



OKANAGAN SENATE

MINUTES OF 28 MARCH 2024

Attendance

Present: L. Cormack (Vice-Chair), R. Ng (Secretary), A. Alnaar, A. Ardestani-Jaaferi, P. Arthur, H. Berringer, R. Campbell, J. Cheng, N. Chenoweth, J. Cioe, J. Denison, T. Ebl, M. Evans, R. Frost, S. Hafeez, J. Hare, S. Hilton, K. Hodges, R. Janke, R. Johnson, D. Keyes, R. Lalonde, P. Lasserre, Y. Lucet, B. Marcolin, A. Idowu, J. Olson, S. Pakpour, L. Parrott, M. Reekie, M. Rheault, R. Sadiq, C. Schreyer, P. Shah, O. Sharma, A. Shatzko, A. Shinde, P. Simpson, R. Taheri, M. Tarrant, B. Traister, S. Willis-Stewart

Regrets: B.-A. Bacon, S. Point, P. Amuta, P. Barker, A. Brar, J Eikenaar, M. Garg, B. He, W. Hughes, N. Jalili, M. Libben, J. Low, J. Milliken, N. Obeegadoo, J. Picault, S, Roy-Bois, A. Shinde, S. Tomaskova, B. Visscher, R. Zaitoun

Clerk: C. Eaton

Call to Order

The Vice-Chair of Senate, Dr Lesley Cormack, called the seventh meeting of the Senate to order at 3:32 pm.

Senate Membership

The Registrar, Dr Rella Ng, announced the following changes in the membership of Senate:

New Member:

Dr Sepideh Pakpour, Faculty Member for the Faculty of Applied Science, until 31 August 2026 and thereafter until replaced, to replace Dr Peyman Yousefi.

Minutes of 29 February 2029

Jan Cioe
Stephen O'Leary

*That the Minutes of 29 February 2024 be
approved as corrected:*

Corrections: Spelling errors, attendance



Business Arising

A memo was distributed by the Registrar in follow up to a question regarding the 2023/2024 Enrolment Report presented at the previous meeting. The question raised was, “Is the decrease in applications for domestic students following the demographics of the region?”

The response to that question was yes, the overall population in BC has been decreasing and will improve.

Senator Cioe asked if there was more data for the Okanagan valley in particular.

The Registrar, Dr Rella Ng, said that they were still working with pair to make this clear but it showed a similar trend in the Okanagan vs BC generally.

Remarks from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor expressed the thanks of the Senate and University those student members completing their terms of office on 31 March.

Dr Cormack, she acknowledged the busy and stressful time for both students and instructors with the approaching final exams. She advised Senate of the Board's approval of UBC's budget, highlighting the collaborative efforts of numerous staff members and administrative units in its development.

With regards to student visas, Dr Cormack noted British Columbia's proactive approach in distributing these visas ahead of other provinces. Despite the manual and labor-intensive process of issuing letters of attestation, Dr Cormack praised the efforts of those doing this work.

Regarding government relations, Dr Cormack discussed her recent engagements with ministers in Victoria, emphasizing the Okanagan Campus's importance in the province's post-secondary landscape. She highlighted ongoing efforts to engage with officials on issues such as forest fire preparedness, with upcoming visits planned to Ottawa for further advocacy.

In response to a question about reclaiming unused attestation letters, Dr Cormack explained ongoing discussions with ministry officials, noting that while there are no immediate solutions for the current cycle, efforts are being made to track and potentially reuse attestations in the future.

In response to a question from Senator Rheault, Dr Ng said that we don't have a system yet to reclaim unused letters but we need to continue that conversation for next session.

Remarks from the Provost



The Vice-President Academic & Provost, Dr Rehan Sadiq, began his remarks by acknowledging Dr Kendrick James's appointment as interim director of the UBC Okanagan School of Education for a two-year term, commencing in July 2024, followed by congratulations to Robert Janke on his appointment as Deputy University Librarian for the Okanagan campus.

Next, Dr Sadiq shared the approval of six UBC Okanagan projects for funding through the Strategic Equity and Anti-Racism (StEAR) Enhancement Fund, representing 20% of total grants, with more results expected soon. He also celebrated the recipients of the BC Campus Award for Excellence in Open Education, highlighting individual and group achievements, including Bowen Hui, Tamara Freeman, W. Stephen McNeil, and Riley Petillion,

Dr Sadiq concluded his announcements by discussing upcoming teaching and learning events, including Celebrate Learning Week from May 6th to 10th, focusing on student and faculty well-being in the age of AI. Additionally, he mentioned the Thomson Okanagan Teaching and Learning Conference on May 9th and 10th, in partnership with Thompson Rivers University, where session proposals are currently being accepted.

Joint report of the admissions & awards and curriculum committees

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

NEW PROGRAM: POST-BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATE IN PRIMARY CARE NURSING

See Appendix A: Curriculum Report

Yves Lucet
Barb Marcolin

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors for approval the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Primary Care Nursing and associated new courses.

Approved

Admissions and Awards Committee

The Chair of the Senate Admissions & Awards Committee, Mr Rob Johnson, presented.

NEW AWARDS

See appendix B: Awards Report



Rob Johnson
Patricia Lasserre

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

DVC SCHOLARSHIPS

See appendix B: Awards Report

Rob Johnson
Ray Taheri

That the Senate approve the new Deputy Vice-Chancellor Scholarship for Continuing Indigenous Students and the revised Deputy Vice-Chancellor Scholarship for Continuing Students.

Senator Ebl noted that when a similar proposal was brought forward in the previous triennium there were concerns raised regarding equitable distribution of awards across faculties. She asked how are we monitoring that the top percentage is a fair reflection that does not favour particular faculties and programs.

Senator Johnson said that the awards would be adjudicated with averages calculated on a faculty basis rather than across the entire undergraduate population.

Senator Ebl asked if there was new money for the indigenous awards or if this was a reallocation of existing funding.

Senator Johnson said it was a reallocation of existing award funds.

Senator Ebl asked what happened if an indigenous student was eligible for both scholarships.

Senator Johnson said if an Indigenous student was in the top 10% of their year level in their program, they would receive the existing award, if they were in the top 20% but did not receive the existing, they would receive the new award.

In response to a question from Senator Schreyer, it was confirmed that all direct-entry undergraduate degree programs would be included.

In response to a question from Senator Hafeez, he was advised that funding for these awards came out of the General Purpose Operating Fund.

Senator Idowu asked why international students were not included in these awards



The registrar said that there was a different budget for international awards. The discontinuation of the international DVC awards was done prior to the pandemic based on feedback from student governments on the award not providing value and being better spent on experiential learning.

Senator Ebl said part of the rationale was lack of sustainability. She asked what due diligence had been done to ensure the new awards were sustainable.

Dr Ng said that we did an analysis – the funds weren't from an endowment but rather from tuition. It being a top 10% makes it more predictable rather than being a set percentage.

Senator Reault noting the existing award criteria not being sustainable due to grade inflation.

Dr Sadiq agreed, but said there was also a fundamental difference in grading between faculties.

Approved

NB: Senator Hafeez voted against the motion

AFFILIATION WITH OKANAGAN COLLEGE

Rob Johnson
Tamara Ebl

That the Senate approve the terms of the affiliation between UBC and Okanagan College as set out in the "Engineering Admission Agreement Between the University of British Columbia – Okanagan Campus Kelowna, BC and Okanagan College Kelowna, BC").

Senator Cioe asked what the rationale was in excluding grades from English. No answer was available from those in attendance.

Dr Olson spoke of the long-standing success of students in other bridge programs with similar criteria.

In response to a question from Senator Idowu, it was stated that 10 spots would be guaranteed to transfer students in the bridge program from Okanagan college but more may be admitted.

Approved



Curriculum Committee

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

Appendix A: Curriculum Report

Yves Lucet
Rob Johnson

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors for approval the revised calendar entry and new and revised courses as brought forward by the Faculties of Applied Science, Arts and Social Sciences, and Science.

Approved

Report from the Provost

STUDENT EXPERIENCE OF INSTRUCTION

Dr Sadiq asked Senate to welcome Mr Brad Wuetherick and Dr Abdel Azim Zumrawi to present.

Mr Wuetherick highlighting the significance of the annual report for the Senate. He explained that the report, covering both 2021 and 2022, aimed to align with similar reports sent to the Vancouver Senate. He outlined three primary purposes of the report: closing the feedback loop with students and faculty, informing faculty members about student experiences, and updating the Senate on governance and oversight of the student instructional experience. Mr Wuetherick noted UBC's active efforts in developing an integrated evaluation of teaching policy, aiming to balance student feedback with peer feedback and self-assessment by instructors and emphasized the importance of recognizing student feedback as just one aspect of evaluating teaching on campus.

Dr Zumrawi commenced his presentation by introducing a table illustrating the recommended minimum response rates based on an 80% confidence level and a plus or minus 10% margin of error. He highlighted that these rates were established through research conducted by himself, Simon Bates, and Marianne Schulder in 2014, underscoring their significance in determining survey thresholds. He then presented data showcasing the proportion of classes meeting the recommended minimum response rate by class size for the years 2021 and 2022. He noted a consistent pattern of lower overall response rates in term one, particularly concerning a significant decline in the Okanagan region.

Dr Zumrawi discussed a study analyzing response rates of surveys completed in class, highlighting the utilization of a 15-minute completion window as a surrogate for in-class



submissions. He emphasized the validity of this approach and presented findings from Vancouver data spanning four academic years. He then elaborated on three key metrics used to summarize instructor ratings: the interpolated median, dispersion index, and percent favorable. He detailed the computation and significance of each metric, emphasizing their combined utility in evaluating student ratings comprehensively

Senator Cioe raised the issue of minima. He said that people in the middle tended not to respond to surveys. This complicates correlational matrices. With respect to encouraging response rates, Dr Cioe noted his success when giving students a grade inducement to respond.

Senator O’Leary noted that paper evaluations in class time produced a larger set of responses, he asked why not return to that system.

Senator Willis-Stewart said her committee saw this previously as they worked on Integrative Evaluation of Teaching. She also noted that on class time improves responses.

Senator Ebl asked why winter term 2 had lower response rates – are students fatigued?

Mr Wuetherick said that the uniform drop between terms was a universal phenomenon, not just an issue at UBC. He suggested that survey fatigue may be an issue, many surveys at UBC were done towards the end of term 2.

Senator Ebl said she appreciated the thought of class time and explaining context. As an instructor she said that she wasn’t clear on why these surveys matter and how they will be used.

Senator Cioe said that he reviewed his previous year’s comments with his new class and outlined if and how he addressed concerns raised.

Senator Hodges spoke about the consequences for instructors when these surveys were used for consideration for promotion, tenure and merit. She said these reports make it glaringly obvious where the statistics from these evaluations are meaningless, and yet we have decided that these statistics will be used to determine our tenure and pay. Dr Hodges said that they were flawed and faulty and an evidence-based university should not use these tools.

Senator Frost said that we needed student feedback but she was concerned how that feedback was used. She also noted the benefits of according time in class to complete surveys for good response rates.

Senator Taheri echoed Senator Hodges’ concerns and also agreed with Senator Frost and others about allocating time in class. He suggested that paper worked better because it was in class, not because of the medium. He also noted that Bachelor of Applied Science students may get 12-20 surveys a term and that responses tended to be bimodal.



Senator Willis-Stewart agreed with Senator Frost and again highlighted the important of Integrative Evaluation of Teaching. She asked if we needed to do these surveys for every section every year or if we could be more strategic to avoid survey fatigue.

Senator Lalonde asked that if this wasn't the right forum to discuss promotion and tenure impacts, where was?

Mr Wuetherick advised that triennium, there's the impending discussion surrounding the integrated evaluation of teaching policy, which aims to establish a high-level framework for teaching evaluation. This policy needed to ensure that besides student feedback, other essential elements are considered in the evaluation process. Currently, in the Okanagan, the academic calendar features only a single statement governing student evaluation of teaching. Conversely, Vancouver boasts a more comprehensive policy known as the student experience or student evaluation of teaching. Plans are underway to update this policy to align with the changes from 2021, with the ultimate goal of establishing a uniform policy across both campuses. This initiative will prompt further discussions specifically regarding a student experience of instruction policy for the Okanagan campus. He further noted that the Provincial Government mandates student feedback being taken into considering, which added a further layer of complexity to our considerations. He asked the Clerk to Senate to clarify in particular with regards to jurisdiction.

The Clerk to the Senates, Mr Christopher Eaton said that it is a complicated framework for Student Evaluations of Teaching/Student Experience of Instruction. He noted that the Okanagan campus did have regulations around what are still formally student evaluations of teaching. They were the decisions made by the previous University Senate prior to 2,005, as modified by the Okanagan in 2013 so there are some regulations in back to this campus, but they are certainly not as modern as Vancouver's. With respect to jurisdiction. You as a Senate of UBC have had policies on this in your case for your entire existence in the case of the University for decades, and it is something the Senate could mandate. The question is what is done with that data from an employment perspective and that is a matter for the Board and their collective agreement with the UBC Faculty Association. What the Senate mandates academically and what the Board does from an employment perspective were two distinct things, even if the latter used data from the former.

Senator Pakpour asked if removing an assessment removed valuable data.

Senator Rheault said that a lot of work was put into re-evaluating the questions – but all 4 now really just ask if one likes their professor so we would get homogeneous answers. He said that it was hard to convince faculty in the value of a teaching assessment if they don't think it's a fair evaluation. He particularly noted the issue with gender bias in the results.

Report from the Registrar



BY ELECTION RESULTS

Pursuant to Section 15 of the *University Act*, Dr Ng advised Senate of the results of the Applied Science by-election: Further to the call for nominations for an Applied Science faculty member on the Okanagan Campus to fill one (1) vacancy on the Okanagan Senate for the remainder of the 2023-2026 triennium, first issued on 8 February 2024 and extended on 26 February 2024, two (2) valid nominations were received. One (1) candidate subsequently withdrew from the election. Thus, the following faculty member was acclaimed as elected as representative of the Faculty on the Okanagan Campus on the Okanagan Senate for a term ending 31 August 2026 and thereafter until a successor is elected:

Dr Sepideh Pakpour, Assistant Professor

Adjournment

Seeing no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:11 pm.



Appendix A: Curriculum Report

FACULTY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

New Certificate Program:

Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Primary Care Nursing

New Courses:

NRSG 424/524

NRSG 425/525

NRSG 435/535

FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE

Revised Calendar Entry:

Manufacturing Engineering Program Requirements

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

New Courses:

SOCI 370

SOCI 483

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

New Courses:

CHEM 474

CHEM 477

CHEM 481

CHEM 482

CHEM 484

CHEM 485

CHEM 519

CHEM 529

CHEM 574

CHEM 577

CHEM 581

CHEM 582

CHEM 584

CHEM 585

CHEM 591

CHEM 592

BIOC 406

BIOC 477

Revised Courses:

CHEM 429

BIOC 425



Appendix B: Awards Report

NEW AWARDS:

CPA Education Foundation BC Scholarship in Accounting for Indigenous Students

A \$2,000 scholarship has been made available annually through a gift from the Chartered Professional Accountants' Education Foundation of BC for a First Nations, Inuit or Metis student of Canada entering third year in the Bachelor of Management program at the University of British Columbia, Okanagan campus. The recipient will have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement in core accounting courses. The award is made on the recommendation of the Faculty of Management. (First award available for the 2024/2025 winter session).

Douglas A. Corbishley Bursary in Engineering

Bursaries totalling \$6,000 have been made available through an endowment established by Douglas and Diane Corbishley, along with matching funds from the University of British Columbia, for third- or fourth-year undergraduate students in the Bachelor of Applied Science at the University of British Columbia, Okanagan campus. Preference will be given to students who have graduated from a secondary school in the Okanagan Valley. The Corbishley family has strong ties to the south Okanagan. Raised in Oliver, BC, Doug graduated from UBC in 1959 with a B.A.Sc. in Chemical Engineering. After marrying Diane, Doug's successful international career eventually brought his family back home to Okanagan Falls. This award recognizes Doug's family roots in the Okanagan Valley and his proud connection to UBC. The bursaries will be adjudicated by Enrolment Services. (First award available for the 2024/2025 winter session).

Corbishley Family Graduate Award in Science

Awards totalling \$12,000 have been made available through an endowment established by Douglas (B.A.Sc. 1959) and Diane Corbishley, 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 established by Doug and Diane in recognition of their long history in the Okanagan Valley and their enduring commitment to making a positive difference for UBC's 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)

Valley First Award in Student Involvement and Leadership

Awards totalling \$5,000 (valued at \$500 each) have been made available annually through a gift from Valley First for undergraduate and graduate students at the University of British Columbia, Okanagan campus. The awards celebrate the involvement and contributions of graduating undergraduate and graduate students at UBC Okanagan. Recipients must have demonstrated leadership and community involvement, on and/or off campus. The awards are made on the recommendation of the Student Involvement and Leadership Award Adjudication Committee. (First award available for the 2023/2024 winter session).

Deputy Vice Chancellor Scholarship for Continuing Indigenous Students

Scholarships valued at up to \$1,000 are offered by the University of British Columbia Okanagan to the top 20% of continuing domestic Indigenous undergraduate students entering second, third,



or fourth year at the University of British Columbia Okanagan. These scholarships recognize the value of continuing Indigenous students and their academic achievement.

REVISED AWARD:

Deputy Vice Chancellor Scholarship for Continuing Students

Current description:

Scholarships ~~ranging in value from \$500~~ **valued at up** to \$1,000 are offered by the University of British Columbia Okanagan to **the top 10% of** continuing domestic students entering second, third, or fourth year at the University of British Columbia Okanagan. These scholarships recognize the value of continuing students and their academic achievement.

Revised description:

Scholarships valued at up to \$1,000 are offered by the University of British Columbia Okanagan to the top 10% of continuing domestic undergraduate students entering second, third, or fourth year at the University of British Columbia Okanagan. These scholarships recognize the value of continuing students and their academic achievement.