Vancouver Senate Secretariat
Senate and Curriculum Services
Enrolment Services
2016–1874 East Mall
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1
www.senate.ubc.ca

Vancouver Senate

MINUTES OF MARCH 26, 2008

Attendance

Present: Dr. R. Windsor-Liscombe (Vice-Chair), Ms. L. M.Collins (Associate Secretary), Dr. P. Adebar, Mr. T. Ahmed, Dr. B.Arneil, Mr. J. Aulakh, Dr. N. Banthia, Dr. J. D. Berger, Dean M. A. Bobinski, Prof. C. Boyle, Mr. P. T. Brady, Dr. J. Brander, Dr. M. Bryson, Principal M. Burgess, Dr. H. Burt, Dr. E. Dean, Ms. D. Diao, Dr. W. Dunford, Vice-President D. Farrar, Dr. W. Fletcher, Ms. M. Friesen, Dean N. Gallini, Dr. S. Grayston, Dr. D. Griffin, Dr. L. Gunderson, Dr. P. G. Harrison, Dr. R. Harrison, Dean M. Isaacson, Dean M. Isman, Ms. J. Khangura, Mr. T. Leaver, Mr. D. K. Leung, Mr. R. Lowe, Dr. M. MacEntee, Dr. P. L. Marshall, Dr. W. McKee, Dr. D. McLean, Mr. W. McNulty, Mr. A. Mohan, Dean D. Muzyka, Mr. R. Pan, Dean S. Peacock, Mr. L. Powell, Mr. G. Rawle, Ms. E. Rennie, Dr. K. Russell, Ms. A. Shaikh, Dean C. Shuler, Mr. B. Simpson, Dr. R. Sparks, Mr. R. Taddei, Ms. M. C. Tee, Dr. S. Thorne, Mr. H. Tse, Dr. M. Upadhyaya, Dr. R. A. Yaworsky, Dr. J. Young.

Guests: Mr. G. Costeloe, Mr. C. Eaton, Mr. B. Frederick, Ms. L. Hume, Ms. M. Maghsoodi, Ms. A. Mann, Mr. R. McLean, Ms. B. Osmond, Ms. L. Silvester, Ms. G. Vallée.

Regrets: Dr. G. Bluman, Ms. S. Brkanovic, Dr. L. Chui, Dr. J. Dennison, Dean B. Evans, Dr. D. Fielding, Dr. C. Friedrichs, Mr. C. L. Gorman, Dr. R. Helsley, Mr. A. Ionescu, Dr. R. Irwin, Ms. W. King, Dr. S. B. Knight, Dr. B. S. Lalli, Mr. A. Lee, Dr. A. McAfee, Dr. T. McDaniels, Principal L. Nasmith, Dr. J. Plessis, Dr. P. Potter, Dean J. Saddler, Dr. J. Sarra, Associate Vice-President B. J. Silzer, Dean R. Sindelar, Dr. B. Stelck, Dean G. Stuart, Dean R. Tierney, President S. J. Toope, Dr. P. Ward, Dr. D.Weary, Dr. R. Wilson.

Recording Secretary: Associate Secretary Ms. L. M. Collins.

Call to Order

Dr. Windsor-Liscombe called the meeting to order.

Senate Membership

REPLACEMENT

The Associate Secretary announced that Dr. Michael Burgess, Principal, College for Interdisciplinary Studies, had replaced Principal *pro tem.* James Thompson as an ex-officio member of the Senate. Senators welcomed Dr. Burgess.

CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

On behalf of the Senate, the Vice-Chair presented certificates of appreciation to the Student Senators, who were to complete their one-year Senate terms on March 31, 2008.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Mr. Rawle
Dr. MacEntee } *That the minutes of the meeting of February 27, 2008 be adopted as circulated.*

DISCUSSION

The assembly accepted the following corrections to the minutes by consent:

1. p. 07-08 113, Attendance: move Dr. A. McAfee from “Regrets” to “Present.”
2. p. 07-08 126, Graduate Support Initiative Guidelines, Discussion: append to last sentence of second paragraph, “of enrolments, not admissions.”

The amended minutes were adopted.

Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

Remarks from the Vice-Chair and Related Questions

2008 HONORARY DEGREE CANDIDATES

The Associate Secretary announced for information that each of the following esteemed individuals had accepted an invitation to attend a 2008 UBC graduation ceremony to accept an honorary degree.

- Margaret-Ann Armour
- Thomas R. Berger, OC, OBC
- Philippe de Gaspé Beaubien II & Nan-b de Gaspé Beaubien
- John Blatherwick
- Terry Bourk
- Christopher Gaze
- Clara Hughes
- Norman Jewison
- Joan Steitz
- John Sulston
- Bing Thom
- Elie Wiesel

MEETING OF CHAIRS OF STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE

Dr. Rhodri Windsor-Liscombe announced that the Chairs of Standing Committees of Senate had planned a meeting with President Toope and Vice-President Farrar to take place on April 17. Topics were to include the role of the Senate in the governance of the University and community recognition of Senate service. Dr. Windsor-Liscombe thanked the President and Vice-President for their willingness to participate.

Admissions Committee

Committee Chair Dr. Berger presented the report.

FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES: ACCESS STUDIES AND TRANSFER CREDIT

The Committee had circulated a proposal to add the following statement to the Faculty of Graduate Studies section of the Calendar:

> **Transfer Credit for Access Studies**
>
> Courses taken as an Access Studies (or non-degree) student may be approved for transfer toward a graduate program with the permission of the Graduate Program and the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies.
>
> Consistent with standard transfer credit regulations, students are limited to transferring a maximum of 12 credits or up to 40% of the program credit requirements, whichever is more, toward their Master's program. No more than six credits of transfer credit may be at the undergraduate level (300-400). In order to be eligible for transfer, the course(s):
>
> - Must be completed with a minimum “B” standing
> - Must not have been counted toward the completion of another degree or program
> - Must have been completed no more than 5 years prior to the time the student commences their degree program

Dr. Berger
Mr. McNulty
} *That Senate approve the proposed Calendar entry on Transfer Credit for Access Studies for applicants to the Faculty of Graduate Studies.*

DISCUSSION

Dr. McKee asked whether grades for courses taken under Access Studies would be counted toward the student’s average for admission to the graduate program. Dr. Berger replied that, while he was not certain, he assumed that Access Studies courses would not be included in average calculation. Dr. Berger agreed to check into the matter and report back to Senate should his assumption turn out to be incorrect.

Admissions Committee, continued

In response to a question from Dr. Dunford, Dr. Berger confirmed that the change would have immediate effect.

The motion was put and carried.

Agenda Committee

Committee Chair Dean Isaacson presented the reports.

COUNCIL OF SENATES APPROVAL OF AFFILIATION AGREEMENTS

The Agenda Committee had circulated a report describing a recent agreement between the University of Manitoba and Navitas, Inc. for the creation of a private college delivering English language instruction on the University of Manitoba campus. The Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) had expressed concern about the agreement because the affiliation agreement had not been submitted for approval by the University of Manitoba Senate. Drawing attention to several sections of the *University Act*, the Committee requested that the Senate affirm that a similar agreement at UBC would require approval by the Council of Senates.

Dean Isaacson
Dr. Young
} *That, in consideration of Sections 37 (1) and 38.2 (4) of the University Act, the Vancouver Senate affirms the view that the engagement of private corporations or other entities delivering academic programs using the facilities, name, coat of arms, or logo of the University, - or carried out through a legal agreement with the University- is an affiliation with an institution of learning, and that therefore the terms of any such affiliation requires the approval of the Council of Senates.*

Agenda Committee, continued

DISCUSSION

Dr. McLean stated that he found the CAUT report of the situation shocking. He noted great respect by the Senate for the UBC senior administration, and was optimistic that a similar conflict would not occur at UBC.

In response to questions, Dean Isaacson confirmed that:

1. The motion was consistent with the *University Act;* and
2. The *University Act* assigned responsibility for approval of affiliations with institutions of learning to the Council of Senates, rather than to the Senates.

AMENDMENT

Dr. Brander noted that, while he understood the Council of Senates' role with respect to affiliation agreements, academic building needs were within the purview of the Senate. By consent, the motion was amended to append the following phrase: "...and the Senate, as applicable."

The amended motion was put and carried.

CHANGES TO THE RULES AND PROCEDURES OF SENATE

The Committee had circulated a collection of updates and changes to the Rules and Procedures of the Vancouver Senate.

NEW SECTION 22(I): REQUIRED VOTE FOR ITEMS ADDED TO A SENATE MEETING AGENDA

Dean Isaacson
Dr. Bryson
} *That Senate approve the new Section 22 (i) of the Rules and Procedures of the Vancouver Senate.*

Amendment

By consent, the assembly corrected the proposed new Section 22 (i) to read as follows (correction in bold):

Agenda Committee, continued

To approve any matter considered by Senate after being added to the agenda for consideration under Section **20** (c) or (d) requires the approval of two-thirds (2/3rds) of those present and voting.

The motion to approve the amended Section 22 (i) was put and carried by the required 2/3 vote.

NEW SECTION 34: STATUS OF MINUTES AND OTHER RECORDS OF SENATE COMMITTEES

The Committee proposed the addition of the following section:

34. Minutes and other records of Senate committees are restricted to members of the committee. Others may have access only with the permission of the committee.

a. In the case of discharged committees, permission to access records may be granted by the Secretary to Senate.
b. This section and Section 33 notwithstanding, a committee may declare any or all their records to be open for review and their meetings to be open to the invited guests or the public, provided that the provisions of applicable privacy legislation are respected.

Dean Isaacson
Dr. Bryson
} *That Senate approve the new Section 34 of the Rules and Procedures of the Vancouver Senate.*

Discussion

Senators expressed the following opinions during the debate:

- The default status of minutes and records should be "open," with special action required to make them "closed," rather than vice versa.
- Each Committee ought to have a discussion about the matter and stipulate the status of Committee records in their Roles & Responsibilities documents that were under consideration by the Nominating Committee.
- Determination of open vs. closed ought to be by agenda item, rather than by Committee.
- Questions about whether the Agenda Committee was recommending restricting the attendance of guests and observers at Committee meetings.
- Support for the idea that each Committee is unique and that each Committee ought to decide for itself.
- Further consideration given to whether a distinction should be drawn between access by members of Senate and access by the general public.

Agenda Committee, continued

The assembly recognized Mr. Blake Frederick, Student Senator Elect, who indicated that he had made a formal request to view minutes of Senate Committees that he considered "legislative" in nature. He further stated that he had requested guest privileges at several Committee meetings, but that his requests had not been granted. He was not in support of the motion.

Dean Isaacson indicated that the Agenda Committee was quite flexible with respect to the desired degree of openness, and was most interested in determining the will of the Senate in this area.

Motion to Refer

Mr. Brady
Mr. Lowe
} *That the proposed new Section 34 be referred to the Agenda Committee for further consideration.*

The motion to refer was put and carried.

MISCELLANEOUS RULES CHANGES

Dean Isaacson
Dr. Harrison
} *That the Rules and Procedures of Senate be amended as specified in the report of the Agenda Committee, except for the changes specified as Sections 22 (i) and 34.*

Motion to Amend

Mr. Rawle
Dr. Bryson
} *That the proposed amendment to Section 33 be removed such that the current rule would stand.*

The motion to amend failed.

There was consensus that the Agenda Committee should also give further consideration to Section 33, as it was related to the above referral.

Agenda Committee, continued

Discussion on Main Motion, continued

In response to a question from Mr. Brady, Mr. Eaton was recognized by the assembly to clarify that the "Eight (8) additional representatives of the Convocation" referenced in Section 5(a) meant the Convocation Senators added by the Senate, in addition to the four required under the *University Act*.

The main motion was put and carried, with the required two-thirds vote.

Curriculum Committee

Committee Chair Dr. Marshall presented the reports.

CURRICULUM PROPOSALS FROM THE FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE

Please see also 'Appendix A: Curriculum Summary.'

Dr. Marshall
Dean Isaacson
} *That the new and changed courses and programs brought forward by the Faculty of Applied Science be approved.*

Carried.

CALENDAR ENTRY ON CREDIT EXCLUSION LISTS

The Committee had circulated a proposed Calendar entry denoting the existence of credit exclusion lists maintained by Faculties.

Dr. Marshall
Ms. Friesen
} *That the proposed Calendar entry on Credit Exclusion Lists be approved.*

Curriculum Committee, continued

DISCUSSION

In response to a question from Dr. Paul G. Harrison, Dr. Marshall clarified that credit exclusion lists were applied only to students within a given Faculty, rather than to the courses within a given Faculty.

The motion was put and carried.

FACULTY OF SCIENCE: PARCHMENT FOR THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

The Committee had circulated a proposal to add information such as student standing, field of study, and participation in co-operative education to Bachelor of Science parchments.

Dr. Marshall
Dr. Young
} *That the proposed change to the UBC degree parchment for the Faculty of Science be approved.*

DISCUSSION

There was discussion about when the proposed change would take effect. Dr. Paul G. Harrison stated that, although the Faculty of Science and Enrolment Services had been working on implementation in anticipation of approval, there were some technical and timing challenges that made it likely that implementation would happen in time for graduation in November 2008.

In response to a question, Dr. Harrison responded that the definition of “with distinction” had already been approved by the Senate, and that the change would be to have that information show on the parchment.

There was discussion about whether the revised parchments would be available to students on a retroactive basis. Dr. Brander asked that the minutes reflect his suggestion that retroactive implementation for graduates who request it should be considered.

The motion was put and carried.

Curriculum Committee, continued

CHANGES TO CERTIFICATE PROGRAM APPROVAL POLICY

The Committee had circulated proposed changes to the recently approved Certificate Program Approval Policy.

Dr. Marshall
Dr. Young
} *That the proposed revisions to the Policy on the Approval of Certificate Programs be approved.*

Carried.

Tributes Committee

Committee Chair Dr. Thorne presented the report.

CONVOCATION MEMBERSHIP FOR FACULTY EMERITI AND LIBRARIANS EMERITI

The Committee had circulated a proposal to add both faculty emeriti and librarians emeriti to the roll of convocation, such that these groups would be able to participate in University elections and other activities of the convocation.

Dr. Thorne
Dean Muzyka
} *That, pursuant to section 9(2) of the University Act, Senate add to the Roll of Convocation all persons with current appointments as Professors Emeriti, Associate Professors Emeriti, Assistant Professors Emeriti, Senior Instructors Emeriti, Instructors II Emeriti, Instructors I Emeriti, General Librarians Emeriti and Administrative Librarians Emeriti at the Vancouver campus of the University.*

Carried.

Ad-hoc Committee on Writing and Communications Skills

Committee Chair Dr. P. G. Harrison presented the report.

MOTION TO EXTEND COMMITTEE REPORTING DEADLINE

Dr. Harrison explained that the Committee required some addition time to fully consider the budgetary aspects of its draft recommendations.

Dr. P. G. Harrison
Dr. Brander
} *That the reporting deadline of the Ad Hoc Committee on Writing and Communication Skills be extended from March 2008 to April 2008.*

Carried.

Reports from the Provost and Vice-President, Academic

Vice-President Farrar presented the reports.

2008/2009 BUDGET UPDATE

Vice-President Farrar have a brief oral report on the status of the 2008/2009 budget. Highlights were as follows:

- Vice-President Farrar reminded Senators of the previous year's fiscal surplus and structural deficit, and the related "cash call," as reported to the Senate in November 2007.
- In March 2008, the provincial government had indicated that BC universities were to be allocated a budgetary cut and reduction of student seats.
- Although official amounts had not yet been received from the government, the cut for UBC Vancouver was estimated at $11.2 million.
- Because there was not sufficient time to consider how best to absorb this cut prior to asking the Board of Governors to approve the budget, the President had decided to ask the Board to consider approving a structural deficit.
- If approved, the fiscal surplus would allow for a balanced budget for 2008/2009.
- The General Purpose Operating budget for 2008/2009 was estimated at $685 million, compared to $640 million in 2007/2008. Wage increases and increases in the number of graduate student seats figured prominently in the increase.

Reports from the Provost and Vice-President, Academic, continued

- The administration would require some time over the 2008/2009 fiscal year to determine how best to manage the budget for future years.

DISCUSSION

In response to a question, Vice-President Farrar stated that the University had not yet determined the optimal strategy for communicating with the provincial government in response to the cut.

Dean Muzyka pointed out that the inflation rate exceeded the Consumer Price Index, increasing the impact of the cut to approximately five percent. Vice-President Farrar agreed, noting increases in starting salaries, faculty retention costs, and building maintenance costs as areas that had not been balanced within the budget.

Dr. Young asked whether it was possible that the government had observed surpluses from previous years and therefore considered UBC able to absorb a budget reduction. Vice-President Farrar replied that, although he was uncertain of the provincial government's reasoning, he was not in favour of repeatedly reporting surpluses.

In response to a question, Vice-President Farrar confirmed that tuition increases were limited to two percent by the provincial government. Unless the difference between tuition increases and cost increases was provided by the provincial government, the University would need to further adjust its budget.

UBC POLICY #18: APPOINTMENT OF DESIGNATED SENIOR ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATORS

Vice-President Farrar asked that the Senate consider the draft joint Board of Governors and Senate Policy #18 as an information item to allow time to answer some questions raised by the Okanagan Senate Nominating Committee. Once both Senate Nominating Committees had agreed on a common version of the policy, it would be returned to Senate for approval prior to submission to the Board of Governors for final approval.

Mr. Ahmed suggested that further consideration be given to whether representatives chosen by the Senates ought to be limited to faculty members or whether the Senates ought to have more flexibility in choosing their representatives.

FACULTY OF EDUCATION: NAME CHANGE FOR DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM STUDIES

Vice-President Farrar
Mr. Taddei
} *That Senate approve the change of name from the Department of Curriculum Studies to the Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy, effective April 1, 2008.*

DISCUSSION

In response to a question from Dr. Gunderson, Vice-President Farrar stated that he expected that the proposed change would not entail additional costs.

The motion was put and carried.

Proposed Agenda Items

None.

Other Business

PROPOSAL TO EXPAND UBC'S PASS/FAIL SYSTEM: REFERRAL TO TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE

Upon recommendation of Ms. Khangura, the assembly recognized Mr. Brendon Goodmurphy as a guest speaker. Ms. Khangura and Mr. Goodmurphy gave an overview of a student-led initiative to develop a policy that would allow undergraduate students to choose pass/fail grading for elective courses. The goals of the policy would be to improve the undergraduate experience, encourage academic exploration, de-emphasize marks, and reduce academic pressures.

Other Business, continued

Because the students were aware that their draft proposal required further study, they requested that the matter be referred to the Teaching and Learning Committee.

Ms. Khangura
Dr. R. Harrison

That the Senate refer the proposal to expand UBC's Pass/Fail system, as described by Student Senator Ms. Jaspreet Khangura, to the Teaching and Learning Committee for further study and consultation with other individuals and committees as appropriate,

and

That the Senate direct the Committee to provide a preliminary report back to the Senate in regard to its progress not later than the May 2008 meeting of the Senate

and

That the Senate direct the Teaching and Learning Committee to provide in its preliminary report specific recommendations regarding continuity of Senate inquiry on this matter (in consideration of the August, 31 2008 end-of-term for Senate committees).

DISCUSSION

Mr. Lee spoke in favour of the proposal, describing it as beneficial for interdisciplinarity.

Mr. Brady spoke in favour of the motion to refer, noting that it would be very helpful for the Teaching and Learning to receive details about similar policies in place at other institutions. Mr. Brady suggested that the students also provide the Teaching and Learning Committee with a summary of consultations conducted to date.

Other Business, continued

Dean Muzyka spoke in favour of the motion to refer, and asked that the Committee consider how well similar policies were working at other institutions. He noted that the policy in place at the Wharton School was considered to be problematic.

Ms. Tee spoke in favour of the ideas behind the proposal, noting that honours/pass/fail grading in the Doctor of Medicine program emphasized collegiality over competitiveness. She suggested that the Committee consider honours/pass/fail (instead of strictly pass/fail) as one way to recognize student effort.

Dr. Bryson, Chair of the Teaching and Learning Committee, thanked the students for their effort and innovation. She indicated that the Committee's preliminary report would anticipate many of the issues raised and would provide a conceptual roadmap for eventual policy development. In response to a question, Dr. Bryson stated that she felt that the Teaching and Learning Committee was the appropriate Committee to undertake this work because the students' proposal made specific references to student engagement and assessment. Dr. Paul G. Harrison, Chair of the Academic Policy Committee, agreed that the referral to the Teaching and Learning Committee was appropriate, and was hopeful that the Academic Policy Committee would also be involved in parts of the discussion.

Dr. Dunford suggested that the Committee's discussion be broadened to cover other issues related to grading, including the current policy on auditing courses.

In response to a question, Mr. Goodmurphy confirmed that further exploration would be necessary to answer questions about the potential affect of the policy on future eligibility for admission to graduate or post-baccalaureate programs.

Dr. Adebar requested clarification about what the students meant by "electives", i.e., courses not required for but taken as part of the degree or courses taken in addition to the 120 (or more) cred-

its required for the degree. Ms. Khangura agreed that it would be necessary to clarify this definition.

The motion to refer was put and carried.

Tributes Committee -- in camera

Dr. Thorne presented the report.

CANDIDATE FOR HONORARY DEGREE

In closed session, the Tributes Committee circulated a recommendation to grant an honorary degree to one candidate. Dr.Thorne reported that the Committee was very pleased to make the recommendation and noted that it came in addition to the usual group of candidates for honorary degrees considered by the Senate each fall.

The Senate accepted the recommendation of the Tributes Committee to grant an honorary degree.

APPENDIX A: CURRICULUM SUMMARY

Faculty of Applied Science

PROGRAM CHANGE

Bachelor of Applied Science: Degree Requirements, English Requirements, Engineering Communication Competency Test

NEW AND CHANGED COURSES

APSC 263 (3)
APSC 201 (3)
CHBE 482 (3)
CHBE 486 (3)
MTRL 356 (3)
MTRL 442 (3)
MTRL 471 (3)
MTRL 475 (3)
MTRL 485 (3)

Faculty of Applied Science (School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture)

NEW COURSE

ENDS 404 (3)