



**SENATE RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Friday 16 December 2022 10:00-11:30 a.m. via Zoom

Attendance: Guy Faulkner (Chair), James Stewart (Vice-Chair), Nancy Ford, Jorden Hendry, Rob Kozak, Greg Martyn, Gail Murphy, James Olson, Susan Porter, Anubhav Singh

Regrets: Robert Boushel, Benjamin Fischer, Romina Hajizadeh, Merje Kuus

Senate Staff: Michael Jud

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Senate Research and Scholarship Committee (the “Committee”) was called to order at 10:03 a.m. on 16 December 2022 by G. Faulkner, Chair.

ITEM 1: AGENDA

The agenda was approved by general consent.

ITEM 2: MEETING MINUTES OF 18 NOVEMBER 2022

The meeting minutes of 18 November 2022 were approved by general consent.

ITEM 3: TERMS OF REFERENCE – ACADEMIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON A UBC INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES

Dr. Murphy provided an update on efforts to establish the Academic Advisory Committees which will contribute to resolving the Peter Wall matter. There are two committees to be formed: one dealing with the future Wall Awards and one dealing with the future of the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies (PWIAS). Both committees have draft terms of reference which call for the inclusion of four members of Senate (Vancouver or Okanagan) plus one member of one of the student senate caucuses. Feedback is now being sought on how best to fill the committee seats reserved for Senators— should there be a broad call for nominees or should the relevant Senate committees be canvassed for volunteers?

It was noted that the Academic Advisory Committee on the future of the PWIAS is, according to its draft terms of reference, advisory to the Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. This is because of historical factors, namely the fact that the creation of the PWIAS was originally proposed by the Dean of G+PS and administrative authority over the institute accordingly sits with G+PS. The terms of reference could be amended to make the committee advisory to the Provost if desired. Senate staff undertook to investigate the issue further and provide advice.

Committee members stated that it would be preferable for at least one member of the Committee to sit on the Academic Advisory Committee on the future of the PWIAS. If this arrangement is adopted then it should be made explicit in the terms of reference.

Committee members additionally spoke to the importance of interdisciplinarity in the composition of the Committee. If it is not possible to appoint a representative of each faculty then broad interdisciplinary representation should nonetheless be the goal. It may be desirable to consider strengthening the language around “diversity of academic disciplines” which appears in the draft terms of reference.

ITEM 4: DRAFT POLICY V-5 – RESEARCH CENTRES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTES

Senate staff provided a brief introduction of the new draft Policy V-5. It was noted that the draft has been re-written on the basis of the policy positions outline to which the Committee agreed at its previous meeting. Four significant remaining issues were singled out for the Committee to consider:

- Under what circumstances should centres and institutes be able to offer academic programs.
- Under what circumstances should centres and institutes be able to have faculty members appointed?
- Should the policy provide for the possibility of dual-campus centres and institutes?
- Should the policy provide for centres and institutes which are jointly established by UBC and outside institutes?

The Committee was in agreement that institutes and category 1 centres should have the ability to offer academic programs as they do currently. There is no perceived justification for imposing a new constraint here.

The Committee also agreed that cross-campus collaboration is a very important part of the picture and the policy should avoid creating any new barriers to such collaboration. It would be desirable to provide for dual-campus centres and institutes to the extent possible, and at the very least to avoid major incompatibilities between the relevant Vancouver and Okanagan Senate policies.

It was noted that the draft policy requires all Senate-approved centres and institutes undergo periodic reviews by the Committee. It was suggested that this could be an excessive requirement which is not necessarily a productive use of time. Senate staff undertook to modify the policy to make such reviews an optional approach and not a mandated requirement.

It was also noted that it is sometimes desirable for units to forego the “centre” or “institute” label and be known by something else. It was stated that the policy should be permissive with respect to naming if possible. Senate staff indicate that this could create challenges from the perspective of policy scope, however efforts would be made to explore alternatives to the current text.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m.