

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA | OKANAGAN



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OKANAGAN SENATE

MINUTES OF 16 JANUARY 2008

Attendance

Present: Deputy Vice-Chancellor Dr. D. Owrap (Vice-Chair), Mr. B. Silzer (AVP and Registrar), Dr. A. S. Abd-El-Aziz, Mr. P. Arthur, Ms. S. Barnard, Dr. J. Bassett-Smith, Dean B. Bauer, Dean R. Belton, Dean J. Bottorff, Ms. M. Burton, Dr. E. Butz, Dr. J. Castricano, Dr. J. Cioe, Ms. L. Driscoll, Dr. M. Duran-Cogan, Mr. R. Gandha, Dr. J. Gustar, Dean M. Isaacson, Dr. D. Keyes, Mr. M. Koovisk, Dean M. Krank, Dr. A. Labun, Dr. R. Lalonde, Mr. G. Lepp, Mr. D. Lubbers, Ms. V. Lymberopoulos, Dr. S. McCoubrey, Dr. C. McFadyen, Ms. N. Neumann, Dr. S. Reid, Dr. C. Scarff, Dr. M. Ungureanu, Dr. M. Williams, Dr. P. Wrzesniewski, Dr. Spiro Yannacopoulos, Ms. G. Zilm

Guests: From Enrolment Services: Ms. L. M. Collins, Mr. C. Eaton, Ms. N. Limbos-Bomberg, Mr. F. Vogt

Regrets: President Stephen Toope, Mr. R. Adl, Mr. G. August, Dr. W. Broughton, Dean R. Campbell, Mr. R. Chavarie, Ms. E. Johnston, Ms. M. Wilson

Recording Secretary: Ms. K. Ross

Call to Order

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Dr. Doug Owrap called the meeting to order.

Agenda

The Agenda was accepted by consent.

Senate Membership

Joint Faculties and Convocation Representatives 2008-2011

The Registrar was pleased to announce that candidates were newly elected or re-elected for 14 Joint Faculties and two Convocation positions on the Senate.

Title Change for Associate Vice-President, Academic Research

Vice-Chair Dr. Owram asked that the Senate appoint the position of Provost to the Okanagan Senate. This position replaces the original position of 'Associate Vice-President, Academic Research' added to the Senate membership under Section 35.1(3)(J) of the *University Act*.

Moved: Dr. Lalonde

Seconded: Dr. Bottorff

That Senate remove the position of Associate Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer, Academic & Research from the membership of Senate and add the position of Provost, UBC Okanagan; and, that Senate amend the membership of its Committees to insert "Provost, UBC Okanagan" in place of "Associate Vice-President, Academic & Research" wherever listed.

Discussion

Vice-Chair Dr. Owram clarified that this title change best supports Dr. Abd-El-Aziz's current role at UBC Okanagan. Since Dr. Abd-El-Aziz's original position was added to the Senate membership the feeling was that the title of Provost should be appointed. Dean Isaacson asked that the Senate members congratulate Dr. Abd-El-Aziz once he arrives at the meeting.

The motion was put and carried.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting, 5 December 2007

Moved: Dr. Cioe

Seconded: Ms. Zilm

That the minutes of the Okanagan Senate Meeting of 5 December 2007 be adopted as amended.

CARRIED.

Vice-Chair's Remarks and Related Questions

Vice-Chair Dr. Owram noted two items for information:

Firstly, that the Honorable Allan McEachern, UBC's 16th Chancellor, recently passed away. Vice-Chair Dr. Owram expressed that the Chancellor was a great supporter who was deeply committed to UBC.

For information on the passing of Chancellor McEachern please visit:
<http://www.ceremonies.ubc.ca/ceremonies/memorial/mceachern.html>

Secondly, Vice-Chair Dr. Owram asked senators to welcome Ms. Barbara Miles, UBC's first Vice President of Development and Alumni Engagement.

For information on Ms. Miles biography and new role please visit:
<http://www.publicaffairs.ubc.ca/media/releases/2007/mr-07-097.html>

Nominating Committee

Senate Committee Assignment

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Chair Dr. Lalonde recommended that Ms. Rachael L'Orsa be appointed to the Policies and Procedures Committee until March 31, 2008 and thereafter until replaced.

Senate accepted the recommendation by consent.

Curriculum Committee

On behalf of the Curriculum Committee, Chair Dr. Gustar presented for approval curriculum proposals from the Faculties of Arts and Sciences, Health and Social Development and Management.

*Moved: Dr. Gustar
Seconded: Dr. Cioe*

That Senate approve the new program and new courses brought forward by the Faculties of Arts and Sciences, Health and Social Development and Management as set out in the attached package.

CARRIED.

Admissions and Awards Committee

On behalf of the Admissions and Awards Committee, Chair Dr. McCoubrey presented a new award for approval.

*Moved: Dr. McCoubrey
Seconded: Dr. Ungureanu*

That the Senate accept the new award as listed and forward it to the Board of Governors for approval, and that a letter of thanks be sent to the donor.

Discussion:

Ms. Neumann asked why this award is not open to graduate students in the Chemistry program. Dr. McCoubrey explained that the new award description was written according to the wishes of the donor.

The motion was put and carried.

British Columbia Provincial Examinations as Admissions Requirements

At the 5 December 2007 Senate meeting the Committee had circulated for information a proposal to change UBC Okanagan admissions policy for applicants following the British Columbia secondary school curriculum such that provincial examinations would not be required for admission to UBC Okanagan starting September 2008. For applicants who chose to write provincial examinations, the examination scores would only be considered if they increased the applicant's admission average. The Admissions and Awards Committee had intended to present this item for approval but had recently been informed that it would be useful to wait one or two months to allow ongoing discussions between the University and the Ministry of Education to conclude. The item was therefore presented for information only, with the understanding that the Admissions and Awards Committee would report again on this issue for approval in the near future. Dr. McCoubrey noted that a proposal to remove BC provincial examinations as UBC admission requirements was considered by the Vancouver Senate at its meeting of December 12, 2007; that proposal was not approved. Dr. McCoubrey updated the senators by stating that the University of Victoria approved the motion to remove BC provincial examinations while Simon Fraser University postponed their decision indefinitely.

Discussion

Vice-Chair Dr. Owrap suggested that both UBC campuses might collaborate and make a common recommendation on this item to both senates. Dr. Cioe and Dr. Reid agreed that it is perfectly possible for the two senates to have different positions on this issue. Dean Isaacson expressed his gratitude that this item was presented to the Senate 'for information' rather than 'for approval'. He added that two ways that the item might be resolved: the first is for the two UBC senates to disagree on a common recommendation and therefore one senate approves the motion and passes it to the Council of Senates; Dean Isaacson prefers the second way, which is for both UBC senate committees to collaborate and establish a common recommendation for approval by the UBC Senates.

Ms. Deborah Robinson, Associate Registrar and Director Student Recruitment & Advising, Admissions, Financial Assistance and Awards offered a short presentation titled *Using BC Grade 12 Provincial Exams as Part of the UBC Undergraduate Admissions Decision*.

In Summary

Comprehensive exams of some kind have been in BC's past for 130 years despite being reintroduced in 1986 after falling out of favour in the 1970s. BC is one of two provinces with comprehensive exams with most students writing in January (semester schools) and June (linear and semester schools). Students in grades 10, 11, and 12 write five provincial exams (Language Arts 10, Science 10, Mathematics 10, a Social Studies 11, and Language Arts 12); other grade 12 exams were made optional by the BC Ministry of Education. In 2007 approximately 50% of those grade 12 students admitted to UBC Okanagan did

not write at least one provincial exam. In 2001, 98% of the total offers of admission to BC students were made without a complete set of provincial exams results; as of June 2007, 22% of all admitted BC 12 students were admitted without UBC having seen any provincial examination results; the final provincial examination grade data were received by UBC in the first week of August.

The issues for consideration are at that students from all other jurisdictions are admitted without the equivalent of provincial examinations since provincial examinations only apply to BC students; there is a reluctance to rescind offers of admissions; using provincial exams treats semester and linear school students differently; and provincial examinations as indicators of first year success. The rationale to remove BC provincial examinations as UBC admission requirements is firstly so that UBC cannot consistently use provincial examination data and make admission decisions in a timely manner; secondly that requiring examinations is therefore neither realistic, honest or ethical; thirdly that admission policies cannot privilege any unit or department; and fourth that UBC course offerings and mode of delivery may be required.

The recommendation to Senate is that UBC not require Grade 12 provincial examinations other than those required for graduation by the Ministry of Education (English 12); March/April admission decisions are made on course grades only since the majority of students are admitted on interim grades; should an applicant have already completed an optional Grade 12 examination, the final blended grade may be used in the March/April admission decision, but only if it is to the student's advantage; students can write provincial examinations in any course used in the calculation of an admission average in order to boost their competitive average; students not admitted in March/April may be admitted in July/August if a) their July grades are above the competitive cut-off and b) space permits; and offers of admission are only revoked if a student falls below the published university minimum, fails or does not complete a pre-requisite course, and/or does not graduate.

Questions and Answers

Ms. Robinson answered a question from the senate floor that 18% of UBC Okanagan students are admitted from outside of British Columbia. Dr. Cioe noted that the argument to remove BC provincial examinations is convincing but asked about the other side of the argument. Dean Isaacson noted two potential arguments: the first is process in that both campuses are required to engage in the debate and to consider a full range of options; and the second argument comes from Dr. Bluman, Faculty of Mathematics, UBC Vancouver; he has been looking at this item for 25 years and he advised Simon Fraser University on their decision, which was to postpone a decision. Dean Isaacson suggested that Dr. Bluman present his argument to the UBC Okanagan Senate when the provincial examination item is recommended for approval. Vice-Chair Dr. Owrap suggested that the UBC Vancouver Senate debate on this item was confused by procedural wrangling, which made the item more complex. Other items affecting

the UBC Vancouver Senate decision include: the absolute success rate of students admitted without the five provincial exams on a discipline by discipline basis. Ms. Robinson expressed the opinion that the motion failed at the Vancouver Senate due to a lack of majority. She further noted that the President, as Chair, was not in attendance at that Senate meeting and that the Vice-Chair chose to abstain.

In response to several questions about why the Ministry of Education chose to cancel and then reintroduce the provincial examinations, Ms. Robinson offered that the provincial examinations were discontinued in 1970 for political and economic reasons; they were brought back in 1986 for political reasons, which included parental concerns about the accountability; at that time no standardized curriculum was delivered in the public schools. She addressed a senator's question that only 10 people have had their offer rescinded at UBC Okanagan.

Dr. Wrzesniewski asked whether the Ministry of Education agrees with the removal of provincial exams and whether UBC is considering other standardized tests for admissions should the provincial examinations be removed. Ms. Robinson responded to both questions by stating that the Ministry of Education is assessing how many students are opting to write the exams; for instance if the number of tests written decreases, i.e. Language Arts 10, then they might be more supportive to remove them than if the number of tests written increases. Implementing standardized tests had not been considered an option.

Ms. Driscoll questioned why the University of Western Ontario (UWO) opted not to remove provincial exams. Ms. Robinson responded by stating that the UWO admits students' based on grade 11 marks; she added that the UWO does not admit that many students from British Columbia. Ms. Driscoll expressed her opinion that if UBC Okanagan is to be 'student centered' then we should remove provincial exams in order to be more competitive and fair to BC students.

Dean Bauer commented that UBC could send a strong statement to the Ministry of Education that the provincial exams are key to the quality of students' education by asserting them at the high school level without requiring exams for admission to the university. He considered a process for a system-wide decision through two processes: first is to create a sub-committee on the issue; the second is to put this item to the Council of Senates. In response to Dean Bauer's comments Vice-Chair Dr. Owram agreed that it would be preferred to have a common UBC decision.

Dean Isaacson offered that the UBC Vancouver Senate remains undecided on a course of action at this point; the Senate felt nervous about making large scale changes without due process; many senators did not want to be rushed into a decision by outside administrators. In his opinion, it is best for the students to maintain the status quo while a decision is still being considered. Vice-Chair Dr. Owram offered that the Admissions and Awards Committee might collaborate

with the UBC Vancouver Admissions Committee as an initial step towards a common motion; thereafter either Senate may pursue their own motion. He reminded senate members that the Council of Senates needs something to discuss before an item can be referred to it.

In a response to a question of timing, Vice-Chair Dr. Oworm stated that this item cannot be implemented for the 2008-2009 Academic Year. Dr. Williams asked that the Admissions and Awards Committee report back to the Senate within two months with a course of action; Vice-Chair Dr. Oworm advised that the UBC Vancouver Senate has asked for a report back by December 2008. Dean Bottorff asked that the Okanagan Senate make a decision by May 2008 so that the recruiters can bring a message to the high schools in the fall. Vice-Chair Dr. Oworm invited the following motion:

Moved: Dr. Cioe
Seconded: Dean Bottorff

That the Admissions and Awards Committee be directed to report back with joint language, or other, from collaborations with the Vancouver Admissions Committee; and that the Admissions and Awards Committee at that time will be directed to recommend a motion to the Senate in March 2008.

Dean Bauer asked that the Senate vote on a motion rather than referring the item to the Council of Senates; Dr. Lalonde echoed this sentiment by adding that the hoped that the Senate would settle this decision without reference to the Council of Senates.

The motion was put and carried.

Report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor

Policy #17: Appointment of Registrar and Librarians; and Policy #18: Appointment of Designated Senior Academic Administrators

Vice-Chair Dr. Oworm stated that the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor is proposing a Joint Senate and Board Policy to address the process of appointing the Registrar, Librarians, and Senior Academic Administrators. In the proposed process, each Senate will address the issue before sending it forward to the Board of Governors.

Moved: Dr. Cioe
Seconded: Ms. Burton

That the Senate approve Policy #17 Appointment of Registrar and Librarians; and Policy #18: Appointment of Designated Senior Academic Administrators as presented.

Discussion

Dean Isaacson expressed that the Senate approval on academic appointment policies is a useful expression to the Board of Governors and to the President that the Senates continue to be consulted. Mr. Eaton confirmed that the Board of Governors is prepared to consult with Senates on all academic appointments. Dr. Cioe asked that a process be developed so that these types of policies are considered by the Senates with enough time to properly assess them; he conveyed his displeasure to those who continue to add these time-sensitive items; Vice-Chair Dr. Oworm agreed.

Dean Bauer asked why the Deputy Vice-Chancellor is not a member of the various selection committee outlined in Policy 18; Mr. Eaton agreed to look into why the Deputy Vice-Chancellor is not included on these committees as outlined in the policy presented. Vice-Chair Dr. Oworm reminded senators that in his position he acts as both the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and the Vice President Academic.

Ms. Neumann asked that consideration be given to include graduate students on membership committees where there are two positions for two students representatives. Vice-Chair Dr. Oworm asked Mr. Eaton to note the inclusion of a graduate student on such membership committees.

Ms. Burton acknowledged how nice it was to see the inclusion of UBC Okanagan on the membership of these committees.

The motion was put and carried.

Reports from the Associate Vice-President, Enrolment Services & Registrar

Report on Enrolment: Presentation

The Registrar circulated the Report on Enrolment 2007-2008 accompanied by supporting enrolment data for UBC undergraduate and graduate students. Dean Isaacson congratulated Mr. Silzer on providing such a balanced report. In response to a comment about the calculation of partial FTEs Ms. Robinson stated those students taking less than 6 credits count as 0.33 of an FTE whereas students taking over 6 credits are counted as a full FTE. Due to meeting time constraints the Registrar, in consultation with the senators, opted to make the Report on Enrolment PowerPoint presentation accessible to senators electronically after the meeting.

Regular Senate Meetings Schedule

Senators expressed some concern about the President's unavailability to attend recent meetings of the Okanagan Senate and asked that their preference that the President attends as many meetings as possible be noted in the minutes.

Mr. Lepp signaled that the exam period and the senate meeting time conflict. He asked whether the Senate meetings could be scheduled to begin at 4:00pm rather than at 3:30pm. The Okanagan Senate Secretariat agreed to report back on the viability of this scheduling change at the 13 February Senate meeting.

Academic Year 2008-2009

In response to Dr. McFadyen's question about the date chosen for Term 1 midterm break, which is a Wednesday rather than a Monday, Ms. Collins commented that too many Mondays are lost to statutory holidays throughout the term. The Registrar asked that the Okanagan Senate Secretariat consider Monday 10 November 2008 as the Term 1 midterm break instead of Wednesday 12 November 2008. To address Dr. Cioe's query Ms. Driscoll confirmed that the Learning and Research Committee is currently reviewing the Term 1 Midterm Break.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20pm.

The following regular meeting was scheduled to be held on Wednesday 13 February 2008 at 3:30pm to 5:30pm in Library 317.