

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY SENATE

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, December 5, 2005 at 7:00 pm in Room 3210 WMC**

Open Session

Present:

Stevenson, Michael, President and Chair of Senate

Brennand, Tracy
Budd, James
Caufield, Sarah
Copeland, Lynn
Corbett, Kitty
Delgrande, James
Driver, Jon
Easton, Stephen
Fizzell, Maureen
Fleming-Saraceno, David
Francis, June
Gordon, Irene
Gordon, Robert
Halpern, Erica
Harder, Derrick
Haunerland, Norbert
Hayes, Michael
Horvath, Adam
Hunsdale, Shawn
Joffres, Michel
Jones, John (representing B. Lewis)
Krane, Bill
MacKenzie, Christine
MacLean, David
Magee, Sean
Percival, Colin
Percival, Paul
Pierce, John
Pinto, Mario
Plischke, Michael
Schellenberg, Betty
Shaker, Paul
Smith, Don
Uhlmann, Sasha
Van Baarsen, Amanda
Warner, D'Arcy
Waterhouse, John
Williams, Peter
Wong, Josephine

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

Absent:

Apaak, Clement
Breden, Felix
Dickinson, John
Dickinson, Peter
Ester, Martin
Grimmett, Peter
Honda, Barry
Javed, Waseem
Johansen, Elinor
LaBrie, John
Louie, Brandt
Love, Ernie
McArthur, James
Scott, Jamie
Tilley, Kevin
Weeks, Daniel
Woodbury, Robert
Zandvliet, David

In attendance:

Amundsen, Cheryl
Davidson, Allan
Hinchliffe, Jo
MacLeod, Richard
McAllister, David
O'Neill, Kevin
Rahilly, Tim
Trottier, Howard

1. Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was approved as distributed.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of November 7, 2005

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

There was no report from the Chair.

5. Question Period

A question was raised by D. Harder with respect to an international student recruitment proposal that was being considered by the Senate Committee on University Priorities at its next meeting. It was noted that the intent was to forward a recommendation on the proposal to the February meeting of the Board of Governors, and a concern was expressed that this short timeline did not allow adequate time for a broad discussion of this matter by the university community.

As part of background information that was provided to Senate, it was pointed out that Senate had previously approved an internationalization strategy for the University. One of the components of the strategy related to attracting international undergraduate students to SFU, and a target of 10% of the undergraduate student population was approved for the admission of undergraduate international students. Recruiting undergraduate international students involves partnerships with international recruiting companies or agents, and the proposal before SCUP involves engaging a private company for the purpose of the recruitment of international undergraduate students. The company in question has offered SFU the possibility of partnering with them but has given a fairly firm deadline of February 15th for the University's response. The intent is to have a full consultation and to put as much information as possible before the community. It is hoped that in spite of the fairly tight timeline a decision can be reached. If it turns out that there are important issues or significant concerns that cannot be resolved, then either the offer must be rejected or an extension sought.

6. Reports of Committees

A) Paper S.05-121 - Annual Report on Student Discipline Matters 2004/2005

The following persons were in attendance in order to respond to questions: H. Trottier, Past Co-ordinator and D. MacAlister, current Co-ordinator of the University Board on Student Discipline; R. MacLeod, Secretary, Senate Committee on Disciplinary Appeals; and R. Heath, Registrar.

Discussion took place with respect to UBSD cases 04-9 and 05-4 and Senate was provided with a brief explanation as to why the sanctions were different in these similar

cases, and why there was no reference to action taken against other parties involved in these offences.

Reference was made to the increase in numbers of non-academic discipline as outlined on page 6 and an inquiry was made as to the reason. Senate was advised that part of the reason was due to having a greater population of students on campus all of the time and the increase seems to be coincident with the opening of the new residences last year. It was also suggested that the increase represents more diligence on the part of the Bookstore with regard to loss prevention.

R. Gordon, Chair of the Senate Committee on Academic Integrity in Student Learning and Evaluation, advised Senate that the Committee will be looking at policies and processes with respect to final examinations, as well as issues and concerns such as those indicated on page 4 of the report from SCODA.

The Chair, on behalf of Senate, thanked everyone involved for the report and for their involvement in this very important part of university life.

B) Senate Committee on University Priorities

i) Paper S.05-122 – MEd, MA and PhD in Educational Technology and Learning Design

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by P. Shaker

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors, the proposal for the MEd, MA, and PhD in Educational Technology and Learning Design in the Faculty of Education, including the following new courses: EDUC 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 930, 931, 932”

C. Amundsen and K. O'Neill both from the Faculty of Education were available in order to respond to questions.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Paper S.05-123 – Bachelor of Arts in Health Sciences

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by D. MacLean

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the proposal for a Bachelor of Arts in Health Sciences (Major, Honors, and Minor in Health Sciences) offered by the Faculty of Health Sciences”

D. MacLean, Senator and Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, N. Haunerland, Senator and Undergraduate Curriculum Chair in the Faculty of Health Sciences, and A. Davidson, Faculty of Health Sciences were available in order to respond to questions.

Reference was made to the list of courses on page 10. In response to an inquiry about course outlines, Senate was informed that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies reviewed detailed course outlines for each course and had considerable discussion that resulted in revisions being made and brought back to SCUS prior to approval and presentation of the new courses to Senate.

Discussion ensued with respect to the amount of Science required for some of the proposed courses and concern was expressed about the development of these courses in advance of having the faculty in place to teach them. Senate was advised that the program will be phased in and that the program of courses to some extent will define future faculty hiring. Specific reference was made to HSCI 210, 211 and 212 and a concern was expressed about an apparent lack of biology requirements as prerequisites to these courses. Senate was advised that students would have some introductory background through required courses in the first year but it was stressed that since these courses were intended to be interdisciplinary it was unlikely that any student would have a strong background in all areas covered by the courses.

Brief discussion followed with respect to funding for teaching assistants, the relationship of the IHRE to the Faculty of Health Sciences, and priorities for the hiring of new faculty members.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iii) Paper S.05-124 – Masters of Science in Population and Public Health

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by D. MacLean

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors, the proposal for a Masters of Science in Population and Public Health in the Faculty of Health Sciences”

D. MacLean, Senator and Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, N. Haunerland, Senator and Undergraduate Curriculum Chair in the Faculty of Health Sciences, and A. Davidson, Faculty of Health Sciences, R. Lockhart, Statistics and Actuarial Science were in attendance in order to respond to questions.

Reference was made to the first paragraph on page 44. The information about programs in Geography was misleading as graduate students in the social sciences program receive MA credentials not MSc credentials.

A discussion followed with respect to completion time and the frequency of course elective offerings.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

- iv) Paper S.05-125 – Simons Foundation International Endowment Fund – Terms of Reference

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by J. Pierce

“that Senate approve the terms of reference for the Simons Foundation International Endowment Fund”

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

- C) Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries

- i) Paper S.05-126 – Annual Report (For Information)

S. Easton, Senator and Chair of the Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries, and T. Rahilly, Student Services were available in order to respond to questions.

Reference was made to pages 6 and 7 with respect to the disbursement of the Dean's Scholarship in Science and the Tadeusz Specht Memorial Science scholarship. Both scholarships appear to have a disappointing rate of acceptance. Senate was advised that the low acceptance rates appear to follow the general trend in terms of acceptances to offers of admission that are also lower for the Faculty of Science than the rest of the university. By way of explanation for the low acceptance rate, it was reported that there was a widespread assumption that students interested in medicine or other science related professional schools feel they have an advantage taking their undergraduate studies at a school that offers those particular programs. Another factor appears to be the attractiveness of the Science One program at UBC despite the short supply of spaces in that program. It is important to raise the profile of the Sciences at SFU and it is hoped that the University will be able to fashion attractive recruitment initiatives to increase the acceptance rate of Science students to offers from SFU.

A concern relating to the lack of an academic component in athletic and recreation awards was raised. While academic achievement was not a requirement for these awards, it was noted that awards were only given to students in good academic standing, and the ethos of the SFU athletic programs is to ensure that the academic and the athletic sides of a student's career are well balanced.

Following discussion, the report was received for information.

- C) Calendar Committee

- i) Paper S.05-127 – Schedule of Dates 2006-2009

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by M. Fizzell

“that Senate approve the proposed academic calendar schedule of dates for 2006-3 to 2009-2”

J. Hinchliffe, Secretary, Calendar Committee was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

A Student Senator expressed concern over the lack of a reading break in Spring 2007 semester and inquired if any alternatives, such as extending classes by a week, were considered. Senate was reminded of the Senate approved policy with regard to Easter. In Spring 2007 because of when Easter falls, it is not feasible to schedule a reading break. It was also pointed out that because SFU operates on a trimester system, any change of schedule in the Spring semester subsequently affects the summer and fall semesters and if classes were extended in the Spring by one week, students would not get any break at all at the end of the summer semester.

A Senator made reference to the notation about the possibility of scheduling exams on Sundays and inquired about the impact of this practice on unionized employees. Senate was reminded that the course scheduling policy recently approved by Senate included the option of scheduling classes on Sunday and it was pointed out that the occasional exam had already been held on a Sunday.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

E) Senate Committee on Academic Integrity in Student Learning and Evaluation

i) Paper S.05-128 – Annual Report (For Information)

R. Gordon, Senator and Chair of the Committee was available to respond to questions. The Annual Report was received for information without discussion.

F) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

i) Paper S.05-129 – Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Moved by C. MacKenzie, seconded by I. Gordon

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors, the deletion of the Certificate in Women’s Studies”

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, deleted four courses, approved sixteen new courses and minor changes to existing courses and program requirements in Psychology, Women’s Studies, Sociology/Anthropology, Criminology, Linguistics, and Humanities.

G) Senate Nominating Committee

i) Paper S.05-130 – Elections

Senate was advised that no further nominations had been received, M. Rekkas was therefore elected by acclamation to the Senate Appeals Board (SAB) and M. Joffres was elected by acclamation to the Senate Committee on University Priorities (SCUP).

The Open Session adjourned at 7:50 pm. Senate moved directly into Closed Session.

Alison Watt
Director, University Secretariat