

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



March 12, 2003

3:30 - 4:30 PM

Room 7/172 Bentley Centre - Prince George Campus

Present: F. Abdulla, T. Binnema, C. Brown, L. Coates, S. Cochran, J. DeGrace, A. Fredeen, S. Goring, C. Hawkins, D. Hemmingway, A. Hussein, Y. Hussein, E. Jensen, L. King, D. Macknak, B. Malcolm, M. Mandy, R. Matheson (teleconference), P. Montgomery, B. Morrison, K. Otter, K. Penner, D. Poff (Chair), D. Procter, F. Rahemtulla, E. Stephens, A. Summers, J. Swainger, B. Tait, T. Whitcombe, S. Wilson.

Regrets: B. Anderson, S. Beaumont, S. Beeler, R. Berthiaume, J. Birchall, M. Blouw, D. Ditto, C. Jago, E. Kinghorn, P. Madak, B. McGill, A. Nussbaumer, D. Nyce, R. Singh.

1.0 S-200303.01

Approval of the Agenda

Tait/Mandy

That the Agenda for the March 12, 2003 Public Session of Senate be approved.

CARRIED

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.1 S-200303.02

Approval of the January 8, 2003 Public Minutes

Tait/Whitcombe

That the Minutes of the January 8, 2003 Public Session of Senate be approved.

CARRIED

2.2 S-200303.03

Approval of the December 18, 2002 In/Camera Minutes

Whitcombe/Hemmingway

That the In/Camera Minutes of December 18, 2002 be approved.

CARRIED

2.3 S-200303.04

Approval of the November 13, 2002 In/Camera Minutes

Whitcombe/Hemmingway

That the In/Camera Minutes of November 13, 2002 be approved.

CARRIED

3.0 Business Arising from Previous Meetings of Senate:

3.1 GREAT Awards from the Science Council of British Columbia

Dean Tait provided supporting documentation regarding the cessation of these scholarships. M. Mandy requested information as to the effect this would have on the students in progress who rely on this funding. She wished to know if there was a strategy to deal with issues resulting from this. A question was also asked about the matching of industry funding.

Action: B. Tait will check into the issues raised.

3.2 Calendar Description for the Education Program – the Middle Years

Acting Dean Madak's memorandum provided clarification of the issues raised by P. Montgomery at the January 8th meeting about the reference to the "middle years".

3.3 Terms & Conditions for the BC Council of Garden Clubs Bursary

The Terms and Conditions for the BC Council of Garden Clubs Bursary were approved at the Senate meeting of January 8, 2003. The concerns raised by Senators S. Goring and M. Mandy have been officially referred to the Senate Committee on Scholarships & Bursaries so that the criteria may be revisited.

Action: This will be carried forward to the next meeting as the criteria have not been revisited.

4.0 President's Report - None

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

D. Poff spoke about her invitation to join an Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) working group on institutional accreditation. Interesting things are happening with respect to public universities that are beginning to sub-contract their own degrees and also private for-profit universities that are growing all over the world. She was asked to be a part of a working group to determine if Canada wishes to develop the kind of independent accreditation that is developing through United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and a number of international organizations. This group will develop a working paper to illustrate that public universities in Canada do have standards and processes in place to guarantee credibility and excellence and that they are accountable to their governments as well as to their Senates and Boards.

UNESCO is taking a leadership role in Europe and AUCC is doing the same in Canada. Universities from around the world are at different stages with this and AUCC felt it should at least bring a group together to review the documentation and to determine what Canadian universities wish to do.

As a member of AUCC and a University, UNBC will have to determine where we would like to be positioned. D. Poff offered to share the background papers she has with anyone who may be interested.

6.0 Question Period

L. Coates raised the issue that students are concerned about the University library hours on Saturdays and Sundays. With exams coming up and papers due, it is becoming quite an issue as their needs are not being met. The request was that Sunday hours be extended. D. Poff assured her that she would address this issue with the Acting Librarian Nancy Black the next day to see what can be done in the interim to accommodate the students.

Action: D. Poff to report the outcome at the next Senate meeting.

7.0 Committee Reports:

7.1 Senate Committee on Admissions and Admission Standards

S-200303.05

Curriculum Requirement Change

Whitcombe/Procter

That the change to the Ontario–New Secondary School Curriculum requirements of the 2002/2003 UNBC calendar be approved as proposed.

Effective Date: Immediately

CARRIED

7.2 Senate Committee on Academic Policy & Planning

S-200303.06

Approval of the 2003-2004 Undergraduate & Graduate Calendars

Whitcombe/Otter

That Senate approve the contents of the 2003-2004 Undergraduate and Graduate calendars as correct for the purpose of “benchmarking” future changes.

Effective Date: Immediately

J. DeGrace explained that a number of minor errors have been found in the 2003/04 calendars. It appears that the process for having changes approved have not always been followed, and deleting these errors at this time may jeopardize students already in their programs. He is asking at this time that the 2003/04 calendars be accepted with the small errors, and stated that he will make every attempt in future to ensure that changes are approved appropriately. He assured the members of Senate that the contents of the calendars are not erroneous in terms of the intent of the Academic Units (all of which approved the 2003/04 calendars being correct), just that minor changes did not go through the proper approval process.

Motion: That the Previous Question be Called

Whitcombe/Morrison

CARRIED

Main Motion:

CARRIED

3 OPPOSED

2 ABSTENTIONS

S-200303.07

Terms of Reference for Policy on “Schools”

Whitcombe/Morrison

That academic units, with the assent of their College Council and the Senate Committee on Academic Policy and Planning, may be advanced to Senate for designation as “Schools” within the University on the following conditions:

- That the academic unit offer a program, or a group of closely-related programs, most or all of which lead (or can lead), directly or by examination, to professional certification for program graduates.
- That, by comparison with other academic units, the academic unit seeking the designation “School” offer a program emphasizing skills training.
- That the academic unit is not subdivided into smaller academic units.
- That a persuasive case is made that the designation offers a distinct benefit in the context of student recruitment, professional certification after graduation, and/or the pursuit of research funding by faculty.

Effective Date: Winter 2003

J. DeGrace provided information regarding the rationale for this motion and the advantages of the recommended change. As part of the material provided, the following was also addressed:

- The characteristics of schools, and
- A possible protocol to guide UNBC.

Questions were answered regarding the likelihood of “multidisciplinarity” at UNBC being limited with this proposed change to “schools”, and to the ways degrees are obtained. D. Poff advised that this

recommended change to “schools” should have no impact on students regarding the majors and minors now available and that the University will make every attempt to preserve its philosophy about how we teach and do research.

CARRIED

NO ABSTENTIONS

S-200303.08

Name Change for the Business Program & Environmental Planning

Morrison/Procter

Subject to the approval of motion S-200303.07, that the name for the Business Program and Environmental Planning be changed:

From: the Business Program and Environmental Planning

To: the School of Business and the School of Environmental Planning.

Effective Date: Winter 2003

There was considerable discussion regarding the proposed motion. S. Goring asked a question regarding cost implications of changing to “schools”. The Chair responded in the absence of Dean McGill and advised that there would probably be one person who would jointly look after both “schools” so as not to escalate the cost factor of establishing the “school”.

K. Otter added that the “school” would not run any differently than it does right now in any other existing academic unit e.g. Forestry is an accredited degree while Biology is not. Each of the sub-disciplines within that academic unit has an academic committee: one in charge of Forestry and one in charge of Biology, and each has a Chair who is held responsible. Presumably, the schools will have a similar structure.

A. Hussein voiced several concerns, which he stated were raised before, and felt that the motion should have reflected and dealt with the issues raised. He felt that Senate had not properly been informed and needed more information before a knowledgeable decision could be reached.

The Chair suggested that the University would be committed to maintaining the accreditation standards necessary for planning programs. This has been said to the Planning Institute of BC and to our programs. There is a report on what the University has to do to meet the standards for the accreditation process for the Planning Institute of BC and she believe we can meet those standards. We are also aware of the staffing model.

CARRIED 14

OPPOSED 2

ABSTENTIONS 11

S-200303.09

Rounding Off Proposal

Matheson/Whitcombe

That effective in the Winter Semester 2003, the institutional practice in calculating GPA and CGPA figures be revised by rounding off rather than by truncating at the second decimal place.

Effective Date: Immediately

J. DeGrace explained that at present the banner default has been to truncate the GPA and CGPA at the second decimal place. He recommends this be changed to round off the figure rather than truncating it at the second decimal place for the benefit of the students. On average, approximately 36 GPA's will be affected each semester. For example, rather than having a GPA of 1.999 under the current system, the new GPA would be 2.00. Students who would have failed under the old system, would now pass.

The registrar added that students who failed in the past, but whose GPA's would be increased by this change to remove the failure, will not be able to appeal the decision as the appeal deadlines have passed; so that this would not create additional problems.

This would be the fairest thing that could be done for our students.

There were a number of questions from the floor.

**Motion: That the Previous Question be Called
Whitcombe/Morrison
CARRIED**

Main Motion:
CARRIED

**S-200303.10
New Protocol for Providing University Transcripts
Whitcombe/Morrison**

That:

1. Transcripts, whether official or unofficial, will be issued only upon completion of the appropriate form. Normally, transcripts will be provided to students only directly and only upon presentation of appropriate identification.
2. Official Transcripts will be issued only for direct transmission to another institution/employer, or if the student makes *a request for the purpose of making an application elsewhere and* that the Official Transcript must be given to *the student*. In the latter case, the Official Transcript and the enclosing envelope each will carry the bold notation, "Official to recipient only if seal is unbroken."
3. Transcripts issued for other than official purposes will be printed on plain paper and will carry the bold notation, "Issued to student." Students will be limited to three copies of the unofficial transcript per request.
4. When an official or an "issued to student" transcript is given to a student, normally, the document will be provided only directly and only upon presentation of appropriate identification.

Effective Date: Immediately

J. DeGrace introduced the motion and explained that item #4 shown on his attached memo "A new and Improved Protocol for Providing University Transcripts" was excluded in error from the circulated motion and should form part of it as indicated above. Friendly amendments to the motion such as those shown in italics in section #2 were recommended.

At present, students can request any number of transcripts, which are all originals, at no cost to them. The cost to the University is \$1 per sheet of "Security" transcript paper. The time required to fill these requests delays the transcripts that have to be sent institution to institution. In order to ensure an appropriate level of security of student records in the form of transcripts, it is proposed that a policy be approved with the wording of the amended motion shown above.

Senator M. Mandy recommended the amendment of the request for Official Transcript form to add "the purpose of the request" to agree with the policy. The amended motion was accepted.

CARRIED

**The following motions were dealt with as an Omnibus Motion:
Motions S-200303.11 to S-200303.14**

S-200303.11

New Course Approval – CHEM 230-3

Whitcombe/Mandy

That CHEM 230-3, Physical Biochemistry, be approved as presented.

Effective Date: Fall 2003

CARRIED

S-200303.12

Change to Course Credits – CHEM 120 & CHEM 121

Whitcombe/Mandy

That the course credits for CHEM 120 and CHEM 121 be changed from 0.5 to 1.0 as presented.

Effective Date: Fall 2003

CARRIED

S-200303.13

Change in Credit Hours for the Following Degrees:

Joint Majors:

- . **Biology & Chemistry**
- . **Chemistry & Computer Science**
- . **Chemistry & Mathematics**
- . **Chemistry & Physics**

Biology

Chemistry

Environmental Engineering

Environmental Science

Geography B.Sc.

Forestry (NRM)

Wildlife & Fisheries (NRM)

Whitcombe/Mandy

That for each of the above degrees, the total number of credit hours be increased by 1 to accommodate changes in the credit hours allocated to CHEM 120 and CHEM 121.

Effective Date: Fall 2003

CARRIED

S-200303.14

Change Calendar Reference – CHEM 120 & CHEM 121

Whitcombe/Mandy

That all references in the Calendar to CHEM 120-0.5 and CHEM 121-0.5 be changed to CHEM 120-1 and CHEM 121-1, respectively.

Effective Date: Fall 2003

CARRIED

S-200303.15

Change in 100-Level Degree Requirements – BA Geography

Tait/Whitcombe

To replace the following description of 100 level requirements for the B.A. degree in Geography:

- WMST 100-3 Introduction to Women's Studies
- or WMST 101-3 Status of Women
- or WMST 102-3 Women's Movements
- or WMST 202-3 Women's Work;

With the following description to appear in the undergraduate calendar:
WMST 100-3 Introduction to Women's Studies
or WMST 110-3 Women, Culture and Society
or WMST 212-3 Women's Studies in Contemporary Society
Effective Date: Fall 2002
CARRIED

7.3 Senate Committee on Research & Graduate Studies

The memorandum from M. Gillingham, Chair, CSAM Graduate Committee, regarding the package of NRES course revisions has been included to summarize the proposed changes to the NRES 700-level graduate courses.

Dean Tait introduced two Omnibus Motions: one to delete courses and one to add courses. These are a series of changes proposed by NRES and CSAM after the review of their program.

Omnibus Motion S-200303.16 to S-200303.35

Course Deletions

Tait/Whitcombe

There was concern among some senators with regard to the deletion of these courses. Senator S. Goring was concerned that the Plant Science courses, in particular BIOL 703-3 and BIOL 704-3, required by some students were no longer available. Senator A. Fredeen explained that unfortunately last year three faculty members who taught these were on sabbatical at the same time. Senator M. Mandy added that the members of the Senate Committee on Research and Graduate Studies felt that students would be better served with new courses. Special courses are to be offered.

Senator L. King voiced concern that the environmental content is gone from the graduate courses.

Amendment to Omnibus Motion S-200303.16 to S-200303.35

To Remove S-200303.18 and S-200303.19

Goring/Fredeen

CARRIED

Motion: To Move to Table

S-200303.16 to S-200303.35 with the exception of S-200303.18 & S-200303.19

Goring/Malcolm

CARRIED

6 OPPOSED

S-200303.16

Course Deletion – BIOL 701-3

Goring/Malcolm

That BIOL 701-3, Advanced Animal Physiology, be deleted from the 2002-2003 graduate calendar.

Effective Date: Spring 2003

TABLED

S-200303.17

Course Deletion – BIOL 702-3

Goring/Malcolm

That BIOL 702-3, Advanced Limnology and Fisheries, be deleted from the 2002-2003 graduate calendar.

Effective Date: Spring 2003

TABLED

S-200303.18

Course Deletion – BIOL 703-3

Tait/Morrison

That BIOL 703-3, Advanced Plant Environmental Physiology, be deleted from the 2002-2003 graduate calendar.

Effective Date: Spring 2003

TABLED

S-200303.19

Course Deletion – BIOL 704-3

Tait/Morrison

That BIOL 704-3, Advanced Plant Ecology, be deleted from the 2002-2003 graduate calendar.

Effective Date: Spring 2003

TABLED

S-200303.20

Course Deletion – BIOL 706-3

Goring/Malcolm

That BIOL 706-3, Modelling and Simulation of Ecological Systems, be deleted from the 2002-2003 graduate calendar.

Effective Date: Spring 2003

TABLED

S-200303.21

Course Deletion – BIOL 708-3

Goring/Malcolm

That BIOL 708-3, Wildlife Nutrition, be deleted from the 2002-2003 graduate calendar.

Effective Date: Spring 2003

TABLED

S-200303.22

Course Deletion – ENVS 702-3

Goring/Malcolm

That ENVS 702-3, Ecophysiology, be deleted from the 2002-2003 graduate calendar.

Effective Date: Spring 2003

TABLED

S-200303.23

Course Deletion – ENVS 703-3

Goring/Malcolm

That ENVS 703-3, Environmental Toxicology, be deleted from the 2002-2003 graduate calendar.

Effective Date: Spring 2003

TABLED

S-200303.24

Course Deletion – ENVS 704-1

Goring/Malcolm

That ENVS 704-1, Policy Seminar, be deleted from the 2002-2003 graduate calendar.

Effective Date: Spring 2003

TABLED

S-200303.25

Course Deletion – ENVS 707-3

Goring/Malcolm

That ENVS 707-3, Cultural, Social and International Perspectives in Environmental Studies, be deleted from the 2002-2003 graduate calendar.

Effective Date: Spring 2003

TABLED

S-200303.26

Course Deletion – ENVS 708-3

Goring/Malcolm

That ENVS 708-3, Environmental and Biological Fluid Dynamics, be deleted from the 2002-2003 graduate calendar.

Effective Date: Spring 2003

TABLED

S-200303.27

Course Deletion – GEOG 701-3

Goring/Malcolm

That GEOG 701-3, Environmental Sediment Topics, be deleted from the 2002-2003 graduate calendar.

Effective Date: Spring 2003

TABLED

S-200303.28

Course Deletion – GEOG 702-3

Goring/Malcolm

That GEOG 702-3, Fluvial Change, be deleted from the 2002-2003 graduate calendar.

Effective Date: Spring 2003

TABLED

S-200303.29

Course Deletion – GEOG 705-3

Goring/Malcolm

That GEOG 705-3, Quaternary Environments, be deleted from the 2002-2003 graduate calendar.

Effective Date: Spring 2003

TABLED

S-200303.30

Course Deletion – GEOG 710-3

Goring/Malcolm

That GEOG 710-3, Cultural Landscapes of the North, be deleted from the 2002-2003 graduate calendar.

Effective Date: Spring 2003

TABLED

S-200303.31

Course Deletion – GEOG 712-3

Goring/Malcolm

That GEOG 712-3, Geography of Northern Economic Development, be deleted from the 2002-2003 graduate calendar.

Effective Date: Spring 2003

TABLED

S-200303.32

Course Deletion – GEOG 714-3

Goring/Malcolm

That GEOG 714-3, Rural and Small Town Social Geography, be deleted from the 2002-2003 graduate calendar

Effective Date: Spring 2003

TABLED

S-200303.33

Course Deletion – NREM 701-3

Goring/Malcolm

That NREM 701-3, Agro-Forestry Systems, be deleted from the 2002-2003 graduate calendar.

Effective Date: Spring 2003

TABLED

S-200303.34

Course Deletion – NREM 702-3

Goring/Malcolm

That NREM 702-3, Economics of Timber Supply and Demand, be deleted from the 2002-2003 graduate calendar.

Effective Date: Spring 2003

TABLED

S-200303.35

Course Deletion – NREM 703-3

Goring/Malcolm

That NREM 703-3, Marketing of Forest Products, be deleted from the 2002-2003 graduate calendar.

Effective Date: Spring 2003

TABLED

Omnibus Motion S200303.36 to S-200303.49

New Course Approvals

Tait/Brown

These are new courses which the program believe that they can offer on a regular basis.

Motion: To Move to Table

S-200303.36 to S-200303.49

Morrison/Brown

CARRIED

S-200303.36

New Course Approval – NRES 710-3

Morrison/Brown

That NRES 710-3, Modeling and Simulation, be approved as presented.

Effective Date: Spring 2003

TABLED

S-200303.37

New Course Approval – NRES 712-3

Morrison/Brown

That NRES 712-3, Spatial and Temporal Analyses, be approved as presented.

Effective Date: Spring 2003

TABLED

S-200303.38

New Course Approval – NRES 720-3

Morrison/Brown

That NRES 720-3, Global Change, be approved as presented.

Effective Date: Spring 2003

TABLED

S-200303.39

New Course Approval – NRES 730-3

Morrison/Brown

That NRES 730-3, Disturbance Ecology, be approved as presented.

Effective Date: Spring 2003

TABLED

S-200303.40

New Course Approval – NRES 731-3

Morrison/Brown

That NRES 731-3, Soil Ecology, be approved as presented.

Effective Date: Spring 2003

TABLED

S-200303.41

New Course Approval – NRES 732-3

Morrison/Brown

That NRES 732-3, Forest Systems and Management, be approved as presented.

Effective Date: Spring 2003

TABLED

S-200303.42

New Course Approval – NRES 733-3

Morrison/Brown

That NRES 733-3, Plant-Animal Interactions, be approved as presented.

Effective Date: Spring 2003

TABLED

S-200303.43

New Course Approval – NRES 735-3

Morrison/Brown

That NRES 735-3, Biological Adaptations, be approved as presented.

Effective Date: Spring 2003

TABLED

S-200303.44

New Course Approval – NRES 737-3

Morrison/Brown

That NRES 737-3, Evolutionary Processes, be approved as presented.

Effective Date: Spring 2003

TABLED

S-200303.45

New Course Approval – NRES 750-3

Morrison/Brown

That NRES 750-3, Biological and Environmental Fluid Dynamics, be approved as presented.

Effective Date: Spring 2003

TABLED

S-200303.46

New Course Approval – NRES 751-3

Morrison/Brown

That NRES 751-3, Processes in Geomorphology, be approved as presented.

Effective Date: Spring 2003

TABLED

S-200303.47

New Course Approval – NRES 770-3

Morrison/Brown

That NRES 770-3, Rural and Small Town Geography, be approved as presented.

Effective Date: Spring 2003

TABLED

S-200303.48

New Course Approval – NRES 771-3

Morrison/Brown

That NRES 771-3, Law and the Geographies of Justice, be approved as presented.

Effective Date: Spring 2003

TABLED

S-200303.49

New Course Approval – NRES 772-3

Morrison/Brown

That NRES 772-3, Geographical Perspectives on Restructuring, be approved as presented.

Effective Date: Spring 2003

TABLED

Motion: To Move to Table

S-200303.18 and S-200203.19

Tait/Morrison

CARRIED

7.4 Senate Committee on Scholarships and Bursaries

To Senate for Information

SCSB 2003 02.06

The SCSB Annual Report dated February 15, 2003 was received for information.

SCSB 2002 12 18.03

UNBC 2002/2003 Awards Recipients

The list of the 2002/2003 awards recipients was received for information.

Effective Date: September 2002

7.5 Senate Committee of Organization and Rules - None

7.6 Senate Committee on Regional Policy and Inter-Institutional Relations

To Senate for Information

The SCRPIIR Annual Report dated February 2003 was received for information.

7.7 Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees & Other Forms of Special Recognition

To Senate for Information

The SCHDSR Annual Report dated February 2003 was received for information.

8.0 Other Business

8.1 Report of the Registrar - None

9.0 Information

10.0 S-200303.50

Adjournment

King/Wilson

That the Senate meeting be adjourned.

The meeting ended at 4:45pm.