



OKANAGAN SENATE

MINUTES OF 23 NOVEMBER 2023

Attendance

Present: L. Cormack (Vice-Chair), R. Ng (Secretary), B.-A. Bacon, A. Alnaar, A. Ardestani-Jaafari, P. Arthur, P. Barker, H. Berringer, A. Brar, J. Cheng, J. Denison, G. DiLabio, T. Ebl, J. Eikenaar, M. Evans, R. Frost, S. Hafeez, S. Hilton, K. Hodges, W. Hughes, N. Jalili, R. Johnson, D. Keyes, R. Lalonde, P. Laserre, M. Libben, Y. Lucet, B. Marcolin, S. O'Leary, A.-O. Idowu, J. Picault, M. Rheault, R. Sadiq, C. Schreyer, P. Shah, O. Sharma, A. Shatzko, A. Shinde, P. Simpson, S. Stewart, M. Tarrant, R. Taheri, S. Tomaskova, P. Yousevi.

Regrets: S. Point, B. He, J. Low, N. Obeegadoo, J. Olson, S. Roy-Bois, M. Sandler, B. Traister, R. Zaitoun.

Clerk: C. Eaton

Call to Order

The Vice-Chair of Senate, Professor Lesley Cormack called the third regular meeting of the Senate for the 2023-2024 academic year to order at 3:43 pm.

Senate Membership

NEW MEMBER

The Registrar, Dr Rella Ng, welcomed the following new member to Senate:

Dr Benoit-Antoine Bacon, President & Vice-Chancellor, to replace Dr Deborah Buszard (end of term).

Minutes of 26 September 2023

Peter Arthur
Jan Cioe

*That the Minutes of 26 October 2023 be approved
as corrected:*

Corrections: Attendance, spelling of Rheault.



Approved

Business Arising from the Minutes

The Vice-Chair noted that the Canada Research Chair update would come to the next meeting so that it could be considered by the Learning & Research Committee before Senate.

Remarks from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor

The Principal noted that she attended the President's installation at the first congregation in Vancouver, along with other members from the Okanagan, including Dean Tomaskova.

In terms of campus development, Dr Cormack advised Senate of the indigenous named gifted to a planned UBC building formerly called the Interdisciplinary Collaboration and Innovation building: ʔəł sic snpaʔnwixʷtn. Dr Cormack noted that the 3-letter acronym XSS may also be used, but an emphasis was placed on using the indigenous name wherever possible. She went to note updates on the downtown campus, including a significant cement pour for the parade level.

Dr Cormack noted that a search had started for the next Vice-Principal Research and Innovation for the Okanagan campus. Phil Barker's term will conclude at the end of March, and a committee has been formed to facilitate the search.

Senator Cioe expressed his appreciation for the work of the incumbent.

Dr Cormack went on to advise Senate that construction on the daycare is underway, increasing the number of spaces to 92.

The Principal's update concluded with advising the Senate of budget planning being ongoing, with this being an especially tight budget year for the campus, and an invitation to the upcoming holiday party on 29 November.

Remarks from the Provost

The Provost, Dr Rehan Sadiq, advised the Senate that the search for candidates for Deputy University Librarian was underway; they anticipate sharing news and updates on the decision in the next Senate meeting. The search for the next Dean of the Faculty of Management was almost completed and an announcement was expected next month. Finally, he advised Senate that a Research Town Hall had been confirmed for Monday, 29 January and registration information would be provided soon.



Senator Frost asked if there was an update on timetabling and scheduling. She asked if the deans council had made any process changes for the year.

Senate recognized Deputy Registrar Bert Annear, who said that they had heard concerns and the Provost and Registrar had developed a committee that would consider exceptions to scheduling processes. They planned to present to the deans in the first week of December before they went to the community.

Senator Cioe said that the heads should have the capacity to move assignments around within their disciplines to alleviate specific concerns. He asked if this was being considered.

Mr Annear said that the nature of centralized scheduling would make this a challenge. Due to insufficient staff time, we had not and could not run scenarios to model this idea.

Senator Evans noted that two years ago it was possible to shift classes within a department. It may take some effort by the Registrar's office but doesn't require modelling.

Candidates for Degrees

Robert Lalonde
Yves Lucet

That the candidates for degrees as recommended by the faculties and the College of Graduate Studies, be granted the degrees for which they were recommended, effective November 2023, and that a committee comprised of the Registrar, the relevant dean(s), and the Chair of Senate be empowered to make any necessary adjustments.

Approved

Admissions and Awards Committee

The Chair, Mr Rob Johnson, presented.

See Appendix A: Awards Reports

WALL AWARDS



Rob Johnson
Tamara Ebl

That the Senate approve the new Wall Research Awards and Wall Fellowships, that they be forwarded to the Board of Governors for approval and that a letter of thanks be sent to the donor.

Approved

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ADMISSION STANDARD FOR APPLICANTS FROM OKANAGAN COLLEGE
ENGLISH FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSES PROGRAM**

Rob Johnson
Barb Marcolin

That Senate approve the revised English Language Admission Standard (ELAS) for applicants from the Okanagan College English for Academic Purposes program, effective for entry to the 2024 Winter Session and thereafter.

Approved

VARSITY AWARDS

Rob Johnson
Patricia Lasserre

That Senate approve the new International Varsity Entrance Awards, as presented.

Approved

NEW AWARDS

Rob Johnson
Tamara Ebl

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

Approved

NEW AND REVISED GRADUATE AWARDS

Rob Johnson
Patricia Lasserre

That Senate approve the new and revised awards for students in the College of Graduate Studies, as presented.

Senator Keyes asked if Indigenous Hawaiian students would qualify. A number of other senators raised comments regarding eligibility.



The Clerk committed to ensuring discussions occurred with relevant Indigenous offices on eligibility.

Senator Ebl asked when the awards would be available.

Senator Simpson replied as soon as possible.

Approved

MASTER OF DESIGN – REVISED TO ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS.

Rob Johnson
Jan Cioe

That Senate approve changes in admission requirements for applicants to the Master of Design program, effective for entry the 2024 Winter Session and thereafter.

By general consent, the proposal was amended to read summer session.

Rob Johnson
Jan Cioe

That Senate approve changes in admission requirements for applicants to the Master of Design program, effective for entry the 2024 Summer Session and thereafter.

Approved

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE, PSYCHOLOGY HONOURS PROGRAM – REVISED ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Rob Johnson
Jan Cioe

That Senate approve the new International Varsity Entrance Awards, as presented.

Approved

FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT – INTERDISCIPLINARY CO-OP STUDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD

Rob Johnson
Sandy Hilton

That Senate approve the new Interdisciplinary Co-op Education Student of the Year Award, as presented

Approved

Curriculum Committee

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

NOVEMBER CURRICULUM REPORT

*See Appendix B: Curriculum Report*

Jan Cioe
Rehan Sadiq

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors for approval the new minor, new equivalencies, and new course brought forward by the Faculties of Management and Creative and Critical Studies.

Senator Idowu asked if students outside of management could take the minor.

Senator Lucet replied no as it was associated with a degree.

Senator Cioe said that faculties could propose their own minors in the same area.

Approved

Report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor

Discussion Item: Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Dr Cormack noted that this was a discussion item and she hoped that the Senate could share its views on the impact and issues of generative artificial intelligence on teaching and research at the university, particularly concerning generative AI's rapid integration into various aspects of daily life. She also noted for the Senate that a committee had been formed to address concerns such as data security and integrity issues related to generative AI at UBC.

Senator Ebl said that in her experience with students, historically there was a strong barrier between Okanagan and Vancouver for policies and guidance. She said that it was not clear where Okanagan faculty could go for guidance and what rules applied. She noted that the advice easily findable tended to reference Vancouver. The senator encouraged UBC-wide guidance and less ambiguity.

Senator Lalonde said that generative AI opened up possibilities for cheating. He noted that in the experience of British universities the use of AI was fine for formative assignments, but there needed to be summative examinations where AI could not be used and we should change are assessment to do so.

Senator Cioe said that his department had up to 40% of their courses online and they were vulnerable to the use of generative AI as a result. He argued that we were a face-to-face



university and while we may have online courses, assessment should happen in person. He noted that AI could have a use as a teaching tool still.

Senator Lucet said that in his Computer Science courses they could use any tools they want, but they needed to pass a pen-and-paper final to pass the course. He said that his larger concern was that AI could be mostly right, but the students would not recognize what was right or wrong from what was provided by the AI.

The Chair asked if this was different from calculators and our concern with their introduction that people would not understand the underlying mathematics.

Senator Lucet said yes it was.

Senator Ebl said that she would have agreed with these comments a few months ago, but recently she was swayed to appreciate the opportunities for the use of generative AI in teaching. Her questions now were what were the limitations around access/disability, privacy, and cost. She said that we need to re-evaluate our teaching and its applicability for jobs that do not yet exist. She noted that recent graduates have reported a need to use generative AI in their employment.

Senator Arthur said he agreed with Senator Ebl: this was a new competency/tool that needed to be used ethically and have its output be critically analyzed. He said that this was akin to information literacy. We need to help our students use this tool in a competent way.

Senator Cioe said that it was important to know where the ethical lines were and how to enforce them. He noted that while there may be flaws in what the AI taught or produced, there were equally flaws in the work of students or himself. Senator Cioe said that he used forms of assessment currently that would be undermined by AI. He noted in his time as a student 100% finals were the norm and while he did not want to restore that system, it may be the outcome of the vulnerabilities noted.

Senator Picault said that we may have different rules around generative AI use depending on the learning objectives. He suggested that if we wanted rules they could not be one-size-fits-all and instructors should have flexibility.

Senator Lucet said that generative AI allowed for students to access instant answers to questions and so it was much easier to use it for cheating. He noted that UBC updated its courses regularly and at least for him, there is a full updating of both course material and instructional tools.

Senator Lalonde said that there was a distinction between using generative AI in learning and it being used to cheat at assessment. He also noted that the “free” versions often had limitations or purpose-introduced errors to encourage upselling.

Senator O’Leary said that in some disciplines, writing an essay was much more instructive than short answers. He noted the limitations in AI-produced theses he had seen.



Senator Taheri raised the philosophical question of why students attend UBC or another high-ranked university. He noted that a UK survey said 90% were looking for a career. Future employers will need or students to know how to use AI. It could be an amazing tool so long as it does not take away students' creativity.

Senator Marcolin said that she was interested in supporting various frameworks for assessment. We need to be flexible but invest the time and effort to ensure integrity in assessment.

Senator Hilton said that we needed flexibility but the instructor needs to understand that the ability to detect generative AI depends a lot on the modes of assessment. There were some assessment schemes where we could not detect or provide misconduct.

Senator Yousefi asked if our focus should be on prevention of misconduct or encouragement of good conduct. We will not evolve as quickly as AI development.

Senator Ebl encouraged more open forum discussions on this topic to allow for sharing of opportunities and concerns between both faculty and students.

Senator Stewart said that generative AI could be useful in a pedagogy environment and we should have a consistent approach that allows for flexibility. She agreed that we should have a policy that encourages the good use of AI through workshops, communication, and teaching.

The Chair said that we have all had change in our time in academia: she noted that she was the first person in her department to use a computer to write her dissertation.

Senator Cioe said that the idea of equity was important in this context: the free generative AI tools were not as good as the free ones. If we want to use AI, we need to ensure it is equitably available to all students such as we did with clickers.

The Chair noted that we now had large costs of licensing fees at UBC.

Senator Picault asked how we let instructors know about the risks and benefits. On his part, he noted that he tested his assessments against generative AI but not everyone knew how to do this and we needed to have support for instructors. He also asked how we could prove generative AI being used.

Senator Lalonde said that in the course of this meeting he asked ChatGPT to come up with two arguments: one about justifying the use of ChatGPT at UBC and the other about justifying limiting the use of ChatGPT in a university course. He noted that the AI responses reflected the nuances of the ongoing discussion, indicating that the AI was able to capture the essence of the issue.

Senator Sadiq said that this issue was discussed extensively at the Tricouncil level, particularly with research. He highlighted the fast-paced changes in technology and expressed the need for



discussions around opportunities rather than just concerns. He noted the concerns around the early introductions of calculators, something no one cares about in the current age. He said that the biggest issue was ethics and AI cannot be responsible for that.

The Chair summarized the extensive discussions, acknowledging the multifaceted nature of the topic, encompassing pedagogy, research, flexibility, boundaries, and education. She thanked the participants and mentioned the Committee on the Implications of Generative AI which would be coming back to Senate in the new year.

Senator Hafeez asked for more information about the committee referenced.

Senator Arthur advised it was the “Implications of Generative AI Steering Committee,” and directed the senator to the committee's website for details on terms of reference and membership.

IN CAMERA – Learning & Research Committee

CANDIDATES FOR HONORARY DEGREES

Adjournment

Seeing no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:09 p.m.



Appendix A: Awards Report

New Awards:

Interior Salishan Language Fluency Degree Undergraduate Entrance Award

Awards totaling \$20,000 have been made available for the support of third-year students enrolled in the Bachelor of Nsyilxcn / Nl̓eʔkepmx / St'át'imc or other Interior Salishan Language Fluency Degrees in the Irving K. Barber Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of British Columbia, Okanagan campus. Preference is given to students with financial need. These awards are renewable for a second-year subject to the students maintaining academic standing. The awards will be adjudicated by Enrolment Services in consultation with Indigenous Programs and Services. (First award available 2023/24 winter session).