



University  
of Victoria

## MINUTES

A meeting of the Senate of the University of Victoria was held on January 11, 2008 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

A revised agenda was circulated to correct an item that was in the wrong place

Motion: (R. Mitchell/R. Anthony)

That the revised agenda be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

### 2. MINUTES

Motion: (L. Cross/S. Blackstone)

That the minutes of the open session of the meeting of the Senate, held on December 7, 2007, 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

Dr. Turpin welcomed three new members of Senate: Dr. Maureen MacDonald, the new Dean of Continuing Studies; Dr. Susan Turner, Continuing Sessional representative; and Dr. Andrew Harding, Faculty of Law representative.

#### a. President's Report

Dr. Turpin reported on his recent trip to India with other members of UVic's administration. He reported that the delegation met with a number

of postsecondary education officials and representatives to discuss and explore ways to encourage the recruitment of international students from India. Dr. Turpin reported that lobbying of the federal and provincial governments was continuing with the budget announcements upcoming.

In UVic related news, Dr. Turpin reported that:

- the Honourable Lieutenant Governor Steven L. Point and Her Honour Mrs. Gwendolyn Point had agreed to be honorary patrons of the university's new First Peoples House;
- in December the federal government announced that UVic would receive \$2.25 million in support for advanced remote sensing research and a chair would be created and supported through the Leading Edge Endowment Fund;
- Ocean Networks Canada was approved by NSERC and CFI to receive \$9 million in operating funds for the NEPTUNE project;
- CFI's next competition has been announced and UVic has a potential to receive \$20 million with a further potential of \$50 million through matching from other sources;
- a working group to examine the relationship between research centres and academic units has made excellent progress and the group would be reporting to Senate and the Board of Governors later in the year;
- CIDA announced funding of eight projects at UVic including the "Southern Oceans Education and Development project;
- the university would host two President's Distinguished Lectures in March: one with the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize winner Shirin Ebadi, and the other would be a panel discussion with Maher Arar, Monia Mazigh and Stephen Toope;
- the UVic Alumni Association and UVic Alumni Services first annual Alumni Week would take place February 2 to 9, 2008;
- a pilot of the newly redesigned UVic website would be up on January 17, 2008.

Dr. Turpin also announced the following awards and achievements:

- six UVic based researchers and one UVic student were among the members of the recently announced provincial government's BC Climate Action Team;
- UVic's Occupational Health, Safety and Environment Department were one of the winners of the Capital Regional District's 2007 Ecostar Award;

- graduates of UVic's clinical psychology doctoral program have scored the highest average marks of all graduates taking the standard examination required for registration as a psychologist in North America;
- Dr. Rebecca Grant from the Faculty of Business was the recipient of the 2007 Decision Science International Case Study Award;
- Elaine Gallagher received Simon Fraser University's Outstanding Alumni Award; and
- Alison Sydor (BSc '89), Gareth Rees (BA '91) and former UVic Vikes soccer coach, Bruce Twamley, were inducted into the BC Sports Hall of Fame.

**5. CORRESPONDENCE - NIL**

**6. PROPOSALS AND REPORTS FROM SENATE COMMITTEES**

- a. Senate Committee on Admission, Re-registration and Transfer
  - i. 2006/07 Annual Report

Motion: (A. Rippin/S. Blackstone)

That the Senate receive, with thanks, the 2006/07 Annual Report of the Senate Committee on Admission, Re-registration and Transfer.

**CARRIED**

- b. Senate Committee on Planning
  - i. Minor in Economic Policy

Motion: (P.Keller/J. Baggs)

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors that it also approve, subject to funding, the establishment of a **Minor in Economic Policy** to be offered by the Faculty of Social Sciences with an anticipated start date of September 1, 2008, as described in the document "A Proposed Degree Program BA Minor in Economic Policy" dated

November 9, 2007 and that this approval be withdrawn if the program should not be offered within five years of the granting of approval.

**CARRIED**

ii. Minor in Public Administration

Motion: (M. Purkis/S. Blackstone)

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors that it also approve, subject to funding, the establishment of a **Minor in Public Administration** to be offered by the School of Public Administration and the Faculty of Human and Social Development with an anticipated start date of September 1, 2008, as described in the document "Proposal for a Minor in Public Administration" dated November 27, 2007 and that this approval be withdrawn if the program should not be offered within five years of the granting of approval.

**CARRIED**

iii. Integrated Health Research and Training Proposal

Dr. Turpin indicated that this item had been brought to Senate for information and to receive comment and feedback from Senators.

Dr. Brunt introduced the proposal. He acknowledged that the university has strong academic and research programs in the areas of health, but that there is little coordination or integration between the faculties and research centres. Therefore, the proposal is to integrate the programs and provide avenues for students to engage in interdisciplinary studies. He indicated that the working proposal has been discussed and agreed upon by the Health Research Advisory group, Deans' Council and Senate Committee on Planning. Dr. Mateer also spoke to the proposal and noted in particular that since graduate research is widely distributed over

many faculties and research centres, graduate students interested in

research have been hampered in finding programs and structuring independent programs. She also noted that the university is not promoting itself effectively in the area of health research and training and is therefore not perceived as strong in the area. Dr. Mateer explained that the proposal would address these concerns by focusing interdisciplinary health programs around three research and training themes: 1) biomedical/physical aspects of health; 2) social determinations of health; and, 3) public health and health

science delivery. It was proposed that each program within the theme would have a program director and a committee that would sit outside of the faculty. Students would be admitted to a program not a specific faculty. The university would appoint a Director of the Health Education and Research Council to present a strong interdisciplinary health research vision externally, and provide internal coordination of health related research activities.

Dr. Turpin invited comment and discussion from members of Senate. Dr. Gammon commented that the proposal was welcome and that idea should be applied to interdisciplinary graduate studies in other areas not just health. Dr. Mateer agreed and noted that this would be a model for other interdisciplinary areas. In response to a question from Ms. Sheffield, Dr. Mateer confirmed that the proposal would integrate areas of mental health research. Dr. Keller spoke in support of the proposal and noted that UVic is overlooked in the funding of health education by government and the Michael Smith Foundation. He noted that in comparison to other BC universities, this proposal gave the opportunity for UVic to be unique in terms of an interdisciplinary focus. Dr. Pedersen welcomed the interdisciplinary concept, but wondered about the relationship between the research centres and academic faculties, and noted the ongoing concern that research centres are underfunded. Prof. Cassels assured Senate that the value of the exercise was to alleviate the tension. He noted that the council would not be a centre, rather a council that would coordinate research and academic activities. The hope is the council would enable the university to leverage growth funding in the area of graduate funding. In response to Dr. Skelton's request to expand on the concept of the council, Dr. Brunt and Dr. Mateer responded

that the idea was that the council would support new programs but would not direct the creation of new academic or research areas. Dr. Casiro spoke in support of the proposal and stated that this

created the opportunity to attract funding from external donors. Dr. Riecken commented that the Faculty of Education is fully behind the proposal as a mechanism for building programs.

Dr. Turpin asked what the next steps would be. Dr. Mateer responded that terms of reference for the new council were being created, they were working on draft directives and criteria for the hiring and retaining of a Director, and some programs were in development. Dr. Mateer confirmed that all new programs would come to Senate for approval through the Senate Committee on Planning. Dr. Turpin thanked Dr. Brunt and Dr. Mateer for their work on the proposal.

## 7. PROPOSALS AND REPORTS FROM FACULTIES

- a. Faculty of Graduate Studies: Graduate Admissions and Awards Committee
  - i. New graduate awards

Motion: (A. Devor/M. Purkis)

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

*Gerry Poulton Graduate Scholarship in Chemistry\**

*James & Phillippa Kerr Graduate Scholarship in Nursing\**

*Gordon & Joan Alston-Stewart Scholarship\**

*The Peter Fothergill-Payne Travelling Scholarship\**

*\*administered by the University of Victoria Foundation*

**CARRIED**

## 8. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Request for omnibus approval for short-term Nova related changes to related changes to academic standards

Ms. Wallace-Hulecki spoke to Senate about the proposal. She informed Senate that by March 17, 2008 the university would be engaged in 13 successive “go-lives” in Banner Student. In the area

of registration, fee assessment and fee audit staff in the Registrar’s office would need to be able to make quick decisions and plan for

the unexpected. There may be a need to relax certain academic regulations or requirements for a certain amount of time. Ms. Wallace-Hulecki informed Senate that other institutions that had also transitioned to Banner Student requested the same approval of their Senates.

Dr. Burke asked whether there would be a reporting system. Prof. Cassels confirmed that it was the intention to report to the relevant Senate committees. Mr. Robinson expressed concern, as he noted Senate’s primary role is to approve academic changes. He requested that the motion be amended to include that the Provost report all changes to Senate as soon as they were made. Prof. Cassels referred Senate to the memo included in the docket which noted there would be a reporting of all modifications. Mr. Robinson proposed that the motion be amended to include the requirement to report to Senate. Prof. Cassels agreed to the amendment.

Motion to Amend: (G. Robinson/P. Abraham)

That the Motion be amended to include the statement,  
“ *any short-term modifications that were deemed necessary would be reported to relevant Senate Committees and Senate.*”

The motion to amend was put and **CARRIED.**

Dr. Mitchell stated he was concerned with giving the administration such power and reminded Senate that the Provost had been given the power to temporarily delay implementation of the switch to a percentage grading system in 1994 and the switch still has not been implemented. Ms. Page noted that the proposal raised a red-flag for her regarding the wait-list functionality for students. She indicated that current problems with the waitlist system making it extremely stressful for students and she encouraged the Registrar to resolve any future waitlist difficulties with as little stress to students as possible. Dr. Banerjee asked what was meant in the memo by

manual tracking delays, and asked who would be doing the manual tracking. Ms. Wallace-Hulecki responded some current functions would have to be manually carried out by staff in the Registrar's office, but that they are also working with the vendor to minimize manual tracking. In response

to a question from Mr. Robinson about whether there would be an announcement to students about the delays, Ms. Wallace-Hulecki confirmed that a communications plan was in place that includes a student helpline. Prof. Cassels reiterated that the purpose of the motion was to minimize the problems without delaying approval for changes, and that the approval was only being given during the period of transition to Banner Student.

Motion: (S. Blackstone/A. Devor)

That Senate approve the implementation of short-term Banner related adjustments in the application of academic policy and/or regulation only if and when deemed necessary by the Provost during the period from February 1 to November 30, 2008, and any short-term modifications that were deemed necessary would be reported to relevant Senate Committees and Senate.

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

b. Revision to Policy 1150

Ms. Cindy Player, Director of Human Rights provided a powerpoint presentation on the proposed revisions to the policy. Dr. Turpin informed Senate that this was a Board of Governors' policy but the revisions were for Senate's information.

In response to a question Ms. Player clarified how complaints under collective agreements relate to the policy. Ms. Verwoord asked whether the "related policies" referred to in the policy would also be reviewed and Ms. Player confirmed that these would as part of the university's wider review of its policies. R. Verwoord commented that the related policies should be expedited in the review process. Dr. Eastman confirmed that all policies were being systematically updated and it could be noted that these policies should be given priority. Ms. Player responded to questions about the meaning of specific language in the policy. In response to a question about whether complaints between students would be covered, Ms. Player confirmed that they would and that



the UVSS was covered under the policy.

c. Notice of Vacancy on Senate

Dr. Eastman announced a vacancy on Senate for a representative from the Faculty of Human and Social Development for a term ending June 30, 2009 as she had received notice of resignation from member Sibylle Artz.

d. Elections

Dr. Eastman reported that the Office of the University Secretary had recently issued calls for nominations for the following positions:

- (1) a by-election for the vacancy for a representative from the Faculty of Human and Social Development with a term ending June 30, 2009;
- (2) seven faculty-at-large positions on Senate for three-year terms from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2011;
- (3) two faculty-at-large positions on the Board of Governors for three-year terms from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2011; and
- (4) a Continuing Sessional representative for a three-year term from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2011.

She also announced that there would be upcoming calls for student representatives on Senate and the Board of Governors and six faculty-specific positions on Senate.

- e. Dr. Turpin reminded Senate about the upcoming Joint Senate and Board Retreat on March 1, 2008, and that the topic of the retreat would be sustainability.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the open meeting of Senate adjourned at 4:30 p.m.