

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY SENATE

Minutes of a meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, October 4, 1999 at 7:00 pm in Room 3210 West Mall Complex
Open Session

Present: Blaney, Jack, President and Chair
Al-Natour, Sameh
Atkins, Stella
Benezra, Michael
Boland, Larry
Budra, Paul
Cameron, Rob (representing R. Marteniuk)
Chan, Albert
Chuah, Kuan
Clayman, Bruce
Copeland, Lynn
D'Auria, John
Davidson, Willie
Delgrande, James
Emerson, Joseph
Finley, David
Fletcher, James
Harris, Richard
Heaney, John
Hyslop-Margison, Emery
Kanevsky, Lannie
Mathewes, Rolf
Mauser, Gary
McArthur, James
McBride, Stephan
McFetridge, Paul
McInnes, Dina
Munro, Jock
Naef, Barbara
Niwinska, Tina
Ogloff, James
Osborne, Judith
Paterson, David
Peters, Joseph
Peterson, Louis
Reader, Jason
Russell, Robert
Smith, Michael
Steinbach, Christopher
To, Shek Yan
Waterhouse, John
Wessel, Silvia
Wortis, Michael
Yerbury, Colin
Zazkis, Rina

Absent: Barrow, Robin
Crossley, David
Driver, Jon
Dunsterville, Valerie
Gillies, Mary Ann
Jones, John
Kirczenow, George
Pierce, John
Sanghera, Balwant
Warsh, Michael
Wong, Milton

In attendance: Beckenbach, Andy
Friskin, Barbara
Mahussier, Nicole
Roberts, Mike

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

The Chair was pleased to introduce and, on behalf of Senate, extend a welcome to Ms. Susan Bridgeford, Faculty Officer in Arts and Social Sciences, University of Strathclyde, Scotland who was visiting Simon Fraser University to undertake a study of student access to higher education.

1. Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of September 13, 1999

Senate was advised of the following revision to the second sentence of item 4.ii) Enrolment on page 2: The sentence should read 'final' figures rather than 'actual' figures, and there has been a 'major' decrease in the number of course registrations. The Minutes were approved as amended.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

Senate was advised that the procedural change regarding Vice-Presidential searches was approved by the Board of Governors at its meeting in September.

4. Report of the Chair

i) President's Task Force on Faculty Renewal and Retention

The Chair reported that his written response to the report from the Task Force was available on the President's Web page and has been distributed for comment. This item will be discussed at the November meeting of Senate.

ii) The University Presidents Council

The Chair reported that TUPC (an organization comprised of the University Presidents in BC) has recently appointed the current Deputy Minister of Health, Don Avison, as President in order to provide leadership and stronger liaison at the Ministry level. Each year at approximately this time the universities prepare a joint submission to the Ministry. This year's submission essentially deals with access and revenue per student.

iii) Convocation

The Chair was very pleased to report that faculty participation had increased significantly and he felt that the ceremonies had gone very well.

iv) Convenience Store

The Chair reported that a number of comments had been received, particularly from students living on campus, about the lack of a convenience store on campus since the closing of the Shell Station. A small subsidy has therefore been provided to allow the convenience store in the main level of the AQ to have extended hours Monday to Friday and remain open on Saturday and Sunday.

v) Diamond University Centre

The Chair advised that the opening of the DUC for lunch had been delayed to October 12th.

5. Reports of Committees

i) Senate Committee on Academic Planning

a) Paper S.99-56 – Faculty of Science – Establishment of the Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry

Moved by J. Munro, seconded by W. Davidson

“that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, as set forth in S.99-56, the establishment of the Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, effective April 1, 2000”

A. Beckenbach, Director of the Biochemistry Program and Director of the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

Clarification was requested about the process with respect to contract renewal and tenure for faculty members holding primary and secondary appointments, and inquiry was made as to whether there was a formal policy to deal with such procedures. Senate was advised that contract letters clearly specified which was the primary/home department of a faculty member and that decisions about renewal/tenure were made by the home department with input from the secondary department, all of which formed part of the written record of the case. [Post meeting notation: A.11.03 Joint Appointments is the appropriate existing policy.] Brief discussion followed with respect to the term affiliate member which was synonymous with the term Adjunct Professor.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Paper S.99-58 – Faculty of Science – Establishment of the Endowed Forest Renewal of BC Chair in Terrain Analysis and Forest Geoscience

Moved by J. Munro, seconded by W. Davidson

“that Senate approve, and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, as set forth in S.99-57, the establishment of the Endowed Forest Renewal BC Chair in Terrain Analysis and Forest Geoscience”

M. Roberts who was Chair of the Department of Earth Sciences at the time the Endowed Chair was arranged was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

Concern was expressed about the decline of FRBC over the past few years and its possible demise and inquiry was made as to how that would impact this program. Senate was advised that the FRBC had already transferred 3.4 million dollars to the University for the endowment and assuming that the Chair fulfilled the mandate as set out in the documentation the funds would be retained.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

- ii) Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules
- a) Paper S.99-58 – Report of the Ad Hoc Senate Committee to Review the Student Conduct Policies

Moved by J. Peters, seconded by J. Reader

“that Senate approve the revised student conduct policies T10.01, T10.02 and T10.03 and recommend that these revised policies take effect on 1 January 2000”

J. Peters, Senator and Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee, as well as the other members of the Committee, R. Harris (also a Senator), B. Frisken, Physics Department and N. Mahussier, graduate student representative were in attendance in order to respond to questions.

Concern was expressed about the lack of undergraduate student representation on the Committee and inquiry was made as to why the undergraduate student had not been replaced. It was noted that request had been made to the Student Society but a replacement was not forthcoming.

Concerns/comments/suggestions were expressed about

- Section 1.0 Statement of Principle in T10.01. Suggestion was made that honesty and freedom from harassment should be inserted. A perceived error in grammar was noted with respect to the second sentence wherein the student was referred to in the singular and later on referred to in the plural as ‘they’. Clarification was felt to be needed with respect to how and who would determine whether a demonstration was considered to be disruptive or not.
- Section 3.1.c of T10.0. Question was raised as to why off campus situations had been excluded. (Senate’s attention was drawn to the newly inserted section 2.0 which dealt with jurisdiction on and off campus. It was also noted the 3.1.c referred to attendance at university activities and functions and had no restriction as to whether they were on or off campus. It was pointed out that the definition of university related activities was consistent with the recently approved harassment policy revision.)
- Section 5.2 in T10.02. The list of penalties was felt to be very comprehensive and the phrase ‘but are not limited to’ was felt to be unnecessary. This same comment was also made with respect to Section 4.2.1 of T10.03.
- Section 5.3.b. Opinion was expressed that inadvertent dishonesty could simply be viewed as an honest mistake and inquiry was made as to the intent of this section.

- Section 3.6 of T10.01. Suggestion was made that this section should be expanded to apply to misuse of any university disciplinary procedures regardless of who was being charged. (Following discussion, it was agreed that the word "student" should be removed from the title.)
- Section 8.1 of T10.03. Suggestion was made that 'inadequate evidence to support the decision' should be added as an additional grounds for appeal. (It was noted that 8.1.b would cover the situation where a tribunal made a decision without having sufficient evidence because that would be considered an error of fact.)
- Section 8.2 of T10.03. Opinion was expressed that the University should not be able to appeal if the student has been cleared of the charge. It was felt this was unfair to the student and amounted to double jeopardy. (Contrary views were expressed as to the meaning of double jeopardy. It was noted that the only ground for appeal was that new evidence was available and the student also had the same right.)
- Section 5.4.1 of T10.03. It was noted that the Tribunal's decision must be communicated to the student and the original department(s) and suggestion was made that the victim should also be notified.
- Section 3.1.b of T10.01. It was felt that clarification was needed with respect to what was meant by the term 'well-being' and suggestion was made that some examples might illustrate the intent.
- Section 5.2 of T10.2. Opinion was expressed in support of the revocation of a degree.

With the agreement of Senate, the motion was withdrawn and the document was referred back to Committee for revision. The Chair stressed that when the document returned to Senate the intent was to consider the document as a whole without further editing and Senators having any further questions or comments were asked to submit them to the Committee within the next day or two.

J. Ogloff, speaking as a member of the UBSD for three years, commented that the revised policies were very good and had addressed a number of issues that had come up in hearings. He felt the Committee had done a good job and that the revised document would be very helpful.

The Chair acknowledged that the Committee had worked very long and hard on these policies and he extended thanks and appreciation on behalf of the University for their effort.

7. Other Business

i) Paper S.99-59 – Election Report

Senate was advised that the nominations had been received for the Senate Committee on International Activities (SCIA) and the International Student Exchange Committee (ISEC) and that Sameh Al-Natour has been elected by acclamation to both committees. There were no other nominations received and the remaining positions remained vacant and would be brought forward to the next meeting.

8. Information

Date of the next regularly scheduled meeting of Senate is Monday, November 1, 1999.

The Open Session adjourned at 7:45 pm and the Assembly moved directly into Closed Session.

Alison Watt
Director, Secretariat Services