

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY SENATE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, September 15, 2008 at 5:30 pm in Room 3210 WMC

Open Session

Present: Stevenson, Michael, President and Chair of Senate

Arsenault-Antolick, Haida
Bart, Brad
Bocking, Natalie
Chapman, Glenn
Collinge, Joan
Copeland, Lynn
Cormack, Lesley
de Castell, Suzanne
Dow, Greg
Driver, Jon
Easton, Stephen
Fergusson, Andrew
Francis, June
Gençay, Ramo
Golnaraghi, Farid
Hannah, David
Jones, John (representing C. Jones)
Krane, Bill
Laba, Martin
Lee, Benjamin
Letourneau, Michael
Leznoff, Daniel
Liljedahl, Peter
MacDonald, Camille
Paling, Joseph
Parkhouse, Wade
Patel, Ravi
Pavsek, Christopher
Percival, Colin
Percival, Paul
Peters, Joseph
Pinto, Mario
Plischke, Michael
Popadiuk, Natalee
Russell, Robert
Shapiro, Daniel
Tapia, Earl Von
Thompson, Steve
van Baarsen, Amanda
van der Wey, Dolores
Williams, Tony

Absent:

Bains, Aman
Brennand, Tracy
Fizzell, Maureen
Gordon, Robert
Harding, Kevin
Hayes, Michael
Janes, Craig
Joffres, Michel
Louie, Brandt
McArthur, James
O'Neil, John
Shermer, Thomas
Tiffany, Evan
Vaid, Bhuvinder
Wakkary, Ron
Warner, D'Arcy

In attendance:

Guthrie, Larry
Hibbitts, Pat
Pochurko, Martin
Roitberg, Bernie

Ross, Kate, Registrar & Senior Director Student Enrolment
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 July 7, 2008

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

The Chair explained that a number of ex-officio members of Senate have changed and on behalf of Senate, the Chair welcomed the following members in their new capacities: Jon Driver, Vice-President, Academic; Colin Jones, Interim Dean of Applied Sciences; Suzanne de Castell, Interim Dean of Education, Joan Collinge, Interim Dean of Continuing Studies, and Wade Parkhouse, Dean of Graduate Studies.

The Chair reported that intense efforts are being pursued, not only by SFU but also by The University Presidents' Council (TUPC), with the Government in order to have the funding which was withdrawn last year replaced so that the base budget is shored up. Efforts are also being made to improve graduate funding, especially with respect to unfunded graduate enrolments, and to achieve funding for the climate change agenda which otherwise will impose a heavy burden and financial cost on public sector institutions. Considerable efforts are being made at all levels of Government to stress the consequences of cuts and lack of commitments by Government. Referring to a recent notice sent out to the University community, the Chair reiterated that consultations about budget will start in October and documentation which will be presented at the public sessions outlines the gravity of the situation and the difficulties of accommodating the shortfall of forecast expenses against the so far announced revenue picture.

Referring to references at the last meeting around the Government's Letter of Expectations, the Chair reported that the Ministry of Advanced Education significantly changed the content of the Letter of Expectation for research universities. There was general agreement by Board Chairs and TUPC that the while the document was not ideal, the truly serious problems of interference in Senate jurisdiction and other issues of concern to universities were removed. The Chair reported that he will continue to seek opportunities to discuss improvements both to the process and to the content of future letters with the Ministry.

At the request of the Chair, the Vice-President Academic presented a brief report on enrolment for the Fall 2008 term. Undergraduate enrolment for the Fall was above the targets originally set by Senate, both for domestic and international students. Brief discussion followed with respect to specific enrolment figures. In response to an inquiry as to whether some of the increased tuition revenue would go to address the budget shortfall in the scholarships, awards and bursaries budget, Senate was advised that this area would likely be given priority.

i) Paper S.08-99 – SFU Financial Statements March 31, 2008 (For Information)

P. Hibbitts, Vice-President Finance and Administration, M. Porchuko, Associate Vice-President Finance, and L. Guthrie, Director, Accounting Services were in attendance in order to respond to questions.

Brief introductory remarks with particular reference to pages 18 (last year's revenue compared to this year's revenue) and 27 (reduction of reserves), were made by the Vice-President Finance and Administration. Following a very brief discussion, the Statement was received by Senate.

5. Question Period

There were no questions.

6. Reports of Committees

A) Senate Committee on University Priorities

i) Paper S.08-100 – Behavioural Ecology Research Group name change to Evolutionary and Behavioural Ecology Research Group

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by R. Patel

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors, the research group name change from Behavioural Ecology Research Group to Evolutionary and Behavioural Ecology Research Group”

B. Roitberg, Department of Biological Sciences, was in attendance to respond to questions.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

B) Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules

i) Paper S.08-101 – Annual Report (For Information)

The Annual Report of the Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules covering the period June 2007 to May 2008 was received by Senate for information.

C) Senate Nominating Committee

i) Paper S.08-102 Revised – Elections

Senate's attention was drawn to Senate Paper S.08-102 Revised which was distributed at the meeting and showed those positions which had been elected by acclamation and those positions which required balloting. Senators were reminded that voting would take place on-line. Senators would receive an email with information and links to both the ballot and the candidate statements that are on-line. A copy of S.08-102 Revised would also be

attached to the email so Senators have complete electoral information. Voting on-line would be accessible for approximately two days and all Senators were encouraged to vote.

Names of candidates elected by acclamation can be found on Senate Paper S.08-102 Revised. Outstanding vacancies will be carried forward. The results of on-line voting are as follows:

International Student Exchange Committee (ISEC)

One Student (Alternate) for term of office to May 31, 2009

Elected: Ashley Pullman

Senate Committee on University Honours (SCUH)

One Student for term of office from September 2008 to December 31, 2008

Elected: Benjamin Lee

7. Other Business

i) Paper S.08-103 – Academic Amnesty Motion

Senate was advised that the motion concerning a protest on October 1st has been withdrawn because of the announcement of the Federal election.

8. Information

The date of the next regularly scheduled meeting of Senate is Monday, October 6, 2008.

The Open Session adjourned at 5:50 pm, and Senate moved directly into Closed Session.

Alison Watt
Director, University Secretariat