VANCOUVER SENATE

MINUTES OF 20 JANUARY 2016

Attendance

Present: Dr M. Piper (Chair), Dr K. Ross (Secretary), Mr J. Abaki, Dr R. Anstee, Dean G. Averill, Dr K. Baimbridge, Dr L. Burr, Dean C. Dauvergne, Mr K. D'Souza, Dr W. Dunford, Dr S. Forwell, Dr D. Gillen, Chancellor L. Gordon, Prof B. Goold, Mr S. Haffey, Dr P. Harrison, Ms M. Hatai, Dean R. Helsley, Mrs C. Jaeger, Dr P. Keown, Dean D. Kelleher, Dr B. Lalli, Mr H. Leong, Dr P. Loewen, Ms J. Loveday, Dr D. MacDonald, Dr B. MacDougall, Ms A. Maleki, Dr C. Marshall, Dr P. Marshall, Dr W. McKee, Mr W. McNulty, Ms K. Melton, Mr D. Munro, Ms J. Omassi, Dr I. Parent, Dean M. Parlange, Dean S. Peacock, Dr N. Perry, Dr G. Peterson, Dean S. Porter, Dr J. Plessis, Dean S. Porter, Dr A. Redish, Dr A. Riseman, Dr L. Rucker, Dr C. Ruitenberg, Mr G. Sangha, Dr B. Sawatzky, Dr T. Schneider, Ms S. Simon, Dean C. Shuler, Dr S. Singh, Dr R. Sparks, Ms S. Sterling, Mr T. Tanaka, Dr R. Tees, Dr S. Thorne, Dr L. Walker, Dean R. Yada, Mr E. Zhao.

Regrets: Dr P. Adebar, Mr T. Ahmed, Dr S. Avramidis, Mr A. Bailey, Ms E. Biddlecombe, Dr P. Choi, Dr A. Collier, Dean M. Coughtrie, Mr N. Dawson, Dr A. Dulay, Dean B. Frank, Dr J. Gilbert, Dr C. Godwin, Dr F. Granot, Dean J. Innes, Dr A. Ivanov, Dr S. Knight, Mr K. Madill, Dr P. Meehan, Dr C. Naus, Dr C. Nislow, Mr A. Rezaiaen-Asel, Mr J. Tang, Dr R. Topping, Dr R. Wilson, Dr D. Witt.

Recording Secretary: Mr C. Eaton.

Call to Order

The Chair of Senate, Dr Martha Piper, called the fifth regular meeting of the Vancouver Senate for the 2015/2016 academic year to order at 6:03 pm.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Richard Tees
William McNulty } *That the Minutes of the Meeting of 18 November 2015 be adopted as corrected:*

Corrections:

Dr Ruitenberg sent her regrets.

Approved

Business Arising from the Minutes

As requested at the last meeting, the President advised Senate on UBC's response to sexual assault; Dr Piper noted that UBC was undertaking a process to develop a sexual assault policy for UBC. She reminded Senate that UBC has a variety of policies that do cover conduct of students, and these policies did cover sexual assault; however, the administration is convinced

that we have a need to review those policies and come forward with more specific direction on the subject. To that end, UBC has engaged an employment lawyer, Ms Paula Butler, to conduct a review of UBC's processes and policies with regards to allegations of sexual assault and our requirement to have a respectful environment at UBC. Dr Piper further advised that the executive summary of Ms Butler's report will be made public, that this report would be the start of community-wide consultations on what makes sense for policy development at UBC. The President advised that she had asked for the first draft of the report to be ready by the time of her departure from the presidency in June. She noted that this was a complicated area for universities and encouraged senators to read Philosophy Professor Jonathan Ichikawa's editorial in the Vancouver Sun that covered the topic of why this was also a University responsibility rather than just a matter of criminal law. President Piper expressed her confidence that UBC could come forward with an outstanding policy to ensure that sexual assault was not tolerated on our campus and that we could say with confidence that those who work, study and recreate on this campus are safe and secure.

Senator Singh thanked UBC for working towards this policy, and he asked that we included those who were directly affected by negative events, and that we ensured that we were expedient in coming forward with policy changes.

> The President replied that we always balanced expediency with effectiveness, but assured the senator that it was her intent to move forward quickly.

Senator Singh noted that other universities had tried to address this topic with various attempts.

> The President noted that the US in general was several years ahead of Canada because of greater attention there to the problem. Our intent is to bring that experience and background to our own efforts to address the problem.

Senator Goold said that moving towards a formal sexual assault policy was good, but that people at UBC have already been doing good work towards this topic.

Senator Omassi said that students had been clear that policies are great but are not a solution. We need to look at the processes and protocols behind those policies to ensure that the community is fully involved in a review of everything.

> The President agreed, noting that policies were easier than operationalization. We should not be naïve that this may take resources and will take a plan.

Senator C. Marshall noted that in the media coverage there was an emphasis on stranger assault versus acquaintance; he urged UBC to recognize the vast range of assaults that can take place and that stranger assaults were by far in the minority. We need to actively promote the reporting of all crimes and we need to use all available data.

> The President agreed that most sexual assaults on university campuses were between those who knew each other, and that some victims were reluctant to report or go to the police because while they were hurt, they do not want to hurt their assailant.

Dr C. Marshall agreed that it was difficult for some to report, but, he noted, that it was deplorable that the nearest rape kit is at Vancouver General Hospital and not at the UBC hospital.

The President noted that these were the kinds of issues that we needed to explore.

A student senator noted that we were mostly talking about activities on campus, but that a large number of students were affected at events or at venues off campus.

The President replied that she had raised this very question: what is our responsibility when the assault is off campus versus on.

Dean Averill said that Title IX in the US directed every university to have a single point of contact for this issue.

Remarks from the Chair

The President noted that UBC was beginning the budget process. We will be working with the Senate Budget Committee over the next 2 or 3 meetings. We have already had input from a variety of people; we don't have resources for everything and there will be some tough choices, but we hope that it will be an open process.

The Provost added that she and the Vice-President Finance, Andrew Simpson, had met with the Budget Committee prior to the meeting and these discussions would continue.

Dr Piper advised that UBC was beginning to position itself with the new Federal government, and that UBC would be visiting the government en masse in March. It is difficult for UBC due to distance, but our goal is make them aware of who we are, how we can marry our expertise to their policy objectives, and to lobby on behalf of all Canadian universities. Our biggest issue is the tricouncil funding agencies; the current funding levels are very discouraging. As part of that we need to address indirect costs of research.

Finally, the President noted that the Times Higher Education (THE) edition ranked 800 institutions last year, UBC ranked 34th. If you take the North American public institutions, we are 6th with only Berkeley, UCLA, Toronto, Michigan, and Washington ahead. Of the top 6, 4 are on the west coast.

The Chancellor note that the University of Washington had twice the research budget of UBC.

Admissions Committee

The Chair of the Senate Admissions Committee, Dr Robert Sparks, presented.

FACULTY OF SCIENCE – B.SC. MAJOR IN COMPUTER SCIENCE – REMOVAL OF DIRECT-ENTRY ADMISSION FROM SECONDARY SCHOOL

Robert Sparks } *That Senate approve the removal of the direct-entry*
Richard Anstee *admission from high school for the Bachelor of Science Major in Computer Science program, effective for the 2016 Winter Session and thereafter.*

Dr Sparks noted that this was to harmonize the Computer Science program's admission streams with other programs in the Bachelor of Science. We implemented direct entry to encourage applications and we're not oversubscribed.

Approved

FACULTY OF SCIENCE – ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR ABORIGINAL TRANSFER PARTNERSHIP

Robert Sparks } *That Senate approve the admission requirements for*
Paul Harrison *applicants to the Faculty of Science through the UBC-Langara Aboriginal Transfer Partnership, effective for the 2016 Winter Session and thereafter.*

Approved

FACULTY OF MEDICINE – MD ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS REVISIONS

Robert Sparks } *That Senate approve the changes to the admission*
Lance Rucker *requirements for the Doctor of Medicine Program, effective for the 2017 Winter Session and thereafter.*

With consent of Senate, Dr Bruce Fleming, Associate Dean Admissions, MD Program, presented. He noted that in many jurisdictions, medical schools have moved away from strict pre-requisites, and the MD program was convinced that we were turning away quality applicants due to unneeded pre-requisites. Dr Fleming advised that last year, only 9 of 288 first year MD students were from non-traditional academic backgrounds; the MD program was committed to enhancing diversity and access to the MD program, and to examining its barriers. He suggested that there was no evidence that our pre-requites for admission made for a stronger class or a better set of graduates. Dr Fleming went on to advise that a loosening of pre-requisites was a trend across Canada, and that compared with overall GPA or MCAT scores, pre-requisite performance that the lowest correlation with success in year 1 of the MD program; evidence shows that students with non-science backgrounds adapt quickly.

Dr Fleming noted that the Faculty was not united in this proposal and some arguments against had been heard; that the impact of removing basic science pre-requisites on the new curriculum was difficult to predict, and this caused some anxiety. There are also some concerns that the MCAT is already too heavily weighted, and this may be taken negatively by those who already took the pre-requisites. Some faculty believe that this will weaken the foundation of the program.

Dean Averill asked what Medicine thought the impact would be on the existing life science undergraduate programs.

> Dr Fleming replied that we did ask every school in Canada, but there is no data. Our suspicion is that there will be a minor reduction in demand, but the courses remain strongly recommended, and with a highly motivated group of applicants they tend to follow recommendations.

Dean Peacock supported a modification of pre-requisites to have a broader class, but felt that Medicine was going too far by removing all science requirements except the MCAT. He asked if we had considered going in between and leaving some.

> Dr Fleming replied that this was an original idea, but it didn't make sense on review to do it in a graded way.

Senator D'Souza advised that yesterday he polled the current MD students on this topic. 35 replied in the first day. The students support the spirit of the motion, but have concerns about the impact on the available current resources by increasing the applicant pool and the difficulties in assessment, and are concerned with the timing. The Year 1 students and the Faculty were still developing and adapting to a new curriculum. The current students report a lack of time on foundational and basic science concepts. Students felt that clear support needed to be made for students who did not have the traditional background. The Faculty needs to fully implement year 1 of the new curriculum and work with students to see how the pre-requisites impacted their learning, secondly, the basic science faculty and staff are already stretched and they need more support.

The Chancellor asked if other schools who moved to this approach saw a material impact on the number of applications.

> Dr Fleming replied that the number of applicants has already been increasing over the past 5 years, but this year it was in steady state at around 2000.
>
> The MD admissions manager added that the MCAT change was a larger impact and so it was difficult to measure this change at Alberta or Sask.

Senator Collier noted that she studied at Auckland and worked at Hawaii where they had two tracks, one for those with a science background and one for those who did not. She asked what support was available for those students from a non-science background.

> Dr Fleming replied that the idea of a 1 size fits all program did not work. Some came in with strong science background such as physics, and some with life science. The new curriculum FLEX program could manage deficiencies in traditional science backgrounds.

Dean Kelleher noted that a significant number of schools did not have rigid science pre-requisites. Typically, the admissions committees will select an excellent group of diverse students. He noted that the wording of the proposed requirements would specify that science courses were strongly recommended, and that he did not foresee a substantive change in

academic standards. The Dean agreed that the new curriculum needed to be assessed at the end of year 1 and we needed to ensure that all MD students were of comparable quality.

Senator Abaki asked about the residency requirement.

> Dr Fleming advised that the MD program was very expensive and was strongly supported by the Province of BC. We took 10% of our class from outside BC.
>
> The Associate Registrar, Mr Eaton, noted that this was not a new requirement; the "BC Residency" requirement had been set out since the early 1970s in respect to the substantial funding made available to the program by the Province of British Columbia.

Senator Singh noted that strongly recommended didn't carry much weight in his opinion, and asked how the Faculty would support students from a non-traditional background; he further suggested that the Faculty of Science should be involved in that support. He expressed excitement at the idea of opening the program, but felt that science would be advantageous.

> Dr Fleming noted that if an applicant could not convince the admissions committee that they were ready for the science aspects of the program they would not be admitted.

Senator Harrison said that he was generally opposed to curriculum being "strongly recommended" but in this case it made sense. On the other side, he suggested that it may be worthwhile for the Faculty to recommend courses in the humanities.

Senator Bailey noted that the MD program was highly competitive, and asked if there was a worry of students avoiding more difficult science courses to have a better average. Secondly, he asked how the Faculty was measuring student progress after year 1.

> Dr Fleming replied that the MD program was heavily evaluated. The program did value student grades, but equally important were personal qualities needed by physicians.

Dr Tees suggested that many students would still take the courses in question, and noted that the Faculty was doing a great deal of analysis on the new curriculum and the suggested that the Faculty needed to do the same with the new students. He suggested that in 2018 the Faculty should report back on its changes.

Approved

NB: Senators D'Souza and Zhao opposed.

FACULTY OF EDUCATION – BACHELOR OF EDUCATION ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

FACULTY OF EDUCATION – DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM OPTIONS ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Robert Sparks } *That Senate approve the admission requirements for*

Richard Anstee	*applicants to the Bachelor of Education program, effective for entry to the 2017 Winter Session and thereafter.*

Approved

FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE – BACHELOR OF APPLIED SCIENCE CIVIL ENGINEERING, ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING OPTION: SUSPENSION OF ADMISSIONS

Robert Sparks Carol Jaeger	}	*That Senate approve the suspension of admission to the Bachelor of Applied Science in Civil Engineering, Environmental Engineering Option, effective for entry to the 2016 Winter Session and thereafter.*

Approved

Agenda Committee

The Acting Committee Chair, Dr Paul Harrison, presented.

Senate Meeting Dates for 2016-2017

On the advice of the Registrar, the Senate Agenda Committee has settled on the following dates for regular meetings of Senate in the 2016-2017 academic year:

September 14, 2016
October 19, 2016
November 16, 2016
December 14, 2016
January 18, 2017
February 15, 2017
March 15, 2017
April 19, 2017
May 17, 2017.

Dr Harrison further advised that 17 May 2017 would be the last regular meeting of this triennium.

CORRECTION TO 15 APRIL 2015 SENATE MINUTES

Dr Harrison advised that Senator Knight alerted the secretary to an omission in the April 2015 Senate minutes and requested that this be corrected.

Paul Harrison Philip Loewen	}	*That the Minutes of 15 April 2015 reflect a correction made on the floor to the Notice of Motion given at the previous meeting*

correcting "VP Legal" to read "University Counsel".

Approved

Awards Committee

The Committee Chair, Dr Lawrence Burr, presented.

NEW AND REVISED AWARDS

Lawrence Burr Susan Grayston	}	*That Senate accept the awards as listed and forward them to the Board of Governors for approval; and that letters of thanks be sent to the donors.*

Approved

LINDSAY AND ELIZABETH GORDON AWARDS

Lawrence Burr Jenna Omassi	}	*That Senate approve and forward to the Board for approval, the descriptions for the four Lindsay and Elizabeth Gordon awards as attached, subject to the concurrent approval of these by the Okanagan Senate.*

Approved

Tributes Committee

The Committee Chair, Dr Sally Thorne, presented.

REVISIONS TO SENATE POLICY V-250 EMERITUS STATUS

Sally Thorne Richard Tees	}	*That Senate approve the changes to Senate Policy V-250: Emeritus Status.*

Senator Anstee asked why the Emeriti faculty and the Faculty Association were not listed as consultants.

Dr Thorne agreed to have that considered by the Tributes Committee.

Mr Eaton advised that they weren't listed as consultants as they weren't consulted and further, the parties affected by this change are not generally members of the Faculty Association.

Approved

CANDIDATES FOR EMERITUS STATUS

Sally Thorne
Richard Tees } *That the attached list of individuals for emeritus status be approved and that, pursuant to section 9(2) of the University Act, all persons with the ranks of Professor Emeritus, Associate Professor Emeritus, Assistant Professor Emeritus, Senior Instructor Emeritus, General Librarian Emeritus or Administrative Librarian Emeritus be added to the Roll of Convocation*

NB: Axel Meisen added as Professor Emeritus.

Approved

Reports from the Provost

TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATION OF THE MASTER OF DATA SCIENCE FROM THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE & POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES TO THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Angela Redish
Simon Peacock } *That Senate approve the transfer of responsibility for the Master of Data Science from the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies to the Faculty of Science.*

The Provost noted that this was a new program that had not yet been offered; following discussions, it was felt that as a professional program it would be more at home in the Faculty of Science.

Approved

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SEASPAN SHIPYARDS CHAIR IN MARINE SYSTEMS DESIGN

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SEASPAN SHIPYARDS CHAIR IN NAVAL ARCHITECTURE

Angela Redish Marc Parlange	}	*That Senate approve the establishment of the Seaspan Shipyards Chair in Marine Systems Design in the Faculty of Applied Science; and* *That Senate approve the establishment of the Seaspan Shipyards Chair in Naval Architecture in the Faculty of Applied Science.*

Approved

2015-2016 ENROLMENT REPORT

With consent of Senate, Vice-Provost Pamela Ratner presented the UBC Vancouver Annual Enrolment Report, which provided information related to enrolment in undergraduate programs offered on the Vancouver campus. The campus' key enrolment objectives include the following: (a) slightly surpass the government-funded number of domestic undergraduate students, (b) maintain a healthy enrolment of a diverse international student body, (c) ensure a strong national representation in the incoming class, and (d) increase the enrolment of Aboriginal students.

Senator Bailey asked if there were any plans to measure the socioeconomic backgrounds of students.

> Dr Ratner replied that this came up during student consultations and the Vice-President, Students, was starting to think about how to address that question and how to provide aid to students who have a gap in support.
>
> With consent of Senate, Dr Louise Cowin, Vice-President Students, spoke, noting that they were seeing if they could ask a good question and get good data on this year's survey but it may need to be on next year's. She noted that socioeconomic status was a difficult question to ask 18 year olds.

The Chancellor noted the 54% yield rate, and asked how that compared to others.

> Vice-Provost Ratner replied that it was comparable.

Senator Tees noted that we were over our provincially-funded target. He suggested that while we wanted to be at least at that number, he asked if we were still trying deliberately to exceed it.

> Vice-Provost Ratner replied that in 2011 we said we wanted to be at 600 over, and we're at 1100. That wasn't intentional; students are taking more courses that previously and our retention improved, this affected our Full-Time Equivalency numbers.

Senator Abaki noted that the graduation rate, 78%, was fairly consistent. He asked how this compared to other schools.

> The Registrar replied that our 6-year graduation rate was consistent with our peers in Canada and higher than our US peers on average.

ANNUAL REPORT ON STUDENT EVALUATIONS ON TEACHING

With consent of Senate, Vice-Provost Eric Eich presented. He noted that 7307 instructors were evaluated last year, this was similar to the previous year. Overall, ratings are high, with a mean of 4.2 and a median of 4.3/5. Many students agree with very high ratings, but with very low ratings, there is a lot of dispersion.

Senator Zhao asked if the dispersion was taking sample size into consideration.

Vice-Provost Eich agreed to find the answer to this question.

Dr Eich opined that based on the response rates, we should be encouraging students to complete evaluations in class in classes of fewer than 50 people.

Senator Munro said that we should encourage class responses anyways.

Senator Baimbridge noted that when we adopted this policy, the students wished to have the data made public. Only 10.6% was, and he suspected that it was not easy for faculty to publish their results without being inconvenienced. Secondly, he suggested that mid-term course evaluations could be used to give an instructor the ability to "close the loop" and to let students know how they may change their teaching to address comments.

Senator Omassi said that students are more inclined to participate in end of semester feedback if they saw an impact of mid-course evaluations.

ANNUAL REPORT ON REVIEWS OF ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS (I.E. ACADEMIC UNITS)

Dr Eich noted that 19 external reviews occurred from Sept 2014 to Aug 2015:

Faculty of Applied Science
School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture – September 2014
Civil Engineering Program (*accreditation*) – November 2014
Computer Engineering Program (*accreditation*) – November 2014
Electrical Engineering Program (*accreditation*) – November 2014
Environmental Engineering Program (*accreditation*) – November 2014

Faculty of Arts
Belkin Art Gallery – November 2014
Cognitive Systems Program – March 2015
School of Library, Archival and Information Studies – December 2015
School of Social Work – March 2015
School of Social Work – March 2015 (*accreditation*)

Faculty of Dentistry
General Practice Residency Program (*accreditation*)

Faculty of Education
Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy – November 2014
Department of Educational and Counselling Psychology, & Special Education – February 2015
Master of Educational Technology Program – July 2015
School of Kinesiology – November 2014
Department of Language and Literacy – September 2014

Faculty of Forestry
Undergraduate Programs – March 2015

Faculty of Law
Faculty Review – November 2014

UBC Library
Library Review – November 2014

Faculty of Medicine
Department of Emergency Medicine – December 2014
Department of Family Practice – October 2014
Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology – October 2014
Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine – December 2014
Department of Radiology – September 2014

Faculty of Science
Department of Computer Science – October 2014

Senator Baimbridge asked what happened after these reports are received.

Vice-Provost Eich replied that presently there wasn't a formal system for actions following reviews; however, the administration planned to address that deficiency in the future.

By general consent, the time to adjourn was extended to 8:45 pm.

Dean Kelleher asked if we were asking the right questions in reviews, noting that in the documents before Senate, he did not see questions or answers relating to excellence or performance.

Senator Bainbridge offered his support for there being actions taken on responses, and noted that UBC seemed much more complicated than other Canadian universities.

Dean Innes noted that accreditation reviews could not be put through a new system, and these were often the 800 to 1000 page examples. He asked if, in addition to the Provost, President and Senate a report on review actions could also be sent to the reviewers themselves.

Dean Averill asked about timing on strategic plans – 1, 1.5 years into a new head's term. As a complicated factor, terms were normally 3 or 5 years long because this was the usual leave amount. Increasingly, people want 3 year terms.

Senator Tees asked if he had data on dept head term length.

Vice-Provost Eich replied that we did not.

UPDATE ON VANTAGE COLLEGE

Angela Redish Aaron Bailey	}	*That the update on Vantage College be postponed to the next regular meeting of Senate.*

Approved

Report from the Registrar

TERM DATES FOR 2016-2017

The Registrar advised that pursuant to Senate policy V-125, the following dates had been selected for the 2016-2017 academic year:

Term 1

Tuesday, 6 September 2016 Term 1 begins
Friday, 2 December 2016 Last day of Term 1 classes for most faculties
Tuesday, 6 December 2016 First day of exams for Term 1
Wednesday, 21 December 2016 Last day of exams for Term 1

Number of Teaching Days 61

Term 2

Tuesday, 3 January 2017 Term 2 begins
20-24 February 2017 Midterm Break
Thursday, 6 April 2017 Last day of Term 2 classes for most faculties
Monday, 10 April 2017 First day of exams for Term 2
Friday, 28 April 2017 Last day of exams for Term 2

Number of Teaching Days 62

The Registrar noted that we have recently had a joint meeting between the chairs of the Okanagan and Vancouver Academic Policy Committees and the Provosts on the academic year, and the Senate Office will bring forward a green paper next autumn to discuss potential improvements.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.