

**THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA  
SENATE MEETING  
PUBLIC SESSION  
MINUTES**



**January 8, 2003  
3:30 – 4:25 p.m.  
Room 7-172 Bentley Centre – Prince George Campus**

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Present: F. Abdulla, T. Binnema, C. Brown, L. Coates, J. DeGrace (Registrar), D. Ditto, A. Fredeen, S. Goring, C. Hawkins, D. Hemingway, A. Hussein, Y. Hussein, C. Jago (Chair), Erik Jensen, B. Malcolm, M. Mandy, B. McGill, P. Montgomery, B. Morrison, A. Nussbaumer, K. Otter, K. Penner, D. Poff, D. Procter, F. Rahemtulla, E. Stephens, J. Swainger, B. Tait, T. Whitcombe, S. Wilson, and by teleconference L. King, R. Matheson, D. Nyce

Regrets: B. Anderson, S. Beaumont, S. Beeler, J. Birchall, M. Blouw, S. Cochran, P. Madak, A. Summers,

Absent R. Berthiaume, E. Kinghorn, R. Singh

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The meeting commenced at 3:30 p.m.

**1.0 Approval of the Agenda**

**S-200301.01**

Tait/Brown

That the agenda for the Senate meeting of January 8, 2003 be approved.

CARRIED

**2.0 Approval of Minutes**

**S-200301.02**

Tait/Morrison

That the special senate minutes of the December 10, 2002 meeting be approved.

It was noted that, with reference to item 5.0, the mover and seconder were Tait/Morrison.

CARRIED

**S-200301.03**

Tait/Morrison

That the public senate minutes of the December 18, 2002 meeting be approved.

It was noted that in the first paragraph under Agenda item 5.0 (Report of the Vice-President (Academic) and Provost) reference to the “crass-appointed Head” should correctly be “cross-appointed.” It was further noted that the paragraph following motion S-200212.09 under agenda item 7.2 had been misplaced, and should instead follow motion 200212.17.

CARRIED AS AMENDED (one abstention)

### **3.0 Business Arising From the Previous Meetings of Senate**

Dr. Jago called attention to the promised tribute to Freda Diesing, which was circulated at the meeting. He noted that copies would be mailed to those Senators attending by telephone.

### **4.0 President's Report**

The President reviewed a November presentation by Robert Giroux of the AUCC, "Trends in Higher Education," the contents of a soon-to-be-released University Presidents' Council Report, "Meeting the Challenge," and of "Learning to Win – 'Ready, Set, Go'" – a report by the BC Progress Board available at [www.bcprogressboard.com](http://www.bcprogressboard.com).

The AUCC report examined the longer-term public policy implications of student demographics, of expected availability of faculty, and of research. Enrolments were forecast to increase even though the pool of potential students would decline, and BC was identified as a province in which this growth trend would be especially evident. Enrolment growth would be constrained less by tuition fees than by government funding of post-secondary education. A parallel concern lay in the fact that, over the previous twenty years, the proportion of faculty members over the age of 55 had doubled. By 2011 some 20,000 faculty hirings would have to be made in Canada to just maintain numbers – fully half the present number of faculty in the country. In that context it was noteworthy that, whereas in 1969 the Canadian faculty/student ratio had been 1:24, by 2002 it had declined to 1:30 and in 2010 it was forecast to be 1:48. The output of graduate studies programs in Canada was nowhere near the number necessary to produce the number of replacements needed, let alone to restore a more favourable faculty/student ratio. Meanwhile, research demands were increasing greatly. Canada now ranked fifteenth among OECD countries in R&D commitments, and to rise even to fifth place would require a tripling of expenditure. Current Federal Government programs, Dr. Jago pointed out, helped but did not come close to meeting the need. Whereas some ten years ago student tuition fees covered about 15-20 per cent of the cost of education, at present the contribution was in the range of 33-40 per cent. The President said that the "Meeting the Challenge" report put the provincial government on notice of the challenges ahead and the "Ready-Set-Go" report picked up on the same theme.

Dr. Brown asked at what point UNBC would have to address these demographic issues, especially in respect of faculty. Dr. Poff described this as an issue "revisited annually." At UNBC there would not be a large number of retirements before about 2015. This university would face the same issues as others, but the "crunch" would come a little later. Dr. Brown wondered whether the problem might be addressed, at least in part, by revisiting the question of mandatory retirement age. Dr. Jago thought that this was not the crux of the issue. He called attention to the cases of the University of Regina, which was facing the replacement 40 per cent of its faculty over a five-year period, and UBC, which would have to replace some 50 to 60 per cent. At UNBC, the greater short-term issue was the retention of faculty. Furthermore, northern BC offered a student recruitment challenge in that the 18-24 age group was declining in numbers.

### **5.0 Report of the Vice-President (Academic) and Provost**

Dr. Poff said that talks were continuing with faculty on taking leadership roles in the Northern Medical Program. Two faculty had been identified, and contribution by a physician in the local community was needed as well. The number of NMP faculty to be resident on campus was under discussion.

## **6.0 Question Period**

Dr. Mandy noted that holders of GREAT Awards from the Science Council of British Columbia had been advised that their scholarships were being cancelled. She asked how many students were affected, and if the University was assisting the students. Dr. Tait said that the program had indeed been cancelled, and that he would examine the implications and report.

Ms. Hussein said that a student had contacted her on the matter of a field trip fee that had been charged, after which the trip had been cancelled but no refund offered. Dr. Poff said that the University had discovered this problem during the last week of classes. A solution was being implemented such that the problem should not arise again. In addition, an effort was being made to ensure that faculty would let students know well in advance whether the field component of courses would be delivered or not.

## **7.0 Committee Reports**

### **7.1 Senate Committee on Organization and Rules**

#### **To Senate for Information**

##### **New Senate Committee Members**

##### **SCOR 2002 12 19.03**

Senate was advised of new membership on Senate Committees, effective December 2002, as follows:

Damien Pirro (undergraduate Student)	Committee on Scholarships & Bursaries
Christina Cielieski (T'seba Student)	Committee on First Nations & Aboriginal People
Chrystal Ragan (Regional Student)	Committee on Regional Policy & Inter-Institutional Relations

Effective Date: December 2002

##### **Senate Handbook Revisions**

##### **SCOR 2002 12 19.04**

The Senate Handbook was revised by the deletion of the Director Institutional Analysis from the Senate Committee on the University Budget (SCUB) membership.

Effective Date: December 2002..

### **7.2 Senate Committee on Academic Policy and Planning**

#### **Change Degree Requirements – Precluded Courses for 400 Level Anthropology**

##### **S-200301.04**

Poff/Tait

That, in respect of 400-level Anthropology courses that have matching 600-level courses (400, 404, 407, 410, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 425 and 430), credit for the 400-level course be precluded where the 600-level credit has been given.

Effective Date: September 2003

CARRIED

**Omnibus motions have been used throughout these minutes**

**S-200301.05 – S-200301.09**

**Change Degree Requirements – Environmental Engineering Program – CORE Requirements**

**S-200301.05**

Poff/Whitcombe

That Core 101-3 (Humanities) or CORE 103-3 (Social Sciences) or three credit hours of course work selected from the list of acceptable courses under the Social Sciences or Arts & Humanities quadrant be approved.

Effective Date: January 2003

CARRIED

**Change Degree Requirements – Environmental Engineering Program – Delete Courses**

**S-200301.06**

Poff/Whitcombe

That a list of courses be deleted from the UNBC/UBC Environmental Engineering Degree as proposed.

Effective Date: January 2003

CARRIED

**Change Degree Requirements – Environmental Engineering Program – Add Courses**

**S-200301.07**

Poff/Whitcombe

That courses be added to the Semester 3 and 4 completed at UNBC category as proposed.

Effective Date: January 2003

CARRIED

**Change Degree Requirements – Environmental Engineering Program – Semester 9 Credit Clause**

**S-200301.08**

Poff/Whitcombe

That the Semester 9 completed at UNBC credit clause be changed as proposed.

Effective Date: January 2003

CARRIED

**Change Degree Requirements – Credit Hours for ENVS 417-3**

**S-200301.09**

Poff/Whitcombe

That the credit hours for ENVS 417-3 (Designing Solutions in Environmental Engineering) be changed from 3 to 6 credit hours

Effective Date: January 2003

CARRIED

Dr. Poff noted that Senate had previously approved the Environmental Engineering degree program. Subsequently, approval had been given at the provincial level with changes recommended for implementation at both UBC and UNBC. At UNBC the requested changes had been passed at the level of College Council some time previously but, through an oversight, were not advanced to Senate until the present meeting.



Dr. Poff made reference to the following information items:

**To Senate For Information**

**Calendar Description Change – Bachelor of Education Program  
SCAPP 20021204.04**

A Calendar description for Education, (BEd) was approved as proposed.  
Effective Date: 2003/2004

**Calendar Description Change – Environmental Engineering Program  
SCAPP 20021204.10**

A Calendar description was approved for the Environmental Engineering Program as proposed.  
Effective Date: January 2003

Referring to the Calendar Description for the Education program, Dr. Montgomery was concerned that reference was made to “middle years” within the program, but these were not in fact offered. Dr. Jago suggested that the issue could be revisited when Dean Madak was present. The intent was to offer middle years programming, and the purpose of including reference in the Calendar was to capture the full range of the program even though it was being phased-in.

Ms. Coates suggested that, in the second paragraph of the of the Education document, the first sentence could be worded more clearly to read: “The application deadline is March 15, and the programs begin in September of each year.” This was generally agreed-to.

**7.3 Senate Committee on Research & Graduate Studies**

**Precluded Courses for 600 Level Anthropology Courses  
S-200301.10**

Tait/Whitcombe

That, in respect of 600-level Anthropology courses that have matching 400-level courses (610, 614, 623, 625 and 630), credit for the 600-level course be precluded where the 400-level credit has been given.

Effective Date: September 2003

CARRIED

**7.4 Senate Committee on Scholarships and Bursaries**

**BC Council of Garden Clubs Bursary  
S-200301.11**

Whitcombe/Morrison

That the Terms and Conditions for the BC Council of Garden Clubs Bursary be approved as proposed.

Effective Date: Fall 2003

TABLED - CARRIED

Mr. Goring wondered how, lacking a relevant academic program, the requirement could be met: “Shows promise, interest or involvement in the horticulture field by way of a letter accompanying application.” Dr. Mandy called attention to the specific requirement that a student be “enrolled in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a horticultural/plant science/agriculture program.” Dr. Jago noted that the requirement was that students show “interest,” but he agreed that the criteria needed to be revisited.

**Omnibus Motions**  
**S-200301.12 – S-200301.16**

**Robin Fisher Prize in History**

**S-200301.12**

Whitcombe/Morrison

That the Terms and Conditions for the Robin Fisher Prize in History be approved as proposed.

Effective Date: December 2002

CARRIED

**Sophie Thomas Bursary**

**S-200301.13**

Whitcombe/Morrison

That the Terms and Conditions for the Sophie Thomas Bursary be approved as proposed.

Effective Date: December 2002

CARRIED

**Carrier Sekani Family Services Celena John Bursary**

**S-200301.14**

Whitcombe/Morrison

That the Terms and Conditions for the Carrier Sekani Family Services Celena John Bursary be approved as proposed.

Effective Date: December 2002

CARRIED

**Carrier Sekani Family Services Dr. Mary John Bursary**

**S-200301.15**

Whitcombe/Morrison

That the Terms and Conditions for the Carrier Sekani Family Services Dr. Mary John Bursary be approved as proposed.

Effective Date: December 2002

CARRIED

**Walter C. Koerner Scholarships**

**S-200301.16**

Whitcombe/Morrison

That the Terms and Conditions for the Walter C. Koerner Scholarships be approved as proposed.

Effective Date: December 2002

CARRIED

Mr. DeGrace made reference to the following information items:

**To Senate For Information**

**SCSB 2002 12.18.11**

Revisions to the Terms and Conditions for the Fort St. James Scholarship were approved.

Effective Date: Fall 2003

**SCSB 2002 12.18.12**

Terms and Conditions for the Deloitte and Touche Scholarship and Bursary Fund (created by combining the previously-separate Scholarship Fund and Bursary Fund) were approved.  
Effective Date: Fall 2003

**SCSB 2002 12.18.13**

The name of the Merrill Lynch Canada Inc. Endowed Scholarship was changed to the CIBC Wood Gundy Scholarship.  
Effective Date: November 2002

**8.0 Adjournment**

**S-200301.17**

Whitcombe

That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.