

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY SENATE

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SENATE OF SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY HELD ON MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 21, 1992 KLAUS RIECKHOFF HALL, 4:30 P.M.

OPEN SESSION

Present: Munro, J., Chair

Alderson, E.
Blackman, R.
Blaney, J.
Boland, L.
Ciria, A.
Clayman, B.
Cohen, M.
Dawson, J.
Dill, L.
Etherington, L.
Fickling, D.
Giffen, K.
Gray, P.
Green, C.
Haje, P.
Heinrich, K.
Hoeflich, K.
Luk, W.S.
Marteniuk, R.
Mauser, G.
McKeown, B.
Menzies, R.
Osborne, J.
Palmer, E.
Palmer, L.
Percival, P.
Rieckhoff, K.
Shapiro, S.
Stewart, M.L.
Thomson, K.
Winne, P.

Absent: Barrow, R.
Bawa, M.
Beattie, S.
Bowman, M.
Carlson, R.
Cercione, N.
D'Auria, J.
Dobb, T.
Driver, J.
Evenden, L.
Flores, J.
Hoegg, J.L.
Hoffer, A.
Jones, C.
Leiss, W.
Lim, K.
Morrison, T.
Nielsen, V.
Pinfield, L.
Plommer, T.
Rae, B.
Saywell, W.
Shannon, D.
Smith, S.
Wade, S.
Walker, R.
Warsh, M.
Wotherspoon, A.

In attendance:

V. Loewen
R. Ward

Heath, W.R., Secretary
Grant, B., Recording Secretary

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Agenda was approved as distributed.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION OF JULY 6, 1992

Referring to the bottom paragraph on Page 5, P. Gray objected to statements contained in the Minutes about funding for the on-campus offering of the First Nations Minor program and suggested substantial amendments to the paragraph. Brief discussion followed.

Moved by L. Palmer, seconded by P. Gray

"that the approval of the Minutes be tabled until the next meeting of Senate"

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION TO TABLE CARRIED

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

I) Paper S.92-53 - Follow-up information from Annual Report of the Senate Committee on Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries (For Information)

V. Loewen, Director of Financial Aid and Awards was in attendance to respond to questions.

It was noted that it would have been interesting to receive information as to the value of particular scholarships and an indication as to whether or not distinctions are made between the awards by gender. Senate was advised that this information was available if the committee so wished. It was pointed out, however, that the value of Open scholarship awards are determined by the number of courses taken and the corresponding amount of tuition that a student incurs so the awards have no fixed amounts.

Reference was made to the statistics which indicated that, on one hand, women were receiving a larger proportion of scholarships than men, while on the other hand, the opposite ratio appeared to apply to the Honor Roll. If both awards are determined by academic merit, clarification was requested with respect to this apparent contradiction in data. Senate was advised that the criteria between the two are quite different and a brief explanation with respect to the specific differences was provided.

ii) Referring to the policy on International Activities approved by Senate at its last meeting, the Chair explained that within the policy there are several references to contracts, contributions agreements, and letters of understanding signed by the President, but the Policy does not specifically identify those agreements which may be signed by the President but which also require Senate/Board approval. Suggestion was made that the Policy be expanded to identify the latter type of contracts/agreements/letters in order to clarify that the Policy is meant to apply to international activities that are of University level importance rather than those merely undertaken by particular faculty, staff, or

students. There were no objections to this suggestion, and the Chair indicated his intent to have this amendment written into the Policy.

iii) Inquiry was made with regard to the status of the notice of motion presented by C. Green at the last meeting of Senate. Senate was advised that SCAR had judged the motion to be unnecessary since Senate had already delegated authority in the terms of reference of the new Senate Committee on International Activities to deal with this exact issue. Concern was expressed that the Committee had not yet been officially established and in the absence of an October meeting of Senate could not be formed until the next meeting of Senate which would take place in November. However, it was pointed out that election of members to this Committee will take place by mail so that the Committee will be formed as it would normally have been in October.

iv) New Senators, J. Osborne, Associate Vice-President, Academic, E. Alderson, Dean of Arts, and J. Dawson, Faculty of Education were welcomed to Senate by the Chair.

v) Senate was reminded of the Convocation ceremony scheduled to take place on Friday, October 2nd and Senators were urged to participate.

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

i) Paper S.92-54 - Annual Financial Statement (For Information)

R. Ward, Vice-President, Finance was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

Reference was made to the allocation for snow removal within the budget of Facilities Management and inquiry was made as to what had happened to this particular amount of money since there was no requirement for snow removal last year. Senate was advised that normally any unused funds at the end of a fiscal year are applied to activities which are overspent in other areas within the total operation of the University. Specific information was unavailable at this time but would be provided at a subsequent meeting.

Further discussion took place with respect to the information on debt management (page 18), non-credit activities (page 9), and the instruction and research categories (page 9), as well as the role of student fees, including the Athletic/Recreation fee, within the total operating budget. Reference was also made to page 4, Table 2, and further information was requested with regard to the sources of funding for sponsored research. Since this information was not immediately available, Senate was advised that it would be provided at a subsequent meeting.

5. Other Business

i) Referring to the directive from Senate requesting SCUS to review the issue of final exam scheduling, inquiry was made as to the status of this matter, and objection was raised to the fact that some senators who had requested invitation to attend SCUS meetings with regard to this issue, had not been

notified of any meeting dates. Senate was advised that SCUS was still in the process of trying to obtain feedback from the University community. Very few submissions had been received in response to the initial advertisements in the Peak and SCUS had only met once to determine other ways of gathering more information prior to starting committee discussion on this issue. As a result, a questionnaire has been prepared and recently distributed to Chairs/Directors, Departmental Assistants, and Chairs of Faculty Undergraduate Curriculum Committees with response requested by October 2nd.

ii) Concern was expressed that the graduation of students was being delayed because of insufficient upper level course offerings, and in some cases, students were finding it necessary to take courses outside their programs of study thus adding to the cost of their education just to satisfy requirements for student loans. Senate was reminded that more courses required more money and without an increase in tuition fees or Government funding, the University was unable to offer as many courses as students might like.

Opinion was expressed that reducing student numbers would help to alleviate this problem, and reference was made to the past several years wherein Senate has approved increases in student intake on the basis that resources were available from the Government's Access program to adequately fund the increased quotas. Information was requested with respect to whether or not over the past two years specifically the ratio of students being able to get the courses they want had improved or deteriorated under the Access program. Inquiry was also made as to whether or not information with regard to individual student requests for specific courses was available.

Senate was informed that information, including student demand for courses at particular levels, as well as information with respect to the Fall registration would be provided to Senate at the next meeting.

iii) Senate was informed about reductions which had taken place this Fall in the scholarship programs, particularly Entrance Scholarships. It was explained that \$160,000 had been cut from the Open Scholarship Program, and \$311,000 had been cut from the Entrance Scholarship Program. Prior to these budget allocations being made, the Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries had recommended that any necessary budget reductions be equalized between these two scholarship programs. However, it appears that action to the contrary has been taken without reference to SPCSAB's decision. Although the issue has been brought to that attention of the Chair of SPCSAB who has agreed to bring the matter to the Committee at an early date, it was felt that Senate should also be alerted to this very serious situation.

iv) Concern was expressed about the overcrowding of classrooms and particular reference was made to the large lecture halls which have students standing in the aisles and sitting on the floor. Senate was informed that departments control the number of students admitted to particular courses and that the registration system itself will not allow a department to add beyond the number of spaces available for a particular room. In cases where rooms are currently overcrowded, it was suggested that many students who are not officially registered for the course are attending in the hope that a space will open up. Usually by the end of the third week, the drop period has ended and that causes

the enrolment/attendance to drop significantly. Specific reference was made to BiSc 302 which is said to have an enrolment of 125 in a lab space which can only support 75 students. Senate was advised that this would be brought to the attention of the Departmental Chair in the Department of Biological Sciences.

v) Objection was raised to the meeting time of 4:30 p.m. and reference was made to the fact that Senate had previously expressed a preference for evening meeting times. It was pointed out that past tradition has been to have an early meeting time when the main business on the agenda was graduands. SCAR had therefore made this change in time in the belief that this was Senate's wish. Brief discussion took place with respect to the wish of Senate in this regard, and the Chair indicated that SCAR will take the objections to the earlier meeting time into consideration when the question next arises.

vi) E. Palmer advised Senate of her intent to bring forward a motion that future semester schedules should elect Friday for holiday observance instead of Monday whenever a nominal holiday date falls on a Saturday or Sunday, except in the case that the Friday is also the last day of lectures for that semester, in which case the succeeding Monday should be elected.

Brief discussion followed in which an inquiry was made as to why, since there was no Monday holiday involved, the Spring 1993 semester was starting on a Tuesday instead of a Monday. Senate was advised that past experience had indicated that following the Christmas holiday closure an extra day was needed to get the University up and running before the start of classes.

viii) P. Haje wished to alert Senate that complaint has been made to the Human Rights Council for violation of human rights with respect to international students. He alleged having S. Shapiro chair the Senate Committee on International Students is a conflict of interest.

8. Information

The date of the next regularly scheduled meeting of Senate is Monday, November 2, 1992.

The Assembly moved directly into Closed Session at 5:45 p.m.

W.R. Heath
Secretary of Senate