

Draft until approved by Senate

Minutes of a meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on Monday,
February 3, 1997 at 7:00 pm in Room 3210 WMC

Open Session

Present: Stubbs, John, Chair

Alderson, Evan
Aujla, Angela
Berggren, J. Len
Boland, Larry
Chan, Albert
Clayman, Bruce
Cleveland, William
Etherington, Lois
Gagan, David
Hewitt, Kevin
Lewis, Brian
Luk, Wo-Shun
Mathewes, Rolf
Mauser, Gary
Naef, Barbara
Percival, Paul
Peterson, Louis
Pierce, John
Reed, Clyde
Ross, Douglas
Shapiro, Stanley
Whitbread, Katherine
Winne, Phil
Wortis, Michael

Absent:

Akins, Katherine
Arnason, Kristjan
Barrow, Robin
Beattie, Suzan
Blaney, Jack
Blazenko, George
Cellik, Peter
Crawford, Charles
Dahl, Veronica
D'Auria, John
Dobb, Ted
Dunsterville, Valerie
Emmott, Alan
Giffen, Kenneth
Howlett, Michael
Jones, Colin
Kanevsky, Lannie
Kozminuk, Angela
Marteniuk, Ron
McInnes, Dina
Nip, Harry
Osborne, Judith
Rawicz, Andrew
Sanghera, Balwant
Segal, Joseph
Warsh, Michael
Wickstrom, Norman

In attendance:

Blackman, Roger
Wassermann, Selma

Heath, W. Ron, Dean of Student Services and Registrar
Watt, Alison, Director, Secretariat Services
Grant, Bobbie, Recording Secretary

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Agenda was approved as distributed.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION OF JANUARY 6, 1997

The Minutes were approved as distributed.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Referring to the current outbreak of measles on campus, the Chair reported that efforts were being made to keep the university and the off-campus community updated as much as possible. Faculty Senators were asked to remind students in their classes about the immunization clinic set up in the East Gym.

The Chair advised Senate that there has been a reorganization of Government at the bureaucratic level which means not only have universities got a new Minister, they also have lost the Deputy Minister and the Director of the Universities Branch.

Referring to reports that the freeze on capital funding is being eased, the Chair reported that the university has not received any direct information in this regard but it is believed that a relaxation of the capital freeze for the university sector will not occur for some considerable time. It is expected, however, that the minor capital and renovation budget will be restored with effect from the next fiscal year but it is not certain if restoration will be full or partial.

Senate's attention was drawn to a series of lectures being presented by the Association for Students of African Descent. The first of the lectures will be held at 7:00 pm on February 4th at Harbour Centre. Detailed information has been posted around the university.

5. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

a) Senate Nominating Committee

i) Paper S.97-16 - Elections

Senate was advised that no further nominations had been received. B. Peterson has therefore been elected by acclamation to the Senate Committee on Disciplinary Appeals and the Senate Appeals Board. All other positions remain vacant and will be carried forward.

The Chair reported that he and the Chair of the Nominating Committee had met with the student caucus of Senate prior to the meeting to address the question of how to strengthen student

membership on Senate and Senate committees, and those Student Senators present were thanked for their comments.

b) Senate Committee on Academic Planning/Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

i) Paper S.97-17 - Undergraduate Curriculum Revisions - School of Communications (For Information)

Senate received information that SCUS, acting under delegated authority, approved revisions (credit hours, course numbers, and prerequisites) to existing courses in the School of Communication.

ii) Paper S.97-18 - Undergraduate Curriculum Revisions - Faculty of Arts (For Information)

Senate received information that SCUS, acting under delegated authority, approved a series of language course numbers, revisions to existing courses in the Department of Philosophy, and a change in Calendar entry to include the Asia-Canada Program as a separate "department" under the Faculty of Arts breadth requirements listing.

iii) Paper S.97-19 - Undergraduate Curriculum Revisions - Faculty of Business Administration (For Information)

Senate received information that SCUS, acting under delegated authority, approved a change of prerequisite to an existing course (BUEC 232) in the Faculty of Business Administration.

iv) Paper S.97-20 - Undergraduate Curriculum Revisions - Faculty of Education

Moved by D. Gagan, seconded by P. Winne

"that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, as set forth in S.97-20, the proposed change of requirements for applicants to the Secondary PDP modules"

Selma Wassermann, Director, Professional Programs, Faculty of Education, and Roger Blackman, Chair, Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies were in attendance in order to respond to questions.

Senate was advised that the proposed change attempts to solve the problem of preparation for students who are currently eligible to be admitted without having completed a degree, and attempts to create equity among students being admitted into the program. Experience has shown that students entering the program without having completed their degree are weaker in the subject area they are teaching and degree completion is required to strengthen their preparation.

Concern was expressed about the requirement of having students complete their degree one full semester before commencing the PDP program. Cited as an example was a student needing only a few credits in the final summer semester before entry and it was suggested that it would be inappropriate, especially in a university operating on a trimester system which stressed flexibility, not to allow a student the flexibility to complete the requirements in the summer.

Amendment moved by P. Percival, seconded by R. Mathewes

"to strike the words *one full semester* from the first paragraph on the second page so that the Calendar wording would read as follows:

All students who plan to teach at the secondary level are required to have completed their degree requirements ~~one full semester~~ prior to commencing PDP. The exception to this is the B.Ed. candidates who cannot complete their degree until they have successfully completed PDP. These B.Ed. candidates must have completed the academic requirements of one teachable major or two teachable minors one full semester prior to commencing PDP."

S. Wassermann explained that given the human and fiscal resources available in the Faculty of Education, and because of the admission process and the large number of applications received, it was simply not possible to allow students the option of completing in the Summer. Senate was provided with a brief summary of how the application process worked and was reminded that the program is fully funded by the Ministry and must be full in order to meet their requirements. It was noted that students missing the Fall deadline had the option of commencing the program in the Spring semester.

Opinion was expressed that the number of students trying to complete their degree in the summer semester would probably be very small and, if the amendment passed, it would allow admission opportunity for such students who may be excellent candidates. Senate was advised that it would prove very difficult for the Faculty of Education to administer provisional admission in such circumstances and many good candidates who were eligible for admission would not be willing to wait until late summer to find out if they were going to be accepted for admission in the Fall. It was noted that the plans of some applicants probably change after they are accepted for admission. Those spaces would have to be filled from a waiting list. Allowing conditional admission for a few students was no more inconvenient. It was stressed that many good candidates on the waiting list are not prepared to wait and the more uncertainty built into the admission

process, the greater the risk of losing those good students who are already admissible. It was noted that the amendment, if approved, will create a larger pool of potential 'conditional admissions' since all candidates would have the opportunity to complete requirements in the Summer, not solely SFU students.

Question was called on the amendment,
and a vote taken.

AMENDMENT FAILED
(9 in favour, 15 opposed)

Amendment moved by A. Chan, seconded by P. Percival

"to add the words *unless permission is granted by the Faculty of Education* to end of the first paragraph on the second page so that the Calendar entry would read as follows:

All students who plan to teach at the secondary level are required to have completed their degree requirements one full semester prior to commencing PDP. The exception to this is the B.Ed. candidates who cannot complete their degree until they have successfully completed PDP. These B.Ed. candidates must have completed the academic requirements of one teachable minor or two teachable minors one full semester prior to commencing PDP, *unless permission is granted by the Faculty of Education.*"

Concern was expressed that the amendment creates the possibility for the Faculty to waive its own requirements without specifying any criteria for waiver and it also goes beyond the intent of the original motion to imply that degree completion is not necessary prior to entry into the PDP program.

Following brief discussion, the amendment was withdrawn.

Amendment moved by P. Percival, seconded by A. Chan

"to change the word 'all' to 'SFU', strike the words 'one full semester', and add the final sentence of the first paragraph on page 3 so that the Calendar entry would read as follows:

SFU

All students who plan to teach at the secondary level are required to have completed their degree requirements ~~one full semester~~ prior to commencing PDP. The exception to this is the B.Ed. candidates who cannot complete their degree until they have successfully completed PDP. These B.Ed. candidates must have completed the academic requirements of one teachable major or two teachable minors ~~one full semester~~ prior to commencing PDP. *Students from other institutions may apply prior to the completion of their degree, but such students are required to have completed the degree one full semester prior to commencing PDP."*

Opinion was expressed that the new amendment assures that all students must complete their requirements prior to commencing PDP yet it still provides the flexibility of the trimester system to SFU students by allowing them to finish their studies in the summer semester. Opinion was expressed that it might be inappropriate for the admission policy to discriminate in favour of SFU students. It was noted however that much more is known about SFU students so there is an unequal situation to begin with.

Question was called on the amendment and a vote taken.

AMENDMENT CARRIED
(13 in favour, 11 opposed)

Question was called on the main motion as amended, and a vote taken.

MAIN MOTION
(AS AMENDED) CARRIED

Senate received information that SCUS, acting under delegated authority, approved revisions to existing courses within the Faculty of Education.

v) Paper S.97-21 - Undergraduate Curriculum Revisions - Department of Mathematics and Statistics (For Information)

Senate received information that SCUS, acting under delegated authority, approved a change of description to an existing course (MATH 361) in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

vi) Paper S.97-22 - Grade 12 courses for University admission

Moved by D. Gagan, seconded by L. Boland

"that Senate approve, as set forth in S.97-22, the following changes:

- i) that the revised courses English 11 and 12 are acceptable for purposes of admission to Simon Fraser University
- ii) that the Principles of Mathematics 11 and 12 are acceptable for purposes of admission to Simon Fraser University"

Applicants may not count both Principles of Mathematics 12 and Mathematics 12 towards the admission GPA.

Senate was advised that the motion before Senate was in response to changes introduced by the Ministry with respect to Grade 11 and 12 English and Mathematics. The changes were reviewed by SCUS/SCAP and at the departmental level and the new courses Technical and Professional Communications 12 and Applications of Mathematics 11 and 12 were deemed not appropriate for admission to SFU and therefore do not form part of the motion before Senate.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

- c) Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules
- i) Timing of Senate Meetings

Because the majority of off-campus Senators were absent, there were no objections to a suggestion from the Chair that this item be deferred.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

7. INFORMATION

The next regularly scheduled meeting of Senate will take place on Monday, March 3, 1997.

The Assembly moved directly into Closed Session at 8:15 pm.

Alison Watt
Director, Secretariat Services