



OKANAGAN SENATE

MINUTES OF 14 DECEMBER 2023

Attendance

Present: B.-A. Bacon (Chair), C. Eaton (Acting Secretary), A. Ardestani-Jaafari, P. Arthur, P. Barker, H. Berringer, A. Brar, J. Cheng, J. Cioe, L. Cormack, J. Denison, G. DiLabio, T. Ebl, M. Evans, J. Hare, S. Hilton, K. Hodges, W. Hughes, R. Johnson, J. Keller, D. Keyes, B. Lalonde, B. Marcolin, J. Olson, S. Roy-Bois, R. Sadiq, C. Schreyer, P. Shah, A. Shatzko, A. Shinde, P. Simpson, S. Stewart, R. Taheri, M. Tarrant, B. Traister, S. Tomaskova, P. Yousefi

Regrets: S. Point, R. Ng, R. Campbell, R. Frost, M. Garg, B. He, A. Idowu, R. Janke, M. Libben, J. Low, Y. Lucet, J. Milliken, O. Sharma, B. Visscher, R. Zaitoun

Call to Order

The Chair of Senate, Professor Benoit-Antoine Bacon called the fourth regular meeting of the Senate for the 2023-2024 academic year to order at 3:32 pm. He noted that as the Ombudsperson could not attend, her report on the agenda would need to be postponed to the next meeting of Senate.

Minutes of 23 November 2023

Jan Cioe
Peter Arthur

*That the Minutes of 23 November 2023 be
approved as corrected:*

*Corrections: Attendance of Senator Hafeez, the
name of Senator Lalonde.*

Senate Membership

DECLARATION OF VACANCY

The Acting Registrar, Mr Christopher Eaton, declared the seat of Michael Sandler vacant under Rule 12 of the *Rules and Procedures of Senate*.

Business Arising from the Minutes



The Acting Secretary confirmed for Senator Lalonde that a bi-election would be called to fill the vacancy.

Remarks from the Chair

The President noted that this was his fourth visit to the Okanagan campus, and that this was his first since assuming office. He said that his first six weeks have been a fantastic experience. He thanked senators for their work for the University. He noted that he had served on various senates for 15 years, and that an engaged and insightful senate was an asset to any institution.

The President noted the challenges faced by the Okanagan in the past year and the global challenges presently; he expressed his thanks for people remaining respectful and compassionate in difficult circumstances. Reflecting on the history of the Okanagan campus, he expressed amazement by its success, particularly in research, reconciliation, and campus development. The President described the future as bright for the Okanagan campus.

Senator Cioe commented on the challenges faced by the Okanagan Senate with insufficient administrative support for its activities. He noted that initiatives were delayed due to lack of staff due to health issues. In particular he noted the lack of priority given to a new policy on course syllabuses.

The Acting Registrar noted that the Vancouver Senate was undergoing an external review and as a part of that process, the staffing resources available to both Senates would be considered. The University would not consider new budget requests for this year.

Senator Lasserre asked if the Okanagan would be part of that review.

The Acting Registrar replied that the Okanagan Senate would not be; however, there was one Senate office and thus all of its staff considerations would be considered.

Senator DiLabio said that the deans met yesterday and the budget outlook for that campus looked bleak. He asked what actions were being taken on a system-level to address budget challenges.

The President said that across the country fiscal tightness was becoming apparent, especially in Ontario and Quebec. We need to take a balance view in BC, there is some indication that our budgets will also become tighter although successive BC governments have treated universities well, in particular with funding general wage increases and allowing modest tuition increases. Should that change, or should international student enrolment be limited due to geopolitical factors, we would have a challenge. He suggested that we should take action before or in case a crisis developed. The President noted that we could consider revenues and expenses. With respect to revenue, the President suggested that we could strengthen our student recruitment and our government



lobbying efforts. In terms of costs, the President suggested that we should consider efficiencies, especially at the Vancouver campus.

Senator Johnson renewed the conversation around secretariat support, noting that existing staff were working late into the evenings and on holidays to support the Senate. While he appreciated comments on being proactive, this situation did not seem sustainable.

The President said that he had noted and appreciated the call for more resources for the Senate.

Remarks from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor

The Principal and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Dr Lesley Cormack, noted that the Board of Governors had met last week and approves the tuition for next year. Confidence in these numbers allowed the campus to proceed with budget planning. She also noted the Campus 2050 initiative, which while mostly a Vancouver conversation, would affect the Okanagan. She advised that the Okanagan campus would bring forward conversations in the new year on the Okanagan campuses plans for the next 20 years.

Dr Cormack noted that this year and the year before the Okanagan campus admitted fewer international students that anticipated. She noted that they were retaking a cautious approach to international enrolment for this year and beyond, while considering what can be done to recruit and support students. She noted that budget cuts of 4% from administrative units were being made and budget conversations would continue. This would mean we cannot easily consider new initiatives without considering if we should continue existing programs.

Finally, Dr Cormack noted that they were starting the process to find a new Vice-Principal Research & Innovation for the Okanagan campus.

Senator Ebl asked if the Okanagan's Campus 2040 vision would continue given fiscal constraints.

The Principal advised that yes, they planned to. She noted that we had refreshed our consideration over the summer and the campus was mostly on track. The largest difference between our projections and reality is our number of international students and government funding of graduate students. We are also looking at revisions to the campus master plan to support planning.

In response to a question from Senator Lalonde, Dr Cormack said that one consideration in the Okanagan campus's response to Vancouver's Campus 2050 would be how the Okanagan campus complimented and differentiated from the Vancouver campus.

Remarks from the Provost



The Provost, Dr Rehan Sadiq, noted a variety of new graduate programs now open for admission: doctor of education, master of design, and a new interdisciplinary theme in indigenous knowledge.

He also congratulated Dr Claire Yu's awarding of the BCcampus Award for Excellence in Open Education. Dr Yu previously received a UBC Okanagan Open Educational Research Grant to create an open textbook on classical thermodynamics.

Dr Sadiq noted that on 26 January, a budget update town hall would be held. He encouraged attendance in person or online.

Finally, for staffing matters, Dr Sadiq noted that a new campus human rights advisor would be starting in the new year and Dr Gino DiLabio had resigned effective this month. He thanked the Senator for his leadership and his strong voice for academics at the Okanagan.

Dr Cioe expressed his thanks to Dr DiLabio for his work for the Okanagan campus, in particularly his unfailing dedication to students and his support for research.

The President added his own thanks.

Admissions and Awards Committee

The Chair, Mr Rob Johnson, presented.

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION – REVISION TO ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Rob Johnson
Tamara Ebl

That the Senate approve changes to admission requirements for applications to the Bachelor of Education program, effective for admissions to the 2024 Winter Session and thereafter.

Senator Ebl spoke in favour of the proposals.

Approved

NEW AWARD

See appendix B: Awards Report

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 donors.



Approved

GRADUATE AWARDS

See appendix B: Awards Report

Rob Johnson
Patricia Lasserre

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

Senator Ebl noted the low value of some awards in recent years.

Senator Johnson said we welcomed any funding.

The Dean of Graduate Students, Senator Peter Simpson, said that these awards were intended for students who went to a particular national competition but did not have a likelihood of success.

Approved

Learning & Research Committee

The Chair of the Senate Learning & Research Committee, Dr Sally Stewart, presented.

EMERITUS APPOINTMENTS

See Appendix B: Emeritus Report

Sally Stewart
Rehan Sadiq

That the attached list of individuals for emeritus status be approved, and that, pursuant to Section 9(2) of the University Act, all persons with the ranks of Associate Professor be added to the Roll of Convocation.

In response to a question from Senator Cioe, Dr Stewart said a revision to the emeritus policy would be sent out for consultation in a new year.

Approved

Nominating Committee

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

**ELECTIONS TO THE COUNCIL OF SENATES**

Jan Cioe
Tamara Ebl

That Abdulrahman Alnaar, Bryce Traister, Karen Hodges, Nikhita Obeegadoo, and Sally Stewart be elected to the Council of Senates until 31 August 2026 and thereafter until replaced; and

That Saami Hafeez and Amanda Shatzko be elected to the Council of Senates until 31 March 2024 and thereafter until replaced.

Dr Cioe noted that the Council did not meet often, but they hoped to move a conversation on conflicts of interest to the Council in the new year and it needed a full membership from the Okanagan.

Approved

Report from the Vice-Principal Research & Innovation**CANADA RESEARCH CHAIRS**

The Vice-Principal Research & Innovation, Senator Phil Barker, presented. He noted the guiding principles and the interim plan for rebalancing CRCs across the campuses.

Dr Barker noted that the federal government allocated CRCs to universities based on a formula that primarily considers their shares of eligible tri-council funding. UBC currently has 199 CRCs. These were split into tier 1 and 2 chairs. The next re-allocation will be in 2025 and CRCs must meet federal equity requirements or an institution will lose chairs. As the Okanagan campus's research income grows, this has created inequity.

To resolve this, the administration of CRCs has moved from the Vancouver Provost to the Vice-President Research & Innovation. An Ad-hoc advisory committee was established to provide feedback and guidance on principles for chair distribution. There were presently 8 CRCs at the Okanagan, all tier 2. 7 out of 8 are filled presently. In the past 9 years, Okanagan research funding has gone from \$11 million to over \$40 million.

The principles settled on are that CRC chairs within UBC will be allocated to campuses by applying the same formula as is used for institutions, with a small number held back to meet strategic allocation requirements around opportunity hires and equity considerations. These will come to the deans for endorsement.



Going forward, the interim plan is for 2 new chairs this year and 4 new chairs in 2024. By 2024, the Okanagan will have 15 chairs in total. In 2025, we expected 17 chairs to be re-allocated between the two campuses.

Dr Lalonde noted that the written report showed several unfilled chairs. He asked why.

Dr Barker said that these were recently vacated and we were waiting to fill them until we had a plan and principles. We hoped to fill them as quickly as possible.

Senator Hodges asked if there had been deliberations on if these should be filled internally or with external hires, especially given considerations around budget.

Senator Barker said that a discussion was planned on recruitment versus retention, as well as the CRCs vs the internal Principal's research chairs.

Senator Cioe noted the impact of CRCs on teaching. He asked if a growth in chairs with impact our ability to offer courses if CRCs did not teach their usual courses, especially in we only backfilled their teaching on a year-by-year basis.

Dr Barker said that the terms of the chairs were for multiple years and it was in our best interest to have a multi-year plan.

Adjournment

Seeing no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm.



Appendix A: Awards Reports

NEW AWARDS:

Alex Thompson Memorial Award in Nursing

A \$2,000 award has been made available annually through gifts from family and friends in memory of Alex Thompson (2001-2023), for a fourth-year undergraduate student in the School of Nursing in the Faculty of Health and Social Development at the University of British Columbia, Okanagan campus. Preference is given to a student with financial need and demonstrated academic excellence. Alex was in the fourth year of his nursing program at UBCO, working toward his passion and goal of becoming a Registered Nurse. His kindness and compassion, along with his intelligence and sense of humor, embodied the qualities of an excellent nurse. The award is made on the recommendation of the School of Nursing. (First award available for the 2023/2024 winter session).

UBC Okanagan Dissertation Award

Three prizes of \$1,000 each have been made available annually by the University of British Columbia Okanagan for students whose doctoral dissertations are of exceptional quality and originality, and make a significant contribution to their academic field. These prizes are awarded on the recommendation of the College of Graduate Studies.

UBC Okanagan Thesis Award

Three prizes of \$500 each have been made available annually by the University of British Columbia Okanagan for students whose master's theses are of exceptional quality and originality, and make a significant contribution to their academic field. These prizes are awarded on the recommendation of the College of Graduate Studies.

**Appendix B: Emeritus Report**

Last Name	First Name	Rank	Faculty	Emeritus Title
Garcia-Perez	Grisel	Associate Professor	Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies	Associate Professor Emerita of Creative and Critical Studies
Cadger	Neil	Associate Professor	Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies	Associate Professor Emeritus of Creative and Critical Studies
Kurtz	Donna	Associate Professor	Faculty of Health and Social Development	Associate Professor Emeritus of Social Development
Kulkas	Richard	Associate Professor	Faculty of Applied Science	Associate Professor Emeritus of Applied Science