



University  
of Victoria

## MINUTES

A meeting of the Senate of the University of Victoria was held on Friday, November 3, 2006 at 3:30 p.m. in the David Strong Building, Room C116. The Vice-Chair, Ms. Marne Swanson, was in the Chair.

### 1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved as amended.

### 2. MINUTES

a. October 6, 2006

**MOTION:** (A. Ripplin/J. Cassels)

That the minutes of the open session of the meeting of the Senate held on October 6, 2006 be approved and that the approved minutes be circulated in the usual way.

**CARRIED**

### 3. BUSINESS FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

### 4. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

In Dr. Turpin's absence, Jamie Cassels, Vice-President Academic & Provost provided remarks from the Chair. Professor Cassels invited Dr. Martin Taylor to give an update on the federal research front. Dr. Taylor reported that he and Dr. Turpin had recently been in Ottawa for meetings with federal officials to discuss funding of the research and in particular funding of the NEPTUNE project and made some good progress. Professor Cassels reported that the administration had made presentations at the Campus 2020 consultations in Victoria and also attended a symposium on the future of post-secondary education in Vancouver led by Geoff Plant, the Commission of Campus 2020.

Professor Cassels reported that a draft renewal of the strategic plan was distributed in the latest addition of the *Ring* and that Senate would be asked to comment on the draft plan at its December meeting. He reported on the progress of Project Nova and indicated that the Human Resource and Finance components of the project would be implemented soon and that the timeline of the student portion of the project had been extended. Professor Cassels invited Dr. Catherine Mateer to comment on the recent Leadership Retreat and Dr. Mateer reported that it had been a huge success with over 90 academic leaders participating. Dr. Taylor was then invited to provide details on the establishment of a new Office of Community-Based Research.

Professor Cassels reminded Senate of some up-coming events including: a conversation with the Honourable Bill Clinton on November 10; the Centennial Lecture Series including talks by Roy Romanow, Wade Davis and Stephen Lewis; a staff influenza immunization clinic scheduled for November 15; a celebration of Michael Williams on November 9; and the Legacy Awards on November 21.

- a. University Rankings, Mr. Tony Eder, Director of Institutional Planning and Analysis

Mr. Tony Eder provided a PowerPoint presentation on the recent Globe & Mail Report Card, MacLean's magazine university rankings and the relative position of the University of Victoria in the rankings. Responding to questions from student members, Mr. Eder indicated that the Globe & Mail report card is based on a student survey whereas the MacLean's rankings are not. In response to a question about the monitoring of ranking the indicators, Professor Cassels indicated that the renewal of the strategic plan contains a commitment to make better use of data obtained through these and other ranking instruments such as incorporating the indicators into faculty work plans.

## 5. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

## 6. PROPOSALS AND REPORTS FROM SENATE COMMITTEES

- a. Senate Committee on Awards

- i. New and revised undergraduate awards

Motion: (R. Burke/J. Peters)

That Senate approve, and recommend to the Board of Governors for its approval, the following new and revised awards submitted by the Senate Committee on Awards:

*Richard and Elizabeth Flury Scholarship\**  
*Victoria Gilbert & Sullivan Society Bursary*  
*Norman J. Ruff Scholarship\**  
*Alexander and Helen Stafford MacCarthy Muir Scholarship\**

*\* Indicates awards are administered by the University of Victoria Foundation*

**CARRIED**

- ii. Annual Report of the Senate Committee on Awards

Motion: (R. Burke/P. Murphy)

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

**CARRIED**

iii. Changes to the Undergraduate Scholarships, Medals and Prizes General Regulations

Dr. Robert Burke, Chair of the Senate Committee on Awards provided Senate with the rationale for the Committee's recommendation to change the scholarship regulations so that students registered in 12 or more units (as opposed to 15 units) would be eligible for scholarships. Dr. Burke indicated this change would enable students who carry a lighter course load because of community involvement or for personal reasons such as family responsibilities to qualify for scholarships. In addition, the change would bring UVic's regulations in line with other Canadian universities and the Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation.

Motion: (R. Burke/A.Rippin)

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

The Chair invited discussion. Dr. Reg Mitchell inquired why the Committee was dropping the requirement that a majority of a student's courses of the 12-units be graded. He raised the concern that under the proposed regulations a student could take more than 2-units un-graded as a pass/fail course. Dr. Burke responded that the Committee was not aware of many opportunities for students to take more than 2-units in a pass/fail course except for students in the BEd Elementary program and the regulations still contained reference to those students. Dr. Mitchell suggested that the Committee reconsider the issue and ensure that students would not be able to include more than 2-units in an un-graded course in the scholarship assessment.

Dr. Tom Pedersen raised a question as to the fairness of students registered in a 15-unit course load being assessed on the full 15-units and not 12-units. Dr. Pedersen and Dr. Ron Skelton commented that while the changes would be beneficial to those taking the 12-unit load, students who continue to take the 15-unit load would be jeopardized. Dr. Burke responded that the course-load would be the choice of the student and the administration of determining the best 12-units for those students taking 15-units would be difficult.

George Robinson applauded the changes in the regulations and indicated they would benefit students who need to take a smaller course load because of community involvement or personal situations. Roselynn Verwoord commented that she thought the changes good as they brought UVic's regulations in line with the Millennium scholarships. Maria Cardona Madero indicated she thought the changes would be beneficial to student athletes who need to take a smaller course load.

Dr. Miller inquired as to when the changes would take effect and Dr. Burke indicated that the Committee's intention was that the changes take effect immediately and be captured in the 2007-2008 calendar. Dr. Mitchell questioned the fairness of the changes taking effect immediately for those students enrolled in the current term and stated that although he supported the change to the regulations in principle he would vote against the motion if the changes were to take effect immediately.

The Chair suggested that the motion be voted on subject to the understanding that there would be consultation with the Registrar as to the timing of implementation of the changes.

A debate continued as to the merits of basing the scholarship assessment on 15-units for those students who choose to take a 15-unit course load. Dr. Miller questioned whether these students would be disadvantaged if the next year's scholarships are based on last year's performance.

Robert Burke responded that he was happy to take all of the concerns raised back to the committee for further discussion. The University Secretary confirmed that the motion could be approved at Senate's December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting and the changes could still be captured in the 2007-2008 calendar.

Dr. Mitchell proposed to table the motion until the next Senate meeting so that the Awards committee could answer the questions that had been raised.

Motion to Table: (R. Mitchell/K.Stewart)

That the motion be tabled and the matter be referred back to the Senate Committee on Awards to address the issues and concerns raised by Senate.

The motion to table the item was put and **CARRIED**.

b. Senate Committee on Planning

i. Name Change – Department of Germanic & Russian Studies

Professor Cassels introduced this matter and indicated that the new name for the department would more accurately reflect the nature of the Department's teaching offerings and bring the name in conformity with that of similar departments at other Canadian universities.

Motion: (J. Cassels/A. Rippin)

That Senate approve the change of name of the Department of Germanic and Russian Studies to the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies

**CARRIED**

ii. Honours BA in Medieval Studies

Motion: (J. Cassels/T. Haskett)

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors that it also approve subject to funding, the establishment of a program leading to the degree of Honours BA in Medieval Studies to be offered by the Faculty of Humanities, as described in the attached document entitled "Honours in Medieval Studies in the Bachelor of Arts" dated 6 September 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**

None

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

a. Senate Committee on Nominations and Committee Governance

Dr. Annalee Lepp referred to a document that had been distributed at the meeting that recommended the appointment of the new student senate members acclaimed or elected in October to vacancies on the senate standing committees.

Motion: (A. Lepp/P. Keller)

That Senate approve the 2006-2007 committee appointments for student senators recommended by the Senate Committee on Nominations and Committee Governance as set out in the distributed document for the terms indicated in brackets.

**CARRIED**

b. Declaration of Vacancy on Senate

The University Secretary declared a vacant position for a representative from the Faculty of Business as Dr. Jenn Baggs was resigning from Senate as she would be on leave for the remainder of her term. Dr. Eastman indicated that a call for nominations to fill the position would be issued.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Senate was adjourned at time 4:35.