



OKANAGAN SENATE

MINUTES OF 30 MARCH 2023

Attendance

Present: L. Cormack (Chair), R. Ng (Secretary), R. Sadiq, P. Simpson, S. Tomášková, P. Arthur, J. Cioe, T. Ebl, P. Lasserre, Y. Lucet, S. Hilton, S. Stewart, Y. Zhu, K. Hodges, M. Reeves, A. Shatzko, J. Milliken, S. Hafeez, R. Lalonde, M. Legault, B. Traister, M. Evans, J. Jakobi, S. O’Leary, J. Hare, R. Johnson

Regrets: D. Buszard, S. Point, R. Campbell, G. DiLabio, S. Bates, G. Gerrard, L. Markley, M. Libben, A. Alnaar, H. Chopra, S. Chopra, B. He, J. Olson, M. Tarrant, P. Uribe, M. Arthur, P. Aulakh, J. Low, M. Matin Panah, G. Jarry-Bolduc, J. Picault, K. Christianson, A. Nair, J. Eikenaar, S. Hutchinson, B. Marcolin, T. Forneris, S. McNeil, J. Holzman, R. Frost, S. Cherkowski, B. Visscher, H. Berringer, I. Parkins, P. Barker

Clerk: A. Breen

Senate Membership

The Registrar confirmed that Senator Bryce Traister was elected to fill the vacancy on the Senate Nominating Committee, until 31 August 2023 and thereafter until replaced.

Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

The Vice-Chair, Dr Cormack, called the seventh regular meeting of the Senate for the 2022-2023 academic year to order at 3:37 pm. She offered acknowledgement that she is participating in the Senate meeting from the unceded, ancestral and traditional territory of the Syilx Okanagan peoples.

Minutes of the Meeting of 23 February 2023

Two minor typographical errors were identified and the spelling of Senator Ebl’s name on page 14 of the docket was corrected.

Stephen O’Leary
Jan Cioe

*That the Minutes of 23 February 2023 be adopted,
as amended.*

Approved



Business Arising from the Minutes

At the February Senate meeting, Senator Lalonde requested a clarification of the 8,886 FTE as this number differs from what is cited under Table 15 of the Enrolment Report. The Registrar had indicated she would follow up and provide clarity on this number.

The Registrar shared that 8,886 FTE is the number reported to the Ministry, and includes some international students: those undergraduates and graduates who are assessed domestic fees. Table 15 in the appendix reports the numbers based on the student's domestic/international status. The 8,886 total would be a mix of table 15's domestic FTE and some of the international FTE from Table 17. This is similar to how UBC Vancouver numbers are reported.

Remarks from the Principal and Deputy Vice-Chancellor

Dr Cormack opened her remarks by sharing Acting President Buszard's greetings and regrets for the meeting, noting that she is attending Board of Governors committee meetings, and the Board meeting scheduled for the next day.

Dr Cormack then commented on the recent announcements of federal and provincial funding for the University. She noted that while both included positive news for students generally, the federal budget allocation was somewhat disappointing for research intensive universities. Dr Cormack stated that there had been hope and an expectation for an increase in the Tri-Council stipend for graduate students, which was not reflected in funding.

She noted a recent and well-received change in foreign homeowner legislation which came into effect in January. The change no longer requires individuals holding a valid work permit to have filed taxes for 3 years so long as there are a minimum of 183 days remaining on their work permit. Dr Cormack stated that this change is extremely beneficial to UBC as it allows for more effective international faculty recruitment.

Dr Cormack shared that approval of the University's 2023-24 budget has been delayed; it will be revised and resubmitted for consideration at a special meeting Board of Governors meeting scheduled for mid-April.

Dr Cormack applauded the efforts of the Development Office, noting that the team's efforts have resulted in a record year for fundraising, raising between \$12-\$13M. She noted that this was done while the unit was short-staffed, with a number of vacant positions.

With respect to the ICI (Interdisciplinary Collaboration and Innovation) Building, construction is on track and there has been a call for proposals for interdisciplinary research projects that can go into the ICI building. The selection process will proceed through the summer, with the hope of having approved projects identified by September. Dr Cormack noted that there may be some delay in the opening of the new building due to supply chain issues.



Remarks from the Provost

Dr Sadiq noted that the application deadline for submission of ICI proposals is 15 May 2023; there has been a website set-up and faculty members are encouraged to discuss with their deans the process for submission of proposed projects. He encouraged senators to consult the ICI Building website that has recently been set-up and that a townhall is scheduled for 4 April 2023.

The Provost shared that five (5) of six (6) micro-credential credential applications have been approved by the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, which is a high rate of acceptance by the Ministry. The successful faculties are the Faculties of Science, Health and Social Development and the School of Engineering. An announcement, in collaboration with the Ministry, is forthcoming.

Next, the Provost provided an update on the ALT-2040 Fund Program, designed to support course and program innovation, student experience enhancement and educational resource development at UBC Okanagan, noting that a call for proposals has been made and that the application deadline is 15 May 2023.

Dr Sadiq highlighted a cross-campus initiative regarding academic integrity; the Academic Integrity Digest is aimed at generating conversation, sharing resources and responding to timely and relevant issues impacting academic integrity for students and faculty at UBC. A website with additional details and resources has been set-up.

The Provost noted that the Faculty of Management external review is now complete, and is available on the Provost's website and that Dean *pro tem*, Senator Sandy Hilton, is expected to provide a response to the review within three months.

The Provost's concluding remarks related to a new initiative from the Centre for Teaching and Learning Technology, the UBC Okanagan Teaching Fellows Opportunity, which will provide funding to support faculty members' teaching and learning activities for one year. The application deadline is 1 April 2023.

In response to a question from Senator Hafeez regarding Dr Cormack's remarks on whether and how much of the \$12-\$13M raised will be allocated for student aid, Dr Cormack responded that funds are normally directed for a variety of projects/initiatives by donors, such as research, specific programs, academic space etc. and that there are approximately 40-50 such initiatives. She noted that student support is a key priority in funding allocations.

Senator Cioe requested an update on the timetable and scheduling issues previously discussed at Senate, that some changes had been discussion and ask if any changes had been considered.



The Provost asked that Deputy Registrar Bert Annear be permitted to respond to Senator Cioe's question. Mr Annear responded that many factors have been taken into consideration with respect to the rules and parameters for course scheduling and that his office has received positive feedback from the program areas that his office has been working with to date. The final schedule will be available by the end of the week, and there will be some testing to ensure feasibility before it is shared with the broader campus community.

Senator Hodges asked for an update regarding the Canada Research Chair allocation discussed at a previous Senate meeting.

The Provost responded that Senator Barker is best placed to provide a detailed response and shared that conversations are ongoing. He noted that a cross-campus committee has been formed and that consideration of this issues is shifting from the Provost's portfolio to the Vice-President Research and Innovation. This portfolio change is a major shift in how and where such discussion take place. Dr Cormack stated that the question can be brought up a future meeting.

Report from the Presidential Search Committee

On behalf of the Presidential Search Committee Chair, Chancellor S. Point, Senator Legault presented an update on the committee's recent activities to date. She noted that since the last update to Senate, the Committee met on February 24th, February 28th, and March 7th. Some key objectives of the Committee's work were to build members' knowledge of equity, diversity, inclusion, and indigeneity and the barriers faced by members of under-represented communities with respect to their advancement in academic and university systems, which was done by way of presentations from individuals working to advance the interests of marginalized groups and those supporting the implementation of the Indigenous Strategic Plan.

Senator Legault noted that presentations to the committee also deepened members' understanding of the role of a university president and that the Committee engaged with current and former presidents of Canadian public universities, as well as members of the University's executive team to solicit their views on the president and the challenges and opportunities ahead for the incoming UBC president.

The Committee has also received and reviewed input from the UBC community, provided via survey questions and online forums held in February. Senator Legault noted that the Committee has invited Dr Arig al Shaibah (Associate Vice-President, Equity and Inclusion) to attend all meetings as a confidential advisor to the Committee. Senator Legault noted her thanks to Dr al Shaibah for her willingness to support the Committee in this capacity.

Lastly, Senator Legault noted that the position profile for President and Vice-Chancellor has been distributed via a variety of channels, and that senators are encouraged to send any suggestions for candidates to Brent Cameron at ubcpresident@boyden.com.



Expression of Thanks to 2022-2023 Student Senators

Dr Cormack noted that the March Senate meeting marks the end-of-term for almost all student senators as they are elected for a one-year term. On behalf of the Senate and President Buszard, she expressed her gratitude to student members, both departing and continuing, for their service to the University. She noted that student leaders play a critical role in bringing the voice and perspective their fellow students to critical discussions and decisions regarding governance and that their contributions are invaluable and deeply appreciated.

Academic Policy Committee

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

COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES – RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS AND DURATION OF PROGRAM FOR DOCTORAL STUDENTS

Jan Cioe
Bryce Traister

That the Okanagan Senate approve changes to Academic Regulations, Residency Requirements and Duration of Program for doctoral students, effective for the 2023 Summer Session and thereafter.

Senator Cioe stated that the proposed change will allow greater flexibility in graduate program participation, in order to remove inequitable barriers to participation for students who would be barred from doctoral studies due to life circumstances, and to better enable participation in community-engaged scholarship, and in forms of research that are better performed outside the university campus.

In response to a question from Senator O’Leary, Senator Cioe clarified that the proposal is applicable to the Okanagan campus only but that UBC Okanagan students can participate in activities at the Vancouver campus and still meet the requirements of the policy.

Senator Jakobi spoke in support of the proposal, and asked whether there is any data on the impact on time to completion and funding implications.

Dean Simpson responded that there is currently no data but that the College of Graduate Studies will start collecting such data shortly.

Senator Hare asked for clarification on the statement regarding programs and supervisors designing and providing support that may be needed by non-resident doctoral students to fully participate in activities in a non-traditional way, specifically what the expectations are for doctoral supervisors and those providing supervision, and resulting workload implications.



Senator Simpson responded that there is no requirement for a faculty member to agree to supervise a non-resident student as it is not possible in some subject areas. He added that the intent of the policy is for supervisors of non-resident students to find a way to make a student's studies workable in a way they can be connected and engaged with the program as opposed to be isolated from the scholarly community. The student and supervisor will need to come to an agreement that is workable for both. In response to a further question from Dean Hare, Dean Simpson clarified that the policy will not impact the new Doctor of Education program.

Senator Hodges commented that she has many students who do field work and does not know at the start of the student's program how much time they will spend on campus versus field work. In absence of knowing whether the student is going to meet the 24-month residency requirement, the burden is on the faculty to monitor to avoid the possibility of a student failing to satisfy residency. She added that she is concerned about the proposed change will play out where it is not known at the outset where the student will be and for how long.

Senator Simpson responded that there is management at the program level, and when it is noted that a student may be spending too much time in the field, a plan can be put in place to manage student engagement. He added that supervisors should try to comply with the intent of the policy as opposed to worrying about any bureaucratic aspects and that the application of the policy will inevitably have to be flexible.

Approved

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING PROGRAM – ACADEMIC REGULATIONS

Jan Cioe
Stephen O'Leary

That Senate approve changes to Academic Regulations for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, effective for the 2023 Winter Session and thereafter.

Approved



Agenda Committee

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

AMENDMENT TO THE RULES AND PROCEDURES OF SENATE

Jan Cioe
Yves Lucet

That the Rules and Procedures of Senate be amended as follows:

That the following section be added:

“21. Notwithstanding Section 20, under circumstances in which in-person attendance at a meeting of the Senate is likely to be impractical or detrimental to the Senate’s ability to conduct business, the Agenda Committee may determine by resolution of a simple majority of the Committee that the meeting may be attended via electronic means only. The reason(s) for such a determination shall be reported to the Senate at the affected meeting” and

That all subsequent and referential section numbers be renumbered accordingly.

Senator Cioe stated that occasionally circumstances arise that compromise the hybrid delivery of Senate meeting, noting recent staffing shortages in the Senate Secretariat. He clarified that the proposed change addresses hybrid and online delivery only, and in-person only meetings are not contemplated.

In response from a question from Senator O’Leary regarding the possibility of a tie-vote at the Agenda Committee when deciding whether a Senate meeting should be online only, Senator Cioe stated that this is unlikely to happen and that the Committee chair would then cast the deciding vote.

Senator Traister asked for further clarification of how the Committee will determine whether or not, or when or for whom, something is impractical, noting that the Committee will be making the decision on behalf of the full Senate. He also asked for clarification regarding whether the new rule would precede or follow the current Rule 21, which states that senators may attend meetings of Senate in-person or electronically.



Secretariat staff clarified that the proposed new rule would follow the current Rule 21. A friendly amendment to correct the number was accepted.

Senator Cioe addressed Senator Traister's first question, noting that it is not easy to define 'impractical' as there are a number of scenarios that would meet the threshold. He noted recent staffing and capacity issues in the Secretariat that made it very difficult for staff to support an in-person meeting. Another possible scenario is both the President and DVC are unable to attend an in-person meeting but one or both are available online. Senator Cioe added that the Committee is committed to maintaining the hybrid model and reminded senators that the Agenda Committee is required to report the reason for its decision to hold a Senate meeting online only. The application of the rule will be reasonable and transparent.

Senator Traister stated that, in his opinion, the work of the Senate is best done in person and asked whether there has been any consideration given to returning to in-person meetings. He noted that the hybrid model is difficult and expensive, and that is better for meeting to be fully online or fully in-person. He stated that the meeting format going forward should be reconsidered as the end of the Senate triennium is approaching.

Senator Cioe stated that he fully shares the considerations outlined by Senator Traister and would also prefer that meetings be in-person. The decision at the Agenda Committee was to allow incoming senators to reexamine the issue and reach a decision. He noted that there were far fewer senators attending the meeting in-person, with a majority of attendees online.

Dr Cormack commented that this is an important conversation to have as the triennial review is underway, adding that the last time the Senate considered this issue, the University was in a different place with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Senator Evans commented that the monitoring and management of online voting is not adequate, noting that some senators are voting by raising their hands, the green check mark is being used for both in favour of- and against a motion. While most votes are overwhelmingly positive, the inconsistencies are of serious concern when votes are close.

Senator Reeves stated that in the past, the Clerk was able to clear the green checkmarks to avoid confusion, and asked for clarification regarding Senator Traister's earlier comment regarding the expense associated with hybrid meetings. Senator Traister noted the number of microphones required in the meeting room and the additional technical set-up that is required.

Dr Cormack commented that the Senate does not have access to the current meeting room at all time, as it belongs to the Southern Medical Program. She added that the purchase of new system solely for the use of Senate was considered but that it would be very expensive.

Senator O'Leary asked what some of the considerations are for senators preferring to attend only online.



Senator Cioe responded that it may be health issues or concerns, not having to commute to campus, and students may be on campus on Senate or Senate committee meeting dates but would be able to attending meetings if they are online.

Senator Ebl reiterated Senator Cioe's earlier comment that the Agenda Committee has discussed the meeting format, and agreed that senators joining in the next triennium decide how to proceed. Senator Ebl also called the question

Tamara Ebl
Sandy Hilton

That the previous question be called.

Approved (with
required 2/3 majority)

Jan Cioe
Yves Lucet

That the Rules and Procedures of Senate be amended as follows:

That the following section be added:

"22. Notwithstanding Section 21, under circumstances in which in-person attendance at a meeting of the Senate is likely to be impractical or detrimental to the Senate's ability to conduct business, the Agenda Committee may determine by resolution of a simple majority of the Committee that the meeting may be attended via electronic means only. The reason(s) for such a determination shall be reported to the Senate at the affected meeting" and

That all subsequent and referential section numbers be renumbered accordingly.

Approved

Admissions Committee

See Appendix A: Awards Report

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



Tamara Ebl
Patricia Lasserre

That Senate approve the new and revised awards as listed, that they be forwarded to the Board of Governors for approval, and that a letter of thanks be sent to the donors.

Approved

Curriculum Committee

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

CURRICULUM PROPOSALS

See Appendix B: Curriculum Report

Yves Lucet
Sandy Hilton

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

Approved

Senator Traister expressed his gratitude to Senate for its approval of the new minor in the Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies. The development of the minor in Communications and Rhetoric was led by the late Professor Aisha Ravindran, who passed away recently. Dean Traister spoke of Dr Ravindran's commitment to students, noting that the development of the minor was her last gesture for students. Senators observed a moment of silence in Dr Ravindran's memory.

Nominating Committee

The Vice-Chair of the Senate Nominating Committee, Ms Tamara Ebl, presented.

DRAFT CONFLICT OF INTEREST GUIDELINES

At the outset, Senator Ebl reiterated that the draft guidelines are for information and discussion only, and that the guidelines are not policy. They are envisioned as a future Council of Senates Policy which will apply equally to the Senates of both campuses. The draft has so far been reviewed by the Nominating and Agenda Committees of both Senates.

Senator Ebl stated that the discussion is an opportunity for senators to provide feedback. Senators not present at the meeting can provide their comments and concerns to the Nominating



Committee or the Senate Secretariat. The draft guidelines will be amended as necessary and will be brought back to the Senates with a motion to refer to the Council of Senates for consideration.

Senator Cioe stated that he expressed his concerns with this approach at an earlier meeting, in the context of what actually constitutes a conflict of interest in terms of the various roles they might play, such as an administrator also being a Senator. He added that in the discussion at the Agenda Committee, there was a distinction made between personal and professional conflicts of interest, and that it would be helpful for him to have specific examples of what constitutes a conflict.

Senator Cioe gave the example of Senate's approval of a new course in his department earlier in the meeting. He stated that he had put the course forward and is in a conflict of interest in the strictest sense as it would benefit him, his department and students. Senator Cioe asked for clarity regarding what is and what would not be a conflict in the context of operating as a senator.

Senator Ebl responded that the guidelines will not prevent anyone from exercising their legitimate right to participate in Senate proceedings, even if those are related to a senator's own faculty. Also, there is consideration of whether an action could reasonably be perceived to be of personal interest or impact one's ability to remain unbiased. She added that it is difficult to create a full list of all potential conflict situations.

The Clerk gave an example of a conflict of interest in the context of the consideration of student appeals. For example, the chair or member of the committee may be from the same faculty as the student appellant. If the adjudicator has no previous knowledge or involvement in the matter under appeal, they are not in a conflict of interest situation. A chair or committee member advocating for the committee to find in favour of one of the parties based their own personal or professional connection would clearly be in a conflict situation.

Senator Ebl added that in the consideration of admissions appeals, representatives of the Faculty which has denied admission are not permitted to participate in the Committee's deliberations.

Senator Jakobi asked how the proposed guidelines intersect with the conflict of interest declarations required by faculty members. Dr Cormack clarified that there is no overlap between the proposed guidelines and Board of Governors Policy SC-3. She added that the principle of bicameralism requires that both the Senate and the Board have the power to independently control their own processes and procedures. Faculty Members who are senators should not be using their annual COI declaration to disclose issues pertaining to the Senate.

Senator Ebl stated that the guidelines are intended to fill a gap as Policy SC-3 does not apply to Senate business. This a reworking of a previously proposed Senate *Code of Conduct* which was presented to Vancouver Senate for comment in 2019 and did not move forward at that time. The policy is no longer a code of conduct but rather a set of guidelines intended to provide a clear,



transparent process for identifying and managing conflicts of interest that arise with respect to Senate business and responsibilities.

Senator Cioe asked about section 5.5 which addresses conflicts related to Senate and Senate committee agenda items, noting that the policy document allowed for greater flexibility in terms of how conflicts of interest are dealt with. In many cases, senators could simply declare a conflict for transparency but still participate in a discussion not because of a self-interest but because they have knowledge or expertise they can contribute to the discussion. In the guidelines model, a senator who in a COI situation with respect to an agenda item must abstain from any discussion or voting. Senator Cioe stated that he does not find the language of this section to be acceptable.

Dr Cormack thanked senators for the discussion and their feedback, adding a reminder that any additional comments or feedback can be provided via the Senate Secretariat.

Report from the Registrar

2023-2026 TRIENNIAL ELECTION RESULTS

The Registrar, Ms Rella Ng, presented the results of the 2023-2026 triennial election results. She noted that a number of vacancies remain and second call for nominations has been issued. In response to a question from Senator Cioe, the Registrar confirmed that the second call for nominations closed on April 28th, and a third call will be issued shortly.

Senator Ebl commented that there have been recurring discussions at the Nominating and Agenda Committees regarding ongoing vacancies on Senate. She noted that the Senate is critical to the University's governance structure, yet many faculty members choose not remain on Senate and other do not have the desire to put their nomination forward. Ongoing vacancies compromise the ability of Senate and Senate committees to function effectively. She asked what could be done to increase interest amongst faculty members to consider serving.

Dr Cormack responded that all senators present at the meeting should speak to their colleagues and encourage them to consider service on Senate. She noted that a call for nominations alone does not seem to be the most effective way to encourage faculty to come forward.

Senator Milliken commented that one of the reasons there are so few nominations coming forward from students is that a majority of students are not even aware of Senate. He added that the Students' Union Okanagan (SUO) has a large budget to advertise elections and as a result, there is a high student participation rate in SUO elections. He asked whether there should be some consideration of funding for student senator elections, noting that something needs to be done to encourage student participation in the Senate election process.



Dr Cormack thanked Senator Milliken for his comments, noting that student participation in governance is critical and that more needs to be done to bring attention to the work and value of Senate.

Senator Ebl commented that the current triennium is coming to a close and wondered whether there should be some consideration of undertaking an exit interview or survey to get more information on why outgoing senators are not willing to return.

Senator Hafeez added to Senator Milliken's comments, noting that the feedback he has received from students, and which was the case for him in his first-year, is that they are not aware of how to contact senators, especially student senators. He noted that students may eventually find the Senate website where the names of student senators are listed but that there was no way for students to contact their senate representatives. He added that he intends to put this forward as a recommendation in the triennial review process.

Dr Cormack thanked senators for the discussion and feedback.

Other Business

Senator Traister asked for a follow-up from the Learning and Research Committee regarding the Senate policy on Emeritus Status. The chair of the committee, Senator Stewart responded that discussions regarding revisions to the policy are ongoing, and happening in consultation with the Vancouver Senate Tributes Committee to ensure as much alignment as possible between the two campuses. The two committees have held a joint meeting and a final draft will be reviewed in April, prior to broader consultation with stakeholders. Senator Stewart stated that she expects the policy to come forward for Senate approval early in the new triennium.

Adjournment

Seeing no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.