

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY SENATE

Minutes of a meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on Monday,
November 3, 1997 at 5:30 pm in Room 3210 WMC

Open Session

Present: Blaney, Jack, President *pro tem* and Chair

Bawa, Parveen
Berggren, J. Len
Boland, Larry
Bowman, Marilyn
Chan, Albert
Cleveland, William
Coleman, Peter
D'Auria, John
Dobb, Ted
Dunsterville, Valerie
Emmott, Alan
Etherington, Lois
Gagan, David
Gillies, Mary Ann
Jones, Colin
Jones, John
Kanevsky, Lannie
Kirczenow, George
Mathewes, Rolf
Mauser, Gary
McInnes, Dina
Morris, Joy
Naef, Barbara
Ogloff, James
Osborne, Judith
Percival, Paul
Peterson, Louis
Pierce, John
Russell, Robert
Sanghera, Balwant
Waterhouse, John
Winne, Phil
Wortis, Michael
Yerbury, Colin

Absent: Baert, Jessica
Barrow, Robin
Beattie, Suzan
Blazenko, George
Clayman, Bruce
Giffen, Ken
Hassan, Nany
Howlett, Michael
Lewis, Brian
Marteniuk, Ron
Nip, Harry
Overington, Jennifer
Parmar, Neelam
Reed, Clyde
Segal, Joseph
Tam, Lawrence
Warsh, Michael
Whitbread, Katherine
Wickstrom, Norman
Wong, Tim
Yagi, Ian

In attendance:
Brockman, Joan

Watt, Alison, Director, Secretariat Services
Grant, Bobbie, Recording Secretary

1. Approval of the Agenda

The Chair advised that one of the resource persons in attendance with respect to agenda item 5-b-i had another commitment at 6:00 pm and there was no objection to a request from the Chair to move Senate paper S.97-79 as the next item on the agenda. The Agenda was approved as amended.

5-b) University Board on Student Discipline/Senate Committee on Disciplinary Appeals

i) Paper S.97-79 - Annual Report (For Information)

Joan Brockman, Co-ordinator of the University Board on Student Discipline was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

Senate received the annual report of the UBSD and SCODA for information.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of October 6, 1997

The Minutes were approved as distributed.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

i) Vector changes - Department of Chemistry

Senate was advised that it had been pointed out to SCAR that these changes were inappropriately before Senate since vectors are the responsibility of Departments and Faculties. Discussion at SCAR also revealed that the key issue relevant to concerns about vector changes related to academic quality, specifically whether tutorials changed to open laboratories and individual marking changed to computer-aided marking affected academic quality. As a result, SCAR decided that this issue should be referred to the Senate Committee on University Teaching and Learning rather than returning to Senate at this point.

ii) Paper S.97-77 - Room Arrangements (For Information)

If the only reason against a change of room for Senate meetings was the expense of purchasing recording equipment for approximately \$10,000, opinion was expressed that the investment would be worth it to have a more suitable meeting room. However, the information before Senate seemed to imply that there was no other adequate room and clarification was requested. Senate was advised that Strand Hall would not seat Senate membership comfortably but Halpern Centre might be suitable and there was also a room large enough to hold Senate in the Maggie Benston Centre. Regardless of where Senate might move to, recording equipment would have to be purchased since Room 3210 WMC was the only room with the required infrastructure for recording.

There was a general feeling that further investigation should be made to see what other rooms might be available, and Senate was informed that SCAR would reconsider the matter and report back at the January or February meeting of Senate.

iii) University Policies

Senate was advised that SCAR had discussed the question which had arisen concerning Senate's role in reviewing University policies. The issue was also discussed informally at a meeting of the Vice-Presidents and Deans. The issue will be referred back to SCAR at its next meeting for further consideration and report back to Senate.

Request was made that SCAR also consider the establishment of regulations for the future with regard to what Senate should review when new policies are introduced.

4. Report of the Chair

The Chair reported that he was pleased to see the letter to the editor in the Vancouver Sun from R. Coe which essentially stressed that the University is functioning very well and that research and teaching activities are actively continuing.

Senate was advised that the revised harassment policy will not be considered at the December meeting as hoped but will come forward to the January meeting of Senate. The Chair explained that the Task Force had been working very hard but they are again looking at fundamental parts of the policy and simply require more time to consider thoroughly the many comments they have received.

In response to an inquiry about the status with respect to the eleven harassment cases where the Investigative Committees were constituted in violation of the policy, the Chair advised that the complainants and respondents in those cases have until November 22nd to make inquiries etc. So far ten out of approximately 15-20 persons have done so. Senate was advised that an external person will be appointed to review requests for review and questions of inquiry, and to provide advice with respect to handling each individual case. This person will not act as a mediator but will only help the university manage the process as expeditiously as possible.

The Chair, on behalf of Senate, welcomed newly elected Faculty Senator, Robert Russell from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics to Senate.

5. Reports of Committees

a) Senate Nominating Committee

i) Paper S.97-72 - Elections

Senate was advised that no nominations were received for the one position noted on Senate paper S.97-72 and the vacancy will be carried forward.

c) Senate Library Committee/Library Penalties Appeal Committeei) Paper S.97-80 - Annual Report (For Information)

Ted Dobb, University Librarian and Senator and Secretary to the Senate Library Committee, and Albert Chan, Senator and Chair of the Library Penalties Appeal Committee were in attendance in order to respond to questions.

In response to an inquiry as to why the fines were reduced when appeals were denied, A. Chan explained that when patrons are late returning materials, the Library can charge processing fees in addition to late fees. When the committee considers appeals, the decision can be made to deny the appeal but one or other of these fees can be waived and therefore the fine will be lowered in those situations.

Following this brief discussion, the Annual Report of the SLC/LPAC was received by Senate.

6. Other Business

It was noted that a considerable amount of money is being spent on legal fees and concern was expressed that legal costs have substantially increased over the past five years. Opinion was expressed that the University appears to be hiring lawyers when it may not be totally necessary to do so and instead of spending money to appeal court decisions etc the money could be much better spent on things such as funding for scholarships and teaching positions.

The Chair pointed out that there are a variety of administrative items that require legal services including faculty research contracts, and over the past year a large amount of legal fees have been spent on the Burnaby land issue. The Chair stressed that everyone responsible for administering the University would like to see legal costs reduced and efforts will be made to minimize legal costs as much as possible.

The Chair also pointed out that this issue is not directly a matter of Senate concern and perhaps would be more appropriately raised with the Senate Committee on University Budget.

7. Information

The next regularly scheduled meeting of Senate will take place on Monday, December 1, 1997.

The Open Session adjourned at 5:55 pm and the Assembly moved directly into Closed Session.

Alison Watt
Director, Secretariat Services