

# VANCOUVER SENATE

## MINUTES OF 13 DECEMBER 2023

### Attendance

**Present:** B.-A. Bacon (Chair), C. Eaton (Acting Secretary), M. Adshade, H. Amin, F. Andrew, G. Averill, E. Baniassad, S. Bredin, B. Britton, L. Burr, I. Caguait, J. Cool, C. Crowston, A. d'Entremont, A. Esteves, N. Ford, B. Forster, S. Forwell, J. Fox, S. Grayston, J. Hare, P. Harrison, K. Hassib, C. Hendricks, M. Ho, E. Jenkins, X. Jiang, K. Kanji, R. Kozak, F. Lalji, S. Lavallee, K. Lo, M. MacLachlan, G. Markman, S. McGillivray, C. Menzies, W. Norman, J. Olson, S. Parker, S. Pelech, J. Phelps, N. Pindell, S. Porter, A. Pratap-Singh, I. Price, M. Prost, D. Qi, C. Rawn, S. Razia, K. Rogers, S. Rout, L. Shpeller, S. Singh, K. Smith, R. Spencer, J. Stewart, R. Topping, G. Turcotte, G. Tsiakos, A. Uzama, H. von Bergmann, A. Wang, R. Yada.

**Regrets:** J. Al Rahmani, M. Aronson, B. Bhandar, D. Dahl, C. Dai, K. Doering, A. Dulay, P. Englezos, G. Faulkner, K. Feng, A. Fisher, J. Gilbert, C. Godwin, B. Goold, S. Gopalakrishnan, J. Greenman, A. Ivanov, D. Kelleher, S. Kenston, R. Kim, D. Li, L. Lynd, C. Marshall, A. Mitchell, C. Overall, S. Point, R. Ng (Secretary).

### Call to Order

The Chair of Senate, Professor Benoit-Antoine Bacon called the fourth meeting of the Senate for the 2023/2024 academic year to order at 6:02 pm.

### Minutes of Previous Meeting

Mathew Ho  
Susan Forwell

*That the minutes of the meeting of 15 November  
be approved as corrected:  
Corrections: Attendance*

Approved

### Business Arising from the Minutes

In response to a question at a previous meeting, a memorandum was distributed with the meeting materials from the Vice-President, Students, outlining why the University had changed its approach to student mental health support.

### Remarks from the Chair

The President noted that he was now six weeks into his term and had had many notable experiences, including the fall Congregation ceremonies to award thousands of degrees to UBC's newest graduates. Dr Bacon said that he was in awe at the size, scope, talent, impact, and quality of UBC, but acknowledged that this was not an easy year for the campus or society more broadly. He thanked everyone for their hard work and compassion. The President closed his remarks by suggesting that people rest and recharged over the Winter break as much as possible.

Senator Ho asked about the student assistance program, noting that the data showed that a very small number of students accessed the service more than once. He asked if there was data on usage of the previous program and on student satisfaction with it.

The President said that he would follow up with the Vice-President and ask him to provide additional information to the senator.

### **Admissions Committee**

The Chair of the Senate Admissions Committee, Dr Joanne Fox, presented.

#### **BACHELOR OF KINESIOLOGY – ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Joanne Fox  
Kareem Hassib

*That Senate approve the revised admission requirements for applicants to the Bachelor of Kinesiology program, effective for entry to the 2024 Winter Session and thereafter.*

Dr Fox noted that the Committee had requested several changes for clarification, all of which were acceptable to the proponents.

Senator Adshade noted that the requirements said that the rigor of the academic program in secondary school would be considered; she asked if this would disadvantage some students.

The Acting Registrar, Mr Christopher Eaton, noted that this was typical language and spoke to students choosing to take more challenging courses when available to them without penalizing students from rural areas or smaller schools areas where they do not have those options.

Senator Hare noted that the Langara transfer program was often stated but she was curious about other indigenous admission programs and how those were represented.

Mr Eaton said that the indigenous admissions policy still applied universally; in the case of this proposal it was just a case of updating diction to replace aboriginal with indigenous.

Approved

### **Awards Committee**

The Chair of the Senate Awards Committee, Dr Lawrence Burr, presented.

#### **NEW AND REVISED AWARDS**

*Appendix A: Awards Report*

Lawrence Burr  
Mathew Ho

*That the Senate approve the new and revised awards as listed, that they be forwarded to the Board of Governors for approval and that letters of thanks be sent to the donors.*

Dr Burr announced ten new and revised awards for Senate's consideration.

Approved

## **Curriculum Committee**

### **DECEMBER CURRICULUM REPORT**

*See Appendix B: Curriculum Report*

Catherine Rawn  
Gage Averill

*That the Senate approve the new courses brought forward by Faculties of Arts, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (Science), and Land and Food Systems.*

Senator Rawn commented on the breadth of teaching and learning at UBC as shown by the diversity of courses proposed.

Senator Menzies noted that Anthropology was proposing a course on immobility with (im) in parenthesis. He asked if that was still how that idea should be expressed.

Senator Rawn said that the Curriculum Committee deferred to the discipline on that phrasing.

Approved

Senator Rawn thanked the Curriculum Committee's subcommittees and staff for their work over the past year.

## **Nominating Committee**

The Chair of the Senate Nominating Committee, Dr Paul Harrison, presented.

### **DEPUTY PROVOST COUNCIL OF SEANTES**

Paul Harrison  
Wendy Norman

*That Bruce Forster, Jenny Phelps, Kamil Kanji and Catherine Rawn be appointed to a President's Advisory Committee for the Selection of a Deputy Provost;*

*That Robert Kozak, John Gilbert, Susan Forwell, Ben Britton, Bruce Forster and*

*George Tsiakos be elected to the Council of  
Senates until 31 August 2026 and  
thereafter until replaced; and*

*That Kareem Hassib, Kamil Kanji and Laia  
Shpeller be elected to the Council of  
Senates until 31 March 2024 and thereafter until  
replaced.*

Senator Harrison noted that the Deputy Provost search members were previously for a vice-provost search; however, that position was discontinued in favour of a broader deputy provost role which assumed many of its responsibilities. With respect to the Council of Senates members, he noted that the Council recommendations were being made now as the ex officio members were known.

Approved

## **INTERIM REPORT ON SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES' ENGAGEMENT WITH THE INDIGENOUS STRATEGIC PLAN**

Senator Harrison made reference to the distributed report which advised that many Senate committees required more time to accomplish their work and the original deadline of January was too ambitious. The Nominating Committee will continue to encourage all Senate committees to continue their discussions and will report back to Senate in due course.

### **Research and Scholarship Committee**

**The Committee Chair, Dr Wendy Norman, presented.**

#### **NEW POLICY V-5: RESEARCH CENTRES AND INSTITUTES**

Wendy Norman  
Paul Harrison

*That Senate approve Policy V-5: Research  
Centres & Research Institutes, and that the  
previous policy entitled Status of Institutes and  
Centres cease to be in effect, both effective as of  
1 February 2024.*

Senator Norman advised that the current policy from 2001 was only focused on a subset of institutes of centres and did not provide clear or sufficient guidance on their establishment or governance. She noted that the Okanagan Senate had a similar policy numbered O-5. This work built on and work started five years ago by the Academic Policy Committee and had been informed by broad consultation across the University. She also noted that there were mechanisms built in for exceptions if needed.

Senator Lo noted that most other Senate policies were single digits; he asked what system was used for their allocation.

Senator Norman and the Acting Registrar said that originally it was to be in the 300 range as a research-focused policy but it was adjusted to a single digit as it was more related to the organization of the University.

## Report from the President

The president introduced Dr Gail Murphy, Vice-President Research and Innovation.

### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FOR 2022-2023

Dr Murphy said that her portfolio supported the work of UBC faculty, students, and staff, and to provide an environment where they could excel. She highlighted a number of examples of recent UBC research: a form of oral insulin, reviews of fire management practices in BC, social and economic success and its relationship to cross-racial friendships, water purity, and literature to engage children on climate change. She noted that UBC had \$747 million in research funding with 9675 research projects and 309 patents.

Dr Murphy noted how UBC worked to enable research collaboration, including research excellence clusters and institutes, collaborative research mobility awards, public humanities hubs, and the Canada immune-engineering and biomanufacturing hub.

Dr Murphy set out for senate the ways in which UBC was approaching the strategic plan in research areas. She noted that one strategic was to strength shared research infrastructure and resources. In the past academic year, they had developed a new model with faculties to support new shared platforms. The Vice-president said that UBC was working for foster student research, including “Plug Yourself into UBC Research” and the Program for Undergraduate Research Experience (PURE) project report on how its pilot went. Dr Murphy noted that UBC was working to enable knowledge exchange, including the research to impact series, the KxM scholars project, and the partnering in research conference. UBC was also working to enhance UBC’s research culture with activities such as the UBC Dimensions Action Plan for EDI, the Research Data Management, the UBC Open Access Fund for Humanities and Social Sciences, and research security initiatives. With respect to engagement with indigenous partners, Dr Murphy noted the IRSI consultations, RavenSpace, and the CUES projects.

Looking forward to next year, her office was working to further Shaping UBC’s Next Century (UBC’s strategic plan) and UBC’s Indigenous Strategic Plan.

Senator Rawn asked if there was a plan to share indigenous research metrics with units, as they were also trying to broaden their understanding and recognition of indigenous research.

Dr Murphy said that the relevant report was public and could be shared with units.

Senator Britton drew Senate’s attention to strategy eight in the report regarding student funding. He noted that funding was a challenge and asked how we were working with government to ensure students had the funding available.

Dr Murphy said that this was our first priority with government. We spoke with a unified voice with Universities Canada and the U15 to the federal government. We have had some progress with the provincial government but the message had to be continued to enhance grants and student funding.

The President noted the significance of this issue.

Senator Singh said that he was concerned around access to undergraduate research experience, which was severely limited during the COVID-19 pandemic. He noted that we did not have the capacity to accommodate interests. Dr Singh said that the PURE program as a pilot helped but more was needed to prepare undergraduate students to be successful graduate students.

Dr Murphy said that her office was working with the Alma Mater Society on their ideas as well as with the Provost and the Vice-President, Students, offices on student funding and access.

Senator Kanji asked why UBC's research rankings were decreasing.

Dr Murphy said that ranking methodology changes frequently and we had a good understanding of why we moved up and down and this tended to be because of changes in the ranking system rather than in UBC's activities.

The President said that some jurisdictions were increasing research support versus Canada.

The Provost said that one long-term pressure on rankings was the movement of universities, especially in Asia, up in rankings with the support of a lot of government funding.

Senator Pelech said that there was a frustration with the federal government with regarding to funding. He noted that the CIHR funding over the past three years (and projected over the next two) was a reduction of around 18% in real dollars without even considering inflation. Overall, between 2020 and 2025 this was a reduction by  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

Dr Murphy said that we were working with government and looking for new avenues for funding from government and beyond.

Senator Ho noted that UBC licensed a lot of technology and patents, he asked what monetary benefits that provided UBC.

Dr Murphy said that there were policies and agreements that governed how that money was shared between inventors, faculties, and the central university.

## **Report from the Provost**

### **2022/2023 ANNUAL REPORT ON EXTERNAL REVIEWS**

The Provost, Dr Gage Averill, introduced the report. He noted that these reports were a quality assurance mechanism, with the faculties reviewing their units, and his office reviewing the faculties. He thanked Moura Quayle, Vice-Provost Academic Affairs, the faculties, and to everyone who participated in them. Presented to senate were excerpts of reviews and progress reports. Dr Averill said that overall reviewers were noting increases in quality across the institution.

Senator Hassib noted that in the Faculty of Science review, graduate student support was referenced as a challenge with only 4-years of funding guaranteed for doctoral students but most students

needing five or six years to complete their programs. He also commented in the increased need for support from the Ombudsperson for students.

Dr Averill said that the 4-year packages were just one funding source available to students and these were often combined with departmental and external funding.

Senator Porter noted that UBC was doing many things to support students and faculty in being better graduate supervisors, and had a number of processes in place to deal with problematic issues reported by students and the ombudsperson. With respect to PhD funding, she said that the federal standing committee on science and research had recently recommended increasing both the amount and funding of federal graduate support by 50%.

Senator Pratap-Singh asked if there was any movement on increasing funding for post-doctoral fellows, noting that the amount had not changed in many years.

Dr Porter said that they were just finishing a report on this topic. UBC's stipends were similar to the rest of Canada but were too low given our costs of living. We were exploring how to ameliorate that.

Senator Ho noted the struggles faced with the Department of Theatre and Film which were noted as continuing in the most recent review.

The Provost noted that part of the issue was that the department was spread across seven buildings some of which were inadequate for its needs, although it did have access to significant physical resources as well such as the Chan Centre and Freddie Wood Theatre. Enrolment in humanities programs had been decreasing across North America since the 1970s and BFA spaces in particular were limited and costly.

The Dean of Arts, Clare Crowston, echoed the Provost's comments on the physical space concerns. She noted that Arts was exploring new spaces for the department. She noted that the department had come together to address the concerns noted in the external review and the program was doing well with a bright future.

Senator Kanji noted that UBC's PHD minimum funding at \$22 000 a year was below our peers.

Dr Porter said an increase was planned to be considered tomorrow. We had planned to increase this gradually each year but without extra funding increasing the minimum will mean fewer students. She noted that very few students were near that minimum and the average was \$38 000.

Senator Menzies noted the high attrition rates from the Bachelor of Applied Science program and suggested that he had heard from colleagues in the faculty students were more successful when they weren't directly-admitted to the program and had to do a year in science first.

The Dean of Applied Science, James Olson, said that he shared concerns around student success. The fundamental issue with the program was that it was between 148 and 172 credits and was mandated to do that within four years. Prior to 1986 it was a five-year program with the same credits. Every Canadian engineering program was asked to remove a year. At the same time, our regulator in accreditation the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists, demands at least 148 credits still. As a result, students have a

tremendous amount of stress with at least six courses a term. He noted that he had led the Canadian engineering deans to advocate for a change in accreditation. He opined that it was this challenger rather than the first year in Science. The dean noted that 80% of students completed first year without issues and a further 10% did so with additional work.

### **Other Business**

Senator Averill noted that this would be the last Senate meeting for Deans Porter and Aronson and thanked them for their work.

### **IN CAMERA – Tributes Committee**

#### **CANDIDATES FOR HONORARY DEGREES**

### **Adjournment**

Seeing no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.



### **NEW AWARDS – ENDOWED**

#### **C. Fipke Award in Field Studies**

Awards totalling \$2,600 have been made available through an endowment established by the Charles E. Fipke Foundation for undergraduate students in the Department of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences who are participating in a field geology course at the UBC-Teck Geological Field Station. The recipients will be chosen based on their academic performance and passion for geological field work during field school. Charles “Chuck” E. Fipke, CM (B.Sc. (Hons.) 1973) is a geologist and prospector from Edmonton, AB, whose passion for exploration led him to discovering diamond deposits near Lac de Gras in Canada’s Northwest Territories. Beyond his achievements in the field of geology, Chuck is also recognized for his philanthropic contributions and his support of several initiatives at UBC, including the Charles E. Fipke Integrated Neuroimaging Suite and the Charles Fipke Centre for Innovative Research at the UBC Okanagan campus. The awards are made on the recommendation of the Department of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences. (First award available for the 2024/2025 winter session).

#### **MacLaurin Team Spirit Award**

Awards totalling \$2,500 have been made available through an endowment established by the QuadReal Property Group, in honour of Susan MacLaurin, for second-year Bachelor of Commerce students who, in their previous year of study, have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to inclusivity, collaboration and team spirit. Susan joined QuadReal in 2016 as one of the company’s founding leaders. As Chief Communications Officer, Susan has made a significant and lasting contribution to QuadReal’s culture of collaboration, teamwork and inclusivity. She has been a role model and source of inspiration for QuadReal employees globally. The awards are made on the recommendation of the UBC Sauder School of Business. (First award available for the 2024/2025 winter session).

### **NEW AWARDS – ANNUAL**

#### **Arrow Group Award in Sustainable Business**

Awards totalling \$2,000 have been made available annually through a gift from Arrow Transportation Inc. for second- or third-year Bachelor of Commerce students who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement, an interest in sustainable business practices, and leadership in extra-curricular community projects, volunteering, or sports. Currently expanding their presence throughout North America, Arrow Transportation is a group of companies with over 100 years in business that specializes in distribution and materials-handling and focuses on delivering service-focused solutions for customers. Arrow has 56 divisions and almost 1,500 employees, and was recognized as one of BC’s Top Employers in 2023 for the fifth year in a row. The awards are made on the recommendation of the UBC Sauder School of Business. (First award available for the 2023/2024 winter session).

#### **Caritas Bursary**

Bursaries totalling \$16,000 have been made available annually through a gift from Gerald Ma (B.Com. 1990) for students in the Bachelor of Commerce program. Gerald, a third-generation Chinese Canadian and proud UBC Sauder School of Business alum, is pleased to support UBC students through their education. He has over 30 years of experience in finance, investment, portfolio management, real estate development, marketing, and overseeing IT-related enterprises

and services. In his personal life, Gerald is interested in sports and the natural world. The bursaries are adjudicated by Enrolment Services. (First award available for the 2024/2025 winter session).

### **NAIOP Award in Commercial Real Estate**

Awards totalling \$4,000 have been made available annually through a gift from the NAIOP's Vancouver Chapter for Bachelor of Commerce students in the Real Estate option who demonstrate an interest in commercial real estate and an involvement in their community through volunteering. Founded in 1967, NAIOP, North America's Commercial Real Estate Development Association, provides advocacy, education and networking opportunities for its members. The awards are made on the recommendation of the UBC Sauder School of Business. (First award available for the 2023/2024 winter session).

### **Scotiabank Award in Family Practice for Indigenous Students**

Awards totalling \$5,000 have been made available annually through a gift from Scotiabank for fourth-year M.D. students who are First Nations, Inuit or Métis of Canada and demonstrate a sustained interest in the field of family medicine. As part of their commitment to promoting diversity and inclusivity within the medical profession, Scotiabank has established this award to provide support and encouragement to talented Indigenous M.D. students aspiring to pursue a career in family medicine. The awards are made on the recommendation of the Department of Family Practice. (First award available for the 2023/2024 winter session).

### **Scotiabank Award for Community Advocacy in Family Practice**

A \$2,500 award has been made available annually through a gift from Scotiabank for a third- or fourth-year M.D. student who demonstrates impactful outreach with individuals or communities who have experienced inadequate access or treatment within the primary healthcare system. Preference will be given to students who are from communities that have been historically, persistently and systemically marginalized. This award seeks to recognize and empower trailblazers who embody the vibrant diversity of future generations of primary care physicians, encouraging them to shape a more inclusive and equitable healthcare landscape. The award is made on the recommendation of the Department of Family Practice. (First award available for the 2023/2024 winter session).

### **Wheaton Precious Metals Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Award in Mining**

A \$2,500 award has been made available annually through a gift from Wheaton Precious Metals for an undergraduate student in the Faculty of Science who demonstrates financial need and is from a community that has been historically, persistently and systemically marginalized. Preference will be given to a student taking courses related to mining and to a student who identifies as Black. Wheaton Precious Metals is a precious metals streaming company based in Vancouver, BC. Committed to community, Wheaton dedicates a portion of net income to charitable organizations and initiatives through its Community Investment Program, with the goal of improving and strengthening communities both locally and internationally. The award is made on the recommendation of the Faculty of Science. (First award available for the 2023/2024 winter session).

**Endowed Awards**

**6326 – C. D. Howe Graduate Fellowship in Public Policy**

**Rationale for Proposed Changes**

Amendments have been made to the award description to allow for multiple fellowships to be given out in one year. According to GPS, recipients often complete their program early or win other higher funding which reduces the amount of the award that can be given out. The ability to assign multiple fellowships in one year would help reduce the carry-forward in the endowment.

**Current Award Description**

A \$15,800 fellowship has been endowed by The C.D. Howe Memorial Foundation and The University of British Columbia. The award is offered to a graduate student in public policy and is made on the recommendation of the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

### **Proposed Award Description**

A fellowship Fellowships totalling \$23,700 has have been endowed by The C.D. Howe Memorial Foundation and The University of British Columbia. The awards is are offered to a graduate students in public policy and is are made on the recommendation of the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

### **2308 - Malcolm Knapp Spring Camp Prize**

#### **Rationale for Proposed Changes**

The donor has requested that the award benefit more students. Revisions have been made to allow for more than one award to be disbursed, changing from one award to multiples. As well, changes have been made to bring the award description in line with our current writing practices.

#### **Current Award Description**

A \$1,550 prize, endowed by friends and relatives in memory of Prof. F. Malcolm Knapp, who was instrumental in the establishment of the Malcolm Knapp Research Forest, is awarded to the outstanding student at Spring Camp. It is awarded on the recommendation of the Faculty of Forestry based on leadership, participation and academic excellence.

#### **Proposed Award Description**

A Prizes totalling \$5,000 \$1,550 prize, endowed have been made available through an endowment established by friends and relatives in memory of Professor F. Malcolm Knapp (1897–1989) who was instrumental in the establishment of the Malcolm Knapp Research Forest, is awarded to the for outstanding students at Spring Camp, based on leadership, participation and/or academic excellence. Professor Knapp was instrumental in the establishment of the Malcom Knapp Research Forest. It is The awardsed on are made on the recommendation of the Faculty of Forestry, based on leadership, participation and academic excellence.



## **Appendix B: Curriculum Report**

### **FACULTY OF ARTS**

#### *New courses*

**ANTH 375 (3)** Refugees, Resistance, and Activism;  
**ANTH 475 (3)** Racial and Sexual Politics of (Im)mobility;  
**CENS 203 (3)** Arctic Art and Activism;  
**CHIN 200 (1-3)** Topics in Chinese Language Basic Skills;  
**CHIN 300 (1-3)** Topics in Chinese Language Intermediate Skills;  
**CHIN400 (1-3)** Topics in Chinese Language Advanced Skills;  
**CHIN 440 (3-9)** Special Topics in Advanced Chinese Language;  
**CHIN 460 (3-9)** Special Topics in Critical Chinese Studies;  
**GEOG 355 (3)** Geographies of Urban Indigeneity;  
**MUSC 448 (3)** Historical Performance  
**RGST 160 (3)** Introduction to Religions: Judaism, Christianity, Islam

### **FACULTY OF GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES**

#### **Science**

##### *New courses*

**CHEM 509 (3)** Astrochemistry;  
**EOSC 551 (3)** Streamflow Generation Mechanisms

### **FACULTY OF LAND AND FOOD SYSTEMS**

#### *New course*

**APBI 475 (3)** Indigenous Ecologies