



## OKANAGAN SENATE

### MINUTES OF 26 JANUARY 2023

#### DRAFT

#### Attendance

**Present:** D. Buszard, D. Cormack, R. Ng (Secretary), R. Sadiq, A. Alnaar, M. Arthur, P. Arthur, P. Aulakh, P. Barker, H. Berringer, R. Campbell, S. Cherkowski, H. Chopra, K. Christianson, J. Cioe, T. Ebl, J. Eikenaar, M. Evans, T. Forneris, R. Frost, S. Hafeez, B. He, S. Hilton, K. Hodges, J. Holzman, J. Jakobi, R. Johnson, R. Lalonde, P. Lasserre, M. Legault, M. Libben, J. Low, Y. Lucet, B. Marcolin, S. McNeil, J. Milliken, S. O’Leary, I. Parkins, J. Picault, M. Reeves, A. Shatzko, P. Simpson, R. Sugden, S. Tomášková, S. Willis-Stewart, Y. Zhu

**Regrets:** S. Point, S. Bates, G. DiLabio, G. Garrard, J. Hare, S. Hutchinson, G. Jarry-Bolduc, L. H. Khan, L. Markley A. Nair, J. Olson, M. Panah, M. Tarrant, P. Uribe, B. Visscher

**Clerk:** A. Breen

#### Call to Order

The Chair of Senate, Dr Deborah Buszard, called the fifth regular meeting of the Senate for the 2022-2023 academic year to order at 3:36 pm.

#### Minutes of the Meeting of 15 December 2022

Attendance was corrected to confirm that Senators Evans, Garrard, Lalonde, and Legault were attendance at the December meeting.

Peter Arthur  
Jan Cioe

*That the Minutes of 15 December 2022 be adopted  
as corrected.*

Approved as  
Amended



## **Remarks from the Acting President**

Dr Buszard welcomed everyone to the first Senate meeting of 2023 and wished everyone a wonderful New Year and Lunar New Year.

Dr Buszard congratulated Dr Matthew Nelson as the winner of the annual Life Raft Debate, held yesterday, noting that she has enjoyed previous years' debates.

Professor Buszard shared that she and Dr Gage Averill (Provost and Vice-President, Academic, UBC Vancouver) have issued a message to UBC Vancouver Indigenous community members. The message, which is posted on the President's website, recognizes that engagement with the Indigenous community had not been adequate nor sufficient to-date. In particular, engagement around recent issues of Indigenous identity have not been adequate. Dr Buszard acknowledged that the administration should have met more promptly with the UBC Indigenous community and is taking steps to address these shortcomings.

Although the message was directed to colleagues at UBC Vancouver, it was noted that Dr Cormack and Dr Sadiq have both been actively involved in these conversations, and both are fully committed to meaningful engagement across both campuses. Dr Buszard noted that she has had conversations with Indigenous colleagues and a small group of students at UBC Okanagan.

Professor Buszard confirmed the University's commitment to fulfill actions identified in the Indigenous Strategic Plan, and to implementing the principles of the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, along with the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. She reiterated the institution's commitment to Indigenizing wherever possible academic programming, curricula, leadership and structures. The President shared that in the coming weeks, her office will work to set engagement opportunities to hear from Indigenous students, faculty and staff, noting that this is something that is central to the University's accountability and a necessary step towards meaningful action in the future. Professor

Dr Buszard noted that she was fortunate to recently attend the opening of the extension to the First Nations Longhouse at UBC Vancouver, and that she hoped similar spaces will be developed on the UBC Okanagan campus in the near future.

Dr Buszard noted that she will concede the chair to the Deputy-Vice Chancellor once Dr. Cormack shared her remarks.

## **Remarks from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor**

Dr Cormack extended her New Year wishes to senators. She noted that the new year brings the start of several building projects and shared that she had recently attended a small ground-breaking activity for the Interdisciplinary Collaboration Innovation (ICI) building project. Dr Cormack shared that the Syilx Okanagan Nation has been involved in the planning and design of



the ISI building, and that Indigeneity is a guiding principle to ensure the incorporation of Syilx's principles and values in the design.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor advised that earlier in the week, there was a formal opening of the Picnic Centre in the University Centre. The space comprises a part of the Food Hub, which is a project to promote food security on campus by using a student-driven, research-led approach which prioritizes community needs, support services and food security. The opening included a cook-off involving faculty, staff and students to promote the shared space.

Dr Cormack noted that the University is working with the newly elected Kelowna city council to develop a transportation plan which will address the frequency, routes and end times for buses, especially in the evenings. There is also some interest on city council to consider longer-term rapid transit planning.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor noted that the rankings of research productivity within Canada were released in the past week. She shared that UBC is ranked second overall, noting that if UBC Okanagan's research productivity was removed, UBC's overall ranking would be fifth within Canada.

Dr Cormack shared that budget information will be presented to the Senate at its February meeting, and emphasized the collaborative work that is underway between faculties and central units to support and foster the central mission of teaching and research.

Senator Hafeez asked the source that conducted the research productivity ranking be shared.

In response to this question from Senator Hafeez, Senator Barker stated that the rankings were conducted by Research Infosource and noted that the full report is available on the Research Infosource website.

### **Remarks from the Provost**

Dr Sadiq extended best wishes to everyone for the New Year. He shared an update regarding the search for the new Dean of the Faculty of Management, stating that a search firm has been selected to conduct the search process and that a selection committee is currently being constituted. The Provost noted that he will continue to keep senators apprised of its progress.

The Provost noted that the Deputy Registrar will provide an interim report regarding scheduling later in the meeting, as per the direction of Senate at the November 2022 meeting.

Dr Sadiq noted that information on the establishment of the Egg Farmers of Canada Chair in Sustainability was shared at the December meeting. The establishment is now on the Senate agenda for approval.



The Provost noted that the January 25<sup>th</sup> *Roadmap for Change: Implementing anti-racism commitments at UBC* virtual session related to Anti-Racism and Inclusive Excellence (ARIE) initiatives was very well attended. He extended his gratitude to those who have been instrumental in supporting the recommendations. He also thanked Dr. Arig al Shaibah, who has been working closely with Dr Jannik Eikenaar, the UBC Okanagan's lead on ARIE initiatives.

Dr Sadiq reminded senators that February is Black History Month and that there are many initiatives and events in which members of the campus community can participate. The events are listed on the UBC Okanagan events' website. Events include the February 9<sup>th</sup> Foundations of Anti-Racism workshop and the February 28<sup>th</sup> IBPOC Faculty & Staff Get Together. Additional communications from the offices of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and the Provost are forthcoming.

Senator Ebl asked if there was a status update and/or anticipated release of the Faculty of Management external review report.

The Provost responded that the external review report is anticipated within the next four weeks and will be shared with the Faculty of Management's staff and faculty. It will be included in the annual report to Senate on academic unit external reviews which will be presented at an upcoming meeting of Senate.

### **Report from the Presidential Search Committee**

On behalf of the Presidential Search Committee Chair, Chancellor S. Point, Senator Legault gave an update on the committee's activities to date. The committee has held its second meeting on 12 January 2023, and referenced the 17 January 2023 UBC Broadcast communication which includes a link to a survey seeking the input of the UBC community on a variety of topics including the opportunities and challenges facing UBC and successor President over the next five years, the qualities and characteristics that the community envisions in the next President, the experience that the next President should bring to UBC, and suggestions for individuals who would be a good fit for the role.

Senator Legault shared that additional details and information on open forums for community input is forthcoming, and encouraged senators to provide feedback.

### **Academic Policy Committee**

The Chair of the Senate Academic Policy Committee, Dr Jan Cioe, presented.

### **POLICY REVIEW AND INDIGENOUS STRATEGIC PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS**

Senators Cioe shared that the Academic Policy Committee has added a standing item on its meeting agenda regarding Indigenous Strategic Plan (ISP) actions 38 and 43. The Committee will identify each of the policies that are under its purview and systematically review them with the lens to identify aspects, facets, and procedures that may undermine inclusivity.



Dr Cioe expressed his gratitude to senators on behalf of the Senate Agenda Committee for accepting its recommendation that the Senate meeting be held virtually, in light of issues impacting Senate Secretariat staffing and the availability of the President. He noted that the Committee will be reviewing the format of Senate meetings in the near future, and welcomed feedback from senators.

Senator Lasserre stated that she is supportive of holding the current meeting online, in light of the staffing challenges on the Senate Secretariat team. She suggested that the format of the Senate meeting be highlighted at the beginning of any future meeting notifications, rather than at the end where it could be easily missed.

Senator Cioe noted Senator Lasserre's suggestion.

Senator Ebl asked about the volume of policies requiring review by the Academic Policy Committee and asked whether legal counsel and/or other resources will be made available to expedite the review and also to enable Senate to think more broadly about how to manage review of remaining policies.

Dr Cioe responded that he has requested that the Senate Secretariat provide a list of all policies that are within the purview of the Academic Policy Committee, which the committee will then prioritize for review. He added that the Committee will seek input from other sources, including legal counsel, and is hopeful that the Committee's work on policy review can include experts such as Adrienne Vedan, Senior Advisor on Indigenous Affairs.

Senator Stewart shared that student members of the Learning and Research Committee have been asked to review policies relevant to the Committee's work and that the committee will take similar approach to that of the Academic Policy Committee, adding that she hopes that the work undertaken by the Learning and Research Committee will contribute to the larger task of policy review. Senator Stewart commended the contributions of the student members of the Learning and Research Committee to the committee's work.

Dr. Cioe thanked Senator Stewart for her comment, and noted the contribution of all student senators.

Senator Hilton asked if the Academic Policy Committee chair was encouraging other Senate committee chairs to take a similar approach with respect to a standing agenda item on implementation of ISP recommendations.

Dr Cioe stated that he hopes that other senate committee will consider taking a similar approach with respect to their work and implementation of relevant ISP actions.



Senator Hilton asked whether there was an expectation to review all relevant policies within a prescribed timeline, given resource considerations and timelines required for thoughtful consultation.

Dr. Cioe responded that the expectation is that there will be a sequential, methodical and thoughtful process to review policies one at a time. He added that actioning ISP recommendations requires a thoughtful and deliberate approach and will need input from multiple perspectives. He concluded his comments by noting that implementation of the Indigenous Strategic Plan is an ongoing process and not one that can be completed in a narrow time period.

### **Admissions and Awards Committee**

The Chair of the Senate Admissions and Awards Committee, Ms Tamara Ebl, presented.

#### **NEW AWARD – FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

*See Appendix A: Awards Report*

Senator Simpson asked whether the new award was also intended for continuing Syilx-Okanagan graduate students or only limited to incoming students. He also asked whether the award can be used as remuneration for individuals to teach in the Nsyilxen language fluency degree, or whether a formal employment arrangement is required.

Senator Abl deferred Senator Simpson's enquiries to Senator Evans.

Senator Evans stated the new award is intended for both incoming and continuing Syilx-Okanagan graduate students and noted that he supported a minor revision to the award description to remove reference to 'incoming' preceding 'Syilx-Okanagan students' in the second sentence.

With respect to Senator Simpson's second query, Senator Evans stated that students are teaching courses in conjunction with course instructors. He stated that his understanding is that it is permissible for students to teach through alternative arrangements to the existing sessional lecturer route to teaching and that this fellowship will support mentorship with instructors of record.

Senator Simpson expressed his support for the new award.

Senator Reeves also indicated her support for the award. She noted that the award description states that incoming students will automatically be considered for the award. She asked why students who do not have any graduate training in the program would be considered, rather than the award focusing on continuing students who are more advanced in their program, for example, student who have achieved candidacy.



Senator Reeves also noted the stated intention of the award to support mentorship rather than a student being an instructor on their own and asked how teaching done via the fellowship versus under a teaching assistant position will be distinguished.

Senator Evans responded that the intention is that a student will be mentored into a successor position that they can eventually take on; incoming Syilx-Okanagan graduate student applicants may have acquired the requisite language and academic skills to be eligible for the fellowship. It was also noted that the genesis of the articulation of the new award is to build successor capacity by having senior scholars mentoring incoming scholars.

With respect to award eligibility for incoming versus continuing students, Senator Evans stated that one consideration is that potential candidates may be fluent language speakers entering the program with an undergraduate or master's credential rather than a doctoral degree who would be able to support Indigenous language programs but who need not be in the program in order to acquire the requisite skills to participate effectively.

Tamara Ebl  
Barbara Marcolin

*That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors for approval the terms of the FASS Syilx-Okanagan Graduate Teaching Fellowship.*

Approved

## REVISED ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS – BACHELOR OF EDUCATION

Senator Ebl recognized the contributions of Senator Evans and others who have contributed to the development of the admission pathway that will better support the admission of Indigenous students to the Bachelor of Education program.

Tamara Ebl  
Peter Arthur

*That Senate approve the revised admission requirements for the Bachelor of Education.*

Approved

## Joint Report of the Admissions and Awards and Curriculum Committees

The Chair of the Senate Curriculum Committee, Dr. Yves Lucet, presented.

## NEW DEGREE PROGRAM – BACHELOR OF ST'ÁT'IMC LANGUAGE FLUENCY

Senator Lalonde noted that the proposed acronym for the degree program is likely to cause confusion that the degree holder will have expertise in statistics. He proposed an



addition of an apostrophe to revise the acronym for the program to be ‘B.St’at’ to mitigate any confusion.

Senator Lucet noted the concern, which was also raised at the Curriculum Committee. He responded that it is not possible to make the proposed revision given the limitations of current UBC systems.

Senator Lalonde emphasized the interpretation concern and reiterated his suggestion to find a solution, despite current system limitations and the development of any new system.

Senator Lucet responded that the new student system will be able to capture characters and notations as suggested by Senator Lalonde.

Senator Lalonde reiterated that the acronym approved by Senate will carry forward to the new system, and that the issue will likely to come back to Senate for clarification even when new systems are in place.

Senator Evans responded to Senator Lalonde’s concern, noting the proposed acronym is the third iteration considered, and is the result of extensive consultation with linguists and language speakers. The outcome of these consultations suggests that the proposal before Senate is the preferred option. Senator Evans assured Senator Lalonde that the Curriculum Committee will consider an appropriate solution when it becomes possible in the new student system.

Senator Lalonde noted that he endorses the new program and suggested that solution be approved now and then allow a workaround as systems permit.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor noted there is some urgency with respect to program approval and to have it in place as an approved offering for the 2023 Winter Session.

Senator Hodges stated her opposition to Senator Lalonde’s concern as there has been extensive consultation with Indigenous language speakers who have championed the program. She noted that she did not share Senator’s Lalonde’s concern that there will be any confusion or expectation that these degree holders have expertise in statistics; she noted that any discrepancies will be quickly overturned as soon an individual’s credentials, Curriculum vitae (CV), cover letter are reviewed

Dr Cormack reiterated Senator Evans’ assurance that changes to the acronym can be considered in future once there is a new student system in place that can capture and reflect character changes such as those proposed by Senator Lalonde.

Yves Lucet  
Tamara Ebl

*That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors for approval the new Bachelor of St’át’imc Language Fluency (B.Stat.) program, STMC course code, STMC courses, and revised Calendar entries.*





Approved

## Curriculum Committee

The Chair of the Senate Curriculum Committee, Dr Yves Lucet, presented.

### **CURRICULUM PROPOSALS FROM FACULTIES OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, CREATIVE AND CRITICAL STUDIES AND EDUCATION**

*See Appendix B: Curriculum Report*

Yves Lucet  
Jan Cioe

*That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors for approval the new courses and revised program as presented by the Faculties of Arts and Social Sciences, Creative and Critical Studies, and Education.*

Approved

## Nominating Committee

The Chair of the Senate Nominating Committee, Dr Jannik Eikenaar, presented.

### **COMMITTEE ADJUSTMENTS**

Jannik Eikenaar  
Jan Cioe

*That Sabre Cherkowski be appointed to the Senate Learning and Research Committee until 31 August 2023 and thereafter until replaced, to fill a vacancy.*

Approved

### **APPOINTMENT OF A FACULTY MEMBER TO SERVE ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, STUDENTS**

The Chair of the Senate Nominating Committee, Dr Jannik Eikenaar, presented.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor congratulated Dr. Holzman on his appointment to the advisory committee and noted the importance of the Vice-President, Students role and its cross-campus responsibilities.



Jannik Eikenaar  
Jan Cioe

*That Senate appoint Dr Jonathan Holzman to the President's Advisory Committee for the Extension of the Vice-President, Students.*

Approved

### Report from the Provost

The Provost, Dr Rehan Sadiq, presented.

### ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EGG FARMERS OF CANADA CHAIR IN SUSTAINABILITY

Rehan Sadiq  
Jan Cioe

*That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the establishment of the Egg Farmers of Canada Chair in Sustainability in the Faculty of Science at UBC Okanagan.*

Approved

### Report from the Registrar

The Registrar, Ms Rella Ng, presented.

The Registrar noted that, as in previous years, the first day following the Labour Day statutory holiday is not counted as a teaching day. She noted that the University has not yet received direction from the provincial government on whether the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation will be observed as a statutory holiday on September 29, 2023 or October 3, 2023 (in lieu of September 30, 2023 which falls on a Saturday). September 30 is currently counted as a teaching day. If the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is observed as a statutory holiday, the academic year still meets the required number of teaching days for the term.

Senator Ebl asked for clarification regarding awaiting direction from the provincial government on whether the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation will be observed as a statutory holiday. Senator Ebl emphasized that the University's commitment to truth and reconciliation and the Indigenous Strategic Plan suggests that the University consider declaring this as a non-teaching day/observable day in some meaningful way.

The Registrar noted that the declaration of a statutory holiday requires the consent of provincial government and that the consideration of a non-teaching day is an institutional decision which may require further Senate consideration.



Dr Cormack emphasized that the provincial government has oversight over statutory holiday observance and noted there are also collective bargaining and human resource implications for the University.

Senator Lasserre indicated support for an institutional discussion on how to observe the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, whether as a teaching day or a day of reflection, regardless of the province's decision regarding its observation as a statutory holiday.

Senator Ebl emphasized her suggestion is that the University, as an institution, consider how best to honour and observe the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. She noted that while she absolutely supports the suggestion the observance offer teaching and learning opportunities, she does not feel that she is well equipped to offer relevant teaching or reflection to students.

Dr Cormack emphasized that while the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is a federal statutory holiday, it is not observed as a provincial statutory holiday, which potentially complicates the University's ability regarding applicable collective agreements. Dr Cormack noted the importance of engagement with Indigenous communities on how they would like to see the day represented before making any institutional decisions.

Senator Lalonde expressed agreement with the sentiment to have scheduling clarity on observing the day as a non-teaching day in support of syllabus planning.

Senator Hafeez asked for clarification regarding when the statutory holiday would be observed in the event that the province recognizes it as such.

Ms Ng responded that UBC Human Resources has indicated that the University will follow the provincial directive on whether it will be observed as a statutory holiday, and whether the statutory holiday will fall on Friday, 29 September 2023 or Monday, 3 October 2023, in lieu of September 30.

#### ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024 TERM DATES

Jennifer Jakobi  
Jan Cioe

*That Senate approve the academic year 2023-2024 term dates.*

Approved



## **Other Business**

### **Report from the Provost**

Dr Sadiq introduced the item and invited Mr Bert Annear, Deputy Registrar, to present the interim report on class scheduling, as requested by the Senate at its November 2022 meeting.

#### **INTERIM SCHEDULING REPORT JANUARY 2023**

Mr Annear stated that the Scheduling team is fully engaged in the scheduling process for the current year, which limits their re-engagement with scenarios and extensive reporting work until May 2023 at the earliest.

Senator Cioe expressed gratitude for the update and noted that a key issue for consideration is whether there will be flexibility for either department heads or faculty members to navigate within the given constraints, including in the context of hybrid courses and utilization of space.

The Deputy Registrar noted that while the example provided for two instructors to swap spaces may be agreeable, the challenge is that the scheduling process requires incorporating the perspective of 300 students in each of those classes, and determining what percentage of those students will face a clash if they move classes. It was noted that the goal is to ensure students have a schedule that supports successful progression through their degree programs.

Senator Marcolin asked whether the lack of an appropriate software module has been addressed in the current approach, and how this will be managed in support of next year's schedule.

The Deputy Registrar responded that not all current issues will be resolved in time for the next schedule, and that progress in this regard will be an iterative process.

Senator Marcolin commented that the collection of faculty knowledge-base for core courses may be valuable in the development of future schedules and suggested addressing the utilization of lab spaces, and offered her assistance to the Scheduling team.

Dr Cormack noted that the course scheduling team is very small and stated it is working diligently and examining all possibilities, given the key challenge that many programs are not co-hort based.

Senator McNeil asked whether the addition of the ICI space will resolve some space and scheduling issues.

Dr Cormack responded that while the addition of ICI space will benefit some language programs, the additional space will not have a dramatic impact on overall institutional planning.



She noted that the challenge is that the utilization rate in classrooms is above 85% and that normal utilization rates are around 75-80% for most institutions.

Senator Cioe raised the issue of online courses as a solution for resolving scheduling issues, but noted that there may be issues regarding academic integrity issues for online examinations.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor responded that online teaching and examinations are not the same and that the opportunity for students to write examinations on campus for online courses should be considered.

Senator Cioe agreed with the distinction between online teaching and online examinations.

Senator O'Leary stated that the physical infrastructure is one of the University's primary reputational assets.

The Provost responded that the intention is to consider several strategies as there is no single solution that will resolve current scheduling issues. Dr Sadiq further commented that the addition of physical infrastructure will require time and resources to build.

Senator Ebl reminded Senate that enrolment targets for the upcoming year will be forthcoming within the next few months.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor noted that Senate will receive another update on scheduling in the near future.

## **Adjournment**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

*Appendix A: Awards Report*

**FASS Syilx-Okanagan Graduate Teaching Fellowship For approval** The FASS Syilx-Okanagan Teaching Fellowship is an Excellence Fund initiative. This merit-based Fellowship is awarded to Syilx-Okanagan students undertaking a graduate program at UBCO to take stewardship of Syilx-Okanagan content-rich courses in the Community, Culture and Global Studies suite of offerings. The award value is \$10,000 per taught course. The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences anticipates awarding one or more Fellowships per year, for a total of \$50,000 / five courses. All applicants who have submitted a complete admission application by the deadline, who have identified as Aboriginal and are recognised as such by the Syilx Okanagan Nation, will automatically be considered for this award. The CCGS Indigenous Awards Committee will determine Fellowship recipients.

*Appendix B: Curriculum Report*

**Curriculum Proposals**

- a. From the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
  - i. New Course: GEOG 257
  - ii. New Course: INLG 482
  - iii. Revised Program: Major in Psychology (B.A.)
  
- b. From the Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies
  - i. New Course: CRWR 385
  - ii. New Course: CRWR 386
  - iii. New Course: IGS 506
  
- c. From the Faculty of Education
  - i. New Course: EDUC 534