

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY SENATE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, November 7, 2005 in Room 3210 WMC at 7:00 pm
Open Session

Present: Stevenson, Michael, President and Chair of Senate

Apaak, Clement
Breden, Felix
Copeland, Lynn
Corbett, Kitty
Dickinson, John
Dickinson, Peter
Driver, Jon
Ester, Martin
Easton, Stephen
Fizzell, Maureen
Fleming-Saraceno, David
Francis, June
Gordon, Irene
Gordon, Robert
Halpern, Erica
Harder, Derrick
Haunerland, Norbert
Hayes, Michael
Honda, Barry
Hunsdale, Shawn
Javed, Waseem
Joffres, Michel
Krane, Bill
LaBrie, John
MacKenzie, Christine
MacLean, David
Magee, Sean
Percival, Colin
Percival, Paul
Pinto, Mario
Plischke, Michael
Schellenberg, Betty (also representing J. Pierce)
Scott, Jamie
Shaker, Paul
Smith, Don
Tilley, Kevin
Uhlmann, Sasha
van Baarsen, Amanda
Warner, D'Arcy
Waterhouse, John
Weeks, Daniel
Williams, Peter
Wong, Josephine
Woodbury, Robert
Zandvliet, David

Absent:

Black, Sam
Brennand, Tracy
Budd, James
Caufield, Sarah
Delgrande, James
Grimmett, Peter
Horvath, Adam
Johansen, Elinor
Louie, Brandt
Love, Ernie
McArthur, James

In attendance:

Hayden, Michael
Stead, Doug
Wattamaniuk, Walter

Heath, Ron, Registrar
Watt, Alison, Director, University Secretariat
Grant, Bobbie, Recording Secretary

1. Approval of the Agenda

Following the withdrawal of Item 6.A.iii – Bachelor of Arts in Health Sciences – the Agenda was approved as amended.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of October 3, 2005

Referring to the first paragraph on page 4, L. Copeland noted that photocopy fees were determined by the University Administration, not by the Board of Governors as indicated in the minutes. The revision was noted and the Minutes were approved as amended.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

4. Report of the Chair

On behalf of Senate, the Chair welcomed the following newly elected/re-elected Faculty Senators from the Faculty of Health Sciences to the meeting: K. Corbett, M. Joffres, and M. Hayes.

The Chair reported on his recent trip to Asia. Senate was informed about successful meetings in conjunction with the ongoing celebration of SFU's 40th anniversary with Alumni at various locations. Additionally as President of SFU, the Chair reported that he had been invited to participate in international colloquia on information and communication technology in Beijing and on Asian Migration and Economic Development in Hong Kong. The Chair felt that SFU was invited to the two conferences primarily because of the new Joint Degree Program in Zejiang. He felt that SFU would be strongly advised to consider more programs of this nature.

The Chair was pleased to report that SFU had, once again, been ranked amongst the top three comprehensive universities by Maclean's, and congratulations were extended to everyone in the University whose efforts resulted in the ranking.

i) Paper S.05-109 – President's Agenda 2005-2009 (For Information)

Prior to discussion of this item, the Chair advised that he would like to respond to three questions that had been submitted by Senator P. Dickinson with regard to the report.

The first question related to the proposal on page 3 to increase the proportion of the total enrolment in graduate programs to 25% of the total enrolment and what mechanisms were in place to secure adequate funding for this increase. The Chair explained that the 25% was a target and was highly unlikely to happen in five years time but he felt it was the kind of balance that leading research institutions need to have. If adequate funding for graduate enrolment is not forthcoming, the University would not press for any significant expansion of graduate enrolment. Universities across Canada share a concern that the past 10-15 year hiatus in funding for graduate enrolments has seriously undermined the quality of university systems across the country, and it was an absolute priority that all levels of government find a way to reach agreements on graduate enrolment funding.

The second question related to the issue of expanded faculty complements mentioned in passing on page 3 of the report. A question was posed why there was not a separate section devoted to faculty recruitment and retention since attracting top graduate students required an excellent faculty complement. The Chair agreed that ideally faculty complements should expand in proportion to increases in undergraduate and graduate enrolment but it was unlikely that grants would be sufficient to cover what universities deemed to be adequate complementary funding for faculty expansion relative to targeted enrolment increases on the graduate side. Issues of recruitment and retention were dealt with extensively in the President's previous Agenda statement and remain an overwhelmingly important issue and probably should have been referenced in this report.

The final question related to the Great Northern Way campus and why there was no mention of its status, development, and priority in the document. Senate was advised that the Burnaby, Vancouver and Surrey campuses are seen as higher priorities. The GNW campus has been viewed as a potentially interesting model for collaboration to generate programs that are not currently offered, and that might be offered without prejudice to funding of programs and priorities within SFU. There are several areas being reviewed that might be the basis for collaborative programming at GNW campus, but discussions have been difficult and so far sources of funding are not forthcoming. So the Consortium continues to cooperatively manage the site, and if collaboration on academic grounds is not possible, there may be other possibilities for development of the site with resulting money used to endow programs at SFU.

The President was commended for including in the document a section on student life that captured the concerns of the past few years of the Student Society. Disappointment was expressed that the Dual Degree Program in China was cited as a model for the future as it was hoped that there would be more consistency in the application of tuition fees charged to students in any such future programs. A brief explanation was provided to Senate about how the fees in the SFU-Zhejiang program are consistently applied to domestic and international students.

It was noted that the term 'interdisciplinary' was used several times throughout the document. An opinion was expressed that the existing structure in the University that required programs to be housed in specific Faculties mitigates against the interdisciplinary nature of programs, and question was raised as to whether there were any plans in place from a structural point of view to address this issue. The Chair felt that there was likely not a straight-forward way to create structures that encourage mobility across disciplines but that SFU was genuinely better at doing it than most universities. A senator suggested that due to increased cross-teaching and research initiatives, it might be interesting to consider assigning teaching FTEs and research overhead directly to the individual faculty member doing the teaching and/or research.

The Administration was commended for the support provided to international students at SFU, with particular reference being made to the creation of the International Student Lounge. However, a concern was expressed that most of the international students at the University currently come from specific parts of the world and that there should be more diversification within the international student population. It was noted that many students from developing countries are not able to afford current tuition fees and it was

suggested that funding should be set aside to target high quality students from these countries. Reference was made to the first paragraph on page 4 of the report, and a question was posed about the rationale for the proposed increase in international student enrolments. The Chair felt that having an international component within the student body enriched the educational experience of all students and agreed that there ought to be more diversity in the international student population. There appeared to be interest from the Government in this issue and he hoped to see some funding committed to this area.

Reference was made to page one under the section of notable achievements, and clarification was requested with respect to the ranking of research mentioned in the first bullet. The Chair explained that SFU ranks 4th amongst all Canadian research-intensive universities in humanities and social sciences, and 5th amongst all in science and engineering in terms of the success rate of awarded grants to faculty members on a per capita basis. He felt this was a more valid measure than absolute dollars awarded in research, especially when comparison is being made against large engineering and medical programs.

5. Question Period

There were no questions.

6. Reports of Committees

A) Senate Committee on University Priorities

i) Paper S.05-110 – Name and Program Changes to the Forest Renewal BC Endowed Chair in Terrain Analysis and Forest Geoscience

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by M. Plischke

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the change of the title of the “FRBC Endowed Chair in Terrain Analysis and Forest Geoscience” to the “FRBC Chair in Resource Geoscience and Geotechnics” and the changes to the proposed research program, reflecting a new emphasis on resource geoscience”

D. Stead, Department of Earth Sciences, was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

Brief discussion took place with respect to the definition of ‘sustainability’, clarification of ‘sustainable resource development’ as it related to the list sectors on page two of the document, the role of ‘conservation’ within the activities emphasized, and the relevance of tourism.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Paper S.05-111 – Course Scheduling Policy – T.30.01

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by C. Apaak

“that Senate approve the Course Scheduling Policy – T.30.01”

M. Hayden, Chair of the Course Accessibility Implementation Committee, and W. Wattamaniuk, Director of Analytical Studies, were in attendance as resource persons.

Speaking at the request of T. Brennand, who was unable to attend the meeting, P. Percival advised that some of the concerns that the Department of Geography had raised with the first draft had been addressed in this version. There were still complaints related to editorial corrections of a non-substantive nature. There was no objection to a suggestion that the motion go forward on the understanding that these editorial improvements will be accepted after the fact.

Opinion was expressed that the policy was very prejudicial to programs in the humanities that tend to have smaller classes and fewer mandatory courses that need to be scheduled on a flexible basis. Courses scheduled flexibly and non-routinely will receive low priority thus creating enormous stress and burden in terms of scheduling and finding classroom space. It was pointed out that this imbalance already exists because of the block scheduling done in Science. The policy will result in Science losing some of the advantage they have had and other departments should actually benefit because a better balance across Faculties will be created. It was also noted that the intent of the policy was to provide students with more certainty with respect to planning their course schedules.

Amendment moved by I. Gordon, seconded by J. Francis

“that the following section be added to the policy

12. Reporting

To ensure accountability, transparency, and fairness of application of this policy, the Registrar’s Office through Analytical Studies will report to Senate once a year on:

12.1 The steps taken to survey instructional staff regarding the effectiveness of rooms assigned for different teaching and learning strategies and regarding the disposition of complaints regarding inappropriate room assignments where these complaints are based on pedagogical or teaching strategies that are intended to enhance students’ learning.

12.2 Room usage by day and time of day for each department and non-departmentalized Faculty for both undergraduate (by levels) and graduate courses”

Noting that the amendment was similar to elements of section 6 of Appendix I and section 8.1 of the document, a suggestion was made to incorporate the thrust of the amendment into the document so that in 8.1 the committee would solicit input from the faculty and departments with regard to any concerns about the policy, and in Appendix I,

Section 6 Senate would be included in the distribution of the report mentioned. On the understanding that appropriate wording would be added to the two sections mentioned above, the changes were accepted as a friendly amendment.

Discussion ensued with respect to whether it was more important to students to know exact times that a course was scheduled as opposed to knowing in which semester a course would be offered. In response to this inquiry, the following points were made:

- more important to know when a course will be offered rather than the specific time
- the greater degree of certainty the better to schedule the term, especially if involved in campus activities outside the classroom
- policy will help graduate students who have to work around teaching assignments
- since SFU is a transportation oriented school, knowing times is a big issue, especially if driving long distances or taking public transit
- using the entire week will benefit students greatly as it will help to reduce crowding on buses which are especially full Tuesday to Thursday, and will also help to reduce course conflicts

Detailed discussion took place with regard to how priorities would be assigned to different types of courses, for example, regular daytime courses offered occasionally in the evening, and courses with tutorials which are spread out at different times during the week. Senate was advised that as long as a regular scheduling pattern can be advertised, the course would not lose scheduling priority.

Reference was made to section 8.2 and a question was raised as to why the last item in this section differed in wording from the others with respect to 'may be given priority' as opposed to 'will be given priority'. Senate was advised that the list would be used when space was short and the last option could be used to decide in favour of a department that had tried hard to spread its offerings across the entire week. However, it was felt that it would disadvantage departments who simply cannot spread their curriculum over the entire week if this criterion was made a requirement. It was pointed out that section 5.1.6 allows the Dean of a Faculty to approve any scheduling pattern, so if a need was recognized, the Dean could automatically give a department the priority required.

Senate was advised that the policy would take effect for the Fall semester, 2006.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iv) Paper S.05-113 – Post Baccalaureate Diploma in Environmental Education

Moved by B. Krane, seconded by I. Gordon

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the proposal for a Post Baccalaureate Diploma in Environmental Education”

Senator D. Zandvliet, Faculty of Education, was available to respond to questions.

Speaking on behalf of T. Brennand who could not attend the meeting, P. Percival indicated that despite the fact that Geography courses were prominently featured in the Diploma, the Department had not been consulted, and she wanted to remind all Faculties that wide consultation was required for curriculum changes/development. Senate was informed that consultation had taken place with individual faculty members in the Department of Geography.

Reference was made to the list of courses at the bottom of page 4, and a concern was expressed about the inclusion of EDUC 311 and EDUC 441 since the existing course descriptions make no reference to environmental issues. It was pointed out that the courses in this group are, to some extent, foundational courses and will expose students to different views around environmental teaching.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

v) Paper S.05-114 – Faculty Structure Review (For Information)

Senate was advised that it has been a long time since the University comprehensively examined its academic structure and since there have been a considerable number of changes in the composition of University programs, it was deemed appropriate for a review to be carried out at this time. A Task Force will be formed and university-wide consultations will be part of the process. It was stressed that the process does not presume any particular outcome and could result in no changes being recommended.

Reference was made to the proposed timing of the first round of consultations, and it was suggested that this should occur prior to the preparation of the discussion document. Units who feel that some realignment is important for them will be requested to provide input prior to the discussion document.

Brief discussion followed with respect to the composition of the Task Force, especially student representation.

The document was at Senate for information.

B) Senate Graduate Studies Committee

i) Paper S.05-115 – Faculty of Education: Deletion of Intermediate and Elementary Mathematics Education (MA, MEd) Program

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by P. Shaker

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the deletion of the Intermediate and Elementary Mathematics Education (MA, MEd) program”

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Paper S.05-116 – Faculty of Applied Sciences – REM: Revisions to planning stream of the Master's program including change of degree title (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved a revision to the planning stream of the master's program in the School of Resource and Environmental Management. The revisions to the program description clarify the course requirements and include a list of elective courses, and a change of the degree title for students completing the planning stream to *Master of Resource Management (Planning)*.

iii) Paper S.05-117 – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences – Cohort Special Arrangements Program – Master of Arts in International Leadership: course changes (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved a revision to the course requirements for the above-noted program. The changes include the approval of a new course and the waiver of a course requirement for graduates of a McRae Institute program in the cohort.

iv) Paper S.05-118 – Faculty of Health Sciences – New courses (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved five new courses for offering in the Graduate Diploma: Foundations of Global Health Studies. Inquiry was made as to why these new courses were labeled GLOH instead of HSCI. It was noted that at the graduate level it was not uncommon for different programs within a department, school or faculty to be given different course designations as a helpful identifier for a particular stream or program.

C) Senate Nominating Committee

i) Paper S.05-119 – Elections

Senate was advised that no further nominations had been received. J. Smith was therefore elected by acclamation to the Senate Appeals Board and all other positions remain vacant and will be carried forward to the next meeting of Senate.

7. Other Business

i) Paper S.05-120 Annual Report and 3-Year Plan – SFU Library (For Information)

L. Copeland, Senator, and University Librarian, was available to respond to questions. The Annual Report and 3-Year Plan were received by Senate for information without discussion.

8. Information

The date of the next regularly scheduled meeting of Senate is Monday, December 5, 2005

The Open Session adjourned at 9:00 pm. Senate moved directly into Closed Session.