

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY SENATE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, February 3, 2003 at 5:30 pm in Room 3120 WMC

Open Session

Present: Stevenson, Michael
President and Chair of Senate

Absent:

Al-Natour, Sameh
Aloi, Santa
Andrews, Ian
Atkins, Stella
Bourke, Brynn
Chen, Danny
Clayman, Bruce
Copeland, Lynn
Davidson, Willie
Driver, Jon
Dunsterville, Valerie
Garcia, Carlos
Gordon, Robert
Grimmett, Peter
Haunerland, Norbert
Higgins, Anne
Horvath, Adam
Jackson, Margaret
Jensen, Britta
Kemper, Michelle
Krane, Bill
Lewis, Brian
Love, Ernie
McArthur, James
McFetridge, Paul
Naef, Barbara
Percival, Paul
Peters, Joseph
Phipps, Kate
Pierce, John
Poirier, Guy
Russell, Robert
Smith, Don
Tyab, Azam
Vaisey, Jacques
Waterhouse, John
Weldon, Larry
Yerbury, Colin
Zaichkowsky, Judith

Apaak, Clement
Beynon, Peter
Brokenshire, David
D'Auria, John
Gerson, Carole
Gupta, Kamal
Heaney, John
Hill, Ross
Jones, Colin
Jones, John
Mauser, Gary
Poletz, Taira
Thandi, Ranbir
Van Aalst, Jan
Warren, Joel
Wessel, Silvia
Wong, Milton

In attendance:

Arifovic, Jasmina
Cameron, Rob
Kimball, Meredith
Little, Jack

Heath, Ron, Dean of Student Services/Registrar
Watt, Alison, Director, University Secretariat
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, 2003
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 recent press attention respecting an issue of academic dishonesty at Simon Fraser University, the Chair advised that he wished to read into the record of Senate the unedited text of a letter he addressed to the Vancouver Sun which was published with some editorial licence on February 1, 2003:

I am writing to address a misunderstanding over Simon Fraser University's response to a question of academic dishonesty.

As recently as last fall, the University gained national credit for applying zero tolerance in a plagiarism case involving 44 students: the facts were determined fairly, discipline (including lengthy suspensions) was applied, and the University reported publicly on the outcome. I believe our record in dealing with dishonesty is second to none.

I am therefore very concerned that this record is being called into question by confusion over a current case in which two students turned in identical assignments. One student admitted to submitting the work of another and subsequently accepted the instructor's failing grade. This is a good example of the system working to detect and respond to cheating. The second student successfully appealed the failing grade, arguing authorship over the work that the first student had plagiarized.

The exonerated student openly acknowledged employing a tutor. This is common practice at all levels throughout the education system and there is nothing dishonest about students attempting to improve their understanding of a subject in this way. It is fundamentally dishonest, however, if a student submits work done by a tutor while claiming it to be their own. At the same time, it is fundamentally unjust to penalize a student simply on the assumption that plagiarism might be involved without first establishing the facts of the matter. Because the consequences of cheating are so significant for all concerned, zero tolerance for academic dishonesty must be accompanied by fair and rigorous examination.

The instructor was directed to re-evaluate the assignment and has chosen not to do so. It nevertheless remains for the University to conduct an objective and impartial re-examination of the student's

work. If the student's claim to authorship is substantiated, an appropriate mark will be awarded. If it is found that the work was indeed plagiarized, appropriate consequences will result.

While the facts in this case remain to be established, important questions can be raised about the role of tutors and about academic honesty in the Internet Age where instant access to commercial "paper mills" is available. These are difficult issues. The University has responded by purchasing software that aids in identifying plagiarism and by striking a Task Force on Academic Honesty to explore these matters in depth. I expect the results will provide clear assurances to students, faculty and the public that academic honesty will remain a defining characteristic of academic life at Simon Fraser University.

Yours sincerely.

The Chair expressed concern that generalized and distorted readings of complicated matters, especially when covered by the press, do considerable harm to the University. If faculty, staff or students have major problems with any matter, there are policies that allow recourse to action, or any member of the senior administration could be asked to review a matter.

5. Question Period

In response to a question as to whether the proposed budget for 2003/2004 would come before Senate, Senate was advised that SCUP had been asked to provide advice to the President on the proposed budget model. SCUP discussed this item at its last meeting and a draft set of comments will be reviewed at the next meeting of SCUP. Senate was advised that neither the budget nor SCUP's comments would be forwarded to Senate.

6. Reports of Committees

A) Senate Nominating Committee

i) Paper S.03-18 – Elections

The following are the results of elections to Senate committees. There were insufficient nominations to fill all positions; vacancies will be carried over to the next meeting of Senate.

Committee to Review University Admissions (CRUA)

One Graduate Student Alternate to replace Felix Tang for term of office to May 31, 2004.

Candidates: P. Liljedahl, G. Placonouris, B. Waldern, S. Wu

Elected:

Peter Liljedahl

Senate Committee on International Activities (SCIA)

One Undergraduate Student Senator to fill an existing vacancy for term of office to May 31, 2003.

No nominations received

One Faculty Senator to replace Paul McFetridge for term of office to May 31, 2003.

Elected by acclamation: Judith Zaichkowsky

Undergraduate Curriculum Implementation Task Force

One Undergraduate Student for one year term of office.

Elected by acclamation: Michelle Kemper

Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)

One Undergraduate Student (at-large) to replace D. Chen for balance term of office to May 31, 2003.

Elected by acclamation: Adam Picotte

Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP)

One Student Senator Alternate for term of office to May 31, 2003.

Elected by acclamation: Michelle Kemper

B) Senate Committee on University Priorities

i) Paper S.03-19 – External Review – Department of Women’s Studies

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by J. Pierce

“that Senate concur with the recommendations from the Senate Committee on University Priorities concerning advice to the Department of Women’s Studies on priority items resulting from the external review as outlined in S.03-19”

M. Kimball, Chair of the Department, was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

The question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Paper S.03-20 – External Review – Department of History

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by J. Pierce

“that Senate concur with the recommendations from the Senate Committee on University Priorities concerning the advice to the Department of History on priority items resulting from the external review as outlined in S.03-20”

J. Little, Chair of the Department, was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

The question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iii) Paper S.03-21 – Establishment of the Centre for Research on Adaptive Behaviour in Economics (CRABE)

Moved by J. Pierce, seconded by B. Clayman

“that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors the establishment of the Centre for Research on Adaptive Behaviour in Economics as outlined in S.03-21”

J. Arifovic, Department of Economics, was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

The question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

C) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

i) Paper S.03-22 – Faculty of Science – Undergraduate Curriculum Revisions

Motion 1

Moved by W. Davidson, seconded by J. Waterhouse

“that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors the deletion of the Post-Baccalaureate Diploma in Environmental Toxicology, as set forth in S.03-22, effective 2003-3”

The question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion 2

Moved by W. Davidson, seconded by J. Waterhouse

“that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors the deletion of the Minor in Quaternary Studies, as set forth in S.03-22, effective 2003-3”

The question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the new course MBB 323 in the Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry. SCUS also approved a two semester time lag waiver for early offering of the course.

ii) Paper S.03-23 – Undergraduate Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Business Administration

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved two new courses BUS 417 and BUS 419 and a change of prerequisite for all 400-level Business courses.

A question arose about whether BUS 360 would be required as a prerequisite for Management and System Science students as it was noted that it was not generally part of their required courses. Senate was advised that several joint major programs do not require BUS 360 and it was believed that Management and Systems Science was one of those programs. In response to an inquiry as to whether BUS 360 could be taken as a co-requisite, Senate was advised that the information currently before Senate changed BUS 360 from a co-requisite to a prerequisite so that students complete BUS 360 before they take any 400-level course.

iii) Paper S.03-24 – Undergraduate Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Applied Sciences

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved a reorganization of the first year coursework in the Applied Sciences One Program; restructuring and changes to program requirements in Computing Science, minor revisions to existing courses in Computing Science and Communication, and the deletion of two courses in the School of Communication, CMNS 205 and CMNS 224.

D) Senate Graduate Studies Committee

i) Paper S.03-25 – Change of credit hours – Special Arrangement Courses

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved a change in credit hours for four Special Arrangement courses.

ii) Paper S.03-26 – Graduate Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Applied Sciences

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved a change to course requirements and number of credit hours required for the PhD program in Computing Science, and minor revisions to existing courses in the School of Resource and Environmental Management.

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

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

Alison Watt
Director, University Secretariat