

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA | OKANAGAN



OKANAGAN SENATE SECRETARIAT

Enrolment Services

Senate and Curriculum Services

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OKANAGAN SENATE

MINUTES OF 08 OCTOBER 2008

Attendance

Present: President S. J. Toope (Chair) (via videoconference), Deputy Vice-Chancellor Dr. D. Oworm (Vice-Chair), Mr. F. Vogt (Associate Registrar and Acting Secretary), Dr. A. S. Abd-El-Aziz (Provost), Mr. P. Arthur, Dean B. Bauer, Dean R. Belton, Ms. S. Bertrand, Ms. M. Burton, Mr. N. Cadger, Dr. J. Castricano, Mr. R. Chavarie, Dr. J. Cheng, Dr. J. Cioe, Dr. F. de Scally, Mr. C. Devenish, Dr. J. Gustar, Dr. C. Hodge, Dr. J. Johnson, Dr. A. Joy, Dr. D. Keyes, Mr. M. Koovisk, Ms. R. L'Orsa, Dr. R. Lalonde, Mr. G. Lepp, Dr. G. Lovegrove, Dr. S. McCoubrey, Dr. C. Mitton, Acting Dean C. Mathieson, Dr. H. Najjaran, Dr. B. Nilson, Dr. B. O'Connor, Dr. G. Pandher, Ms. L. Patterson, Dr. M. Rheault, Dr. C. Robinson, Acting Dean K. Rush, Dr. C. Scarff, Dr. B. Schulz-Cruz, Dean I. Stuart, Mr. R. Whitehouse, Dr. S. Yannacopoulos

Guests: Mr. C. Eaton (Acting Associate Secretary)

Regrets: Mr. B. Silzer (AVP and Registrar), Mr. G. August, Dean R. Campbell, Acting Dean S. Cockcroft, Ms. L. Driscoll, Dr. M. Duran-Cogan, Dr. J. Gustar, Ms. C. Kuhn, Ms. V. Lymberopoulos, Ms. T. Palynchuk, Mr. B. Steinberg, Ms. G. Zilm

Recording Secretary: Ms. K. Ross

Call to Order

The President stepped down from his role as Chair as he attended the meeting via video-conference; the Vice-Chair Dr. Doug Oworm called the Senate to order and presided over the meeting.

Agenda

The Agenda was accepted by consent.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting, 10 September 2008

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

That the minutes of the Okanagan Senate Meeting of 10 September 2008 be adopted as amended.

CORRECTION

The first paragraph of page 3 under *Provincial Budget* of the minutes was corrected to state that the Premier would visit campus on 23 September 2008. The order of words in the first paragraph of page 6 was corrected.

The minutes were adopted as corrected.

Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

President's Remarks and Related Questions via videoconference

President Toope expressed his delight to attend the Okanagan Senate, albeit by video-conference.

MEETING WITH HIV RESEARCHERS

The President reported on his recent visit to a meeting with lead HIV researchers in the downtown east side of Vancouver; he conveyed his gratitude for their work the critical role played by universities in addressing important societal issues.

PRESIDENTIAL GOALS

The President stated that he had presented a detailed report on his own personal goals for the following year to the Board of Governors at their first meeting this fall. He shared with Senators his over-arching goals from that report.

1. **Government Relations** -- to enhance relationships between the University and the various levels of government, particularly the provincial government. The President indicated the importance of bringing the higher education agenda to the forefront of discussion with government. As part of this item, the President noted that he would serve as Chair of the University President's Council (TUPC), and that this role would provide an additional opportunity to focus on collaborations with government.

2. **Strategic Planning** -- to undertake extensive consultation with the wider community including the Senates on renewing the UBC Strategic Plan (*please see <http://www.strategicplan.ubc.ca/>*).
3. **Student Experience** -- to deepen the learning experience for students at the University of British Columbia. The President noted that the Vancouver campus may learn from practices at UBC Okanagan, as the Vancouver campus may have considerably greater challenges, which could result in a longer term process.
4. **Development Campaign** (pending Board approval) -- to emphasize the creation of a comprehensive development campaign to address the gap resulting from the University's funding needs growing faster than could be supported by tuition fees and government grant funding. The President noted that the Okanagan campus has already conducted a feasibility study, which would roll into a system plan; planning at the Vancouver campus was proceeding approximately two months behind the Okanagan.
5. **Administration & Finance Vice-Presidential Portfolio** -- to renew the portfolio to ensure a transparent budget linked clearly to the strategic academic goals.

The President also reported on each of the following items.

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

The President reported that the University has taken on a significant planning process to renew the UBC Strategic Plan as *TREK 2010* nears the end of its planned life span. The community has been asked to think about its aspirations for the future of UBC, which resulted in 1,400 survey responses at the first stage of consultation. The President felt encouraged by such a large initial response rate; he noted the commitment that he and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor have made to pay close attention to budgetary decisions with the strategic planning objectives in mind. President Toope noted that there would be opportunities for Senators to engage in the process over the following year.

PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON SUSTAINABILITY

The President reported that a President's Advisory Council on Sustainability had been created to coordinate and advance the university's operational and academic efforts. An academic program working group of the President's Advisory Council on Sustainability would be organized at UBC Okanagan similar to the Vancouver campus working group; he encouraged Senators to participate.

BUDGET UPDATE

The President recalled that UBC faced an unexpected provincial government reduction of anticipated revenue increases in the amount of 6.2 percent in March 2008. He added that the anticipated reduction in the number of FTE student seats assigned over time to UBC

Okanagan continues to be problematic. The President remained optimistic, however, that there were ways to address such concerns with the provincial government. The President and Deputy-Vice Chancellor had agreed that the Okanagan campus build-out would continue as originally planned. He indicated that the university remains engaged in very positive discussions with the government.

GOVERNMENT LETTERS OF EXPECTATION

The President discussed the original Government Letter of Expectation that had been sent to all BC universities outlining the relationship between government and the universities. He described the first draft as unsettling to both UBC and other institutions. He stated that both he and the Chair of the UBC Board of Governors had refused to sign the initial letter – as did the other research-intensive universities in BC. Thereafter the Ministry of Advanced Education had withdrawn the original letter and sent a second draft. The President noted that the second version was improved overall and had a more cooperative tone. The President reported that the four research-intensive universities had signed the second version of the Government Letter of Expectation. UBC had also included a cover letter stating that the matter would need to be revisited.

Discussion

In response to a question from Dean Bauer regarding the protection of university endowment revenues during the current financial downturn, the President reported that the university endowment investment management responsibility rests with UBC Investment Management Trust Incorporated (UBC IMANT). UBC IMANT was established by the University in March 2003 as a wholly owned subsidiary. A review of the spend rate on the endowment fund, which is currently set at five percent, occurred every three years and that the next review would happen shortly. Should such a review indicate that the spend rate is too high given the current financial climate, it would be reduced. The President noted that most US endowment funds were paying out between 4 and 4.2 percent. The President expressed that he was encouraged by UBC IMANT's recent presentation to the Board of Governors, which indicated that the managers have been doing their best during this unpredictable economic time.

Vice-Chair's Remarks and Related Questions

FOLLOW UP ON BUDGET UPDATE

The Vice-Chair Dr. Owram reported that he had recently met with senior officials from the Ministry of Advanced Education. He indicated that they did not share developments about the budget or what the Treasury Board might do, which complicates budget planning for UBC Okanagan. Deputy Vice-Chancellor Owram remained hopeful that following meetings with the Council of Senates Budget Committee, he could bring a more detailed budget update back to the Senate in November 2008.

UNIVERSITY STATISTICS: ENROLMENT, GROWTH, RESEARCH

The Vice-Chair reported the following enrolment numbers and other University statistics for Term 1 of 2008/2009:

- 5,390 students enrolled in Term 1 at UBC Okanagan, including 260 graduate students. 32 graduate students had graduated in 2007/2008.
- Students came from the following regions:
 - o 40 percent from the Okanagan;
 - o 20 percent from Vancouver and the Lower Mainland;
 - o 20 percent from BC but from outside the aforementioned regions; and
 - o 20 percent from outside of the province
- 60 percent of the students are female and 40 percent are male.
- The largest increases over 2007/2008 occurred in Management, Human Kinetics and Engineering.
- Research grants had grown by 42 percent over the previous year.

Vice-Chair Dr. Owram conveyed his congratulations to Dr. Sharon McCoubrey, who was recently awarded the Outstanding Faculty Community Service Award. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor expressed gratitude to Dean Bauer for a recent successful welcome event for new faculty and staff in the Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Barber had been delighted to meet the students and to receive a special card from those undergraduate students who had received funding for research.

Discussion

In response to a question concerning the 2010 Olympics, the President noted that, although a recent report on the 2010 Olympics had declared that there would not be a request for further public funds, there remained concern about over expenditure on facilities such as the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre.

In response to a question from Mr. Emerson regarding the University budget and student awards, the President confirmed that most student award funds come either from the operating budget as a whole or from private donors. He announced that the Development Office has already received approximately 100 new scholarships and bursaries. The President expressed with confidence that funding for student awards would remain stable and continue to grow over time.

Nominating Committee

SENATOR COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Acting Committee Chair Dr. Jan Cioe recommended the following motions to Senate. Mr. Peter Arthur agreed to step in as temporary Vice-Chair while the Senate considered the motion. Vice-Chair Dr. Doug Owram left the room during that time.

VICE-CHAIR OF SENATE

Moved: Dr. Cioe
Seconded: Dr. Lalonde

That Dr. Doug Owram be elected as Vice-Chair of Senate until 31 August 2009.

Carried.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Membership of the Council of Senates Budget Committee:

Moved: Dr. Cioe
Seconded: Dr. Gustar

That Mr. Peter Arthur, Dr. Annamma Joy, Dr. Daniel Keyes, Dr. Gordon Lovegrove, Dr. Craig Mitton, and Dr. Ben Nilson be appointed to the to Council of Senates Budget Committee as Faculty Representatives until 31 August 2011 and thereafter until replaced.

AND

That Mr. Paul Emerson and Mr. Grayson Lepp be appointed to the Council of Senates Budget Committee as Student Representatives until 31 March 2009 and thereafter until replaced.

Carried.

Curriculum Committee

Acting Committee Chair Mr. Christopher Eaton presented the report on behalf of the Committee.

See also, 'Appendix A: Curriculum Summary.'

Moved: Dr. Gustar
Seconded: Dr. Lalonde

That Senate approve new and revised courses and programs brought forward by the Faculties of Arts and Sciences, Health and Social Development, and the College of Graduate Studies as set out in the attached proposals.

Carried.

Learning and Research Committee

Committee Chair Mr. Peter Arthur had circulated the proposed Strategic Research Plan for endorsement by the Senate.

Moved: Mr. Arthur
Seconded: Dr. Abd-El-Aziz

That Senate endorse the Strategic Research Plan for UBC Okanagan as presented by the Learning and Research Committee.

The Provost was invited to comment on the proposal. Dr. Abd-El-Aziz stated that in 2007, the Learning and Research Committee had originally asked the Provost's Office to create a Task Force to review the UBC Okanagan Strategic Research Plan. Dr. Abd-El-Aziz announced the 16 UBC Okanagan faculty and student member names who had participated on the Task Force over the previous year. The review process of the 2009-2014 Strategic Research Plan included two open forum consultations with the UBC Okanagan community in addition to a presentation to the UBC Okanagan Academic Council. The document was intended to serve three purposes:

1. To communicate the research vision that the Task Force desired to achieve in the next five years.
2. To translate the research imperatives in the Academic Plan into actionable strategies.
3. To serve as a decision-making tool for resource allocation and development.

A full report of the UBC Okanagan Strategic Research Plan is available upon request from the Okanagan Senate Secretariat.

Discussion

Dr. Cioe stated his concerns for the aspiration noted on page 3 that "...every UBC Okanagan student will have the chance to participate in an advanced scholarly research project" is an impractical but ideal goal; this is true also for the statement on page 8 to "create research opportunities for all fourth-year undergraduate students." He indicated his support for these sentiments in principle but asked the Provost how they would be realized given existing limitations on laboratory space, financial resources, volume of projects, among others; Dr. Cioe suggested that this language may create a false sense of expectation among students. The Provost responded by stating that these are goals to which UBC Okanagan is aspiring. He added that although not all undergraduate students would have full research experience, it was the hope of the Committee that, with time, the curriculum would provide an exposure to research, i.e., writing a research proposal. The Provost expressed the opinion that the document does not create false expectations since research falls under many umbrellas. Mr. Emerson suggested that several faculties already allowed their students to engage in practical research projects; he was supportive of the language as presented.

Dr. Lalonde recommended that the document reflect opportunities for faculty and students to conduct research that they enjoy. The Provost replied that the intent of the Committee had been to include interest-based research in the document; he noted that language to this effect would be included in the final version.

Dr. Johnson spoke in support of language indicating that UBC Okanagan would support any faculty members' areas of interest that are fruitful and reminded Senators of UBC's commitment to academic freedom. He hoped that the transparent management processes listed on page 12 should not take five years to establish. The Provost agreed that UBC faculty were free to pursue research interests of their own choosing and that funding models should support faculty in all such endeavours.

Dean Belton congratulated the Provost and the Committee for improving upon early drafts of the document. He requested further information about new facilities including "performance, studio, galleries, and media labs" (page 17, item (1.1)). Dr. Abd-El-Aziz stated that the document reflected recent discussions with AVP Operations Aidan Kiernan. The Provost stated that he would confirm this item with Mr. Kiernan, and adjust the final version if necessary.

Dean Belton stated that *Strategy 2.10* did not appear to fit in with the other strategies listed in the document; the Provost stated that the Committee asked that this item appear in both the Academic and Strategic Research Plans in order to show commitment by UBC Okanagan.

Dr. Mitton expressed his opinion that the document read as a wish list. He stated that as a research chair on this campus, he would like to know how the strategies would be implemented. The Provost encouraged Senate to endorse the Strategic Research Plan in principle; in cooperation with the Dean and faculty members, he would work on the operational plan to consider opportunities and directions forward. The Provost noted that our Deans as leaders of the University should play a key role in setting the overall direction. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor reminded Senators that the Strategic Research Plan was a living document that would evolve over time.

Dean Bauer commended the level of consultation involved to progress the Strategic Research Plan to the current version. He expressed a concern, however, that the plan appeared to duplicate the Academic Plan, albeit with greater detail. He shared Dr. Cioe's concern that it might not be realistic to fund the strategies outlined in the plan within five years and that UBC Okanagan might therefore not meet its objectives. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor expressed support for Dean Bauer's comment; he noted however that areas of excellence may emerge at UBC Okanagan over time. He added that the Strategic Research Plan sets a bar for the campus to aspire to -- without being unrealistic.

Dr. Najjaran suggested that more emphasis should be placed on the importance of people and that a few more strategies – outside of the one priority of "doing research" – be included, such as faculty members aspiring to teach more effectively, to be more entrepreneurial, to build a prosperous business, among others. He asked the Provost to expand on these other areas in the final version of the plan.

The President made two comments; the first was that it was hugely important that we do not seed the ground to believe that 'applied research' is the only way forward. He recommended that a sentence be added to the Vision Statement on page 3 that suggests 'a

vision for students to engage in research through a fundamental curiosity that may related to these areas of research priority'. The second was that he found the first sentence in the *Areas of Research Priority* to be jarring despite knowing the intention of the statement. He asked that "...minimum standard..." be rephrased with a more positive term. The Provost agreed to make the suggested revisions.

Acting Dean Mathieson responded to a statement from Dr. Rheault that the removal of Ph.D. tuition support is under review at UBC, noting that this financial support had not been removed. The President added that the review was initiated by UBC faculty members who were concerned that the commitment to Ph.D. students would be reduced due to a decrease in tuition resources. He noted that new Ph.D. funding packages would be created at UBC in order to recruit the best graduate students. Dr. Cioe was encouraged to hear that this item is currently under review.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor emphasized that the Senate would be endorsing the document with comments and edits in mind. He congratulated the Committee on its work. The Provost shared his enthusiasm for the process undertaken by the Committee, which included unwavering commitment, continued quality of comments, and sounds advice from all members.

The motion was put and carried.

Admissions and Awards Committee – Dr. Sharon McCoubrey, Chair

The Committee Chair, Dr. Sharon McCoubrey recommended the new awards for consideration as listed.

Moved: Dr. McCoubrey
Seconded: Dr. Yannacopoulos

That Senate accept the awards as listed and forward them to the Board of Governors for approval; and that letters of thanks be sent to the donors.

Lena BENSON Aboriginal Scholarship: A \$2,000 scholarship is offered by the Benson family in honour of Lena Benson, an Elder of the Beaver Lake Cree Nation in Alberta, to an Aboriginal student at The University of British Columbia Okanagan. (First award available for the 2009/10 Winter Session)

Doug BIDEN Memorial Scholarship in Visual Arts: A \$1,000 scholarship is offered by Ingrid Abbott Biden, friends and colleagues in memory of Fine Arts Professor, Doug Biden, to a student in the Visual Arts Program in the Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies at The University of British Columbia Okanagan. The award is made on the recommendation of the Faculty. (First award available for the 2008/09 Winter Session)

INTERIOR Savings Lifelong Learner Bursary: A \$1,300 bursary has been endowed by Interior Savings Credit Union for students at The University of British Columbia Okanagan who have one or more dependents (children or other family members) and are entering or returning to post-secondary education after a pause in studies of one year or more. (First award available for the 2009/10 Winter Session)

UBC Okanagan Bursary: Bursaries totalling \$1,600 have been endowed by alumni, friends, and the community for undergraduate and/or graduate students at The University of British Columbia Okanagan. (First awards available for the 2009/10 Winter Session)

Discussion

In response to a question from Dr. Cioe, Dr. McCoubrey confirmed that UBC has a formal definition for the term *Aboriginal*. Dr. McCoubrey addressed Dr. Keyes query by stating that the Interior Savings Lifelong Learner Bursary would be available to both undergraduate and graduate students.

The motion was put and carried.

Report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor – Deputy Vice-Chancellor Dr. Doug Oram

THE COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES REVIEW

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor reported that recommendations on the College of Graduate Studies Review are complete and would be posted to the Okanagan Senate Secretariat website for information immediately after the meeting today. He added that several items would be recommended for Senate approval in the near future.

The Provost added that Senators comments are welcomed; the Senate would ultimately decide which direction that UBC Okanagan would take with regard to this item. He reminded Senators that the primary goal of the review was to serve the student. Although the Provost had originally stated that the Learning and Research Committee would consider this item, it was agreed that the Academic Policy Committee was better suited to deal with this item under its terms of reference; Mr. Eaton agreed.

In response to a question from Dean Bauer, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor agreed that it would be the responsibility of the Senate to approve the establishment of a new Faculty.

Other Business

None.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.

The following regular meeting was scheduled to be held on Wednesday 05 November at 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm in Library 317.

APPENDIX A: CURRICULUM SUMMARY

Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Courses: New Undergraduate

- a. CHEM 213: Organic Chemistry for Biological Sciences I
- b. CHEM 214: Organic Chemistry for Biological Sciences II

Program Requirements: Change

- c. BA: Minor in Gender and Women's Studies

Inclusion: Faculty's Overview

- d. Repeating Courses Policy

Faculty of Health and Social Development

Courses: New Graduate

- a. HINT 504: Qualitative Methods – Interdisciplinary Health

College of Graduate Studies

Program: Change

- a. IGS: Themed Options