



OKANAGAN SENATE

MINUTES OF 29 FEBRUARY 2024

Attendance

Present: B.-A. Bacon (Chair), R. Ng (Secretary), A. Ardestani-Jaafari, P. Arthur, P. Barker, H. Berringer, A. Brar, R. Campbell, J. Cheng, N. Chenoweth, J. Cioe, L. Cormack, T. Ebl, J. Eikenaar, M. Evans, R. Frost, S. Hafeez, J. Hare, S. Hilton, K. Hodges, W. Hughes, N. Jalili, R. Janke, R. Johnson, D. Keyes, R. Lalonde, P. Lasserre, M. Libben, Y. Lucet, B. Marcolin, J. Milliken, S. O'Leary, J. Olson, J. Picault, M. Reekie, S. Roy-Bois, R. Sadiq, C. Schreyer, O. Sharma, A. Shatzko, A. Shinde, P. Simpson, R. Taheri, M. Tarrant, S. Tomaskova, B. Traister

Regrets: A. Alnaar, P. Amuta, J. Denison, M. Garg, B. He, A. Idowu, J. Low, N. Obeegadoo, L. Parrot, S. Point, M. Rheault, P. Shah, S. Stewart, B. Visscher, R. Zaitoun

Clerk: C. Eaton

Call to Order

The Chair of the Senate, Professor Benoit-Antoine Bacon, called the meeting to order at 3:31 pm.

Senate Membership

NEW MEMBER

The Registrar, Dr Rella Ng, welcomed Noah Chenoweth, Graduate Student Senator, until 31 March 2024 and thereafter until replaced, to fill a vacancy.

Minutes of 25 January 2024

Jan Cioe
Sandy Hilton

*That the Minutes of 25 January 2024 be approved
as corrected:*

*Corrections: Attendance, Senator Hafeez
comments were contrary to the Dean of Applied
Science rather than in agreement.*

Remarks from the Chair



The President expressed his gratitude for the warm reception he had received from the UBC community during his tenure of just over a hundred days. He remarked that each day at UBC had been an exciting adventure, filled with opportunities to engage with students, faculty, and staff.

Reflecting on his interactions, Dr Bacon highlighted the enriching experiences he had during tours of research labs, guided by Phil Barker. He said that these visits provided insights into critical areas of research such as homelessness, diabetes prevention, and advancements in renewable energy technologies like solar power. He also noted the privilege of engaging with various research groups, including those focusing on batteries, resilient infrastructures, and wildfire management.

Dr. Bacon discussed two significant announcements from the Federal Government. Firstly, he addressed the newly implemented policy on sensitive technology research and affiliations of concern, emphasizing the need for collaboration with authorities to safeguard national security while maintaining an open and collaborative research environment. He noted that this was in the works for the past 10 months so we had been preparing. The President encouraged those working in collaborations with some of these institutions or in some of these research areas to be in contact with the Vice-Principal Research's office if they had any questions. Dr Bacon said that UBC remained fundamentally committed to enabling an open and collaborative research environment, but needed to be cautious and careful with sensitive research and information.

Secondly, Dr Bacon delved into the implications of the temporary intake cap on international student study permit applications for the next two years. He reassured Senate that efforts were underway to mitigate concerns and reassure prospective international students about their future at UBC. He noted that much of the issues were with private colleges largely in Ontario but also in BC. Dr Bacon expressed his surprise to learn that there were over 300 private colleges in BC and that they enrolled 60% of our international student population.

Dr Bacon noted the challenges posed by the temporary intake cap on international student study permit applications, emphasizing the link perceived between international students and the housing crisis. He mentioned his engagement with IRCC in Ottawa, where discussions took place with Minister Mark Miller and representatives of the U-15 group. Dr. Bacon highlighted the acknowledgment of the less-than-ideal circumstances by these entities and emphasized the importance of clear communication with the federal government regarding the significance of welcoming international students to UBC and other Canadian universities.

The President outlined collaboration with provincial authorities in managing the distribution of caps, ensuring that they understand the distinction between public universities like UBC and private colleges regarding the impact of the intake cap. He expressed confidence in the positive relationship with the province and anticipated that UBC's interests would be maintained in the forthcoming cap announcement. However, he acknowledged that the cap was only one aspect of the challenge, recognizing the potential cooling effect on prospective international students and the need for proactive reassurance regarding their future at UBC and in Canada.



In closing, the President noted the budget presentation on today's agenda. Dr. Bacon acknowledged the challenges posed by inflation and uncertainties surrounding international student enrollments. He advocated for fiscal responsibility and resilience in preparation for the future, ensuring that the university could maintain its commitment to excellence in both research and student experience.

Senator Lalonde said that the CBC had reported that a bulk of international enrolment was with public colleges in Ontario rather than private colleges.

The President clarified that these were mostly Public-Private Partnerships between Ontarian colleges and private colleges, largely with satellite campuses in suburban Toronto.

Remarks from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor

The Principal and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Dr Lesley Cormack, opened her remarks by announcing significant research funding received from the Canadian Institute for Health Research, amounting to over 2 million dollars. She noted that this funding has been allocated to three multi-year projects for Dr Shelley Ben-David from the School of Social Work and Drs. Katrina Plamondon and Barbara Pesut of the School of Nursing

Secondly, Dr Cormack drew Senate's attention to Wendy Wong' being shortlisted for the prestigious 2024 Lionel Gelber Prize for "We, The Data: Human Rights in the Digital Age," published by MIT Press, and Heat coach Malindi Elmore being selected to represent Canada in the marathon at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

The Principal reminded Senators of the successful second launch of the Integrated Renewal Program and acknowledged the ongoing efforts of the team in navigating the project's complexities.

Lastly, Dr Cormack reminded the community of the UBC Okanagan debates scheduled for May, promising an engaging platform for robust discourse and critical thinking on timely issues, underscoring the campuses' commitment to fostering intellectual exchange and dialogue. She said that they hoped debates led to strong positions.

Remarks from the Provost

The Provost, Dr Rehan Sadiq spoke. He noted that the annual report of the Centre for Teaching & Learning has been completed for the year 2023 and will soon be available. Additionally, Dr. Sadiq mentioned that recruitment is currently underway for their inaugural undergraduate non-credit summer program as part of the Global Summer program. He noted the participation of five faculties in delivering unique interdisciplinary course packages over three weeks, marking the first time such an intensive summer program had been initiated.



Continuing his update, The Provost mentioned the recent celebration of Academic Integrity Week from 12-16 February, highlighting a series of events conducted during the week.

Concluding his report, Dr. Sadiq expressed enthusiasm for the upcoming book event scheduled for 14 March, noting significant interest following a similar event conducted the previous year. He encouraged all colleagues to attend and celebrate.

Senator Hafeez asked if the target audience was high school or university students for the Global Summer program.

Dr Sadiq replied that we were focusing on high school graduates.

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

Tamara Ebl
Rob Johnson

That the candidates for degrees as recommended by the College of Graduate Studies, be granted the degrees for which they were recommended, effective February 2024, and that a committee composed of the registrar, the relevant dean(s), and the Chair of the Senate be empowered to make any necessary adjustments.

Approved

Report from the Registrar.

2024 ENROLMENT REPORT

Dr Ng presented highlighted key data trends and enrollment statistics for the academic year. She noted the growth trajectory of UBC as a whole, with a 0.3% increase compared to the previous year. She advised This growth was primarily attributed to the Vancouver campus, particularly in baccalaureate students. She noted that together, both campuses reached 119% of the funded target.

The registrar advised that Government funding was allocated based on specified full-time equivalent (FTE) student spaces. UBC had 43 655 FTEs, marking a significant increase from the previous year with the increase in FTEs directed towards priority areas such as nursing, speech pathology, and data science, among others. Overall, UBC delivered 52,035 FTEs, surpassing the target set by the government.

With respect to the Okanagan campus, Dr Ng advised that undergraduate enrollment slightly decreased by 1% while graduate enrollment saw a 2% increase compared to the previous year. The campus achieved 124% utilization of government-funded FTEs.



The Registrar went on to note that 8.3% of domestic students at the Okanagan self-identified as indigenous, with a total of 774 indigenous students enrolled. The international student population experienced a slight decline of 3% from the prior year.

Dr Ng said that our applicant pools showed a decrease in domestic undergraduate applications for both campuses, while international undergraduate applications remained steady. Notably, 80% of direct entry students at the Okanagan campus hailed from outside the region, while 50% at the Vancouver campus came from beyond the lower mainland.

The Registrar concluded her presentation by noting UBC's initiatives to support underrepresented student groups, such as those with lived experience in government care, and students supported by the World University Service of Canada, as well as the Vantage College program, designed for outstanding international students.

Senator Lucet noted the decrease in domestic students and asked if this was following demographics of the region.

Dr Ng said that she suspected this was the case but that she would report back on this.

A student senator asked what the ratio was for Domestic and International acceptances.

The Provost said that it was around 1:2 for international and 1:3 for domestic.

Academic Policy Committee

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

REVISIONS TO ACADEMIC REGULATIONS FOR THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Jannik Eikenaar
Barbara Marcolin

That Senate approves changes to the academic regulations of the following programs in the Faculty of Science effective for the 2024W session and thereafter.

Dr Eikenaar said that he expected more of these to come forward with the Workday implementation and he appreciated the clarity in Science's proposal.

Approved

O-130: CONTENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF COURSE SYLLABI

Jannik Eikenaar
Tamara Ebl

That Senate approve Policy O-130: Content and Distribution of Course Syllabi; and



direct that the heads of academic units ensure that the content and distribution of course syllabi are in compliance with this Policy, the Academic Calendar, and all other applicable academic policies and regulations.

Senator Schreyer asked why the policy said that a paper copy would be made available to students, and what was meant by resources to be made available to students.

The Clerk to the Senate, Mr Christopher Eaton, said that this came from the Vancouver version of this policy where the students raised a concern with documentation not be available.

Dr Eikenaar said that these resources were supplemental information provided that were targeted towards certain programs by the faculties.

Senator Hilton asked what the effective date was for the policy.

The Clerk replied September 2024.

Approved

Admissions and Awards Committee

The Chair, Mr Rob Johnson, presented.

NEW AND REVISED AWARDS

See appendix A: Awards Report

Rob Johnson
Tamara Ebl

That the 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

2024/2025 ENROLMENT TARGETS

Rob Johnson
Sandy Hilton

That Senate approve and forward to the Board of Governors for approval the 2024/2025 Undergraduate Enrolment Targets, as per section 27(2)(r) of the University Act.



The Provost spoke to the proposed enrolment targets. He noted that these targets were the end result of an annual six-month long process where feedback is taken from dean and faculties. Dr Sadiq said that our undergraduate domestic targets were consistently maintained in the same range, but we have received feedback from our colleagues in the Senate that our numbers are on the higher side for domestic students, close to 108% while Vancouver was close to 112%. The Provost said that the Okanagan campus has been very deliberate in terms of accepting domestic students, especially knowing the challenges we have on our campus in terms of the number of classes available.

Dr Sadiq went on to say that the Okanagan has successfully attracted some domestic funded seats from the Government, which brought it to 105%. We are in the middle of the pack in BC,

With respect to international student numbers targets, The Provost agreed with the President in that we were going through challenges all over Canada. He said that we had made some very conservative estimates when we did that, and after that, all these announcements happen. Our number is 480, which is shown in this report, and we are working very hard to make sure that we reach this number, but there are so many unknowns as well and in the past 2-3 years, our numbers are softening up. The Provost said that we were trying to work very hard with ISI and with the admissions and recruitment team, making sure that we reach those targets which will have a direct impact on our budgets as well.

Finally, the Provost said that the Okanagan campus was only funded for 157 graduate students, and that was from 2005. Beyond that, we had only received additional graduate seats in social work as well as now, our latest recent success with the biotech program. He described this as something the campus needed to work on in encouraging the government to support more graduate education at the Okanagan campus as part of a top research university.

Senator Lalonde made an objection to continually over-enrolling students, noting the space challenges on campus.

Dr Sadiq said we would like to be on par with Vancouver in having a health ratio of graduate to undergraduate students. He agreed that our capital infrastructure was lagging.

Senator Lucet noted that we had professional masters programs – he asked they included as they were supposed to be cost recovery.

Senator Sadiq said yes but acknowledged the distinction.

Senator Lalonde said that professional grad students were very a small number.

Dr Cormack reminded the Senate that research graduate programs enrolment was largely decided at the department and faculty level.

Approved

**ADMISSIONS DEADLINE**

Rob Johnson
Robert Lalonde

That Senate ratify the decision of the Senate Admissions Committee to extend the undergraduate admission application deadline from 15 January 2024 to 31 January 2024, for entry to the 2024 Winter Session.

Senator Johnson said that the Committee was considering a suggestion to allow the registrar to amend the deadlines.

In response to a question from a student senator, Senator Johnson said that they were considering changes to the timelines going forward but this was a one-time change. If any proposals were recommended, they would come forward to Senate for consideration and approval.

The Provost advised in light of international uncertainty, McGill and Toronto had also extended their deadlines.

Approved

Motion to Amend Agenda

Jan Cioe
Robert Lalonde

That the agenda be amended to add the following motion for immediate consideration: That Policy O-130 be amended to change the effective date from 1 September 2024 to 1 May 2024.

Approved

Motion to Amend a Matter Previously Adopted

Jan Cioe
Jannik Eikenaar

That Policy O-130 be amended to change the effective date from 1 September 2024 to 1 May 2024.

Approved

Senator Eikenaar said that this was an oversight on behalf of the Academic Policy Committee, likely as they were not sure when the policy would be put into place and if this would be in time for the Summer Session. He noted instructors would have two months.



Senator Cioe said that it was shocking that they even needed this policy – instructors already should have had course syllabi.

Senator Traister said while he agreed with Senator Cioe, in many cases summer courses were taught by sessionals some of whom were not yet hired and would have to move quickly.

Senator Milliken said that he was a student who had not had a syllabus for a course.

Senator Schreyer said that we were required to approve syllabi when we hired sessionals.

Approved

Curriculum Committee

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

Appendix B: Curriculum Report

Yves Lucet
Rob Johnson

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

Approved

Report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor

Dr Cormack introduced the presentation by noting that it was the product of months of work by the faculties and central units. It would be going to the Board of Governors next month. She asked Senate to recognize Mr Rob Einarson and Ms Valerie Nichol.

2024/2025 BUDGET

Senate welcomed Associate Vice-President Finance and Operation Mr Rob Einarson and Ms Valerie Nichol, Chief Budget Officer, to present.

Mr Einarson explained that while there have been discussions about a five-year outlook in previous meetings, today's presentation will concentrate on the upcoming budget for approval.



This proposal had received input from various stakeholders, including the Senate Academic Building and Resources Committee, the Student Union at the Okanagan, the Indigenous Advisory Council, and the Okanagan Leadership Council, which comprises administration and Deans.

The Associate Vice-President emphasized the alignment of the local budgeting process with the UBC Vancouver counterparts, culminating in a joint presentation to the Board of Governors for approval. He went on to discuss the current year's budget, including revenue sources, expenses, and net surplus/deficit projections, providing insights into variances and mitigation measures.

Mr Einarson referenced budget priorities being core services for students and researchers, support for faculties, revenue development strategies, investments in Indigenous, equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) initiatives, as well as sustainability and climate change efforts. He also discussed ongoing infrastructure projects and the commitment to their funding.

Mr Einarson then discussed the sensitivity analysis regarding enrollment targets, and the Board of Governors' approval of tuition rate increases before having Ms Nichols set out the plan for Fiscal Year 2024/25.

Ms Nichol elaborated on the enrollment figures that formed the basis of the fiscal plan, highlighting the target undergrad enrollment and expected graduate numbers. She then went over the planned campus operating revenues and reserve allocations.

Mr Einarson then went over the plans for central reserves and budget reductions. He noted that the deficit from the current year needed to be included in this year's budget. He also set out the planned excellence fund allocations of \$19.4M total.

In closing, Mr Einarson highlighted the budget risks, namely international enrolment, inflation, continuing demand on operating contingencies, and the costs of implementing Workday Student.

Senator Tomášková asked for me details on transfers to Vancouver.

Mr Einarson said this was largely fees for services, managed benefits and professional development, central fees like credit cards, phones etc.

Senator Keyes asked why the Office of the Vice-Principal Research and Innovation had a \$2.7M increase.

Ms Nichol replied that the base value was changed, it wasn't actually a substantive increase.

Senator Marcolin asked about the TREK fund as a potential source of revenue and if discussions there were continuing with Vancouver.



Mr Einarson said that this was an unrestricted endowment. About 4 years ago, around \$4M was allocated the Okanagan especially to support graduate students.

Further to Senator Tomášková query, Senator Traister said that he looked at Vancouver transfers 4 years ago and these were lower. He asked why the amount had increased.

Mr Einarson and Ms Nichol replied that some of this was passthrough of general wage increases and benefits, as well as bad debt and health spending account costs, both of which were allocated to the Okanagan campus proportionately.

Senator Cioe said he was impressed by the prudence in this plan.

Senator Ebl asked what the impact was on the campus budget on UBC Properties Trust's (UBCPT) new downtown tower.

Mr Einarson said that the downtown tower is a UBCPT building with commercial borrowing. The Okanagan campus would be an anchor tenant of 8/10 institutional levels. The other 23 levels were market rental housing. The big challenge has been the parkade. We have a new strategy to modify this that will not affect the timelines or our pro forma. With respect to impacting buildings from the construction issues, UBCPT had insurance.

Senator Traister asked what was the difference between a central reserve and a central support unit reserve.

Ms Nichol said that central support unit reserves were administrative units with restricted funding that couldn't be returned to central. This included Ministry funding, athletics, food services for equipment, and the energy projects with FORTIS funding.

The President comments on international student risks. US, China Indian risks and the delays in student visa processing.

Senator Lasserre asked if there were concerns around how long visas will take with the new quota system.

The President confirmed this and said that the last two years have already been difficult, although the quotas may help with visa processing. He did note that British Columbia was ahead of Ontario on developing a system for letters of attestation.

Adjournment

Seeing no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.



Appendix A: Awards Report

NEW AWARDS:

UBC Okanagan Faculty of Science Graduate Award

Awards totalling \$6,000 have been made available through an endowment, along with matching funds from the Irving K. Barber Faculty of Science, for graduate students in any program within the Faculty of Science at the University of British Columbia, Okanagan campus. The awards are made on the recommendation of the Irving K. Barber Faculty of Science. (First award available for the 2024/2025 winter session).

Keith and Greta Steele Memorial Bursary in Engineering

Bursaries totalling \$1,700 have been made available through an endowment established by an estate gift from Keith J. Steele (B.A.Sc. 1950) and Greta Steele, for undergraduate students in the Bachelor of Applied Science program at the University of British Columbia, Okanagan campus. Following his degree in Electrical Engineering, Keith embarked on a four-decade career with INCO, one that took him and Greta to some of the most remote and unusual parts of the globe. He always credited UBC for equipping him with the tools that allowed both a demanding professional career and the opportunity to experience many different cultures. The bursaries are adjudicated by Enrolment Services. (First award available for the 2024/2025 winter session).

Chris and Peggy Southin Bursary in Nursing

A \$1,000 bursary has been made available annually through a gift from Chris and Peggy Southin for a third- or fourth-year undergraduate domestic student in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the University of British Columbia, Okanagan campus. The bursary is adjudicated by Enrolment Services. (First award available for the 2024/2025 winter session).

REVISED AWARD (PREVIOUSLY APPROVED AWARD WITH CHANGES IN TERMS OR FUNDING SOURCE):

Walley Lightbody Award in Law

Proposed Award Description

Awards totalling \$3,000 have been made available through an endowment established by alumnus Walley Lightbody for a student graduating with any degree from the Department of Economics, Philosophy and Political Science in the Irving K. Barber Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of British Columbia, Okanagan campus who have demonstrated their intention to pursue a career as a lawyer. The award is created in recognition of Walley Lightbody, KC, B.A. 1956, LL.B. 1959, and his decades-long career in law and many contributions to the profession. The award is made on the recommendation of the Irving K. Barber Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

Rationale for Proposed Changes

This award was affected by the passing of Queen Elizabeth II on September 8, 2022, which prompted Canada-wide changes to titles to reflect the new sovereign: King Charles III. Under the authority of the Queen's Counsel Act, the "Queen's Counsel (QC)" designation is a title bestowed



upon members of Canada's legal community demonstrating distinguished service and leadership in the legal profession. Those members of the bar holding the designation of Queen's Counsel (QC) were automatically retitled as King's Counsel (KC) upon King Charles's immediate accession to the throne.



Appendix B: Curriculum

FACULTIES OF ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES AND CREATIVE & CRITICAL STUDIES

Revised Program Requirements: Bachelor of Arts

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

New Courses: ECON 496, 498

New Course: GWST 415

New Courses: HIST 220, 311, 320, 322, 457

New Course: IGS 597

Revised Program Requirements: Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies Master of Arts

New Courses: PHIL 496, 498

New Courses: POLI 496, 498

FACULTY OF CREATIVE AND CRITICAL STUDIES

New Equivalency: DIHU/CULT 315ii. New Equivalency: ENGL/CULT 491
From the Faculty of Science

Revised Program Requirements: Bachelor of Sustainability – Green Chemistry
Concentration

Discontinued Courses: CHEM 111, 113

Revised Courses: CHEM 121, 123

New Program: Bachelor of Science – Minor in Communications and Rhetoric

New Program: Combined Physics and Mathematics Honours Program

New Course: SUST 304

Discontinued Course: SUST 301

New Courses: BIOL 430, 431, 432, 433, 530, 531, 532, 533

Discontinued Course: BIOL 420

New Courses: COSC 431, 432, 433, 434, 436, 437, 531, 532, 536, 537

Discontinued Courses: COSC 416, 417, 419, 519, 516

Revised Courses: EESC 395, 396, 448, 495, 496, 512, 551, 552

New Courses: EESC 447, 513, 514, 540, 541, 553

Revised Courses: CHEM 422, 448, 507, 521, 535, 568

New Courses: CHEM 508, 522, 536, 537, 567

FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT

New Equivalency: MGMT 471/SECH 400

New Equivalency: MGMT 571/SECH 500