

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY SENATE

Minutes of a meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, December 6, 1999 at 7:00 pm in Room 3210 West Mall Complex

Open Session

Present: Blaney, Jack, President and Chair

Al-Natour, Sameh
Barrow, Robin
Boland, Larry
Budra, Paul
Chuah, Kuan
Clayman, Bruce
Copeland, Lynn
Crossley, David
D'Auria, John
Davidson, Willie
Delgrande, James
Driver, Jon
Dunsterville, Valerie
Emerson, Joseph
Finley, David
Fletcher, James
Jones, John
Kanevsky, Lannie
Kirczenow, George
Marteniuk, Ron
Mathewes, Rolf
Mauser, Gary
McArthur, James
McInnes, Dina
Munro, John
Niwinska, Tina
Ogloff, James
Osborne, Judith
Paterson, David
Peters, Joseph
Peterson, Louis
Pierce, John
Russell, Robert
Smith, Michael
Steinbach, Christopher
To, Shek Yan
Waterhouse, John
Wortis, Michael
Yerbury, Colin
Zazkis, Rina

Absent:

Atkins, Stella
Benezra, Michael
Chan, Albert
Gillies, Mary Ann
Harris, Richard
Heaney, John
Hyslop-Margison, Emory
McBride, Stephan
McFetridge, Paul
Naef, Barbara
Reader, Jason
Sanghera, Balwant
Warsh, Michael
Wessel, Sylvia
Wong, Milton

In attendance:

French, Charlotte

Watt, Alison, Director, Secretariat Services
Heath, Ron, Dean of Student Services and Registrar
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 November 1, 1999
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
 - i) Rhodes Scholar
The Chair was pleased to report that B.C.'s Rhodes Scholar for 2000 was Natasha DeSousa, a graduate of Simon Fraser University who graduated with a B.Sc (Biology/Environmental Toxicology) from the Faculty of Science.
 - ii) Presidential Search Committee
Senate was provided with a progress report from Jon Driver which included an overhead presentation summarizing information about the committee's mandate, membership, activities which had taken place since the establishment of the committee in September, and works in progress. Brief discussion took place about the confidentiality of the process and the presentation of material to the Board of Governors. Senate was advised that the Committee had decided that a confidential process was more acceptable than an open process and recommendations to the Board of Governors would include very comprehensive packages of information on the short-listed candidates.
 - iii) Budget
The Chair reported that the joint budget submission from The University Presidents Council (TUPC) had officially been presented to the Minister of Advanced Education and would be widely circulated within the University community. The document essentially dealt with core funding (revenue per student), funding for research, and access.
5. Reports of Committees
 - a) Senate Committee on Academic Planning/Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies
 - i) Paper S.99-71 – Faculty of Applied Sciences – Undergraduate Curriculum Revisions

Senate received information that SCUS, acting under delegated authority, approved program changes including new courses/course deletions, and/or minor curriculum revisions in the School of Communication, School of

Computing Science, School of Engineering Science, and the School of Kinesiology.

ii) Paper S.99-72 – Faculty of Arts – Undergraduate Curriculum Revisions

Moved by J. Munro, seconded by J. Pierce

“that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, as set forth in S.99-72 – the proposed Geography – Environmental Specialty Honors Program”

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Senate received information that SCUS, acting under delegated authority, approved program changes including new courses/course deletions, and/or minor curriculum revisions in the Departments of Geography, History, Humanities, Linguistics, and Sociology/Anthropology.

b) Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries

i) Paper S.99-73 – Annual Report (For Information)

C. French, Director of Student Academic Resources in the Registrar's Office, was in attendance in order to respond to questions. The Annual Report of the SPCSAB was received by Senate.

c) Senate Committee on University Budget

i) Paper S.99-74 – Annual Report (For Information)

Concern was expressed about the lack of information in the report. Brief discussion took place with respect to several of the items listed in the report that SCUB had discussed.

6. Other Business

i) Paper S.99-75 – Commercialization of University Research

Moved by L. Boland, seconded by B. Clayman

“that Senate move into quasi-committee of the whole”

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Concerns were expressed about

- the evident lack of understanding about the role of universities
- the implied suggestion that universities pursue activities for commercial profit

- the recommendation to include 'innovation' as a fourth mission together with teaching, research and community service
- the tone of the report and the distortion of common English words, such as "innovation"
- the implication that universities must accept "innovation" as their fourth mission in order for researchers to obtain research support
- the discriminatory nature of the policy if funding is directed towards fields of inquiry that are more easily measured in commercial terms rather than to areas that contribute to society in other ways
- the nature of the policy which was a major philosophical departure from the way universities have traditionally viewed their role and their academic mission
- the impact that the addition of this fourth mission could have on faculty renewal and tenure and promotion considerations
- the consequence of the policy which would change universities from public serving institutions and undermine the academic freedom of university researchers
- the membership of the expert panel which had no representation from disciplines within the Arts
- the motion being premature and too broad in nature
- the negative perception by the public and government if the university voted to reject the report outright

The following opinions/suggestions were expressed

- that it was important for universities to consider the issue of innovation (as defined in the document) as a part of the reward structure and that the issue of the reward structure at the university should be revisited
- that discussion was required on the best way to commercialize – through the university or through the private sector; and what role the university should have in this type of endeavour
- that universities need to do a better job of explaining and promoting themselves with respect to how they see their role in society and how they view their academic mission
- that the university needs to acknowledge to the Government that commercialized scholarship was recognized as legitimate scholarship but stress that it was not the only form of scholarship which benefited society
- that the last sentence of the motion be amended to refer to recommendation two rather than the entire report
- that it would be much more constructive if the university revisited the document in detail and prepared thoughtful responses to the areas of concern rather than just rejecting the entire report
- that a committee be formed to develop a detailed response to the report

Moved by G. Kirczenow, seconded by L. Boland

"that Senate move out of quasi-committee of the whole"

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Moved by J. Jones, seconded by J. Ogloff

“that this matter be referred to SCAR”

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

The Chair confirmed that SCAR would consider this issue at its next meeting and would report back to Senate at the January meeting on a course of action.

ii) International Baccalaureate Students

Senate's attention was drawn to the change of policy several years ago whereby the University stopped issuing free library cards to high school students enrolled in International Baccalaureate programs. Opinion was expressed that these are potentially very good university students and the university should do what it can to encourage them to attend SFU. Suggestion was made that the policy decision related to library cards be revisited, and the Senate Library Committee was asked to revisit this issue and report back to Senate.

Senate was also advised that when a group of these students were brought to Simon Fraser University by their teacher to use the facilities they were made to feel unwelcome. It was noted that use of the Library facilities was open to everyone and it was suggested that details of this particular incident be brought to the attention of the University Librarian.

iii) Post-Doctoral Fellows

Concern was expressed about the status of post-doctoral fellows and their spouses at the University and the consequences of the contract post-docs are required to sign. Spouses of post-docs are not eligible to work and have nothing productive to do to occupy their time if they want to accompany their spouse to the University. Because the post-doctoral fellow is not considered an employee of the University, spouses are not eligible for tuition waiver similar to other employee groups. Inquiry was made if there might be something the University could do to regularize these positions in such ways as are relevant to other employee groups.

It was noted that there was a gap in university policies relating to post-doctoral fellows and other categories of employment on campus and that the Dean of Graduate Studies was currently working on a policy that would regularize these positions to some extent. However, the issue of employee benefits would have to be handled separately from the policy issue.

The open session adjourned at 8:15 pm and, following a brief recess, the Assembly moved into Closed Session.

Alison Watt
Director, Secretariat Services