



# OKANAGAN SENATE

## MINUTES OF 26 OCTOBER 2023

### Attendance

**Present:** L. Cormack (Vice-Chair), R. Ng (Secretary), A. Alnaar, P. Arthur, P. Barker, H. Berringer, A. Brar, R. Campbell, J. Cheng, J. Cioe, G. DiLabio, T. Ebl, J. Eikenaar, R. Frost, S. Hafeez, S. Hilton, K. Hodges, W. Hughes, A. Idowu, N. Jalili, R. Janke, R. Johnson, R. Lalonde, J. Low, Y. Lucet, B. Marcolin, N. Obeegadoo, S. O'Leary, J. Olson, M. Rheault, R. Sadiq, C. Schreyer, P. Shah, O. Sharma, A. Shatzko, A. Shinde, S. Stewart, R. Taheri, S. Tomaskova, R. Zaitoun.

**Regrets:** P. Amuta, B. Bisscher, D. Buszard, B. He, M. Libben, J. Milliken, S. Point.

**Clerk:** C. Eaton

### Call to Order

The Vice-Chair of Senate, Professor Lesley Cormack called the second 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:

Pratham Shah, Student Member for the Faculty of Science, until 31 March 2024 and thereafter until replaced, to fill a vacancy.

### Minutes of 28 September 2023

Dr. Stephen O'Leary  
Peter Arthur

*That the Minutes of 28 September 2023 be  
approved as corrected:*

*Corrections: Senator Frost should not be listed as  
appointed to the Budget Committee; Senator  
Berringer's title should read as Associate Provost,  
Academic Operations and Services.*



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**

Dr Cormack noted the impending arrival of UBC's new President and Vice-Chancellor, Dr Benoit-Antoine Bacon, who had already visited the campus. She noted his commitment to the success of both UBC as a whole and the Okanagan campus, and that he had expressed an interest in visiting the Okanagan campus regularly.

Yesterday was the second in UBC Okanagan's debate series, with almost 500 people attending a debate on free speech. Next time we hope for more disagreement. It was also the long-service award presentation. Included in this was a long service award for someone with 45 years at Okanagan College, Okanagan University College, and the Okanagan campus of UBC: Rose Cresswell of the Okanagan Library.

Dr Cormack advised Senate that the Students' Union had a successful referendum for funding for a new field house. They have committed a maximum of \$7 million if matched by the University. UBC was considering this and was also looking for government funding support.

Finally, Integrated Renewal Program (IRP) Student Launch 1 was successful, and students were being admitted using the new system. There is still a lot of learning and training to do, but we are moving forward to Launch 2 in February.

### **Remarks from the Provost**

The Vice-President Academic and Provost, Dr Rehan Sadiq presented. Firstly, he advised Senate that the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills had released first two of three micro credential calls: stackable and sharable. He encouraged members to reach out to their deans for support if they were working on proposals. He also reminded senators of teaching and external award submissions as well as the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Seed Program awards.

With respect of the search for the next Dean of Management, interviews in progress. We have also started the process to find our next Deputy University Librarian.



Finally, UBC has launched its annual employment equity survey and we aspire towards a 90% response rate.

Senator DiLabio noted that Science had considered the sharable micro credentials and they had a number of concerns. He asked if we had institutional policies on acceptance of outside micro credentials.

Senator Berringer said that sharable curriculum was the goal of those programs: the content of the course materials had to be made available to others rather than the credential needing to be acceptable.

### **Admissions and Awards Committee**

The Chair, Mr Rob Johnson, presented.

#### **NEW AWARD**

##### *Appendix A: Awards Report*

Rob Johnson  
Barb Marcolin

*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

### **Nominating Committee**

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

#### **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Jan Cioe  
Rehan Sadiq

*That Christine Schreyer (Associate Professor, Community, Culture, and Global Studies) and Gino DiLabio (Professor, Chemistry) be appointed to a President's Advisory Committee for the Selection of a Vice-Principal Research and Associate Vice-President Research and Innovation; and*



Senator Cioe took the opportunity to thank Senator Barker for his work as Vice-Principal Research.

Approved

Jan Cioe  
Mark Rhealt

*That Aparajita Shinde and Bowen He be  
appointed to the Senate Committee on Appeals of  
Standing & Discipline until 31 March 2024 and  
thereafter until replaced, to fill vacancies.*

Senator Cioe noted the large number of appeals pending and the need to ensure the Committee had its full membership.

Approved

### **Point of Order**

Senator DiLabio said that the Vice-Chair needed to give members more time to cast their votes online. This was well taken.

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

#### **Budget Report**

Senate welcomed Associate Vice-President Finance and Operations Rob Einarson.

Mr Einarson said that he normally presented in the spring, but was now doing so in the fall to give an update early in the budget process. He noted that he would regularly report to the Council Budget Committee has numbers were developed.

Mr Einarson set out the timeline of the budget process with faculty and unit priorities as well as enrolment targets being developed in the fall, cost estimates over the winter, and budget approval in the spring.

Mr Einarson then set out the key elements of the budget.

Senator DiLabio queried the reference to “Centralized Services: Administrative services are centralized, with shared subject matter professionals (IT, HR, Finance, Academic advising/counselling, Co-op, etc.) supporting all Faculties.” He asked for details on central services budgets that faculties were being asked to support (e.g., student advising or research



finance), He suggested the structure is problematic for our campus. Centralization of service is a great approach but the budget does not work to support that.

Mr Einarson said that generally, things were centralized but we were trying to match consumption and use of central services.

Senator DiLabio commented on the on creep of decentralization costs into the faculty budgets.

Mr Einarson set out the following funded context for the Okanagan campus:

- UBCO FY24Q1 operating budget is approximately \$250m
- Research funding awarded of \$45m in FY23, \$47m in FY22, \$38m in FY21, \$32m in FY20
- Operating budgets are "firewalled" between campuses
- Annual TREK funding of \$5.3M to support undergraduate and graduate aid, Indigenous Initiatives, and attracting matching donations
- Significant investment in space needs
- Stabilization strategy on domestic enrolment - Projected utilization for Undergrad is 108%, and 786% for graduate (graduate target of 157 and 1,234 delivered)
- Projected 18% international undergraduate composition for FY24 (down 1% from<sup>[1]</sup>FY23), and 48% for Graduate student annualized FTE
- Board approved tuition rate increases of 2% for Domestic and 5% for new and 3% for continuing for FY24

Senator Einarson then went on to describe the current and historical enrolment trends at the Okanagan campus and government grant funding. He noted:

- FY24 provincial government grant funding (Ministry target) was based on 7,255 student<sup>[1]</sup>FTE (domestic undergraduate and all graduate students), at an average of \$9,685/seat, with no differentiation between undergraduate and graduate
- Delivered 8,897 student FTE in FY24Q1 (domestic undergraduate and all graduate) resulting in a Ministry utilization of 123%, bringing down the average grant funding to \$7,897/seat
- Delivered 1,696 international undergraduate student FTE in FY24, no grant funding received, compensated for by higher international student tuition fees
- Additional provincial grant funding for program expansion in nursing, social work, and data science, as well as for general wage indexation (GWI)
- Provincial funding differential between campuses exists

Senator Lalonde noted that our funded graduate student numbers have never reflected reality and has been getting worse. He asked if the Province could fund more seats.

Senator Sadiq said that this is a major challenge for our campus. The campus has had some success with social work and biotechnology but these are new seats, not



adjustments to reflect current state. There did seem to be more interest now by the Province in new funding.

Dr Cormack said that graduate students were lumped together in our statistics as if they were all domestic students, while half were in fact international. Lobbying government for funding existing seats has not been successful. They are concerned about graduate student affordability and scholarships but this did not exist to current seats.

Senator Cioe noted the cost difference between undergraduate and graduate seats.

Senator DiLabio observed some undergraduate programs being better funded now.

Mr Einarson then described the tuition allocation model for the campus and the faculty revenue breakdowns.

Senator Ebl asked about funding for downtown campus and if this had increased and if it was coming from operating funds.

Mr Einarson replied that right now the downtown project is unique as a properties trust building that was supporting residential use. The Okanagan campus was to be a tenant of the lower 8 floors. The campus was paying a lease of around \$4m a year plus a down payment of around \$27m, which mostly covers outfitting the space.

In response to a question from Senator DiLabio, Mr Einarson described in detail on how UBC Properties Trust worked.

Senator Cioe asked how much of the funds on the operating side are committed due to things like collective agreements.

Mr Einarson said we are rather salary heavy so there isn't a lot of room in normal circumstances. 80% of our budget is committed to staff expenses, which is typical for universities. If we have significant financial pressures, there are options such as hiring freezes.

Senator Lalonde asked where the Okanagan's share for the IRP expenses were coming from.

Mr Einarson said that there were a few salaries being paid out of general operating funds. Most expenses would be in a future budget.

Senator Lalonde noted the potential for vacation rentals downtown.

Mr Einarson said we expected 12-month leases, not Winter Session.



Mr Einarson then described the total campus operating revenue, noting the decrease in forecasted international tuition revenue.

With reference to Mr Einarson's comments on "Fiscal Operating Funding by Portfolio", Senator DiLabio said that the slides showed an 8.2M in faculty funding increase and said this was confusing.

Mr Einarson advised that he believed this was rate increases and general wage increases, but would confirm this.

With respect to the historical context side, Senator Reahl asked what the contribution to UBC Vancouver line meant.

Mr Einarson said that some things are recorded as revenues that are administrated out of Vancouver such as professional development, service provisions, and flow throughs.

Senator Hughes asked what the ideal faculty revenue breakdown would be and how to work towards that.

Mr Einarson went into detail on the Tuition Allocation Module (TAM), noting that introduced in 2014/15, TAM provides a driver-based framework for the allocation of tuition revenue to Faculties, Excellence Fund and Student Financial Aid. Allocations were calculated based on enrolment in credit courses taught for undergraduate programs and program fees assessed for graduate programs. In this model:

- Domestic tuition
  - Faculty allocated 60% and Central 40%, after allocations for credit card fees (0.125%), bad debts (1%) and student financial aid (7.25% for UG and 5% for graduate)
- International - Base tuition (held constant at 2015/16 rate)
  - Faculty allocated 50% and Central 50%, after allocations for credit card fees (0.125%), bad debts (1%) and student financial aid (7.5%)
- International - Incremental tuition
  - Tuition related to the international fee increase implemented in 2016/17 are allocated 2/3 to the Excellence fund and 1/3 to Faculties and Central, after allocations for credit card fees (0.125%), bad debts (1%) and student financial aid (7.5%). The 1/3 to Faculty and Central is allocated

Senator Cioe noted that our international tuition was not regulated but that we went for a sub-inflationary increase. He said we should commend ourselves for this.

Senator Taheri asked what our \$42 000 a year in international tuition was prior to COVID-19 and how this compared to Toronto or McGill.



Senator Sadiq replied Toronto was around \$55 000 a year, McGill was a bit lower, but both varied by program.

The Registrar noted that UBC international tuition was much lower than Toronto or McGill on average, but higher than Alberta.

Senator DiLabio said that at the faculties and centrally we are seeing budget challenges, so this is beyond the TAM. He asked what was being done centrally with respect to budget issues, and with challenges attracting international students, what is the long-term plan.

Mr Einarson noted that UBC's new Vice-President Finance and Operations, Frank Laezza, had started a budget re-imagining process. This would include a sensitivity analysis around fees.

Senator Sadiq said that this was front of mind. Our dependence on new students is a highly competitive area and this campus competes with Simon Fraser and Victoria, both of which had lower tuition costs.

## **Generative AI**

Given the time available, the Vice-Chair suggested that this item be postponed to the next meeting.

Senator DiLabio commented on the relevance of universities in modern society and public perceptions being a good topic.

Senator Hilton commented on fitting in committee mandates and them bringing forward matters for discussion.

*By general consent, this item was postponed to the next regular meeting of Senate.*

## **Registrar**

### **ELECTION RESULTS**

The Registrar, Dr Ng, advised Senate pursuant to section 16 of the *University Act* that the following elections had occurred:

Further to the call for nominations issued on 9 September 2023 for a student of the Okanagan Campus to fill the one (1) vacancy for a representative of the Faculty of Science on the





Okanagan Senate, five (5) valid nominations were received. The following student was elected as representative of the Faculty on the Okanagan Senate for a term ending 31 March 2024 and thereafter until a successor is elected:

- Pratham Shah

### **Adjournment**

Seeing no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm.



## **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).