

**SENATE MEETING  
OPEN SESSION  
MINUTES**

March 25, 2020  
Blue Jeans

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**Present:** B. Annear (Secretary of Senate), S. Barton, R. Budde, D. Casperson, A. Constantin, B. Deo, D. Desai, Z. Fleck, E. Fredeen, A. Guest, P. Harding (non-voting), I. Hartley, L. Haslett, K. Hirsh-Pearson (*Vice-Chair*), C. Hofsink, H. Holler-Busch, S. Horianopoulos, C. Ho Younghusband, P. Jackson, E. Jensen, G. Keeler, T. Klassen-Ross, E. Korkmaz, A. Kranz, M. Mandy, H. McVea (non-voting), C. Meroniuk, M. Murphy, D. Nyce, A. Parent (Recording Secretary), L. Parent, G. Payne (*Chair*), S. Rader (non-voting), L. Roodenburg, D. Ryan, S. Sakshi, A. Sommerfeld (non-voting), T. Tannert, T. Tribe (non-voting), N. Turner, S. Wagner, C. Whalen, R. Wheate, J. Wimmers-Klick

**Regrets:** B. McGill, A. Palmer, M. Peterson, L. Roldan-Flores (non-voting), P. Winwood (non-voting)

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The meeting commenced at 3:38 p.m.

**1.0 Acknowledgement of Territory**

The Chair acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on the traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh Nation.

**2.0 S-202003.01  
Approval of the Agenda**

Ryan

That the agenda for the March 25, 2020 Open Session of Senate be approved as presented.

CARRIED

**3.0 Presentation - UNBC's Emergency Operations Centre**

The Interim President gave an update on UNBC's Emergency Operations in response to COVID-19. The campus will remain open. All classes in the May semester will continue to be taught remotely. It is not yet known what we will and will not be able to have going for the Fall semester.

The provincial government has announced funding that UNBC can use to support domestic, B.C. students. The University is working with various Ministries to develop partnership for out of province and international students. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

**4.0 Approval of the Minutes**

**S-202003.02  
Approval of the Minutes**

Hartley

That the Minutes for the February 25, 2020 Public Session of Senate be approved as presented.

CARRIED

**5.0 Business Arising**

The Interim President reported on recent appointments to the executive team. Along with the appointment of Dr. Lewis, as Interim Vice President, Research, the executive team welcomes Ms. Colleen Smith as the Interim Vice President Finance while the permanent search for this position is underway.

The Interim President reported that he has met with various groups across campus, including the executives of the labour groups. He has had several external meetings with University Canada as well as the Ministry of Advanced Education and number of other ministries.

The Interim President reported that he had brought forward the non-confidence of Senate in relation to our past President, Daniel Weeks and the motion from Senate to have a joint meeting with the Board with regards to University Leadership. The Board has requested more direction on what and working group will be formed to provide some direction for this meeting post Covid-19.

As we move through the Pandemic we are beginning to look at Convocation and what will be possible the 2020 Calendar year. More information will follow.

Senator Mandy, asked if we have any exchange students still on campus who are unable to return home and what provisions do we have in place for them.

The President indicated that we have both International and domestic students who are unable to leave campus. The Directors of Student Affairs and Business Services are putting mechanisms in place to ensure we are supporting these students. The Provost indicated that some students that were abroad have made the decision to come home, any student did not was by choice and we will be working with all affected students to ensure they are supported.

**7.0 Report of the Provost****Ryan**

The Provost provided an update on enrollment as of March 1st: domestic undergraduate head count is down 4.0 % with FTEs down 1.6%, about 2500 students relative to the Winter semester last year; graduate headcount is down 1.6% with FTEs down 2.7% and International headcount up 42% with FTEs up 42%. The final audited numbers for the whole year are expected to be available soon. Projections for applications for next year are up 25%, but admissions are down slightly.

The Provost reported that some funds will be taken from the Green University's Planning Committees budget to begin to address and help support the Climate Emergency resolution that was passed at Senate. This committee will begin to look at how best we can begin to carry out this broad vision.

**7.1 Academic Re-Structuring**

The Provost reported that the campus interview portions were only completed for the Dean Search for the Faculty of Human and Health Sciences. All other searches are currently suspended. They will look at resuming the searches and interview processes when travel restrictions begin to be ease. The Vice Provost Search has been cancelled.

The Provost reported that an overall summary of where we are in the implementation of the academic plan has been delayed due to COVID-19 and the resulting academic actions that have had to take place.

There has also been a delay in the establishment of a small committee, to provide insight on any potential gaps in our processes for the removal of a graduate supervisor and how our current processes can be improved and/or better explained to students and faculty. These items are still on the radar but the Office of Graduate Programs has been spending their current resources to ensure that all defences will be able to take place online in the.

The Provost reported that they he is working with the Deans to address any delays that may occur as result of COVID-19, including delays in faculty hires, potential delays for new programs that are scheduled to start in September and student recruitment. Depending on restrictions in the trades and/or the availability of equipment, there is potential to delays in renovations.

Senator Mandy asked about professional programs, and if we are able to meet the criteria set forward given that the remainder of the semester has gone online. Dean Jensen indicated that he has been in contact with the Engineering Deans in Canada and Engineering Canada to ensure that requirements are met and address any concerns.

## **8.0 Report of the Registrar**

**Annear**

The Registrar thanked faculty and staff for all the support in moving all courses to alternative delivery.

The Registrar reported on scheduling and the need for a cultural shift to manage many areas for improvement and monitor how core courses are working. There will be continued discussions for future improvements and reviewing how to deal with non-standard scheduling.

Registration for the May semester will not open until May 15, 2020 to allow for modifications and update the system. The Registration deposit will be removed for domestic students.

The Registrar reported that his office is working very hard and will continue to work on improved communications and any concerns should be addressed to him.

Currently the doors to the Office of Registrar are closed but all emails and phones are being monitored and required staff are in the office while continue to work from home.

Senator Mandy asked about registration for graduate students and how this will work for the May semester given that much of the process is form based. The Registrar indicated that it will continue to be form based but documents will be accepted electronically.

Senator Turner asked about electronic signatures and if they would be accepted. The Registrar indicated that they would be.

Senator Rader indicated that class scheduling seems to be moving in the right direction.

## **9.0 Question Period**

### **9.1 Written questions submitted in advance**

**9.1.1** What is the base number of International Students with respect to International enrollment being up 39%. (*Senator Wheate*)

This question was answered in the Provost Report.

### **9.2 Questions from the floor**

Senator Murphy asked if the various search committees are receiving EDI training and if minutes are being kept for these committee meetings.

The Provost indicated that EDI training was occurring for the search committees and re-refresh of this will be done when committees resume. There are no minutes being kept as these are confidential meetings and notes will be destroyed at the end of the searches.

It was indicated that it would useful to maintain minutes of when meetings occur and who is in attendance for future records.

The President indicated that further EDI action plans are being addressed and expanded to ensure that we are in compliance with this in relation to the Canada Research Chairs process and the Tri-Council. The President will be initiating a task force to address and implement solutions related to EDI on campus. The VPR will report back on this.

## **10.0 S-202003.03 Approval of Motions on the Consent Agenda**

**Payne**

That the motions on the consent agenda, except for those removed for placement on the

regular agenda, be approved as presented.

No items on the Consent agenda.

## 11.0 Committee Reports

11.1 Senate Committee on Academic Appeals

Hartley

11.2 Senate Committee on Academic Affairs

Ryan

11.3 Steering Committee of Senate

Payne

### For Approval:

#### **S-202003.04**

##### **COVID-19 Pandemic – January 2020 Semester**

Casperson

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Senate authorizes the following under the current, limited and exceptional circumstances:

- That Faculty, with the approval of their Program Chair, or Dean when applicable, to amend course syllabi and intended evaluation methods, to the extent necessary, to allow for final evaluation and issuance of credit for all January 2020 courses in a timely manner, while maintaining academic integrity and respecting Program and pre-requisite requirements;
- That Faculty, in consultation with Program Chairs, ensure that the amendments to course syllabi and course evaluations do not excessively burden students; and
- That the Deans, in consultation with Program Chairs and the Registrar are authorized to exercise discretion in approving reasonable exceptions, adjustments and interpretations of Academic Regulations and Policies in the Calendars that allow for students impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic to complete January 2020 credits in a timely manner, while maintaining academic integrity.

**Effective Date:** Upon Approval of Senate

CARRIED

#### **S-202003.05**

##### **Change(s) to the Graduate Calendar**

Lewis

That exceptions be made to the current Graduate Calendar policies 4.5.2 and 7.10.1 on required in-person attendees at defences to permit fully- or partially-online defences until the cessation of the COVID-19 contingencies be approved as proposed.

**Effective Date:** Upon Approval of Senate - *These exceptions to the Graduate Calendar policies are time limited until the cessation of COVID-19 contingencies.*

CARRIED

#### **S-202003.06**

##### **Change(s) to the Senate Handbook**

Klassen-Ross

That on the recommendation of the Steering Committee of Senate, the membership of Senate and subsequently the change(s) in Senate Handbook be approved in principle.

Effective Date: Upon the Approval of Senate

Motion to

11.4 Senate Committee on Nominations

Casperson

**For Approval:**

**S-202003.07**

**Recommendation of Senate Committee Members to Senate**

Pearson-Hirsh

That, on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Nominations, and barring further nominations from the floor of Senate, the following candidates, who have met all eligibility requirements to serve on Senate committees and Senate Advisory Committees as indicated, be appointed as proposed.

Effective date: Upon Approval of Senate

CARRIED

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

Graduate Student Senator (08/31/2020)

Andrew Guest

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY BUDGET**

Graduate Student Senator (08/31/2020)

Andrew Guest

Committee vacancies were included in the meeting package.

**11.5 Senate Committee on Curriculum and Calendar**

**Annear**

No report.

**11.6 Senate Committee on Admissions and Degrees**

**Annear**

No report.

**11.7 Senate Committee on First Nations and Aboriginal Peoples**

**Ryan**

11.7.1 Suggested language surrounding terminology – *for discussion*

**11.8 Senate Committee on Honourary Degrees and Special Forms of Recognition**

**Payne**

No report.

**11.9 Senate Committee on Scholarships and Bursaries**

**Annear**

**For Approval:**

**S-202003.08**

**Revised UNBC Master's Tuition Scholarship**

Hartley

That the revised Terms and Conditions for the UNBC Master's Tuition Scholarship be approved.

Effective Date: 2019-2020 Academic Year

CARRIED

**For Information:**

**SCSB20200226.03** (approved)

**New DWB Consulting – Engineering Award**

That the new Terms and Conditions for the DWB Consulting – Engineering Award be approved.

Effective Date: 2020-2021 Academic Year

**SCSB20200226.04** (approved)

**New Northern Physiotherapy Bursary**

That the new Terms and Conditions for the Northern Physiotherapy Bursary be approved.

Effective Date: 2020-2021 Academic Year

**SCSB20200226.05** (approved)

**New Redden Family Physiotherapy Award**

That the new Terms and Conditions for the Redden Family Physiotherapy Award be approved.  
Effective Date: 2020-2021 Academic Year

**SCSB20200226.06** (approved)

**New Robert Fedorkiw Memorial Award for Physiotherapy**

That the new Terms and Conditions for the Robert Fedorkiw Memorial Award for Physiotherapy be approved.

Effective Date: 2020-2021 Academic Year

**SCSB20200226.07** (approved)

**Revised Anna Sorkomova Memorial Bursary**

That the revised Terms and Conditions for the Anna Sorkomova Memorial Bursary be approved.  
Effective Date: 2020-2021 Academic Year

**SCSB20200226.08** (approved)

Revised BC Association of Social Workers Prize

That the revised Terms and Conditions for the BC Association of Social Workers Prize be

Effective Date: 2020-2021 Academic Year

**SCSB20200226.09** (approved)

**Revised Chemistry Award of Excellence**

That the revised Terms and Conditions for the Chemistry Award of Excellence be approved.

Effective Date: 2020-2021 Academic Year

**11.10 Senate Committee on University Budget**

No report.

**11.0 Information**

None.

**12.0 Other Business**

None.

**13.0 S-202003.09**

**Move to the Closed Session**

Ryan

That the meeting move to Close Session.

CARRIED

**15.0 S-202003.16**

**Adjournment**

General Consent

That the Senate meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED