

MINUTES

A meeting of the Senate of the University of Victoria was held on January 10, 2014 at 3:30 p.m. in the Senate and Board Chambers, University Centre, Room A180.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Prof. Cassels introduced two amendments to the agenda – the deferral of remarks on the *Naming of Facilities and Physical Assets Policy* to the February 2014 meeting, and the addition of an item related to influenza risks under Reports and Proposals from the Vice-President Academic and Provost.

Motion: (S. Blackstone/M. Kennedy)
That the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED

2. MINUTES

Motion: (R. Lipson/J. Webber)
That the minutes of the open session of the meeting of the Senate held on December 6, 2013 be approved and that the approved minutes be circulated in the usual way.

CARRIED

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a. Report on Implementation of Percentage Grading

In response to the questions and concerns raised at the December 2013 Senate meeting, Dr. Mateer provided a report on the implementation of percentage grading. She reviewed the timeline for proposals that had come to Senate regarding percentage grading over the past couple of years. She also reminded members of Senate of the proposal recently approved to revise the undergraduate grading descriptors. Dr. Mateer acknowledged the concerns raised regarding grade inflation and deflation. She further acknowledged the need for instructors to revise grading instruments, criteria and evaluation tools in light of the revised percentage grading scale and descriptors. Dr. Mateer added that she recognized the additional pressure on instructors and students during the transition.

Dr. Mateer informed members of Senate that the Senate Committee on Academic Standards would be undertaking an analysis of grading trends, and recognized that the committee would have to take the impact of the grading scale transition into account.

Dr. Mateer said the university was now in phase two of the implementation of percentage grading. She said that beginning in Summer 2014, instructors will be required to submit percentage grades, which will appear on the transcripts along with comparative grading information.

Dr. Monahan commented on the challenges associated with changing evaluation tools for mathematical and quantitative grading. Dr. Mateer provided a few suggestions, recognizing that instructors will have to make adjustments to the way they think about grading and evaluation.

Dr. Burke commented that part of the problem was the university's stated expectation that A range grades will be achieved by a minority of students. He noted that this had not been the case in recent years, and commented that a minority of grades now appeared in the B range. Dr. Burke said it was difficult to have a majority of grades in the B range when there was only a ten point range for these grades.

Dr. Webb noted that since 2005 the academic calendar had indicated that grades in the A range will be received by a minority of students. He said this was the case in many faculties, but acknowledged that the calendar statement was intended to serve in part as a statement of aspiration and expectation. Dr. Webb added that the calendar indicated that the largest number of grades, not the majority, was expected to be in the B range. He said the university had been looking to revise the range of B grades for some time because it was inconsistent with other universities. Dr. Webb said many of his colleagues were happy to see adjustments made to the B range because it allowed them to put students in the C range and acknowledge satisfactory work.

Dr. Gillis said there was no doubt that instructors would have to revisit marking scales. She said that, in part, the transition to the new percentage scale had been supported because the original proposal also eliminated the 9 point GPA scale. Dr. Gillis acknowledged the valid reasons for not continuing with that aspect of the proposal but said it does have an impact on students. She said it was going to take time for faculty members to make the necessary adjustments.

4. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

a. Campus Conversations

Prof. Cassels provided a report to Senate on his Campus Conversations Summary, which had recently been circulated to members of Senate and the broader university community.

Prof. Cassels reviewed the purpose of his campus conversations and the process undertaken to conduct them. He commented that the conversations had been a tremendously positive opportunity for him to rediscover and reconnect with the campus.

Prof. Cassels introduced the three general learnings he had taken away from his campus conversations – further focus and build on our particular strengths in education and research; develop more robust and transparent planning processes; and communicate and engage more effectively.

With respect to building on our strengths, Prof. Cassels shared five ideas for affirming UVic as a university of choice for outstanding students, faculty and staff. He focused on affirming the university's social mission to our students and society; taking advantage of our right sized learning

community; building on our overall excellence in education and our particular strengths; building on our research excellence; and enhancing the working and learning community.

Prof. Cassels acknowledged the sustainability challenges being faced by UVic and universities in general. He said that, although UVic was in better shape than many universities, the university needed to be more transparent and robust in its planning processes.

Prof. Cassels spoke about the need for robust and continuing communication, both internally and with external community.

Prof. Cassels offered his thanks to those who had participated in the campus conversations and encouraged all members of Senate to review his summary report.

Dr. Purkis agreed with Prof. Cassels that the university could improve on the way it communicates with its partners. She added that it was important for the university to critically assess partnerships before entering in to them, to ensure that partnerships are sustainable. Prof. Cassels agreed and pointed to some examples in his report that identified the need to consider a strategy related to partnerships.

With respect to a communications strategy, Dr. Stahl suggested it would be useful to engage and consult with the university's partners while the strategy was still under development. Prof. Cassels acknowledged the ongoing need for mutual communications both internally and externally. He said he had also heard that the university needs to streamline processes, making communication both more robust and more efficient.

Dr. Tiedje asked how Prof. Cassels' conclusions could be operationalized. Prof. Cassels shared a few thoughts regarding how faculties and departments could implement some of his ideas. He said that, with respect to education, faculties and departments could ask how they can be certain that every undergraduate and graduate student's education is enriched by research. They could also ask how to ensure that every student has a substantial experiential opportunity. With respect to research, Prof. Cassels said departments and faculties could begin to think about how they will prepare to participate in the development of an institutional strategic research plan.

Dr. Diacu asked about the statements in the summary report regarding faculty salaries. He asked how this issue could be addressed, particularly in light of the upcoming faculty unionization vote. Prof. Cassels said his report acknowledged concerns regarding faculty salaries, which are lower than at comparator institutions. He said that UVic faculty salaries had historically been relatively low and that the impact of strict regulation of public sector compensation in BC in recent decades had been to exacerbate this. Prof. Cassels said that, in the short term, the public sector wage control regime would not change. He said the university had to think of creative ways to address salary concerns. If this was done and priorities were identified, Prof. Cassels thought that with some time, concerns could be addressed. He said he had also heard concerns from staff regarding inclusion and support and hoped to address these as well.

Prof. Cassels said he anticipated that a unionized environment would change relationships on campus and the way things are done, because it would involve a shift from a collegial model toward a more formal, industrial relations model of faculty relations. Whatever the outcome of the faculty unionization vote, Prof. Cassels said it was crucial to maintain the positive, collaborative

environment that is such an important feature of UVic. He said it would be his goal to maintain such an environment, whatever the outcome of the certification vote.

b. Other Matters

Prof. Cassels reported on recent acclamations to Senate and upcoming elections for faculty positions. He also reported on upcoming calls for nominations for positions on both Senate and the Board of Governors.

With respect to provincial matters, Prof. Cassels reported on a number of recent meetings with cabinet ministers.

On the federal front, Prof. Cassels reported that The Honorable Greg Rickford, Minister of State for Science and Technology and Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario and Janet Walden, NSERC Chief Operating Officer had been on campus that morning to mark the recent announcement of a \$4.4 million funding extension to the Ocean Networks Canada Innovation Centre.

Prof. Cassels commented on renovations to the University Centre cafeteria. Mr. Dunsdon provided some details on the renovations and said it was hoped that the new Mystic Market would open in September 2014. Dr. Kennedy asked if the University Centre washrooms would be renovated as part of this project. Mr. Dunsdon said they would not, but added that the need to renovate the washrooms had been identified and was being considered.

Prof. Cassels announced the appointment of a new Associate Vice-President Alumni and Development, Tom Szdnay. He also provided a brief update on the search for a new Vice-President Research.

Dr. Mateer announced the appointed of Dr. Aragon as the Acting Director of Technology Integrated Learning.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

6. PROPOSALS AND REPORTS FROM SENATE COMMITTEES

a. Senate Committee on Agenda and Governance

i. Annual Report

Motion: (K. Gillis/S. Blackstone)

That Senate receive the 2012/2013 annual report of the Senate Committee on Agenda and Governance for information.

CARRIED

ii. Revisions to the Terms of Reference for the Senate Committee on Continuing Studies and Senate Committee on Curriculum

Dr. Monahan asked for clarification regarding the number of voting members on the Senate Committee on Curriculum. Ms. Andersen confirmed that this number could change if a Faculty Curriculum Chair was also appointed Chair of the Senate Committee on Curriculum. She said that, although this would not be the norm, it was currently the case. Dr. Monahan suggested that the wording might need to be clarified on this point. Members of Senate agreed to vote on approval of the terms of reference, subject to Ms. Andersen making any necessary wording clarifications.

Motion: (M. MacDonald/K. Gillis)

That Senate approve the revisions to the terms of reference for the Senate Committee on Continuing Studies.

CARRIED

Motion: (M. Webb/K. Gillis)

That Senate approve the revisions to the terms of reference for the Senate Committee on Curriculum.

CARRIED

iii. Appointments to the Non-Academic Misconduct Appeal Board

Motion: (K. Gillis/J. Webber)

That Senate approve the appointments of Lucia Heffelfinger Orser and Gina Starblanket to the Non-Academic Misconduct Appeal Board in accordance with the Procedures for Appealing a Decision Made Under a Non-Academic Misconduct Proceeding, Resolution of Non-Academic Misconduct Allegations Policy (AC1300) to begin immediately and end on June 30, 2014.

CARRIED

b. Senate Committee on Awards

i. New and Revised Awards

Motion: (A. Lepp/P. Kostek)

That Senate approve, and recommend to the Board of Governors that it also approve, the new and revised awards set out in the attached document:

- Albert Hung Chao Hong Scholarships in International Business and Entrepreneurship (revised) *
- Ryszard Borzuchowski Scholarship (new) *
- Shirley M. Dawson Bursary (new) *
- Ten Mile Fine Arts Student Assistance Fund (revised)

- Gerald G. Few Bursaries (revised) *
Michiko Warkentyne Scholarship in Japanese Studies (new)
- Dianne Bourne Memorial Bursary (revised) *

** Administered by the University of Victoria Foundation*

CARRIED

c. Senate Committee on Planning

i. Renewal of the Centre for Biomedical Research

Motion: (R. Lipson/S. Blackstone)

That Senate approve, and recommend to the Board of Governors that it also approve, the renewal of Approved Centre Status for the Centre on Biomedical Research (CBR) for the five year period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2018.

CARRIED

ii. Course-Based Master of Nursing

Motion: (M. Purkis/D. Capson)

That Senate approve, and recommend to the Board of Governors that it also approve, the establishment of a Course-Based Master of Nursing, as described in the document “Proposal to revised the Master of Nursing in Advanced Practice Nursing (MN), so that the MN APL option and MN NUED option become a Course-Based Master’s Program”, dated December 4, 2013, and that this approval be withdrawn if the program should not be offered within five years of the granting of approval.

CARRIED

iii. Interdisciplinary Minor in Health and Society

Motion: (M. Webb/M. Purkis)

That Senate approve, and recommend to the Board of Governors that it also approve, subject to funding, the establishment of an Interdisciplinary Minor in Health and Society, as described in the document “Interdisciplinary Minor in Health and Society (IMHS)”, dated June 2013, and that this approval be withdrawn if the program should not be offered within five years of the granting of approval. Once Senate and the Board of Governors have approved the proposal, the proposal must be posted on the Ministry of Advanced Education website for peer review for a period of 30 days.

CARRIED

7. PROPOSALS AND REPORTS FROM FACULTIES

a. Faculty of Law

i. Governance Rules for Law Faculty Council Amendment

Motion: (J. Webber/M. MacDonald)

That Senate approve the revisions to Law Faculty Council Rules.

CARRIED

8. PROPOSALS AND REPORTS FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT ACADEMIC AND PROVOST

a. Report on Quality Exercise

Dr. Tremblay reminded members of Senate of the 2012/13 quality exercise undertaken by the Provost's Office. She said a summary of findings had been circulated to members of Senate and asked Dr. Mateer to report on the exercise.

Dr. Mateer provided a PowerPoint presentation on the results of and response to the quality exercise. Dr. Mateer reviewed the goals of the exercise, noting that each academic unit had been asked to indicate quality goals in three areas – quality of learning and teaching, quality of the student experience, and quality of research. She reviewed the common goals and themes that had emerged from the quality exercise, some of which included a widespread commitment to curricular review and redesign, the articulation of learning outcomes, integration of experiential learning, improved academic advising, integration of research and education, and enhancement of first year curriculum. Dr. Mateer provided an overview of the work being undertaken by units and the university as a whole regarding each of these common goals and themes. She reviewed next steps, which included integration with the academic program review process; moving from goals to outcomes and assessment; and the integration of the quality exercise into planning initiatives.

b. Procedures for Academic Accommodation and Access for Graduate Students with Disabilities

Prof. Cassels said he had spoken to Dr. Tremblay, Dr. Capson and Mr. Dunsdon. He suggested that this item be deferred to the February 2014 meeting. In the meantime, Prof. Cassels said comments on the procedures could be submitted by email.

Motion: (D. Baer/P. Driessen)

That Senate defer discussion of the *Procedures for Academic Accommodation and Access for Graduate Students with Disabilities* to the next scheduled Senate meeting.

CARRIED

c. Omnibus Motion in Response to Influenza Risks

Dr. Tremblay informed members of Senate that a proposal related to this item had been circulated at the beginning of the meeting. She said the proposal had been developed in response to the

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rapidly changing situation regarding H1N1 influenza. As such, Dr. Tremblay said she had not had an opportunity to consult with the Senate Committee on Agenda and Governance regarding the proposal.

Dr. Tremblay said the situation on campus was being actively monitored. Prof. Cassels commented that this monitoring was not just with respect to academic issues. He said a committee chaired by Kane Kilbey, Associate Vice-President Human Resources had been struck to address issues across the campus.

Dr. Tremblay reminded members of Senate of the omnibus motion related to influenza risks passed in 2009 and said the same authority was being requested at this time. Dr. Tremblay said any large issues would be directed through the Senate committees, as appropriate.

Dr. Driessen asked how this proposed motion fit with the recently approved emergency protocol for Senate operations. Ms. Andersen quoted a sentence from the protocol, which states that “Some types of emergencies can be planned for in advance. In those cases any delegation of authority should be carried out in advance at scheduled meetings of Senate”.

Dr. Burke asked how adjustments to academic policy and regulations would be communicated to instructors. Dr. Tremblay said communications would happen through a variety of media, including memos, emails, and the website.

Dr. Wyatt commented that, over the holiday break, she had heard parents comparing universities based on their policies and practices regarding influenza and class attendance.

Mr. Bell asked what constituted a “substantial impact of influenza-related illness”. Dr. Mateer provided some examples, including where faculty members or teaching staff are ill.

In response to a question from Dr. Blackstone regarding the steps that will be taken across campus to address influenza, Prof. Cassels asked Mr. Kilbey to provide some information. Mr. Kilbey reported on the steps currently being taken in residence and other high traffic areas, as well as some plans for future action.

Motion: (R. Tremblay/M. Purkis)

That Senate approve an omnibus motion to allow the Provost to implement short-term adjustments to academic policy, regulations, and/or process that maybe required or deemed necessary by the Provost in response to a substantial impact of influenza-related illness on academic operations during the period January 10, 2014 through to April 30, 2014. Any adjustments made resulting from this motion would be reported to Senate at the next scheduled meeting of Senate and a summary report of all actions or adjustments made, if any, would be provided at the scheduled May 2, 2014 Senate meeting.

CARRIED

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.