

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY SENATE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, January 12, 2009 at 5:30 pm in Room 3210 WMC

Open Session

Present:

Stevenson, Michael, President and Chair of Senate

Arsenault-Antolick, Haida
Bains, Aman
Bart, Brad
Bocking, Natalie
Chapman, Glenn
Collinge, Joan
Copeland, Lynn
Cormack, Lesley
Dagenais, Diane (representing S. de Castell)
Driver, Jon
Easton, Stephen
Francis, June
Gençay, Ramo
Gibson, Eli
Golnaraghi, Farid
Gordon, Irene (representing D. Shapiro)
Gordon, Robert
Hannah, David
Joffres, Michel
Krane, Bill
Lee, Benjamin
Letourneau, Michael
O'Neil, John
Parkhouse, Wade
Patel, Ravi
Pavsek, Christopher
Percival, Colin
Percival, Paul
Pinto, Mario
Plischke, Michael
Popowich, Fred (representing C. Jones)
Russell, Robert
Seal, Brent
Tapia, Earl Von
Thompson, Steve
Tiffany, Evan
van der Wey, Dolores
Wakkary, Ron
Warner, D'Arcy
Williams, Tony

Ross, Kate, Registrar & Senior Director Student Enrolment
Watt, Alison, Director, University Secretariat
Grant, Bobbie, Recording Secretary

Absent:

Brennand, Tracy
Dow, Greg
Fergusson, Andrew
Fizzell, Maureen
Harding, Kevin
Janes, Craig
Laba, Martin
Leznoff, Daniel
Liljedahl, Peter
Louie, Brandt
MacDonald, Camille
McArthur, James
Paling, Joseph
Peters, Joseph
Popadiuk, Natalee
Scott, Jamie
Shermer, Thomas
Vaid, Bhuvinder

In attendance:

Di Francesco, Concetta
Geiger, Andrea
Hinchliffe, Jo
MacAlister, David
Rahilly, Tim

1. Approval of the Agenda
The Agenda was approved as distributed.
2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of December 1, 2008
Reference was made to the use of the word 'incredible' in the last sentence on page 4, and amendment if necessary, was left to the discretion of the Senate Secretary. The Minutes were subsequently approved.
3. Business Arising from the Minutes
Senate had requested a report on questions which were posed concerning tutorials in Psychology and the offering of summer courses in Political Science. The Dean of Arts and Social Sciences reported that not all tutorials in Psychology have been eliminated. Tutorials continue for PSYC 099, 201 and various upper division courses. Scheduled tutorials in PSYC 100 and 102 have been changed to an open lab format that requires attendance at various points in the semester. Twelve courses (4 Upper Division [1 by Distance Education] and 8 Lower Division) are scheduled to be offered in Summer 2009 in Political Science, the same number of courses as was offered in 2008.
4. Report of the Chair
There was no report from the Chair.
5. Question Period
There were no questions.
6. Reports of Committees

A) Paper S.09-1 Annual Report on Student Discipline Matters (For Information)

The following persons were in attendance in order to respond to questions: D. MacAlister, Outgoing Co-ordinator, University Board on Student Discipline; A. Geiger, Chair, Senate Committee on Disciplinary Appeals, C. Di Francesco, Secretary, Senate Committee on Disciplinary Appeals, J. Hinchliffe, Academic Integrity Co-ordinator, and T. Rahilly, Senior Director, Student & Community Life.

In response to an inquiry with respect to SCODA cases 2 and 3, the Chair of SCODA briefly explained the basis of the Committee's decision to remove the academic dishonesty report. The one case involved a procedural error which denied the student an opportunity to be heard, and in the second case the Committee concluded that the plagiarism was very marginal and did not warrant retention of the form in the student's file. The Chair of SCODA expressed the view that the one form fits all approach does not always work as various departments and faculty members have different views and a broad range of definitions on what constitutes plagiarism. It was also noted that the form not only acts as a matter of academic record, it does, in a sense impose a penalty, in that once filed it actually creates a discipline record in the student's file. It was suggested that it would be beneficial if the form could take into account the range of acts that support a finding of plagiarism; some instances are very much calculated and intended to deceive while others

are due to inadvertence. On behalf of Senate and the University, the Chair thanked all concerned for their work and service to the University in this area.

B) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

i) Paper S.09-2 – Undergraduate Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved new courses, deletion of courses, WQB Course Designations, and changes to existing courses in the following departments/programs: Archeology, Criminology, Economics, Contemporary Arts, Humanities, Linguistics, Sociology/Anthropology, Women's Studies, Geography, and the Language Training Institute.

ii) Paper S.09-3 – Undergraduate Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved deletion of courses in Earth Sciences, Mathematics, and Molecular Biology and Biochemistry.

C) Senate Graduate Studies Committee

i) Paper S.09-4 – Revision to Graduate General Regulation 1.10.6 Examination of Projects Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of Degree Requirements

Senate was advised that Paper S.09-4 was withdrawn from the Agenda.

ii) Paper S.09-5 – Graduate Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Applied Sciences (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved new courses, changes to degree and program requirements, and minor revisions to existing courses in the following departments/programs: Communication, Computing Science, Interactive Arts and Technology.

iii) Paper S.09-6 – Graduate Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved changes to requirements (degree, program, admission) in the following departments/programs: Geography, Gerontology, Latin American Studies.

iv) Paper S.09-7 – Graduate Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Business Administration (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved changes to the description of the thesis proposal defense and minor revisions to courses in the Faculty of Business Administration.

- v) Paper S.09-8 – Graduate Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Health Sciences (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved minor revisions to courses in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

- vi) Paper S.09-9 – Graduate Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved minor revisions to courses in Physics and Earth Sciences.

- D) Senate Committee on Academic Integrity in Student Learning and Evaluation

- i) Paper S.09-10 – Final Report (For Information)

R. Gordon, Senator and Chair of SCAISLE was available to respond to questions.

It was noted that R. Gordon has been Chair of the Committee since its inception and a motion moved by P. Percival and seconded by S. Easton was unanimously approved thanking R. Gordon for his exemplary service to Senate and the committee members for their hard work in this regard.

Senate was advised that expectations are that the revised discipline policies will be presented to Senate at the next meeting.

The Final Report of the Committee was received by Senate for information.

7. Other Business

- i) Paper S.09-11 – Academic Amnesty Motion

Moved by N. Bocking, seconded by R. Patel

“that Senate requests that faculty and instructors make every effort to accommodate students who wish to participate in the February 4th rally and not penalize these students academically”

Senate was reminded that the motion conforms to precedent from past resolutions of this kind.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

- ii) Paper S.09-12 –Revision to Policy A13.05 – Search Committee for the Dean of Library Services/University Librarian

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by S. Easton

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the revised updated search committee policy for the Dean of Library Services/University Librarian”

Reference was made to items 7 and 8 on page 3 of the terms of reference and it was suggested that since these items relate to terms of appointment rather than issues for the search committee, they do not belong in the policy. There is a separate policy describing terms of appointment for Faculty Deans and the suggestion was made that the paper be withdrawn and revised in order to bring it in accord with other policies. It was pointed out that this was a not a Faculty Dean appointment and therefore would not fit exactly with terms and conditions of Faculty Deans.

The Dean of Arts and Social Sciences noted that the proposed change in membership might result in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences not being represented on this Search Committee. She stressed the fundamental importance of the Library to her Faculty and requested that this matter also should be reviewed. It was pointed out that since approximately half of the faculty members in the University reside in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences it was unlikely that this would occur.

There were no objections to the withdrawal of the motion and the paper which will be brought back with appropriate revision.

8. Information

The date of the next regularly scheduled meeting of Senate is Monday, February 2, 2009.

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

Alison Watt
Director, University Secretariat