



University
of Victoria

MINUTES

A meeting of the Senate of the University of Victoria was held on November 7, 2008 at 3:30 p.m. in the David Strong Building, Room C122.

The Chair of Senate, Dr. David Turpin, was in the chair.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Dr. Turpin noted that a revised agenda had been distributed with an additional item under business arising from the minutes. He explained that this item came up after the meeting of the Senate Committee on Agenda and Procedures.

Motion: (A. Rippin/A. Devor)
That the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

2. MINUTES

Motion: (R. Mitchell/J. Dower)
That the minutes of the open session of the meeting of the Senate held on October 3, 2008 be approved and that the approved minutes be circulated in the usual way.

CARRIED

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a. Proposed extension of omnibus approval for short-term NOVA-related changes to academic standards

Dr. Turpin noted that a memorandum had been distributed. Ms. Wallace Hulecki apologized for the late addition to the agenda. She reminded senators that an omnibus motion was approved by Senate in January 2008 that allowed the implementation of short term Banner related adjustments in the application of academic policy and regulations between February 1 and November 30, 2008. Ms. Wallace Hulecki explained that implementation of the student portion of Banner was now scheduled to continue past November 30, 2008. Ms. Wallace Hulecki requested an extension of the omnibus motion to June 30, 2009, at which time it was expected that implementation would be complete.

Dr. Mitchell wondered whether the June 30, 2009 date was optimistic. Dr. Webb asked whether this item should go through the Senate Committee on Academic Standards. Ms. Wallace Hulecki responded that the item had not been sent to the Senate Committee on

Academic Standards because it was a request for an extension to a motion that had already been approved by the Senate.

Dr. Turpin said that Prof. Cassels would continue to report on implementation, as he had at the October Senate meeting. Dr. Mateer said Prof. Cassels was in support of the extension. She added that the omnibus motion had assisted with implementation and would continue to be appreciated as implementation continued.

Dr. Webb asked whether June 30, 2009 was a realistic time frame. Ms. Wallace Hulecki said that the June 30, 2009 date coincided with the end of the first year of the implementation cycle. She said she would reassess at that time whether an additional extension was necessary. Prof. Hart Wensley suggested that reassessment be conducted to coincide with the last meeting of Senate for the year.

Motion: (H. Brunt/A. Devor)

That Senate approve the implementation of short-term Banner related adjustments in the application of academic policy and/or regulation deemed necessary by the Provost for the period December 1, 2008 through to June 30, 2009.

CARRIED

4. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

a. President's Report

Dr. Turpin noted that he would not be able to attend the December Senate meeting. He said this would be his last opportunity to acknowledge the service of the chancellor, Dr. Lou-Poy, whose term was coming to an end. He thanked Dr. Lou-Poy on behalf of the Senate and the university for six years of excellent service.

Dr. Turpin said this would also be his last Senate meeting with Dr. Reg Mitchell, who was retiring at the end of December. He acknowledged Dr. Mitchell for more than 31 years of service on Senate, during which he had contributed in innumerable capacities.

Dr. Turpin recognized the effect of the current financial situation on the university. He said that the university was seeing reductions in the value of its endowment and explained that analysis was being conducted to identify and assess the implications. Dr. Turpin assured senators that universities collectively were working to ensure that federal and provincial support for universities was maintained. In that regard, Dr. Turpin distributed a newspaper article regarding meetings of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada with the finance minister.

On the provincial front, Dr. Turpin reported that the annual planning and priorities meeting was held on October 27, 2008 with officials from the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development. He added that the university had subsequently hosted a lunch on campus for the Deputy Minister, Robin Ciceri.

With regards to events and news at the university, Dr. Turpin reported that:

- two successful recruitment events were held at the university on October 21 and 22, 2008. Western Economic Diversification Canada hosted a half day symposium and the university hosted a Federal government co-op and career opportunities campaign to encourage students to enter the federal public service.
- a number of alumni events had taken place over the past few weeks in Ottawa and Toronto.
- Dunsmuir Lodge was scheduled to close on March 31, 2009. He said that the university was going to engage in a discussion about its future use.
- a celebration dinner was held on November 3, 2008 in honour of the 2008 Molson Prize being awarded to Dr. Angus McLaren. Dr. McLaren was the first academic in British Columbia and the first historian west of Ontario to be awarded the prize.
- the October 2008 University Annual Review was published and being circulated. The Times Colonist Community Report was going to be published on the weekend, with the Green Guide coming out a week later.
- the opening of the Ocean, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences building was scheduled for November 24, 2008. Senators were invited to attend.
- the offices of the university's executive would soon begin moving into the Administrative Services Building.
- the Ombudsperson's office was celebrating 30 years on campus.
- a new exhibit was planned for the Legacy Gallery and Café.
- with regards to the university rankings being released in Maclean's, the Globe and Mail and Research InfoSource, senators could expect to receive a report at an upcoming meeting.
- Dr. Joseph Kess, Emeritus Chair in Japan and Asia-Pacific Relations and Emeritus Professor in Linguistics, was awarded one of Japan's most prestigious honours, the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon.
- the call for Leadership Victoria nominations had been issued and nominations would be accepted until November 28.

- the past weekend had been a successful one for Vikes athletics, with strong performances in field hockey, soccer and rowing.

Dr. Mitchell said he read in the Times Colonist that Dunsmuir Lodge could sell for \$10-20 million. He said he thought this amount seemed low and asked if the university would be trying to maximize the amount the property sold for. Dr. Turpin responded that the property was currently zoned for educational use. He said that it was difficult to rezone property in North Saanich, which created a challenge in trying to maximize the value of the property.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

6. PROPOSALS AND REPORTS FROM SENATE COMMITTEES

a. Senate Committee on Academic Standards

i. Supplemental 2007/08 Annual Report

Motion: (D. Baer/D. Clover)

That the Senate receive, with thanks, the supplemental 2007/08 annual report of the Senate Committee on Academic Standards.

CARRIED

ii. Interim Report on 20% “With Distinction” Policy

Dr. Baer advised senators that the Senate Committee on Academic Standards was working on the implementation of a motion passed by Senate in 2005 regarding the manner in which “with distinction” was calculated. He said that, after consultation with the NOVA team, it appeared that implementation could not take place until 2011. Dr. Baer said the committee did not yet have an indication regarding how much implementation would cost and that it would have to bring this back to Senate for consideration at a later date.

Dr. Baer said that, although he was not sure the committee was fully in support of the new method for calculating “with distinction”, the committee felt it was not its role to reconsider the motion passed by Senate and had only focused on implementation.

Dr. Rippin said that a debate had arisen in the Faculty of Humanities with regards to the motion. He said that many faculty members were not in support of the new method of calculating “with distinction” and that a question had arisen regarding how to bring the issue back to Senate.

Dr. Webb reminded senators that he had been chair of the Senate Committee on

Academic Standards when the motion was passed by Senate in 2005. He said that concerns regarding “with distinction” were widely discussed at that time and it was determined that the 20% calculation could adequately address the problem. Dr. Webb expressed concern with maintaining the “with distinction” calculation in its current form.

Dr. Mitchell said he supported acknowledging students for accomplishments but added that the number of students currently receiving “with distinction” was too high. He said that when Senate considered the issue in 2005, 20% was considered a reasonable number.

Dr. Webb said when the original motion was passed in 2005, the Senate Committee on Academic Standards had been assured that implementation would not cause any difficulties. Mr. Roman said that in order to determine how difficult implementation would be, there were a number of things the NOVA team would have to consider. Dr. Baer said that the committee had waited to ask the NOVA team to consider these issues until some other urgent Banner matters were addressed. He said that additional delays in implementation had occurred because of the need for consultation with the faculties.

Dr. Mitchell said implementation should not be delayed due to concerns with cost. He noted that Senate’s role was to set the rules and that implementation of the rules was the administration’s responsibility.

Mr. Roman said that the Banner system could implement any method of calculating “with distinction” but that it would take time.

Dr. Anthony noted that the Faculty of Education was in support of the 2005 motion. Dr. Webb felt the issue was very important and found it troubling that implementation was taking so long.

Mr. Wade thought having so many students receiving “with distinction” affected the reputation of the university. He said that the current system of granting “with distinction” was clearly broken and that the new calculation needed to be implemented soon.

Dr. Serra said that if the university really wanted to see the problem resolved, it needed to support and assist with implementation. She noted that programming could take place outside Banner to address the issue immediately.

In response to a question from Dr. Banerjee, Dr. Turpin said that Senate had already passed the motion regarding “with distinction” and that the next step was implementation.

Dr. Baer said that if it was discovered that implementation would be very expensive, he felt the committee should bring the issue back to Senate for discussion. Dr. Turpin explained that budget issues were normally left to the Board of Governors and the administration. He said that if costs proved to be unreasonable, the administration could bring the issue back to Senate for consideration. Dr. Turpin added that the Senate Committee on Academic Standards should concentrate on protecting the academic

integrity of the university.

Dr. Tiedje asked why manual calculation of “with distinction” had not been considered.

Dr. Walker suggested it would be helpful to hear an update from the NOVA team regarding Banner before the end of the year.

iii. Co-op Designation

Dr. Mitchell said he thought this addition to the degree parchment was overdue and that it would assist students. Dr. Baer agreed and said he was surprised that it was not already being done.

Motion: (D. Baer/R. Anthony)

That Senate approve that the designation “Co-operative Education” appear on the University of Victoria degree parchment awarded to all co-operative education graduates effective May 2009.

CARRIED

b. Senate Committee on Awards

i. 2007/08 Annual Report

In response to a question, Ms. Nolt noted that there was a typo in an amount listed on the last page of the report. The amount listed should have been \$300,000.

Dr. Webb asked if differences in grading standards across departments within faculties were considered when awards were given. Dr. Lewis Hammond said she did not think they were.

Motion: (S. Lewis Hammond/J. Wood)

That the Senate receive, with thanks, the 2007/08 annual report of the Senate Committee on Awards.

CARRIED

ii. New and revised undergraduate awards

Motion: (S. Lewis Hammond/M. Kennedy)

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

- *Borden Ladner Gervais Professional Excellence Award (new)*
- *The David Strong Entrance Scholarship (revised)*

- *Davison Undergraduate Bursary in Slavic Studies (new)*
- *Elsa Stephens Scholarship in Nursing * (new)*
- *John Goudy Science Scholarship* (new)*
- *The Dr. J. Donald Rowlatt Entrance Scholarship* (revised)*

** Administered by the University of Victoria Foundation*

CARRIED

7. PROPOSALS AND REPORTS FROM FACULTIES

There were none.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Naming an Endowed Chair in History of Art

Motion: (S. Blackstone/S. Lewis Hammond)

That Senate approve, and recommend to the Board of Governors that it also approve, the establishment and naming of the Williams Legacy Chair in Modern and Contemporary Arts of the Pacific Northwest.

CARRIED

b. Ad hoc Committee on the Appointment of the Chancellor

Dr. Eastman reported that recent amendments to the *University Act* had changed the way in which the chancellor is selected. She said that, although it would be several years before the university selected a new chancellor, it would be useful to begin considering the issue now. Dr. Eastman said a committee, composed as described in the memo that had just been distributed, would be struck to consider how the university will approach the issue.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the open meeting of Senate was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.