

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY SENATE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on
Monday, May 11, 2009 at 5:30 pm in Room 3210 WMC

Open Session

Present: Stevenson, Michael, Chair

Beale, Alison
Brennand, Tracy
Chapman, Glenn
Collinge, Joan
Copeland, Lynn
Cormack, Lesley
de Castell, Suzanne
Dow, Greg
Driver, Jon
Fizzell, Maureen
Francis, June
Gibson, Eli
Gordon, Robert
Harding, Kevin
Hiscocks, Graham
Joffres, Michel
Laba, Martin
Lee, Benjamin
Letourneau, Michael
Li, Ze-Nian
Liljedahl, Peter
MacDonald, Camille
Noble, Cameron
Paling, Joseph
Parkhouse, Wade
Percival, Colin
Peters, Joseph
Pierce, John
Pinto, Mario
Plischke, Michael
Popadiuk, Natalee
Seal, Brent
Shapiro, Daniel
Thompson, Steve
van der Wey, Dolores
Wakkary, Ron
Warner, D'Arcy
Williams, Tony

Absent:

Arsenault-Antolick, Haida
Bains, Aman
Bart, Brad
Bocking, Natalie
Easton, Stephen
Fergusson, Andrew
Gençay, Ramo
Golnaraghi, Farid
Hannah, David
Janes, Craig
Krane, Bill
Laba, Martin
Leznoff, Daniel
Louie, Brandt
McArthur, James
O'Neil, John
Patel, Ravi
Pavsek, Christopher
Percival, Paul
Scott, Jamie
Shermer, Thomas
Tapia, Earl Von
Tiffany, Evan
Underhill, Owen
Vaid, Bhuvinder
Woodbury, Rob

In attendance:

Amundsen, Cheryl
Dill, Ryan
Hinchliffe, Jo
Lougheed, Patrick
Watson, Neil

Ross, Kate, Registrar and Secretary of Senate
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 April 6, 2009

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 noted the recent death of a former colleague and distinguished member of the University community, Robin Blaser. The Chair reported that he was grateful to have had the opportunity to present Dr. Blaser with his honorary degree at a small ceremony at his home attended by family, close friends, and several members of the senior administration. SFU mourns his passing and, on behalf of the University, the Chair expressed condolences to his family and close friends.

On behalf of Senate, the Chair expressed thanks to the following outgoing Senators and presented them with a Certificate of Appreciation: B. Lee, P. Liljedahl, C. MacDonald, J. Paling, and B. Seal. Thanks to the following retiring Senators not present at the meeting were noted; Certificates would be forwarded to them by mail: H. Arsenault-Antolick, N. Bocking, A. Bains, B. Bart, A. Fergusson, R. Gençay, T. Shermer, B. Vaid, and E. Von Tapia.

5. Question Period

G. Chapman submitted a question concerning a 30% funding cut with respect to electronic journals, and questioned the impact of the cut on the ability of faculty and students to carry out academic research. A further inquiry was posed as to whether there were any plans to investigate other sources of support for the Library, such as external fund raising campaigns.

In response to the question, L. Copeland, Dean of Library Services and University Librarian, advised Senate that the Library spends approximately \$3 million per year on monographs and \$5 million on serials, 90% in US dollars. There has been significant benefit achieved through consortial negotiation and package purchases. No deficit has been carried forward from 08/09. The reasons for the cut are complex: the decline in Canadian dollar from 1.09 to 1.23 (although it may improve); an actual cut of \$393,000; and annual increases to serials which are usually around 6% independent of the dollar fluctuation. Thus there is an estimated shortfall of \$1.9 million. In addition, the Library has multiyear commitments of \$1.4 million meaning a 30% cut to the rest of the budget (not just electronic journals). Senate was advised that the Library monitors the exchange rate and prebuys when possible. 'Principles' for the cutback have been reviewed by the Senate Library Committee and a special Advisory Committee with representatives from each Faculty as well as undergraduate and graduate students. Data such as usage per dollar are being gathered; the relative cost of cancelling certain 'packages' and buying individual titles is being calculated; and 'general' and discipline specific journals are being reviewed

for cancellation. The process is extremely difficult because of the size of the cut and the complexity of subscriptions and before any final decisions are made, there will be consultation with individual faculty. In a broader sense, brief summary information was provided with respect to funding at large US university libraries. Senate was informed that the International Consortium of Library consortia has issued a call to publishers to ameliorate price increases (also supported by CRKN etc.) and some minor effect has been detected. The possibility of a funding campaign which may help in the future will be followed up by the University Librarian.

6. Reports of Committees

A) Senate Committee on University Priorities

i) Paper S.09-67 – Major, Minor and Honors Programs in Biomedical Physiology

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by M. Plischke

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors, the full program proposal for Major, Honors and Minor Programs in Biomedical Physiology from the Department of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology in the Faculty of Science”

R. Dill, Department of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology, was available to respond to questions.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

ii) Paper S.09-68 – External Review – Department of Psychology

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by G. Dow

“that Senate approve the recommendations from the Senate Committee on University Priorities concerning advice to the Department of Psychology and the Dean of Arts and Social Sciences on priority items resulting from the External Review”

N. Watson, Chair, Department of Psychology was available to respond to questions.

Reference was made to comments from the Dean in response to the review which noted that the Department had suffered from attrition for several years and, subsequent to the review, the situation worsened as a result of faculty taking the voluntary exit package. Clarification was sought as to why the voluntary exit package was made available in a Department already suffering from faculty shortages. Senate was advised that there were no restrictions on the voluntary faculty exit program which was offered to all faculty members. The funding freed up by faculty retirements was available to departments for temporary teaching replacements and, in the next budget year, departments can make a

case for replacement of those positions based upon considerations such as faculty-student ratios and the research activity within the department.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iii) Paper S.09-69 – Deletion of Education and Technology Minor Program

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by M. Fizzell

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors, the deletion of the Minor in Education and Technology in the Faculty of Education, effective September 2009”

C. Amundsen, Faculty of Education, was available to respond to questions.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

iv) Paper S.09-70 – Annual Report (For Information)

Senate received the 2008/2009 Annual Report of the Senate Committee on University Priorities for information.

v) Paper S.09-71 – Change in Committee Membership

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by K. Harding

“that Senate approve the proposed changes to the membership of the Senate Committee on University Priorities”

Changes include an increase to the number of academic deans on SCUP from 3 to 4 by the addition of the Dean of Graduate Studies as an ongoing representative, rotation of Faculty deans to every two years rather than annually, addition of faculty representatives from each of the new Faculties, and an increase to student representation by the addition of a specified position for a graduate student.

Question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

B) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

i) Paper S.09-72 – Elimination of Enrolment Deposit (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved the elimination of the registration deposit for continuing undergraduate students in favour of the requirement that students have a non-negative account balance, effective for the 2009 Fall semester.

It was noted that one of the original reasons for the deposit was to make it easier to determine how many students were actually going to be taking courses in a particular semester, and inquiry was made as to the impact on those determinations in future. Senate was advised that since students only have to pay the deposit three days before registration there would be no impact.

Secretary's Note: The wrong version of this paper was presented to Senate. The correct version, which has already been approved by the Board of Governors, pertained to both undergraduate and graduate students. A revised paper with the correct information will be filed in official Senate records and on the Web for future reference.

ii) Paper S.09-73 – 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 changes to the lower division requirements and additional Cohort requirements for the French Cohort Program, effective September 2009.

iii) Paper S.09-74 – Undergraduate Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Science (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved prerequisite changes to existing courses in Department of Mathematics, and a Breadth-Science designation for KIN 110 in the Department of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology.

iv) Paper S.09-75 – Changes to SFU Calendar language: Repeat courses, Examinations, Grade tables, Explanations of grades and notations (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved changes to sections in the SFU Calendar to clarify language regarding repeat courses, examinations, grades tables, and explanations of grades and notations.

In response to a question regarding clarification about limits on repeating Special Topic courses, Senate was advised that there were no repeat limits as long as the course content was different each time the course was taken.

C) Senate Appeals Board

i) Paper S.09-76 – Annual Report (For Information)

Senate received the 2008 Annual Report of the Senate Appeals Board for information.

D) Senate Graduate Studies Committee

i) Paper S.09-77 – Annual Report (For Information)

Senate received the 2008 Annual Report of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee for information.

E) Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules

i) Paper S.09-78 – Revisions to the Rules of Senate and Election Rules

Moved by J. Driver, seconded by M. Letourneau

“that Senate approve the revision of the Rules of Senate and Election Rules as outlined in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 of Senate paper S.09-78”

Revisions to the Rules of Senate include changes regarding electronic balloting for elections to Senate Committees, Senate, and Board of Governors, and changes with respect to the selection of the Chancellor as a result of amendments to the University Act.

7. Other Business

i) Paper S.09-79 – Report on results of elections to Senate and Board of Governors (For Information)

Senate received the report with respect to the results of faculty and student elections to Senate and the Board of Governors for information.

ii) Paper S.09-80 – Notice of Motion: Revisions to the Rules of Senate and Election Rules

Senate received a Notice of Motion with regard to a revision to the Rules of Senate regarding graduate student representation on Senate. A motion with regard to the revision will be brought forward to the June meeting of Senate for approval.

8. Information

The date of the next regularly scheduled meeting of Senate is Monday, June 1, 2009.

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

Kate Ross
Registrar and Secretary of Senate