



University  
of Victoria

## MINUTES

A meeting of the Senate of the University of Victoria was held on October 3, 2008 at 3:30 p.m. in the University Centre, Room A180.

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

Dr. Turpin welcomed senators to the first Senate meeting of the year.

### 1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: (L. Cross/R. Mitchell)

That the agenda be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

### 2. MINUTES

Motion: (A. Rippin/R. Mitchell)

That the minutes of the open session of the meeting of the Senate held on May 2, 2008 be approved and that the approved minutes be circulated in the usual way.

**CARRIED**

### 3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

#### a. Election of a student from the Faculty of Human and Social Development

Ms. Andersen reminded senators that, after the election of students to Senate held in the spring, there had been one vacancy remaining for a student senator in the Faculty of Human and Social Development. She reported that the vacancy had recently been filled by acclamation.

#### b. Update on Sheila and John Hackett Research Travel Awards

Dr. Turpin reminded senators that a question had been raised regarding which students were eligible for this award. Dr. Devor reported that eligibility had been limited to particular faculties in order to honour the donors' wishes.

#### **4. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR**

##### **a. President's Report**

##### **i. United Way Presentation**

Dr. Turpin said that the university was one of the major supporters of the United Way in Victoria.

Mr. Mark Roman, chief information officer and campus campaign chair; and Mr. Bruce Kilpatrick, director of UVic communications and chair, leadership giving, gave a presentation on the university's 2008/09 United Way campaign.

##### **ii. Campus Planning and Sustainability**

Mr. Neil Connelly, director of campus planning and sustainability, gave a presentation on the work being done to develop a campus sustainability policy and action plan. He reviewed the background, process and opportunities to provide input.

##### **ii. Other matters**

Dr. Turpin welcomed new senators to their first meeting of Senate and thanked all senators for their participation.

Dr. Turpin said that, in preparation for the upcoming federal election, the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) was seeking to ensure that universities' interests are represented.

Dr. Turpin reported on an upcoming career fair at the university. Dr. Mateer said the university was hosting a major career event on October 21, 2008. She said that the career fair would highlight career opportunities in federal agencies and departments. The event would also feature a symposium with participation from university faculty and federal employees.

Dr. Turpin said that over the summer the Board of Governors had received a letter of expectations from the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development. The ministry had asked the Board chair to sign the letter on behalf of the university. Dr. Turpin said the letter was more detailed than similar letters that had been received in the past. He reported that the Board chair, along with Board chairs at the other research intensive universities in the province, had declined to sign the original letter. Instead, the Board chairs had met with the Minister of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development to discuss their concerns. Dr. Turpin said the letter had since been revised by the ministry and that the Board chair had signed it, as had his counterparts at the other major universities.

Dr. Turpin reported that the university was launching the second phase of an awareness campaign to continue attracting the best quality students to UVic.

He announced that the call for nominations for President's Distinguished Lectures had been circulated.

Dr. Turpin reported that a new emergency notification system was now in place. He said it was tested in August and some improvements were being implemented.

The Canada Foundation for Innovation's outcomes measurement study, conducted on May 14-15, 2008 at UVic, had been deemed a major success.

Dr. Turpin reported that University of Victoria Properties Inc. had received \$135,000 in federal funding and \$135,000 in provincial funding to conduct a feasibility study for an ocean technology park.

Dr. Turpin said the search for a director of the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS) was underway. He explained that the university's procedures for appointment of centre directors call for ratification of a director's appointment by the members of the centre. However, PICS did not yet have members. It was therefore not possible to conduct a ratification ballot for this initial appointment. Dr. Turpin reminded senators that a similar situation had been experienced with the Centre for Addictions Research of British Columbia.

Dr. Turpin showed senators a new book, *The Lansdowne Era*, that was recently published to chronicle the life and times of Victoria College when it was located at the Lansdowne Campus.

He noted that the exhibit "Copper Thunderbird: Invention, Inspiration, Transformation" was running at the Legacy Gallery and Café downtown.

Dr. Turpin reported that the Premier had announced ten graduate fellowships for top master's and PhD students in June. He said that four of these fellowships had been awarded to UVic students.

Dr. Turpin reported that UVic's Indigenous Student Summer Camp and Indigenous Adult Orientation Programs had received a \$600,000 gift from RBC.

The Faculty of Education had received a \$500,000 donation from Mildred Shaw and Brian Gaines to support science education.

Dr. Turpin reported that Dr. Brad Anholt had been appointed director of the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre for Experimental and Applied Community Ecology.

With respect to awards and honours, Dr. Turpin announced that:

- emeritus professor Angus McLaren was the recipient of the 2008 Molson Prize
- Dr. Ron Lou-Poy, Dr. Hua Lin, Dr. Yuen-Fong Woon and Dr. David Chuenyan Lai had received Golden Mountain Achievement Awards
- two emeritus professors, Dr. Peter Baskerville and Dr. Pat Martin Bates, were elected Fellows of the Royal Society of Canada
- Dr. Chris Garrett, Earth and Ocean Sciences, won the BC Innovation Council Chairman's Award for Career Achievement
- 32 of the recipients of the Irving K. Barber Transfer Scholarships were at UVic or coming to UVic, more than any other BC university
- emeritus professor Wolfgang Hoefler was elected to the German National Academy of Science and Engineering
- Prof. David Hultsch, Psychology, was selected for the American Psychology Association Division 20 Baltes Distinguished Research Achievement Award
- Dr. Geraldine Van Gyn, Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education, received the 2007/08 Dr. Branton Research Award from the Canadian Association for Co-operative Education
- The Engineering and Computer Science Building was certified LEED gold status
- 22 UVic students, graduates and coaches participated in the Beijing Olympics and Paralympics
- UVic was recognized as a "green" school in the U.S.-based "College Sustainability Report Card"
- 3<sup>rd</sup> year physics and mathematics student Sebastien Picard was a Killam Fellowship award recipient

## **5. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **a. University of Victoria Financial Statements as at March 31, 2008**

There were no questions from Senators regarding the financial statements.

### **b. Letter to members of Senate and Board of Governors regarding J.S. Simpson Field Studies Resource Centre**

Receipt of Mr. Wiles' letter and Ms. Gorrill's memo on this matter was noted.

Dr. Volpe asked what the process would be for determining the fate of the property. Ms. Gorrill said that use of the property was decreasing. She said that the university was pulling together a group of people from across campus to assess why this was happening and how barriers to use could be reduced.

Dr. Mitchell said the property had been used frequently by the Chemistry department when it was first acquired. He said he had seen use of the property decrease since that time.

## 6. PROPOSALS AND REPORTS FROM SENATE COMMITTEES

### a. Senate Committee on Academic Standards

#### i. English Language Requirement

Dr. Baer explained that this issue arose because of difficulties being faced by students in diploma and certificate programs who were not completing programs because they had not met the English language requirement. He said that the English department and the Faculty of Continuing Studies had been consulted.

Dr. Turner expressed concern over the apparent lessening of English proficiency requirements. Dr. Baer said this proposal would not affect students enrolled in undergraduate programs. He added that, in the context of diploma and certificate programs, he did not think anything was being done to erode the quality of students' capabilities.

Motion: (D. Baer/R. Mitchell)

That Senate approve that the wording in the University of Victoria Undergraduate Academic Calendar be changed from:

“All undergraduate students, including diploma, certificate and unclassified students, must complete 1.5 units of first-year English (excluding ENGL 181 and 182) in order to satisfy the University English Requirement. Students who can show equivalent proficiency in English may be exempt from this requirement.”

to:

“Undergraduate students, excluding diploma and certificate programs, but including other unclassified students, must complete 1.5 units of first-year English (excluding ENGL 181 and 182) in order to satisfy the University English Requirement. Students who can show equivalent proficiency in English may be exempt from this requirement.”

**CARRIED**

**ii. 2006-2007 Undergraduate Grading Patterns Report**

Dr. Mitchell said he hoped the administration would take a close look at the report as it contained some interesting anomalies, including courses and faculties with high levels of As and courses with no As. Dr. Mitchell added that he hoped the Senate Committee on Academic Standards would provide some analysis of the report.

Mr. Cross said the high entrance standards required for students should be considered when reviewing the report.

Mr. Wade suggested it might be worth contacting instructors to advise them that the anomalies had been identified.

Dr. Webb commented that there had been some improvements in grading since the 1990s, when concerns about grading patterns had been identified; average grades are no longer trending upwards.

Motion: (D. Baer/R. Park)

That Senate receive, with thanks, the 2006-2007 Undergraduate Grading Patterns Report from the Senate Committee on Academic Standards.

**CARRIED**

**iii. Posthumous Degree Guidelines**

Dr. Baer reminded senators that Senate had delegated authority to approve degrees to the Senate Committee on Academic Standards. He said this also included the authority to grant posthumous degrees. Dr. Baer noted the committee had chosen to develop guidelines instead of a policy to allow for flexibility to make exceptions.

Motion: (D. Baer/L. Gammon)

That Senate approve the Posthumous Degree Guidelines as recommended by the Senate Committee on Academic Standards.

**CARRIED**

**b. Senate Committee on Awards**

**i. 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 as set out in the attached document:

- *Martin Collis Undergraduate Bursary (new)\**
- *Martin Hendy Award (new)\**
- *Charles Kint Bursary (new)*
- *Prosecution Service of British Columbia Bursary (new)*
- *Stikeman Elliot Prize in Contracts (new)*
- *Melody D. Bullough Bursary (new)*

*\* Administered by the University of Victoria Foundation*

**CARRIED**

**c. Senate Committee on Continuing Studies**

**i. 2007/08 Annual Report**

Motion: (M. MacDonald/R. Mitchell)

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

**CARRIED**

**d. Senate Committee on Nominations and Committee Governance**

**i. 2007/08 Annual Report**

Motion: (R. Burke/A. Preece)

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

**CARRIED**

**ii. Appointments to the 2008/09 Senate Standing Committees**

Motion: (R. Burke/L. Gammon)

That Senate approve the appointments to the 2008/09 Senate standing committees for the terms indicated in brackets in the attached document as recommended by the Senate Committee on Nominations and Committee Governance.

**CARRIED**

**iii. Appointments to the 2008/09 Joint Senate Board Retreat Committee**

Motion: (R. Burke/V. Harrison)

That Senate approve the appointments to the

2008/09 Joint Senate Board Retreat Committee set out in the attached document as recommended by the Senate Committee on Nominations and Committee Governance.

**CARRIED**

**e. Senate Committee on Planning**

**i. Minor in Social Justice Studies**

Dr. Baer said he thought this was an exciting proposal. Dr. Gammon agreed.

Motion: (C. Mateer/A. Rippin)

That Senate approve, and recommend to the Board of Governors that it also approve, the establishment of a *Minor in Social Justice Studies* to be offered by the Faculty of Social Sciences, Faculty of Human and Social Development, and the Faculty of Humanities as described in the document entitled “Minor in Social Justice Studies” dated August 26, 2008 and that this approval be withdrawn if the program should not be offered within five years of the granting of the approval. A start date will be determined pending budget approval and consultation with the Registrar.

**CARRIED**

**ii. Diploma in Social Justice Studies**

Motion: (P. Keller/L. Gammon)

That Senate approve, and recommend to the Board of Governors that it also approve, the establishment of a *Diploma in Social Justice Studies* to be offered by the Faculty of Social Sciences, Faculty of Human and Social Development, and the Faculty of Humanities, in collaboration with the Division of Continuing Studies, as described in the document entitled “Diploma in Social Justice Studies” dated August 26, 2008 and that this approval be withdrawn if the program should not be offered within five years of the granting of the approval. A start date will be determined pending budget approval and consultation with the Registrar.

**CARRIED**

**iii. 2007/08 Annual Report on Status of Academic Program Reviews**

Motion: (J. Cassels/D. Greschner)  
That Senate receive, with thanks, the 2007/08 annual report on Status of Academic Reviews from the Senate Committee on Planning.

**CARRIED**

**7. PROPOSALS AND REPORTS FROM FACULTIES - NIL**

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

**a. Revision of Policy 1023 – Interim Procedures for the Appointment of the Head of the Division of Medical Sciences**

Dr. Mateer noted that a memo proposing an amendment to the recent procedures had been circulated at the beginning of the meeting. She explained that the amendment was proposed so that the policy would be more explicit about how members of the search committee would be appointed.

Motion: (R. Burke/J. Cassels)  
That Senate approve, and recommend to the Board of Governors that it approve, the revisions to Policy 1023 – Interim Procedures for the Appointment of the Head of the Division of Medical Sciences, amended as per Dr. Mateer's memo of October 3, 2008

**CARRIED**

**b. Exceptions to Senate Approval Procedures for Winter 2008 Student Intake**

Prof. Cassels reminded senators that Senate had previously approved a motion to allow for exceptions for the winter 2008 student intake. Prof. Cassels said he would be happy to answers from senators about the contents of his report on these. There were no questions.

**c. Searches for 2008/09**

Prof. Cassels said the purpose of this item was to report on major leadership searches being undertaken in 2008/09.

**d. Elections to the Senate Committee on Nominations and Committee Governance**

Ms. Andersen reminded senators that, at the May 2008 meeting, Senate had decided to leave one seat on the Senate Committee on Nominations and Committee Governance vacant to see if a member from the Faculty of Social Sciences could be identified.

Dr. Burke nominated Michael Webb. Dr. Turpin called for other nominations. There were none. Dr. Turpin congratulated Dr. Webb on being acclaimed to the Senate Committee on Nominations and Committee Governance for a three year term.

**e. Election of Vice-Chair of Senate**

Dr. Mitchell nominated Peter Keller as Vice-Chair of Senate for 2008/09. Dr. Turpin called for other nominations. There were none. Dr. Turpin congratulated Dr. Keller on being acclaimed as Vice-Chair of Senate for 2008/09.

**f. Announcement of Joint Senate Board Retreat date**

Dr. Eastman announced that the 2009 Joint Senate Board Retreat would be held on Saturday, February 28, 2009.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

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