr. David Lubbers
Learning & Research	Mr. Rick Gandha Ms. Natasha Neumann
Policies & Procedures	Mr. Robert Chavarie Ms. Michelle Wilson

CARRIED.

Curriculum Committee

New Undergraduate Curriculum Proposals

Committee Chair Dr. Gustar presented curriculum proposals from the Faculties of Arts and Sciences, Creative and Critical Studies, and Health and Social Development.

Moved: Dr. Gustar
Seconded: Dr. Currie

That the Senate approves the new and changed undergraduate courses brought forward by the Faculties of Arts and Sciences, Creative and Critical Studies, and Health and Social Development.

Discussion

Dr. Keyes inquired after the course title of “French Civilization” and suggested it seemed to be colonial and antiquated. Mr. Adl responded that the course title was among a series of long-standing titles inherited from Okanagan University College. Dr. Williams asked if the course was taught in French; Mr. Adl responded to the affirmative, adding that all upper level courses are taught in the language of instruction.

Dr. Labun questioned if the course description described the course content. Dr. Gustar responded that it did but noted that at present there is no policy requirement to include a description if the course title is clear. Dr. Cioe asked for clarification on the requirement of a fuller calendar description; Dr. Gustar noted that the website detailing curriculum guidelines does not specify the requirement for a full course description. Dr. Gustar noted that the Calendar language is our legal contract with students and cautioned against including elements that will not be taught.

Dr. Wrzesniewski commented on the over-use of the term ‘civilization’ and suggested Western Civilization as the correct term. Mr. Adl noted this suggestion for future consideration

The motion was put and CARRIED.

Admissions and Awards Committee

New Awards

Dr. Labun presented 13 new awards for approval.

Moved: Dr. Labun
Seconded: Dr. Cioe

That the new awards be accepted as listed and forwarded to the Board of Governors for approval, and that letters of thanks be sent to the donors.

Discussion

Dr. Duran-Cogan asked if students had access to awards information. Mr. Eaton responded in the affirmative (<http://okanagan.students.ubc.ca/finance>). Dr. Labun noted for Senate that not all awards are eligible for student application but are rather made on the recommendation of faculty.

Dr. Bauer responded to an inquiry noting the 2006-2007 availability for awards and stated that the awards would be given retroactively.

Dr. Reid asked about the language referring to programs making recommendations versus departments or units. With regards to the Ken DAUGHTRY Geoscience Prize, Dr. Williams asked about Chemistry versus Earth and Environment Science granting an award. A friendly text amendment was suggested to read "...on the recommendation of the Earth and Environmental Science program in the Irving K. Barber School."

Summarizing the ensuing discussion, Dr. Oworm noted that normally awards will be on the recommendation of the program unless otherwise specified by the donor, and at the discretion of the Senate.

The motion was put and CARRIED.

Report from the Registrar– Mr. Fred Vogt, Acting Registrar

Terms of Office for Faculty and Convocation Representatives to Senate

Acting Registrar Mr. Fred Vogt circulated a report that proposed that Senate consider the following three motions:

1. That Senate recommend to the Council of Senates that the elected terms for the current Convocation & Faculty Representatives to Okanagan Senate be extended by 12 months to 31 August 2008.
2. That Senate recommend to the Council of Senates that the elected terms for the Convocation & Faculty Representatives to Okanagan Senate elected or re-elected for 1 September 2008 be set at one (1) year.
3. That Senate recommend to the Council of Senates that the election of Faculty and Convocation Representatives to the Okanagan Senate be delayed until October 2007.

Mr. Vogt noted some urgency of the matter due to the requirement of the election process to be approved by the Council of Senates and their upcoming annual scheduled meeting on 7 June 2007.

Moved: Dr. Williams

Seconded: Dr. Cioe

That Senate recommend to the Council of Senates that the elected terms for the current Convocation & Faculty Representatives to Okanagan Senate be extended by 12 months to 31 August 2008.

Discussion

Dr. Williams asked how the original term of two years was determined. Mr. Eaton replied that former Deputy Vice-Chancellor Barry McBride approved a shorter term in consideration of the newly formed Okanagan Senate as well as factors of general election timing. Dr. Williams observed that the decision was made without the approval of the Council of Senates and was contrary to the *University Act*. Ms. Collins noted that in arriving at the term exception, Enrolment Services was in conversation with Dr. McBride and consulted with the provincial government for approval. Dr. Ooram conceded that the approval process appeared to be somewhat unclear yet guided the Senate to look forward to the issue at hand.

Dr. Gustar noted that she was uncomfortable reversing a decision of colleagues, and felt that in extending term lengths, the Senate would in essence be voting on itself. Dr. Ooram clarified that the Senate was voting only to make a recommendation to the Council of Senates.

Dr. Williams spoke for many in noting that Senators were unaware of the two-year term exception. Dr. Lalonde noted that he researched the two-year term history and indeed the original nomination form stated two years. However, Dr. Lalonde agreed with Dr. Gustar's discomfort in extending his own Senate term. Dr. Ooram requested feedback on the notion of any perceived conflict of Senators extending its own term. There was no comment from the Senate.

Dr. Labun requested background information on the proposed Senate Review. Dr. Keyes, as Chair of the Policies and Procedures Committee, summarized Dr. Isaacson's proposal and highlighted the major steps and rationale: if the Senate were to proceed with the spring 2007 election with a three year term for all faculty senators that there would be no opportunity to amend the Senate's membership or length of term until 2010. Given that over the next three years many new faculty will be hired, it would be good to be able to offer to new faculty the opportunity to serve on Senate prior to 2010.

Dr. Cioe reminded the Senate of the consequences of not extending the term, namely that elections would begin immediately.

The motion was put and CARRIED. Three opposed. One abstention

*Moved: Dr. Cioe
Seconded: Dr. Currie*

That Senate recommend to the Council of Senates that the election of Faculty and Convocation Representatives to the Okanagan Senate be delayed until October 2007.

Discussion

The Chair noted that the present motion was somewhat linked to the third and asked Mr. Eaton to contextualize the reasons for an October election. Mr Eaton presented issues of resource conflicts related to the election of the Chancellor and as well as the Board of Governors and the Vancouver Senate. Dr. Cioe questioned the inability to manage all the above elections at the same time; Ms. Collins responded that present staffing resources were limited.

Dr. Williams asked if the elections were postponed to the fall, was it was possible to carry out the election in the same 6-week time frame planned if the elections were to happen at this time. Mr. Eaton replied in the affirmative. Dr. Williams asked if it was required that the election be administered from Vancouver; Mr. Eaton replied that the centralization of the on-line system was facilitated by the Vancouver office as were voter inquiries and database management. Dr. Owrap asked about the additional resources required. Ms Collins responded that a short-term staff appointment of four months would be required.

Dr. Cioe felt strongly that the Senate should consider only the proper conduct of elections rather than any administrative process. Dr. Owrap suggested that the second and third motions were not necessary at this time in that the motion to extend enabled Senate to look at itself and begin the process of planning.

Moved: Dr. Abd-El-Aziz

Seconded: Dr. Cioe

That the Senate defer the second and third motions.

CARRIED.

Moved: Dr. Cioe

Seconded: Dr. Williams

That Senate defer the issue of an election timeline and offer an alternate proposal at the next Senate meeting.

CARRIED

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m. The following regular meeting was scheduled to be held on 23 May 2007.