



University
of Victoria

MINUTES

A meeting of the Senate of the University of Victoria was held on Friday, December 1, 2006 at 3:30 p.m. in the University Centre, Room A180. The Chair of the Senate, Dr. David Turpin, was in the chair.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: (G. Robinson/R. Park)

That Senate amend the agenda to include a Student Senate Caucus motion under “Other Business”.

CARRIED

The agenda was approved as amended.

2. MINUTES

a. November 3, 2006

Motion: (A. Rippin/K. Stewart)

That the minutes of the open session of the meeting of the Senate, held on November 3, 2006, be approved 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. David Turpin reported on developments at the federal level, including a recent economic and fiscal update. He indicated that this update provided a sense of cautious optimism regarding investments in university research. Dr. Turpin noted that an area of continuing concern was research in the field of social sciences. He indicated that it would be an ongoing challenge to ensure that the government understands the importance of research in this realm.

At the provincial level, Dr. Turpin provided an update on the Campus 2020 initiative. He reported that open forums have been taking place, but that it was not yet clear what the implications of this process would be. Dr. Turpin shared the four points that were being advocated by the university in the Campus 2020 process, notably the importance of:

1. maintaining a differentiated system;
2. access for students;
3. support for research and graduate education; and
4. knowledge transfer to society.

Dr. Turpin reported that, at the university level, the Board of Governors was establishing a separate entity to run the Venus and Neptune projects. He announced that Dr. Martin Taylor would be appointed as founding President and CEO of the new entity and that Dr. Taylor would be stepping down as Vice President Research to take on this new role. Dr. Turpin recognized the extent of Dr. Taylor's leadership and contributions as Vice President Research and announced that the search for a successor would begin within the next month.

Dr. Turpin announced that a UVic art gallery would be opening at the corner of Yates Street and Broad Street in one of the buildings from the Michael Williams estate. He also reported on the success of a number of events supported by the university, including the Centennial Lecture Series, the Bill Clinton speech, Richard III, the Legacy Awards and the staff immunization clinic. Dr. Turpin congratulated Dr. Giles Hogle on the success of his production of Richard III and recognized Dr. Richard Ring for his Gold Medal for Outstanding Achievement in Canadian Entomology. Dr. Turpin recognized the ceremony that had taken place earlier in the day in honour of the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. He also reminded Senators of the upcoming Distinguished Service Awards.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

6. PROPOSALS AND REPORTS FROM SENATE COMMITTEES

- a. Senate Committee on Agenda and Procedures
 - ii. Updating and Cyclical Review of University Policies

The University Secretary, Julia Eastman, introduced this matter and provided an overview of the process and consultations undertaken to date. She explained that a number of the university policies were out of date and that the first step in bringing them up to date was the development of a "Policy on Policies". Dr. Eastman reported that the university had engaged Jan Van Fleet, former University Secretary at the University of Western Ontario, to assist in researching other universities' practices and to propose a brief policy for UVic. She noted that Ms. Van Fleet had not been asked to re-invent the wheel, but rather to help

clarify and make explicit how policy is to be developed and reviewed. Dr. Eastman asked for comments and feedback on the documents that had been generated as a result of the consultation to date.

Dr. Peter Driessen said he thought the initiative was important. He also suggested that the Policies should clearly state who is accountable for the implementation of a policy.

b. Senate Committee on Awards

ii. Changes to Undergraduate Scholarships, Medals and Prizes
General Regulations

Motion: (R. Burke/R. Mitchell)

That Senate approve the revised Undergraduate Scholarships, Medals and Prizes General Regulations as set out in the attached document.

CARRIED

c. Senate Committee on Academic Standards

i. 2005-2006 Annual Report

Motion: (O. Niemann/P.Keller)

That Senate receive, with thanks, the 2005-2006 Annual Report of the Senate Committee on Academic Standards.

CARRIED

d. Senate Committee on Admission, Re-registration and Transfer

i. 2005-2006 Annual Report

Motion: (A. Monahan/A. Rippin)

That Senate receive, with thanks, the 2005-2006 Annual Report of the Senate Committee on Admission, Re-registration and Transfer.

CARRIED

e. Senate Committee on Nominations and Committee Governance

i. Faculty Appointment to the Senate Planning Committee

Motion: (R. Burke/R. Mitchell)

That Senate appoint Dr. Rebecca Grant as a faculty representative on the Senate Committee on Planning for a three year term from June 30, 2006 to July 1, 2009.

CARRIED

f. Senate Committee on Planning

i. BSc Combined Major in Financial Mathematics and Economics

Professor Jamie Cassels presented the motion to Senate, noting that the words “and the Faculty of Science” should be inserted into the motion after the words “to be offered by the Faculty of Social Sciences”.

Motion: (J. Cassels/P. Keller)

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors that it also approve, subject to funding, the establishment of a program leading to a degree of Bachelor of Science Combined Major in Financial Mathematics and Economics to be offered by the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Faculty of Science as described in attached document entitled “A Proposal for a Bachelor of Science Major Combined in Financial Mathematics and Economics” dated October 13, 2006 and that this approval be withdrawn should the program not be offered within five years of the Board of Governors granting 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 Graduate Studies

i. New and revised graduate awards

Motion: (A. Devor/G. Hogya)

That the Senate approve, and recommend to the Board of Governors for its approval, the new and revised awards recommended by the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Alexander and Helen Stafford MacCarthy Muir Graduate Scholarship.

CARRIED

8. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Consultation on Draft of Renewed Strategic Plan

Dr. David Turpin reviewed the process undertaken to date to review and renew the Strategic Plan. He then invited the Senators to comment on the draft Strategic Plan.

Ms. Andrea Coulter commented on Objective 2(b), inquiring as to why the university did not set a higher goal than to maintain itself in the top 20% of universities. Professor Jamie Cassels indicated that the university was entering a period of financial constraint and that the intent was to set realistic targets. Given the financial outlook, remaining in the top 20% would pose an ambitious challenge for the university. Dr. Turpin added that most institutions that rank higher are older institutions with much larger endowments. Growing the university's endowment is one of the challenges given to the Development Office.

Dr. Reg Mitchell commented that he had been hearing complaints regarding Objective 8. He shared a sense that it is difficult for retirees to carry on with research because of a shortage of space. Dr. Turpin indicated that space constraints are currently and will continue to be a challenge facing the university.

Ms. Kate Van Fraasen provided input on Objective 18, inquiring as to whether it might be expanded to recognize the desirability of assisting students in transferring credits earned on international exchanges. Dr. Jim Anglin indicated that this issue had already been identified and that committee meetings are currently underway to address it.

Ms. Coulter raised a question regarding how the university intends to assure quality of education while enrolments continue to grow. Professor Cassels pointed out that these types of issues are referred to in the sections of the Strategic Plan regarding the student experience. Dr. Turpin added that the message from the Faculties is that they all have different needs and strategies for maintaining quality. The intent of the Strategic Plan is to address the issues at a high-level, while allowing the specifics to be addressed at the unit level.

Dr. Ken Stewart expressed concern about the lack of any reference to proficiency at the undergraduate level in regards to student literacy and writing skills. Dr. Turpin referred Dr. Stewart to Objective 18c, which provides for expanded support services for ESL students. Dr. Stewart indicated that his concern applied equally to native English speakers. Professor Cassels indicated that the measures proposed in the plan would include campus-wide initiatives to increase student support. Ms. Coulter shared, in support of Dr. Stewart's concern, that her experience as a T.A. has shown that students with poor literacy or numeracy skills are often distressed by academic results and that support services need to be in place to address this issue.

Dr. Peter Keller commented that the photos in the Strategic Plan should include images of activities taking place in the community.

Mr. George Robinson inquired as to whether Objective 18c was intended to address barriers that make it difficult for ESL students to access services outside the academic realm, such as counseling and other peer services. Mr. Robinson inquired as to whether translation services might become available to support ESL students in accessing these services. Dr. Turpin responded that such services are not planned at this time.

Mr. Robinson supported the creation of a university welcome centre. Dr. Turpin identified the need for a welcome centre to be set up both on the internet and in the heart of the university (i.e. the University Centre).

Ms. Naomi Devine inquired as to what standards the university will be following for “green” buildings. Dr. Turpin responded that LEEDS would provide a benchmark, but that the university would not tie itself to meeting these standards, as different standards evolve. He added that the university would adhere to the standards and guidelines it had developed for itself.

In regards to the sustainability section of the Strategic Plan, Ms. Rachel Forbes suggested that the Strategic Plan should reflect a commitment to preserve the undeveloped spaces on the campus (i.e. Mystic Vale). Dr. Turpin indicated that the details of the protection of spaces such as Mystic Vale, Finnerty Gardens, and the Garry Oak meadow are found in the Campus Plan, which is one level down from the Strategic Plan.

With no further comments coming from the Senators, Dr. Turpin said that he sensed support for the draft Strategic Plan from Senate and that the feedback and comments from Senate would be taken into consideration by the Planning and Priorities Committee and that he would bring the Strategic Plan back to Senate early in 2007 for approval.

b. Enrolment Projections 2007-2008

Professor Jamie Cassels reviewed a memo on enrolment projections for 2007-2008. He indicated that the memo set out a recommendation for a modest increase in enrolment for the 2007-2008 period. Professor Cassels noted that the recommendations in the report were predictions and that some variance could be expected in actual enrolment numbers.

Motion: (J. Cassels/C. Mateer)

That the Senate approve, and recommend to the Board of Governors that it approve, a projected annualized enrolment target of 16,700 FTE for the 2007-2008 academic year, subject to revision in the event of new information regarding mandated growth, funding levels, and application rates.

CARRIED

c. Election to the Senate Committee on Nominations and Committee Governance

Dr. Ken Stewart was nominated to serve the remainder of Dr. Amy Verdun's term. With no other nominations coming forward, Dr. Stewart was acclaimed.

d. Student Senate Caucus-Sponsored Motion

Mr. George Robinson distributed copies of a proposed motion regarding the creation of an ad-hoc committee to oversee implementation of the Strategic Plan (copy attached). Mr. Robinson explained that the Student Senate Caucus had discussed the Strategic Plan and was concerned that its implementation be monitored by a committee with significant student presence. The Student Senate Caucus was proposing the creation of a committee that would receive updates on implementation of the Strategic Plan and compile those updates into a report for Senate. Mr. Robinson moved the following motion.

Motion: (G. Robinson/M. Franzmann)

That Senate refer the motion for the creation an ad-hoc committee to oversee implementation of the Strategic Plan to the Committee on Nominations and Committee Governance for consideration.

The Chair invited discussion. Dr. Reg Mitchell inquired as to whether this Committee would duplicate the role already being fulfilled by the Planning and Priorities Committee. It was confirmed that the Planning and Priorities Committee's mandate involved monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Strategic Plan. Dr. Mitchell raised a concern about redundancy and expressed opposition to the motion. Dr. Driessen asked whether, in light of what they had heard, the students wished to withdraw the motion. Mr. Robinson stated that, although there might be some overlap in roles, the Student Senate Caucus wished to ensure that a body that was not otherwise involved in the implementation of the Strategic Plan, and that had no other role, have the opportunity to report. The question was put and the motion defeated.

DEFEATED

9. ADJOURNMENT

Senate was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.