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August 21, 2007

To: The Vancouver Senate

From: Agenda Committee

Subject: **REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE VANCOUVER SENATE 2006/2007 Academic Year (for information)**

Introduction

The Vancouver Senate conducted a review of its activities during the 2004/2005 academic year. In its May 2005 report, the ad hoc Senate Committee that undertook the review observed a need to raise awareness of the Senate's role and activities within the University. To help address this need, the Senate Secretariat and the Senate Agenda Committee were asked to compile an annual report on the activities of the Vancouver Senate for the information of the University community. This is the second such annual report.

Background

The Vancouver Senate is established and vested with responsibilities related to the academic governance of the University under the *University Act,* R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 468. The Vancouver Senate is responsible for matters relating to the Vancouver campus, while the Okanagan Senate is responsible for UBC Okanagan and the Council of Senates considers matters relevant to the broader UBC system.

The Vancouver Senate has 90 members, including faculty members, student senators, convocation senators, representatives of affiliated theological colleges, and senior administrators of the University, including the President as Chair of the Senate, the Chancellor, the Vice-President Academic, the University Librarian, 12 Deans and two Principals. The Senate has 12 standing committees that perform much of the Senate's work. Committees deliver reports for information, discussion and/or approval. Some of these reports are annual reports on committee activities, some present routine matters for the approval of Senate, while others address more *ad hoc* matters for particular consideration or decision.

The Senate schedules nine meetings per academic year. During 2006/2007, the Senate met seven times from September 2006 through May 2007. Meetings of the Senate are generally open to the public, with a few matters being considered in closed session. The 2006/2007 year was the second year of a three-year Senate electoral term.

Regular Activities of Senate

Matters considered by the Vancouver Senate during the 2006/2007 year included the following:

The Curriculum Committee and/or Admissions Committees brought forward matters relating to admissions policy and over 950 curriculum changes, including new and revised degree and diploma programs and their related courses. New degrees included:

- Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Cell and Developmental Biology;
- Master of Nursing;
- Master of Laws in Common Law; and
- Master of Digital Media -- offered at the Great Northern Way Campus in collaboration with UBC, Simon Fraser University, The Emily Carr Institute for Art + Design and the British Columbia Institute of Technology (see also under “Great Northern Way Campus” below).

In February 2006, the Admissions Committee presented for approval the enrolment targets by Faculty and program for the 2007/2008 academic year.

The Academic Building Needs Committee expressed the intent to expand its role to include an increased influence on project-specific development approvals as well as greater involvement in considering the impact of building projects on the academic enterprise.

The Student Awards Committee recommended for approval 132 new scholarships, bursaries, prizes, and awards representing over $450,000 annually in support of UBC students. In addition to the above-mentioned awards, the Senate approved the establishment of the Pacific Graduate Century Scholarships, funded by the Province of British Columbia.

The Nominating Committee recommended appointments to Senate committees and to the Council of Senates. The Committee also undertook its annual review of the terms of reference of Senate committees and recommended several adjustments.

Based on recommendations from the Vice-President Academic & Provost, the Senate:

1. Approved and recommended for approval by the Board of Governors the establishment of one new centre and one new institute, and received information about one other new centre.
2. Approved and recommended for approval by the Board of Governors the establishment of six Chairs.

At the November and May meetings, the Associate Vice-President, Enrolment Services & Registrar presented for approval lists of candidates for degrees and diplomas. The Vancouver Senate granted a total of over 9,200 degrees and diplomas. The Associate Vice-President Enrolment Services & Registrar also submitted for information dates relating to the 2007/2008 Academic Year (January meeting).

In closed session, the Tributes Committee recommended a list of candidates for honorary degrees, which the Senate discussed and approved. The Tributes Committee also recommended 84 individuals for emeritus status, recommended approval of regalia colours for a new degree program, and prepared a short tribute known as a "memorial minute" for a former Senator who had recently passed away.

Under authority delegated by the Senate, the Committee on Appeals on Academic Standing and the Committee on Student Appeals on Academic Discipline heard 14 and four student appeals, respectively. The observations of the Committee on Appeals on Academic Standing led to the creation of an ad hoc committee to consider issues related to advising and cultural diversity (see also under "Establishment of Ad Hoc Committees" below).

The Senate received information about planned enhancements to communication and interaction between the Senate and the Board of Governors.

Annual reports were presented by the Committee on Student Appeals on Academic Discipline, the Committee on Appeals on Academic Standing, the Council of Senates Budget Committee, the University Librarian, and the Institute for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning. At the October meeting, the Associate Vice-President, Finance presented for information the University's financial statements for the 2005/2006 fiscal year.

UBC Okanagan and the Vancouver Senate

With the Okanagan Senate and the Council of Senates well established and operational, the Vancouver Senate undertook less activity related to UBC Okanagan in comparison to the two previous years. A few transitional themes remain.

At the September meeting, the Senate accepted a joint Okanagan/Vancouver recommendation to increase each Senate's representation on the Council of

Senates from eight members to 13, while remaining consistent with the University Act.

College for Interdisciplinary Studies

Beginning at the September meeting, the Senate and its Academic Policy Committee participated in several discussions about the future of interdisciplinarity and the Faculty of Graduate Studies. These discussions culminated in a recommendation to establish and assign powers to a College for Interdisciplinary Studies. The College was established effective January 1, 2007. The Senate enlarged its membership to include the following representatives for the College: the College Principal, two elected faculty members, and one elected student member. As well, a twelfth Convocation Senator was added to the Senate at its February 2007 meeting.

Great Northern Way Campus

The Academic Policy Committee, the Curriculum Committee, and the Admissions Committee were all engaged in discussions about the emerging academic program at the Great Northern Way Campus, which is a collaborative effort between four BC post-secondary institutions. The Senate ultimately approved a model for academic governance and the administration of degree programs, as well as the first new program: the Master of Digital Media (MDM). These approvals are particularly notable because they coincided with approvals by the three other partner institutions – Simon Fraser University, the British Columbia Institute of Technology, and the Emily Carr Institute of Art + Design – in time for the MDM program to accept its first intake in September 2007.

Participation in U21 Global

The ad hoc Committee for the Review of U21 Global delivered its report at the January meeting. U21Global is a joint venture between Thomson Learning (a division of the Thomson Corporation) and 19 of the 20 universities in the international consortium known as Universitas 21.The Senate endorsed recommendations that the University make no further investments in U21 Global and withdraw its participation from this venture. The Senate forwarded these recommendations to the Board of Governors.

Academic Policy Development and Revision

Upon recommendation of the Academic Policy Committee, the Senate approved revised policies on Membership in the Faculty of Graduate Studies, Viewing Marked Examinations, and Academic Concession. Further recommendations to revise the policy on Academic Concession are expected during the 2007/2008 academic year. At the November meeting, the Academic Policy Committee

presented a new policy on Procedures for the Review of Administrative Units. The Senate requested changes to this draft policy prior to consideration for approval and discussion is expected to continue during the 2007/2008 academic year.

At the May meeting, the Teaching and Learning Committee presented for approval a new Policy on Student Evaluation of Teaching, following an extended period of consultation. The Senate approved this comprehensive policy, which includes guiding principles, a model for implementation, stipulations about access to and dissemination of results, and assignment of various responsibilities.

Term Modification for the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic Games

Upon recommendation of the Academic Policy Committee at the May meeting, the Senate modified the 2009/2010 Academic Year to extend the February 2010 midterm break for the period of the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic Games.

Establishment of Ad Hoc Committees

The Senate established two ad hoc Committees with reporting deadlines as follows:

1. Ad Hoc Committee on Writing and Communication Skills (report due December 2007); and
2. Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Advising Issues Relating to a Culturally-Diverse Student Body (report due April 2008).

Concluding Remarks

Overall, the Vancouver Senate had an active year, dealing with both routine and ad hoc business. The 2007/2008 academic year will be the last of a three-year Senate term, with the next Senate term beginning on September 1, 2008.