

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY SENATE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, September 17, 2001 in Room 3120 WMC

Open Session

Present: Stevenson, Michael, President and Chair

Atkins, Stella
Budra, Paul
Collins-Dodd, Colleen
Copeland, Lynn
Davidson, Willie
Delgrande, James
Dempster, Peter
Driver, Jon
Dunsterville, Valerie
Gerson, Carole
Gill, Alison
Grimmett, Peter
Haunerland, Norbert
Heaney, John
Hill, Ross
Jensen, Britta
Jones, John
Krane, William
Lewis, Brian
Love, Ernie
Mauser, Gary
McArthur, James
McInnes, Dina
Muirhead, Leah
Naef, Barbara
Paterson, David
Percival, Paul
Peters, Joseph
Pierce, John
Russell, Robert
Van Aalst, Jan
Waterhouse, John
Weldon, Larry
Wortis, Michael
Yerbury, Colin

Absent: Aloia, Santa
Barrow, Robin
Bawa, Parveen
Chan, Albert
Chang, Jack
Clayman, Bruce
D'Auria, John
Gupte, Jaideep
Jackson, Margaret
Klymson, Sarah
McFetridge, Paul
Sekhon, Devinder
Sirri, Odai
Smith, Michael
Tansey, Caralyn
Thandi, Ranbir
Warren, Joel
Wessel, Sylvia
Wong, Milton

In attendance:

Berube, Denis
Hibbitts, Pat

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

On behalf of Senate, the Chair welcomed the following new members to Senate: Brian Lewis, Dean of Applied Sciences, Ernie Love, Dean of Business Administration, and Bill Krane, Acting Associate Vice-President, Academic.

1. Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of July 9, 2001

The Minutes were approved as distributed.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

Referring to the questions at the last meeting concerning the appointment process to the Woodsworth Chair in Humanities (page 2, item 5), the Chair reported that the full report, minus some relatively minor excerpts respecting privacy requirements, had been publicly released. The recommendations of the report were accepted by the President and the Board of Governors, and it was hoped that the process would now continue to resolution. In the report, reference was made to an email communication between the President and the Vice-President Academic. Mr. Robinson found that at no point had there been any prejudice to the process.

4. Report of the Chair

i) Paper S.01-56 – Annual Financial Statement (For Information)

On behalf of Senate, the Chair welcomed the new Vice-President Finance and Administration, Pat Hibbitts to Senate. P. Hibbitts and D. Berube were in attendance in order to respond to questions.

Reference was made to page 21 with respect to the description of TRIUMF. It was suggested that the information in the report was out-of-date since Carleton University is also now a member of the Joint Venture and each university now appoints only two members to the Board of Management.

Senate's attention was drawn to the summary of revenue and expenditures on page 2. It was pointed out that the actual expenditure for student financial assistance for the year 2000/01 had declined from the previous year. Checking reports from previous years, it appeared that the figure for 2000/01 was in fact the lowest expenditure for student financial assistance in the past five years. Concern was expressed about the pattern of declining student financial assistance and the reasons for this. Information was not at hand but R. Heath indicated he would provide Senate with a response at the next meeting.

ii) Government Relations

The Chair reported on the Provincial Core Services Review (CSR). Reference was made to the Government's New Era document and its implications for public policy and budgeting. The CSR Task Force is examining all areas of provincial public spending with the objective of reducing waste and inefficiency. The Board of Governors of each university received a detailed list of questions which they were required to respond to in short order. The thrust of

the questions relate to funding (including grant funding), relationships with the private sector and the extent to which they could be improved and how the private sector could play a more constructive role in partnerships with universities. Governance and regulatory environments affecting universities were also raised. The response made on behalf of the University will be made public as will the response made on behalf of the university system by The University Presidents' Council (TUPC). The Chair felt the responses were constructive and reasonable in defending the value of public education, the quality of the university system, and the individual institutions.

The Government is moving ahead with the New Era commitments - an expansion of medical training, a doubling of activity in Computer Science and Electrical Engineering and related programs (Doubling The Opportunity - DTO). In addition, the Government is proceeding with the Leadership Chairs program which has been modeled somewhat on the CRC Program. Serious concerns were expressed however about whether the necessary resources would be available, given the funding situation, although the fact that the Government has made it clear that post secondary education was a high priority is clearly a positive signal.

With respect to capital, the Government has announced the deferral of capital commitments in several post-secondary institutions. At SFU, the planning activity with respect to the inclusion of the School for Contemporary Arts in the Woodward's project is continuing but the funding sources are by no means clear. A reprofiling of the TEC building was also underway. Universities have been requested to submit plans for capital requirements in respect of the New Era commitments, primarily Health and DTO programs. Attempts were ongoing to obtain a longer range capital planning commitment from the Government which would re-establish existing projects but the Government has made clear it was only interested in capital and operating funding requirements for the New Era commitments in these two areas.

The Chair also advised Senate that the Government intends to examine the hidden costs of the tuition freeze before making changes to policy. A detailed consultation on this issue with representatives of student societies and government was intended and TUPC will make a joint submission on behalf of the provincial universities. The Chair believed that there would be an overwhelming pressure for a change in tuition fee policy in order to retain stability and sustainability of existing programs.

5. Question Period
There were no questions.

6. Reports of Committees

A) Senate Nominating Committee

i) Paper S.01-57 – Elections

Senate was advised that the following people were elected by acclamation: Caralyn Tansey - Senate Committee on University Honours (SCUH); Devinder Sekhon - Senate Undergraduate Awards Adjudication Committee (SUAAC); Jack Chang - Senate Committee on International Activities (SCIA) No other nominations had been received for any of the other committees listed in S.01-57. Vacancies would be carried forward.

B) Committee to Review University Admissions

i) Paper S.01-58 – Annual Report (For Information)

The Annual Report of the Committee to Review University Admissions was received by Senate for information.

C) Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules

i) Paper S.01-59 – Revised Membership – Senate Committee on University Priorities

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by C. Gerson

“that the Associate Vice-President Academic be an ex-officio non-voting member of the Senate Committee on University Priorities”

Senate was advised that because of the recent changes in the Vice-President Academic's office including the creation of the new Associate Vice-President position dealing with equity, policy and legal matters, the role of the Associate Vice-President Academic had been redefined with an emphasis on university planning. As a result, it seemed appropriate that the Associate Vice-President Academic participate in SCUP discussions with respect to university priorities.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

7. Other Business

i) Notice of Senate Vacancies (For Information)

Senate received information of three student vacancies and one faculty vacancy and was advised that elections for replacements would take place in September.

8. Information

The date of the next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, October 1, 2001.

The Chair mentioned the upcoming Convocation ceremonies on October 4th and 5th and encouraged Senators to attend. Senators were also reminded that the

deadline for honorary degree nominations for next year's Convocation ceremonies was October 5th. Submissions should be addressed to Ron Heath, Dean of Student Services and Registrar.

The Chair also reminded Senators of Terry Fox Day on September 17th. There were a variety of activities scheduled including the unveiling of a statue of Terry Fox honouring his memory and association with the University.

Open Session adjourned at 7:45 pm. Senate moved directly into Closed Session.

Alison Watt
Director, University Secretariat