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To: Vancouver Senate

From: Agenda Committee

Subject: Convocation Representation on the Vancouver Senate

At its November 2006 meeting, the Vancouver Senate approved an expansion of its membership by four members from 85 to 89. This expansion was associated with the establishment of the College for Interdisciplinary Studies, and entailed the addition to Senate's membership of the Principal of the College, two faculty members, and one student, as the Senate is permitted to do under 35.1(2)(k) of the *University Act.* Although the new College is not a faculty, the Senate elected to adjust its membership as it would have done for a new faculty.

Also at the November 2006 Senate meeting, the Agenda Committee was requested to consider a complementary expansion in the number of Convocation Senators, in order to correct for a resulting decrease in the proportion of Senators representing the UBC Convocation.

Evolution of Senate Membership

In 1915 when UBC admitted its first students, there were 3 founding faculties and the Senate had 39 members. These were the Chancellor; the President; 9 members of the Faculties (23%); 15 Convocation Senators (38%); and 13 others from outside UBC (39%). The faculty representatives included the deans and two faculty members from each Faculty. There were then no student members.

Over the following several decades, the number of Faculties increased and their representation on the Senate increased accordingly, while the number of convocation Senators remained constant, and the number of others external to UBC was reduced. That is, as UBC grew and developed, the proportion of faculty representatives increased, while the proportions of convocation senators and others from outside UBC both reduced. In 1960, there were 10 Faculties and the Senate had 61 members. These were the Chancellor; the President; 30 members of the Faculties (49%); 5 other UBC administrators; 15 Convocation Senators (25%); and 14 others from outside UBC (23%), including representatives of the affiliated theological colleges.

The next major change to Senate membership occurred in May 1967, when the first four student representatives (and four additional faculty members) were added to the Senate. In 1975, the Senate elected to increase the number of Convocation Senators from four to 11. From 1975 to 2001, there were 12 Faculties and the Senate had between 84 and 89 members. Fluctuations in numbers were related to: the affiliation of Carey Theological College and the addition of its Principal in September 1999, the establishment of the College of Health Disciplines in October 2001 and the addition of its Principal, and a provision within the *Advanced Education Statutes Amendment Act 2003* that discontinued the practice of appointing four provincial government representatives to University senates. By 2004, the total number of Senators stood at 85.

The establishment of the College for Interdisciplinary Studies led to the addition of four members in January 2007, expanding the membership from 85 to 89, where it stands today.

Some Considerations

The Committee considered a number of factors in order to make its recommendation regarding a further change to the membership of Senate:

1. UBC has matured and seen a growth in the number of faculties and colleges represented on Senate (an increase from 3 to 14). As this number has increased, there has been a corresponding increase in the proportion of their representatives on the Senate, and a consequential decrease in the representation of some of the other groups of representatives. The most recent change in January 2007 is congruent with this general trend.

2. The April 1993 report to Senate from the Academic Policy on Guidelines for the Establishment of a Faculty (which also addressed academic governance generally and Senate size and effectiveness in particular) notes concern about keeping the Senate at a "manageable size" and suggests that increases in the size of the Senate should be resisted unless such increases are specifically required by the *University Act* (for instance, because of the establishment of new faculties), or because there is a strong rationale for such increases.

3. Senate has required that the impact of the College of Interdisciplinary Studies on the membership of Senate be reported on by January 2008, and that reviews of the College be conducted and reports delivered to the Senate at intervals of two years (a formative review) and five years (a more extensive review) after the new Principal of the College has assumed his or her duties. Therefore, some are of the view that potential changes to the membership of Senate should be assessed following those two reviews.

The most recent changes to the membership of Senate have occurred since 2001, and have been associated with the establishment of the two colleges. Corresponding changes in the proportions of convocation senators and of faculty members / students are shown in

Table 1 below. Prior to the establishment of the two colleges, the proportion of convocation senators was 13.1%, this was reduced to 12.9% when one college was represented, and further reduced to 12.5% when both colleges were represented. The corresponding proportions of faculty members and students were 60.7%, 60.0% and 60.7% respectively.

There seem to be two options that warrant consideration. One, Option A, is to make no change to the number of Convocation Senators at this time. The other, Option B, is to increase the number of Convocation Senators by one. The proportions of convocation Senators and faculty /students associated with these two options are also shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Changes in proportions of convocation senators and faculty/students.

Date / Option	Senate size	convocation senators	faculty / students
Sep 2001 (no colleges represented)	84	13.1%	60.7%
Oct 2001 (one college represented)	85	12.9%	60.0%
Jan 2007 (two colleges represented)	89	12.5%	60.7%
Option A: status quo	89	12.5%	60.7%
Option B: add one convocation senator	90	13.3%	60.0%

That is, relative to September 2001, Option A would result in a decrease in Convocation Senator representation by 0.6%, while faculty/student representation would be unchanged. Also relative to September 2001, Option B would result in an increase in Convocation Senator representation by 0.2%, and a decrease in faculty/student representation by 0.7%. Of these two options, given the Senate guideline that the size of Senate should not be increased unless there is a strong reason to do so, and given that either option would cause a net decrease in either Convocation Senator representation or faculty/student representation relative to September 2001, it is the opinion of the Agenda Committee that Option A is preferred. That is, even though there is a slight decrease in the proportion of Convocation Senators, it is considered desirable that the proportion of faculty/student representation revert to the level prior to the establishment of the two colleges, and the size of the Senate is not further increased.

Recommendation

Based on the foregoing, a majority of members of the Committee were of the view that the membership of Senate should not be changed at the present time.

The Committee recognized during its discussions that there is currently no mechanism in place for the regular review of Senate composition and the consideration of the relative representation of various constituencies. The Committee suggests that the Nominating Committee is best placed to consider whether such an exercise would be productive and, if so, how it might be accomplished.

Motions: *That the Senate accept the recommendation of the Agenda Committee by approving Option A, i.e., the status quo, with respect to the composition of the Vancouver Senate.*

And

That the Nominating Committee be directed to consider whether a process for the review at regular intervals of Senate composition would be advisable and to report back to the Senate with recommendations on the matter by the April 2007 meeting of the Senate.