



University  
of Victoria

## MINUTES

A meeting of the Senate of the University of Victoria was held on Friday, February 2, 2007 at 3:30 p.m. in the University Centre, Room A180. Dr. Michael Miller was in the chair.

### 1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: (G. Robinson/K. Stewart)  
That the agenda be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

### 2. MINUTES

a. January 12, 2007

Dr. Michael Miller noted a typographical error in the reference to the “Community Enjoyment Snapshot” on page 2 of the minutes, which should have read “Community Engagement Snapshot”. Mr. George Robinson requested that his statement on page 2 of the minutes be amended to read “George Robinson stated that...”. The Secretary noted both of these corrections.

Motion: (G. Hogya/G. Robinson)  
That the minutes of the open session of the meeting of the Senate, held on January 12, 2007, be approved as corrected and that the approved minutes be circulated in the usual way.

**CARRIED**

### 3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

### 4. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

Dr. Miller reminded Senators that the deadline for nominations for student Senators was February 7, 2006.

Professor Jamie Cassels gave a report on behalf of the President, who was in Ottawa meeting with government officials and attending meetings in his capacity as Chair of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada's Standing Advisory Committee on International Relations.

Professor Cassels reported on developments at the provincial level, noting that the Campus 2020 consultations were drawing to a close. He reported, with respect to graduate education, that the government planned to create 2,500 new graduate seats at UVic, UBC, SFU and UNBC.

Professor Cassels reported on developments at the university, including:

- the approval of the Strategic Plan by the Board of Governors at the January, 2007 Board meeting
- the commencement of a search for a new Vice President Research
- the posting of the Community Engagement Snapshot on the UVic website
- the continuing development of a Memorandum of Understanding between UVic and the Ministry of Education in China, now in its final stages
- the announcement of Chancellor Ron Lou-Poy as the recipient of Leadership Victoria's Lifetime Achievement Award for 2007
- the recent naming of the centre court in McKinnon Gym for Ken and Kathy Shields
- a celebration at the Island Medical Building to recognize the building's gold LEEDS status
- the UVic-Royal Society Forum: "Are We Killing Our Oceans?" being held on February 21, 2007
- a visit by Former U.S. Vice President Al Gore to Victoria planned for April 2007 to be co-sponsored by UVic
- the departure of Dr. Wes Koczka, Dean of Continuing Studies, to pursue opportunities overseas.

Professor Cassels thanked Dr. Koczka for his many contributions to the university.

## **5. PROPOSALS AND REPORTS FROM SENATE COMMITTEES**

- a. Senate Committee on Curriculum
  - i) Annual Report

Dr. Reg Mitchell proposed a vote of thanks to the committee for their hard work. The Senators responded with a round of applause.

ii) 2007-2008 Calendar

Motion: (G. Fulton/K. Stewart)

That Senate approve the 2007-2008 Calendar Submissions as recommended by the Senate Committee on Curriculum.

**CARRIED**

Motion: (G. Fulton/J.D. Peters)

That Senate authorize the Chair of the Senate Committee on Curriculum to make small changes and additions that would otherwise unnecessarily delay the submission of items for the Calendar.

**CARRIED**

b. Senate Committee on Planning

i) Professional Specialization Certificate in Native Species and Natural Processes

Dr. Reg Mitchell noted that, although he had no real concerns with the proposal, he hoped that the program was not intending to lay claim to all aspects of physics and chemistry that might be described as natural processes.

Motion: (J. Cassels/ W. Koczka)

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors that it also approve the establishment of a Professional Specialization Certificate in Native Species and Natural Processes, to be offered by the School of Environmental Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, and the Division of Continuing Studies, as described in the document entitled "Proposal for a Professional Specialization Certificate in Native Species and Natural Processes", dated December 14, 2006; and that this approval be withdrawn if the program should not be offered within five years of granting the approval.

**CARRIED**

**6. PROPOSALS AND REPORTS FROM FACULTIES**

There were none.

## **7. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **a. Ten Year Calendar**

Dr. Andrew Rippin commented that a number of faculty members had approached him with concerns about the start date for second term classes in January, which was earlier than the re-opening of the public schools. He inquired whether start dates for the public school system were considered when setting the ten year calendar. Dr. Eastman replied that presently these dates were not considered. She explained that a set of established principles guide the creation of the ten year calendar. Dr. Mitchell added that a number of factors are considered when setting dates that may not immediately be apparent, including the week-long reading break, the minimum time period required between exams and convocation, and the minimum number of days required in each term. He stated that these factors constrain the ability to change term start dates.

Dr. Brock Smith noted that the number of days in a term varies from 59-62 days, resulting in a fluctuation in exam period end dates. He raised a concern about first term exam periods that run until December 22 and noted the hardships this can cause for both faculty and students. Dr. Smith suggested limiting all terms to 59 days in order to start exam periods as early as possible. Dr. Eastman replied that, quite often, the additional days in a term are allowed to provide for situations where classes on a particular day of the week have been missed more often than others.

Dr. Eastman suggested that she provide a report at the next meeting of Senate regarding the principles underlying the preparation of the ten year calendar.

Dr. Marshall commented on the difficulty involved in getting marks submitted on time when exam periods run late.

Mr. Robinson stated that many students rely on the week long reading break provided in the second term to catch up on school work. He stated that elimination of this reading break should not be considered.

Dr. Mitchell commented that Senate had stipulated the requirement for two days between the end of classes and the beginning of exams. He also recalled that Senate used to be concerned about a 59 day term, but noted that, in some years, a short term was allowed so that classes could end on a Friday and exams could start on a Monday.

Dr. Ron Skelton recalled that he had been a member of the Senate Committee on Agenda and Procedures when the length of the reading

breaks was reviewed. He commented that the committee had reviewed whether there should be a first term reading break, and whether eliminating this break might alleviate some of the concerns about exams ending so late in December.

Dr. Eastman confirmed that she would provide a report to Senate on the principles used to set the ten year calendar. In response to a question from Mr. Robinson, Dr. Miller explained that the motion would not be deferred until that time. In response to a further question from Dr. Smith, he explained that the ten year calendar could be amended in the future. Dr. Mitchell added that these dates are used for long term planning.

Motion: (R. Mitchell/ R. Anthony)

That Senate approve the 2006-2016 Ten Year Calendar.

### **CARRIED**

b. 2007-2008 Academic Year Important Dates

Dr. Robert Burke inquired why the second term deadline for adding courses fell on a Saturday. Dr. Mitchell recalled that there was a rule used to set that date. Dr. Eastman said she understood that Saturday dates were not problematic because students were well accustomed to making course changes on the web, but noted that she would have to confirm the specific principle used to set that date with the Registrar.

Dr. Rippin commented on the Thursday, January 3, 2008 start date for second term classes. He stated that he would expect a high absentee rate for the Thursday and Friday of that week because public school classes would not begin until the following Monday. He stated that he understood the need to move ahead with the 2007-2008 calendar and suggested that this issue be taken into consideration for future planning.

Mr. Robinson suggested that this matter be deferred in order to allow for a proper presentation. Dr. Eastman explained that deferral of the matter was not possible because the dates needed to be submitted for the calendar, which was about to go to press.

Dr. Eastman drew the Senators' attention to the requirement to have at least 59 days in each term. Dr. Smith noted the high absentee rate that would occur during the first week of classes if the term started on a Thursday. Ms. Lynda Gammon replied that, despite a high absentee rate, the university could not fall below the required number of days in a term. Professor Cassels added that, in determining the end dates for terms, the university had always taken into account that students in rental

accommodations might be required to incur an extra month's rent if the term ended even a few days later.

Dr. Mitchell stated that, although Senate annually approves the 10 year calendar and the academic year important dates, it was too late to make significant changes to the 2007-2008 dates because planning and bookings had already occurred based on these dates. He suggested that the Committee on Agenda and Procedures take the suggestions being made into account for three or four years from now.

Dr. Miller suggested that the motion be amended to include the provision that the University Secretary have the authority to amend the January 19, 2008 deadline for adding second term classes after consultation with the Registrar, if they deemed it appropriate to do so.

Motion: (M.E. Purkis/R. Mitchell)

That Senate approve the 2007-2008 Academic Year Important Dates and give the University Secretary the authority to change the January 19, 2008 deadline for adding second term courses to a date between January 18, 2008 and January 21, 2008.

**CARRIED**

c. 2006-2007 Emeritus

Dr. Eastman noted that she had received a letter from one retiring professor expressing concern that only the title "Emeritus" was available to female retirees. Dr. Eastman suggested to Senate that she take the professor's request that the university reconsider this policy to the next meeting of the Committee on Agenda and Procedures so it might decide how to respond.

Dr. Burke inquired as to whether the title of Emeritus was applied to all retiring professors. Dr. Miller explained that an offer is made to retiring professors that must be accepted before the title is applied. Dr. Burke inquired further as to whether there might be retiring professors not included on the list. Dr. Miller replied that there might.

Motion: (B. Smith/L. Gammon)

That Senate approve the 2006-2007 Emeritus list for submission to the 2007-2008 University Calendar.

**CARRIED**

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business, Senate was adjourned at 4:04 p.m.