



University  
of Victoria

## MINUTES (Revised)

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

### 1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA (R. Mitchell/L.Cross)

One item was added, 8.d): the Early Granting of a Degree. It was noted that a memo addressing this item had been distributed. The agenda was declared approved as amended.

### 2. MINUTES

a. February 3, 2006

**MOTION:** (R. Anthony/K. Stewart)

That the minutes of the open session of the meeting of the Senate held on February 3, 2006 be approved, and that the approved minutes be circulated in the usual way.

**CARRIED.**

### 3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - NIL

### 4. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

#### President's Report.

Dr. Turpin provided an update on the activities of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC), which has been making progress in developing connections with the new federal government. A recent positive development was the decision of Canada's provincial and territorial premiers to invite more than 300 stakeholders to a national summit on post-secondary education and skills in Ottawa last month. The summit, called *Competing for Tomorrow*, was organized by the Council of the Federation of Canada and hosted by Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty and Quebec Premier Jean Charest. The premiers expressed an intention to ensure that higher education is a priority in federal resource allocation, and to advocate for an increase in transfer funds as tools for education.

Dr. Turpin provided an update on the consultations for the review and renewal of Strategic Plan, including preparations for the Joint Senate and Board retreat to be held the following day at Dunsmuir Lodge.

Regarding the February 21 Provincial Budget, the President reported that there was some good news for universities in the province, including \$145 million in "operating funding" to post-secondary institutions to continue with the implementation of 25,000 new spaces by 2010. With a tuition limit policy in place, effective for 2005/06, government has committed to fully funding FTE growth and providing funds for compensation adjustments. For 2006/07, the grant

per FTE amount is \$305 (~3.4%) greater than the 2001/02 amount. UVic's 2006/07 budget has been revised to include one-time allocations as a result of \$0.4M of additional base government grant than the approved framework anticipated and \$3.2M in additional base government funding as a result of the Perrin Review. For research funding, the budget included \$45 million for Genome BC, \$70 million for the Michael Smith Health Research Foundation, and \$50 million for a new endowment to support the Natural Resources and Applied Science Foundation. One area that was disappointing was the lack of a focus on graduate education for new spaces and fellowship funding.

The province has set aside monies to create a fund of one billion dollars in signing bonuses for all public sector contracts successfully negotiated by the deadline of March 31. As is often the case when there are negotiations, CUPE is taking strike votes, and this is happening on the UVic campus as well. Meetings are currently underway on campus.

For other events of note, Dr. Turpin reported that March is "Embrace Aging Month" and the UVic Retirees Association is scheduling their first annual weekly lecture series. The Retirees Association also has a table display in the Maltwood Gallery, displaying books and cover pages of articles written by retirees. Other lecture series include UVic's new Aspreva Distinguished Speaker Series. The international head office of Aspreva is based at the Vancouver Island Technology Park (VITP). Dr. James Orbinski, past international president of Doctors Without Borders, will give a free public lecture on "Global Health and Global Citizenship" which is already fully subscribed.

In other recent news, graduates of UVic's clinical psychology doctoral program achieved the top average in the country for their performance in the examination required for registration as a psychologist. The Canadian Mathematical Society has selected Pauline van den Driessche as the recipient of the 2007 Krieger-Nelson Prize, which recognizes outstanding research by a female mathematician. Gwyn Morgan, who established EnCana Corp as the country's largest energy company, is the recipient of the 2006 Distinguished Entrepreneur of the Year Award, to be presented by the Faculty of Business Board of Advisors.

Dr. Turpin invited Professor Cassels to provide an update on the re-organization of student services and the integration of the student services portfolio. Professor Cassels commented on changes that will affect the office of International Affairs and noted that Associate Vice-President Jim Anglin would initiate a search for a new director soon. Secondly, a new position of Director of Aboriginal Affairs will provide overall leadership and coordination of UVic's Aboriginal Initiatives. The Aboriginal Liaison Office will be restructured in order to create an Office of Aboriginal Affairs and will encompass many of the existing functions of the Liaison office, but will have a broader mandate.

## 5. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Ombudsperson Annual Report – (J. Cassels/P. Keller)
  - i. 2005-2006 Ombudsperson's Annual Report

**CARRIED**

Motion: That Senate receive with thanks the 2005-2006 report of the Ombudsperson.

In response to a question from Mr. George Robinson, it was noted that the Ombudsperson is an employee of the UVSS and the office is now staffed as a full-time position. Professor Cassels noted that the decision to increase the position to full-time was based on four years' experience of effective work demonstrated by the Ombudsperson's office. He thanked Ms. Conway for her work, noting that she does a terrific job. Dr. Turpin observed that this impression is shared across campus, and added his own thanks on behalf of Senate.

## 6. PROPOSALS AND REPORTS FROM SENATE COMMITTEES

### a. Committee on Awards – (M. Serra/A. Rippin)

**CARRIED**

Motion: That Senate approve, and recommend to the Board of Governors for approval, the list of new awards as described in the attached memo.

### b. Committee on Academic Standards

#### i. Motion: (R. Anthony/B. Clazie) That Senate receive the Report on Grading on a Curve from the Committee on Academic Standards.

**CARRIED**

#### ii. Motion: (R. Anthony/L. Cross) That in accordance with the motion of the Academic Planning Committee passed at the Senate meeting of Sept. 24 1969, Senate approve the following addition to the University Calendar: "The primary purpose of evaluation and grading is to further effective teaching and learning. Any practices which assign a predetermined percentage of students a specific grade, that is, a certain percentage get A, another percentage get B and so on, without regard to individual achievement are prohibited."

In the ensuing discussion, Dr. Anthony noted that the issue of enforcement of this policy is a concern and that putting it into the calendar will bring it to the attention of all instructors and students,

and gives Senate a basis for enforcement. Dr. Mitchell added that it belongs in the calendar, and the Office of the Vice-President Academic and Provost has the authority for enforcement. Ms. Maya Gislason commented that there are informal practices that don't have mechanisms but do affect how grades are assigned; for example, professors telling teaching assistants the average grade they want to have in marking students, hoping to avoid the appearance of grade inflation. Jessica Page thanked the committee for its work on the project and noted that the competitiveness of some faculties' learning environments exacerbates this problem.

Dr. Mitchell proposed that Senate amend the motion by striking the preamble statement. Ken Stewart seconded the motion. The motion was defeated by a vote of 17 to 2.

After discussion the motion was passed with one amendment, with the first word of the addition revised to read "A primary purpose" rather than "The primary purpose".

**CARRIED**

c. Senate Committee on Curriculum

2006-2007 Calendar Submission – Faculty of Business

Motion: (R. Mitchell/R. Anthony) That Senate approve the major curriculum changes recommended by the Faculty of Business and the Committee on Curriculum for inclusion in the 2006-2007 Calendar Supplement.

**CARRIED**

d. Senate Committee on Planning – J. Cassels

**CARRIED**

Motion: (M. Taylor/P. Keller) That Senate approve and recommend to the Board that it also approve the renewal of Approved Centre Status for the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives for the period July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2011.

**7. PROPOSALS AND REPORTS FROM FACULTIES**

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

a. 2005-2006 Emeritus

**CARRIED**

Motion: (J. Cassels/J. Dower) That Senate approve the

additional 2005-2006 Emeritus list for submission to the  
2006-2007 University Calendar.

- b. Enrolment Projections for 2006-2007

**CARRIED**

Professor Cassels noted that the model for each year is constructed to predict what the strength of applications will be; the process takes into account the acceptance rate, the actual enrollment rate and other factors. Dr. Mitchell reminded Senate that UVic's standards have remained the same (67%) but as the majority of applications have a higher average than that, the 67% figure has been below the actual cut-off for some time.

Motion: (J. Cassels/G. Hogg) That Senate approve, and recommend to the Board of Governors that it approve, a projected annualized undergraduate enrolment target of 14,500 FTE for the 2006-07 academic year.

- c. Election Results for Faculty Members-at-Large to Senate

**INFORMATION**

- d. Early Granting of a Degree (R. Mitchell/J. Dower)

That Senate award the PhD diploma at this time as proposed in the attached memo.

**CARRIED**

**9. ADJOURNMENT**