

# THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



## Vancouver Senate Secretariat

Senate and Curriculum Services

Enrolment Services

2016-1874 East Mall

Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1

[www.students.ubc.ca/senate](http://www.students.ubc.ca/senate)

## Vancouver Senate

### MINUTES OF MARCH 28, 2007

#### Attendance

**Present:** President S. J. Toope (Chair), Ms. L. M. Collins (Acting Secretary), Dr. P. Adebar, Mr. B. Ahmadian, Mr. T. Ahmed, Dr. J. D. Berger, Prof. C. Boyle, Dr. H. Burt, Dr. L. Chui, Mr. B. Danin, Dr. W. Dunford, Ms. G. Eom, Mr. F. Fan, Dr. S. Farris, Dr. I. Franks, Dr. C. Friedrichs, Ms. M. Friesen, Mr. C. Funnell, Dean N. Gallini, Dr. S. Grayston, Dr. L. Gunderson, Dr. P. G. Harrison, Dr. R. Harrison, Dr. R. Helsley, Associate Vice-President J. Hutton, Dr. R. Irwin, Dean M. Isaacson, Dean M. Isman, Dr. J. Johnson, Ms. J. Khangura, Ms. W. King, Dr. B. S. Lalli, Mr. R. Lowe, Dr. M. MacEntee, Vice-President *pro tem.* G. Mackie, Dr. P. Marshall, Dr. A. McAfee, Ms. K. McAllister, Dr. T. McDaniels, Chancellor A. McEachern, Mr. W. McNulty, Mr. P. Orchard, Dean S. Peacock, Dean *pro tem.* A. Rose, Dean J. Saddler, Ms. E. Segal, Dr. B. Stelck, Mr. R. Taddei, Ms. A. Thamboo, Dean R. Tierney, Dr. R. Wilson, Dr. R. Windsor-Liscombe, Dr. R. A. Yaworsky.

**By Invitation:** Mr. C. Eaton, Ms. N. Knight (Associate Vice-President, Campus & Community Planning), Ms. A. Mann, Dr. A. Phillips (UBC Institute of Mental Health).

**Regrets:** Dr. B. Arneil, Principal *pro tem.* L. Bainbridge, Dr. N. Banthia, Dr. G. Bluman, Dean M. A. Bobinski, Mr. P. T. Brady, Dr. J. Brander, Ms. S. Brkanovic, Dr. E. Dean, Dr. J. Dennison, Dr. D. Fielding, Mr. C. L. Gorman, Dr. D. Griffin, Dr. S. B. Knight, Mr. R. Lam, Mr. M. Lane, Mr. K. Liu, Dr. W. McKee, Dr. D. McLean, Dean D. Muzyka, Dr. P. Potter, Dr. J. Sarra, Associate Vice-President B. J. Silzer (Registrar & Secretary), Mr. B. Simpson, Dean R. Sindelar, Dr. D. Steyn, Dean G. Stuart, Dr. S. Thorne, Mr. B. Toosi, Dr. M. Upadhyaya, Dr. P. Ward, Dr. D. Weary, Dean E. H. K. Yen, Dr. J. Young.

**Recording Secretary:** Ms. L. M. Collins

#### Call to Order

#### Meeting Agenda

With the consent of the meeting, President Toope added to the agenda (under "Other Business") an oral report from the Vice-President, Academic & Provost *pro tem.* on the University budget planning process.

## Senate Membership

### REPLACEMENTS

Acting Secretary Ms. Collins announced the following changes to Senate membership:

1. Dr. Peter Ward, University Librarian *pro tem.*, replaced Ms. Catherine Quinlan;
2. The Rev. Dr. Stephen Farris replaced Dr. Wendy Fletcher as representative from the Vancouver School of Theology.

### CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

President Toope presented certificates of appreciation to Student Senators completing their terms on March 31, 2007.

Mr. Bijan Ahmadian  
Mr. Tariq Ahmed  
Ms. Sanya Brkanovic  
Mr. Brian Danin  
Ms. Gina Eom  
Mr. Jerry Fan Fan  
Mr. Cameron Funnell  
Ms. Jaspreet Khangura  
Mr. Richard Lam  
Mr. Michael Lane  
Mr. Kerry Liu  
Ms. Kathryn McAllister  
Mr. Philip Orchard  
Ms. Elizabeth Segal  
Ms. Andrea Thamboo  
Mr. Behnam Toosi

### Minutes of the Previous Meeting

<i>Dean Isaacson</i>	}	<i>That the minutes of the meeting of February 28, 2007 be adopted as circulated.</i>
<i>Dr. P. G. Harrison</i>		

Carried.

### Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

## **Remarks from the Chair and Related Questions**

### **KILLAM PRIZE**

The President was pleased report that Dr. Robert Hancock from the Department of Microbiology and Immunology had recently been awarded the 2007 Killam Prize in the health sciences category.

## **Academic Building Needs Committee**

### **UPDATE ON UBC VANCOUVER CAMPUS PLAN**

At the request of Committee Chair Dr. Adebar, the Chair recognized guest speaker Ms. Nancy Knight, Associate Vice-President, Campus & Community Planning. Associate Vice-President Knight gave an update on the UBC Vancouver Campus Plan, stating that she hoped to involve the Senate and the academic community as much as possible before presenting the Campus Plan for approval by the Board of Governors in May 2007.

Associate Vice-President Knight reported that a new Campus Plan was necessary because the previous plan had been “built out” and a number of new policy frameworks had since been established. There had also been significant growth in academic and research activities. The campus had once been a “commuter campus,” but was slowly evolving toward becoming more self-contained.

Associate Vice-President Knight recounted the process to date leading up the development of the Campus Plan. The team was currently in Phase 3 (Campus Plan Key Policy Directions) of a five-phase plan culminating in presentation for Board approval. Senators were invited to visit <http://www.campusplan.ubc.ca> to participate in a survey as part of the public consultation process. A recent speaker’s series and focus groups covered issues including what students are going to be like in future years, how the campus could become a more memorable place, and how to design public spaces where people want to be.

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*Academic Building Needs, continued*

**CONSULTATION HIGHLIGHTS**

- Approximately 1100 responses were received
- 117 Workshop participants
- 799 online responses to the Big Questions

**KEY THEMES**

- Different types of classrooms and learning environments
- Informal spaces that draw people together for dialogue
- A human scale to the campus, with more housing, more services and amenities / mixed use
- A campus that takes advantage of its setting and context
- A public realm that respects people
- A sustainable campus with more green buildings and infrastructure

**HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY POLICY DIRECTIONS**

- Design the campus as a learning-centred environment, focused on a community of scholars
- Provide flexible learning spaces throughout campus
- Enhance opportunities for interdisciplinary study & research
- Use the land base and existing facilities efficiently
- Enhance the vitality and beauty of the campus
- Create places for people that are welcoming
- Establish a pedestrian-only core with a high quality experience
- Manage cars and parking
- Improve safety, health and wellness
- Go to the next level in sustainability

Associate Vice-President Knight gave an overview of the participation in the planning process by the School of Community & Regional Planning, the School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, and the School of Human Kinetics. She noted that Senate consultation was a required element, and invited Senators to provide input through the present discussion, as well as through the website, as focus group participants, or by sending individual written submissions.

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*Academic Building Needs Committee, continued*

## **DISCUSSION**

Referring to the Key Policy Directions posted on the website, Dean Tierney stated that the policies appeared to be biased toward the efficiency of building and that he found them lacking in the areas of building in and preserving the natural environment. Mr. Taddei agreed, adding that the Alma Mater Society (AMS) Council had raised the same concern during consultation. The AMS had requested tangible goals for the protection of the environment as well as an enhanced focus on the protection of certain areas of the campus.

Mr. Ahmadian suggested that the policy directions should include quantifiable goals with respect to allocation of a certain percentage of total space for student use. Associate Vice-President Knight responded that there was a plan to develop evaluation criteria for space allocation decisions, but that the Campus Plan would not dictate how individual Faculties chose to allocate their building space.

Dr. Windsor-Liscombe raised the issue of heritage conservation, reminding Senators that this was one of the roles ascribed to the Senate under the *University Act*. Associate Vice-President Knight reported that there was a technical study underway to identify buildings and landscapes with significant value as provincial assets, and that the heritage subcommittee of the President's Property and Planning Advisory Committee and the Senate Academic Building Needs Committee would be asked to review the results of the study.

There was some discussion about the lack of a stable flow of capital funding from government sources. President Toope agreed that this constituted a challenge. He stated that building decisions needed to be made in response to the academic plan and not solely to align with potential donations or other funding sources.

Dr. Dunford stated that the former Faculty Club used to provide an opportunity for faculty from different parts of the campus to interact, and that such interaction had decreased since the closure

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*Academic Building Committee, continued*

of the Club. He also described some of the newer buildings on campus as ugly. Associate Vice-President Knight stated that the Main Mall corridor in particular, with its high concentration of Faculties, could be developed to increase energy and interaction. Upcoming renovations to the Henry Angus Building and the Chemistry Building would help in this regard.

In response to a question from Dr. Burt about the existence of an academic literature on constructing a campus of this nature, Associate Vice-President Knight stated that most of the available literature had been written by practitioners rather than academics. In response to a further question about child care spaces on campus, Associate Vice-President Knight stated that the Campus Plan would consider allocation of appropriate physical space, but that the Board of Governors would separately consider child care service provision and the actual number of child care spaces.

Dr. McAfee noted the importance of space for informal dialogue between students and faculty, as well as space where clubs and other student groups could meet. Ms. Friesen noted that the new Irving K. Barber Learning Centre would offer significant learning and social spaces for students.

In response to a question from Dr. Berger about cars, parking, and transit, Associate Vice-President Knight stated that an underground transit facility would be part of the plan, and that it would take a significant amount of consideration to get it right.

Ms. McAllister expressed support for places where people could gather, but also some concern about increasing the number of retailers. Associate Vice-President Knight stated that there had been a number of discussions about shopping during the consultative process, and that a common sentiment was that the University should choose vendors that align with our values and who can provide the goods and services that students and faculty need.

Dr. Paul Harrison raised the issue of protection from the rain, and suggested that the unpleasant appearance of some buildings was due in part to the Vancouver climate. Associate Vice-Presi-

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*Academic Building Needs Committee, continued*

dent Knight stated that weather protection was a challenge for SUB Boulevard in particular, but that it would be a factor in reshaping that area. Constructing buildings closer together was noted as another way to provide weather protection.

Associate Vice-President Knight thanked Senators for their contributions and encouraged them to continue thinking about the Campus Plan and to provide input formally or informally. President Toope thanked Associate Vice-President Knight and the Academic Building Needs Committee for their work.

### **Admissions Committee**

Committee Chair Dr. Berger presented the reports.

### **FACULTY OF FORESTRY: ADVANCEMENT**

The Committee had circulated a proposal to modify the Examination and Advancement section of the Calendar for the Faculty of Forestry. Proposed changes were first considered by the Senate at its January 2007 meeting, and the matter was referred to the Faculty of Forestry for further refinement. The Committee had approved the revised Calendar entry and recommended approval by the Senate.

<i>Dr. Berger</i>	}	<i>That the Senate approve the changes to the examinations and advancement regulations for students in the Faculty of Forestry.</i>
<i>Dean Saddler</i>		

Carried.

### **APPLICANTS FOLLOWING THE ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL MATH CURRICULUM**

The Committee presented a proposal to modify admissions practices for applicants from Ontario in response to recent changes to the Ontario high school mathematics curriculum. Under the proposal, programs that previously required MCB4U: Advanced Functions and Introductory Calculus



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*Admissions Committee, continued*

lus for admission would require (beginning in the 2008 admissions cycle) MHF4U: Advanced Functions but not MCV4U: Calculus and Vectors.

<i>Dr. Berger</i>	}	<i>That the Senate accept the recommendations of the Admissions Committee with respect to the admission of applicants following the Ontario high school mathematics curriculum.</i>
<i>Dr. Gunderson</i>		

Carried.

### **Agenda Committee**

#### **COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE SENATE AND THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

Committee Chair Dean Isaacson presented for information a report regarding communication between the Vancouver Senate and the Board of Governors. He noted that an earlier report on this matter has been presented for information at the October 2006 meeting of Senate. Since then, the Committee consulted further with President Toope and developed the revised report, which had been endorsed by the President.

President Toope indicated his support for improved communication and assured Senators that the Board of Governors and both secretariats had responded positively to the proposed changes. He thanked the Senate Secretariat and the Agenda Committee for bringing the report forward.

An excerpt of the reports follows:

#### **Proposed Enhancements**

1. Formal Board-Senate communication will continue to occur between the Secretariats. Therefore, the Senate Secretariat will forward to the Board Secretariat, copied to the Office of the Vice-President Academic & Provost, all items requiring Board approval. Under the *University Act*, the Board must receive the Senate materials within ten days of Senate approval. In turn, the Board Secretariat will forward to the



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*Agenda Committee, continued*

Senate Secretariat the disposition of all Senate items promptly following these decisions.

2. In order to highlight the items of Senate brought to the Board, the President will recommend to the Board that Senate items be presented to the Board as reports from the Senate.
3. In order to reduce the time between Senate's approval of routine items and notification back to Senate, the President will recommend to the Board that all routine Senate business will be considered by the Board using its established "approval by consent" procedure, which would see materials circulated to Board members independently of Board meeting agendas, and so expedite the approval process. The Board is exploring approaches to dealing with "approval by consent" matters, whereby the rights of Board members to be suitably engaged in such decisions will be fully respected. In addition, it is possible to better coordinate scheduling of meetings of the Board and the Senate.
4. In order to ensure that all necessary Board and Senate consultation and approvals take place, the Board and Senate secretariats have agreed to exchange advance copies of their respective draft meeting agendas for information and comment.
5. As an enhancement to the Board's communication with the academic community more generally, the President has suggested that the Board consider posting on its website -- within ten days of Board meetings meeting -- materials and decisions relating to items considered in open session. Similarly, the President has suggested that the Board post its meeting minutes on its website promptly following their approval, and that the Board secretariat would inform the Senate secretariat and the Faculties in a timely manner of their availability.

### **Curriculum Committee**

Committee Chair Dr. Marshall presented the reports.

### **FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE**

*Please see also 'Appendix A: Curriculum Summary.'*

*Dr. Marshall  
Dr. R. Harrison*

} *That the Senate approve the new and changed  
undergraduate courses and programs brought  
forward by the Faculty of Applied Science.*

Carried.

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*Curriculum Committee, continued*

## WRITING AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Dr. Marshall reported that the Committee has discussed writing and communication skills for first-year students in response to a proposal from a Faculty to discontinue the enrolment of its students in English 112 and to establish a faculty-specific communications skill course to be taken in its place. The Committee was of the opinion that an ad hoc committee should be formed to consider the matter more fully.

<i>Dr. Marshall</i>	}	<i>That the Senate direct the Nominating Committee to recommend to the Senate terms of reference and composition for an ad hoc committee to review the teaching of introductory writing and communication skills for students in all undergraduate programs; and</i>
<i>Dr. Berger</i>		

*That the Nominating Committee be directed to report back by the next meeting of the Senate with its recommendations.*

## DISCUSSION

Dr. Berger stated that several Faculties and Schools were likely considering proposals to substitute a program- or Faculty-specific course for English 112, and he felt that the academic community should reflect on the matter before approving such proposals one at a time.

Dean Gallini stated that the Faculty of Arts was aware of a proposal from the Faculty of Applied Science to substitute a new APSC course for ENGL 112. She welcomed the discussion at Senate, noting that it seemed to recall the Write, Write, and Rewrite report on writing across the curriculum from approximately five years earlier. Dean Gallini stated that the Faculty of Arts had been discussing a number of possibilities, including replacing the first-year English requirement with a writing requirement or other courses offered in students' own Faculties. She recommended that the Nominating Committee consider involving faculty members from Arts (specifically the English Department) as well as Senators from the Senate Teaching & Learning Committee.

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*Curriculum Committee, continued*

Dr. Yaworsky recalled that the Senate had struck an ad hoc Consultative Writing Requirements Committee in October 2001. He had served on the Committee. The Committee met until March 2004, but unfortunately never reported to the Senate. He suggested that the Nominating Committee consider revising the composition and terms of reference of the Consultative Writing Requirements Committee to address the present matter. Dr. Marshall supported this idea.

In amendment (note in particular deletion of “introductory”),

*Dr. Marshall*  
*Dr. Berger*

} *That the Senate direct the Nominating  
Committee to recommend to the Senate revised  
terms of reference and composition for the ad  
hoc Consultative Writing Requirements  
Committee for the purpose of reviewing the  
teaching of writing and communication skills  
for students in all undergraduate programs;  
and*

*That the Nominating Committee be directed to  
report back by the next meeting of the Senate  
with its recommendations.*

The amended  
motion was put and  
carried.

**Report from the Vice-President, Academic & Provost *pro tem*.**

**CHAIRS WITHIN THE UBC INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH**

Vice-President, Academic & Provost *pro tem*. Mackie was pleased to present for approval three new chairs.

*Vice-President pro  
tem. Mackie  
Dr. Burt*

} *That the Senate approve the establishment of  
the following three Chairs made possible by  
funding to the UBC Institute of Mental Health  
Endowment Fund from Mr. and Mr. William and  
Marjorie-Ann Sauder (through Sauder  
Industries Limited) and the provincial  
government;*

*The Sauder Chair in Child and Adolescent  
Psychiatry;*

*The Sauder Chair in Geriatric Psychiatry and  
Depression; and*

*The Sauder Chair in Psychotherapy.*

**DISCUSSION**

The Chair recognized guest speaker Dr. Anthony Phillips, Director, UBC Institute of Mental Health. Dr. Phillips stated that it was a very exciting time for mental health care delivery, and that the three new Chairs would foster much better research in the area. The work accomplished by the three Chairs would complement the excellent work already underway in the Brain Research Centre. He assured Senators that the process for recruiting and selecting chair-holders would meet or exceed all University criteria for such searches. In response to a question from Dr. McKee, Vice-President *pro tem*, Mackie stated that the vacancies would be widely advertised and filled upon recommendation of a search committee. Candidates would be appointed to a department and appointments would be reviewed by the Senior Appointments Committee.

The motion was put  
and carried.

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*Report from the Vice-President, Academic & Provost, continued*

President Toope took the opportunity to acknowledge “yet another transformative gift” to the University from the Sauder family.

## **Other Business**

### **BUDGET PLANNING PROCESS**

Vice-President, Academic & Provost *pro tem*. Mackie gave an overview for information of the activities of the Steering Committee for Academic Planning Process (SCAPP).

**SCAPP Mandate:** To develop a planning process that enables strategic decision-making linked to a three year sustainable budget model. The committee would identify:

- a. the key questions for which decisions are needed;
- b. required stages in the process of planning;
- c. a process for establishing detailed criteria for decision-making;
- d. timelines.

Vice-President *pro tem*. Mackie explained that University decisions would represent a compromise between what we want and what we can realistically obtain. Highlights of the presentation were as follows:

- UBC’s academic resources were concentrated in varying amounts in the health sciences, professional education, undergraduate education, studies related to the environment & sustainability, and graduate studies.
- The research-intensive nature of UBC triggers high costs.
- UBC offers almost all the high cost programs necessary for the province’s economic and social well-being. UBC is the sole provider in Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Rehabilitation Sciences, Audiology, and some others.
- UBC is a major provider of post-secondary education in Law, Commerce, Education, Nursing, Forestry, Music, and others.
- New revenue is limited. Considering that enrollment at the Vancouver campus is limited to approximately 28 000 students and that tuition fee increases are limited, UBC cannot “grow its way out of” the current budgetary shortfall.
- Vancouver has the highest cost of living in Canada.

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*Other Business, continued*

Vice-President *pro tem*. Mackie stated that SCAPP wished to invite discussion about the following questions:

1. What are the desirable characteristics of a mid-level academic plan?
2. What are the desirable characteristics of a multi-year budget process tied to the academic plan?
3. What is the governance system?

Vice-President *pro tem*. Mackie stated that SCAPP planned to engage the Council of Senates Budget Committee and that he would also report to the Senate each month. The first major report from SCAPP was due by the end of April.

## **DISCUSSION**

Dean Tierney pointed out that Dr. Mackie's presentation did not appear to address the problem of an inadequate revenue stream. Dr. Mackie stated that SCAPP's role was to set the stage for consultation rather than to propose specific cost savings or revenue generating mechanisms.

Dr. Adebar expressed his support. He asked when the new budget planning process would take effect, and whether it would be implemented in phases. Vice-President *pro tem*. Mackie stated that December 2007 would mark the beginning of the transition to the new process, and that implementation would take some time. The initial goal was to see the University begin to make budgetary decisions based on strategic criteria such as student demand, academic responsibility, social responsibility, etc.

Dr. Windsor-Liscombe expressed support for the process, and noted that the value of the University (as a publicly-funded institution) and what we produce were the subjects of public debate. He urged consideration of how the University might best represent itself in the public sphere. Vice-President *pro tem*. Mackie agreed, and stated that the plan was to initiate working groups to tackle specific issues like this one.

Ms. Segal requested that SCAPP include the Senate Student Caucus among its consultants.

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*Other Business, continued*

Dr. Friedrichs pointed out that all units of the University were engaged in a competition for scarce resources. He noted key words like consultation, input, and transparency, but asked also for specific information about how tough decisions were going to be made by someone who commanded sufficient respect such that people who disliked the decisions would still accept them.

President Toope agreed that the goal was to create a process that would generate respect. He reminded Senators that the budgetary problem had only become apparent in late 2006, and that it would be unfair to expect resolution of all outstanding issues within several months. In response to Dean Tierney's comments, he assured Senators that the University was in constant discussions with its funders in an effort to increase revenues. At the same time, the University would need to make decisions about how to allocate existing resources. Responding to Dr. Windsor-Liscombe's comments, President Toope agreed that public values were intimately linked to the University's funding. President Toope stated that, although the content of the upcoming *Campus 2020* report was unknown, the University could take advantage of the report to address the public mood toward higher education.

President Toope acknowledged Vice-President *pro tem*. Mackie's extraordinary work and thanked him for his "vigour, aplomb, and remarkable graciousness."

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The following regular meeting of the Vancouver Senate was scheduled for April 18, 2007.



## **APPENDIX A: CURRICULUM SUMMARY**

### **FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE**

The Curriculum Committee presented for approval:

- 1) The following program change:
  - a. **Bachelor of Applied Science**
    - i. **Academic Performance Evaluation**
- 2) The following new option in the **Bachelor of Applied Science – Electrical Engineering** program:
  - a. **Electrical Energy Systems**
- 3) The following revised option in the **Bachelor of Applied Science – Electrical Engineering** program:
  - a. **Biomedical Engineering**
- 4) The following new course:
  - a. **EECE 497 (3) Power Systems Protection**