

SENATE MEETING OPEN SESSION MINUTES

January 25, 2023
3:30 – 4:30 PM
Senate Chambers/Zoom

Present: J. Allen, J. Bankole, J. Chavez Suazo, L. Chen, C. Claassens, B. Deo, B. Durau, T. Fuson (non-voting), T. Fyfe, M. Gehloff, N. Hanlon, L. Haslett, C. Ho Younghusband, D. Huber, C. Hofsink, R. Jafari, H. Kazemian, J. King, T. Klassen-Ross, A. Kranz, K. Lewis, K. Long, D. McIntosh, B. Owen, A. Parent (Recording Secretary), A. Palmer, G. Payne (Chair), K. Read (Interim Secretary of Senate), K. Rennie, D. Roberts, R. Robinson, W. Rodgers, R. Schiff, R. Somani (non-voting), K. Stathers, C. Walsh, T. Whitcombe, E. Wilson, J. Zhou, S. Zogas (Vice-Chair),

Regrets: S. Akram, R. Camp II, A. Constantin, D. Desai, K. Fredj, J. Holler (non-voting), D. Nyce, N. Shah, F. Tong, P. Winwood (non-voting),

The meeting commenced at 3:32 p.m.

The Chair welcomed Senators to the first Senate meeting of 2023.

The Chair reported one vacancy for a Faculty Member at Large and one vacancy for a Student from the Faculty of Environment and one vacancy for a Student from the Faculty of Human and Health Sciences

Call for Nominations for Faculty Senators (terms starting April 1, 2023) has gone out as has a Call for Nominations for 9 Student Representative Positions (term of office, September 1, 2023 to August 21, 2024).

Senate will be meeting with the Board on January 27 for a joint meeting and strategic planning session.

1.0 Acknowledgement of Territory

The Chair acknowledged that he is joining the meeting from the traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh and acknowledged that UNBC is situated in many first nations and indigenous communities throughout the North. He welcomed other Senators online to acknowledge the ancestral and traditional territories of their locations in the chat.

2.0 S-202301.01 Approval of the Agenda

Whitcombe

That the agenda for the January 25, 2023 Open Session of Senate be approved as presented.

Addition to the agenda

Rennie

Senator Rennie asked to have an information item added to the agenda. An information item for an Institute on Indigenous Studies at UNBC was added to the agenda as item 13.1 under Other Business.

CARRIED as Amended.

3.0 Presentations – No presentation in open session

4.0 Approval of the Minutes

S-202301.02

Approval of the Minutes

Whitcombe

That the Minutes for the November 23, 2022 Open Session of Senate be approved as presented.

CARRIED

5.0 Business Arising

None.

6.0 President's Report - (15 minutes)

Payne

The President reported that the search for our next Vice President, Research & Innovation has concluded with a failed search. The search committee is being re-populated and new search will be launching in the coming weeks.

The President reported that a search will be launched in the coming weeks for an Associate Vice President, Indigenous. Associate Vice President Litt has been overseeing the activities of the Office of Indigenous Initiatives. This position will report directly to the President.

The President reported that his role continues to be more outward facing with several community engagement sessions, meetings with the mayor, minister Robinson, several Federal offices and a Parliamentary secretary and he attended the University of Arctic Presidents and Rectors meeting. The President reported on a partnership that was announced in late 2022 with Caledonia Ski Club in terms of our tuition.

The President reported that he will also be focusing on engagements internally with students, faculty, staff, and Alumni. He will be hosting 'Pancakes with Payne' and meeting undergraduate and students.

Executive Director, Arleta Lucarelli reported on the strategic plan renewal. Online surveys will close on Friday.

A senator asked if there would be Vice President, Research and Innovation would continue as an open search. The President reported that there will be no changes in the format and the search will allow the opportunity for the university community to engage with the candidates.

A senator asked for information on the do's and don't of recognizing the territory. The President reported that it is about being respectful and mindful of the lands we are on and the people and always ensuring we are on a personal learning journey.

A senator asked what our rights and responsibilities as guests on the Territory are. The Provost suggested that we should continue to focus on our responsibilities as guests and it is our responsibilities to learn about the Territory, and learn about the first people as well as other first nations and first people of Canada.

7.0 Report of the Provost (21 minutes)

Rodgers

The Provost reported that she continues to meet with lots of people with the focus on moving the university forward, enhancing its relevance and responsiveness and building relationships.

The Provost reported on strategic enrollment management.

The Provost reported on the search for the Dean, Faculty of Environment. Searches will also be initiated for a Vice Provost Graduate and Post-Doctoral Studies and the Director of the Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology.

The Provost reported on **Elder Honoraria at UNBC** and the importance of compensating Indigenous Elders who

are invited to our university for territorial welcomes, prayers, and sharing other cultural knowledge in a meaningful and appropriate manner. The practice of giving honoraria should respect the knowledge and willingness of the Elders to share, as well as the time and generosity of invited Elders. It should be a demonstration of appreciation and respect. The Provost will move forward with reviewing our policies and practices around honoraria at UNBC and will address some operational issues. Elders should receive a minimum of \$150 at the time of service for prayers and welcomes.

Senator Whitcombe asked about the vision for the Vice Provost, Graduate and Post-Doctoral Studies. The Provost reported that the Vice Provost role will be to engage with the Deans and provide institutional level support and development for graduate students. This will include oversight of any institutional policies

7.1 Search Committees for Academic Vice-Presidents and Other Senior Academic Administrators – (memo and procedures were included in the meeting package for information)

The Provost reported that the current procedures for Search Committees for Academic Vice-Presidents and Other Senior Academic Administrators do not support the current structure of the University to ensure that there is appropriate representation. Her office will be initiating a review and revision of this policy. She will also be working with Associate Vice President Litt on the development of an employment equity policy that will lead into the selection policy(ies).

8.0 Report of the Registrar (10 minutes)

Read

The Registrar reported that we are in the withdrawal period, meaning that registration is mostly stable, and students can no longer drop winter term courses, but they can withdraw.

The Registrar reported on the numbers reported by institutional research; our domestic undergraduate applications are down from last year, but our international applicants are up with a net positive overall. Our admissions for undergraduate programming were up for both domestic and international students, resulting in a net positive of 73 admitted students. This has translated into increased enrollment in our current term for newly admitted domestic and international students, with 215 new students registering into the winter term up 93 students from last winter term. While some of these students are an increase in domestic undergraduate students, a large portion of them are international students who have had their visas delayed from the fall. We have welcomed over 70 international undergraduate students this term. Graduate enrollment is down 7% in domestic enrollment, but up 15% in international enrollment. The Registrar expressed gratitude to the admissions team and to the International Office.

The Registrar reported that there is a significant increase in applications. Her office is working on moving graduate admissions and communications into the CRM.

The Registrar Office is currently working on collecting departmental scheduling data for May 2023, Fall 2023 and Winter 2024 semesters. She anticipates having a final draft for the May Semester in February with registration to commence in March.

The Registrar reported on the onboarding of Banner Document Management, which is the digital documentation management software. It is anticipated that the initial implementation is on target for next month.

Senator Whitcombe asked about the burden of students without an identified supervisor on the Office of the Registrar. The Registrar reported that a lot of work has gone into streamlining graduate admissions and to make sure that unnecessary work is not being done upfront, that we're getting the applications as fast as we can to the departments for review, and weeding out the infeasible applications that are not required.

Senator Deo asked about the number of MBA applications.

9.0 Question Period (10 minutes)

9.1 Written questions submitted in advance
None.

9.2 Questions from the floor

9.2.1 Senator Klassen-Ross asked if there had been a noted increase in bullying on campus.

Provost Rodgers reported that she was not aware of any increase in bullying and discussed the importance of ensuring that we have a safe and inclusive and harassment free university. Senate discussed.

10.0 Approval of Motions on the Consent Agenda

Payne

S-202301.03

Approval of Motions on the Consent Agenda

Deo

That the motions on the consent agenda, except for those removed for placement on the regular agenda, be approved as presented.

CARRIED

11.0 Committee Reports

11.1 Senate Committee on Student Appeals

Klassen-Ross

Senator Klassen-Ross reported that there are no open student appeals.

11.2 Senate Committee on Academic Affairs

Rodgers

Provost Rodgers reported that SCAAF continues to review their terms of reference and material to ensure that they are better informed to make decisions and curriculum changes.

For Approval:

S-202211.04

Change(s) to Program Requirements – Computer Science and Physics

Deo

That the change(s) to the Joint Major in Computer Science and Physics Program Requirements on pages 80 and 81 of the PDF 2022/23 undergraduate calendar be approved as proposed.

Effective date: September 2023

CARRIED

S-202211.05

Change(s) to Program Requirements – Chemistry and Physics

Deo

That the change(s) to the Joint Major in Chemistry and Physics Program Requirements on page 76 of the PDF 2022/23 undergraduate calendar be approved as proposed.

Effective date: September 2023

CARRIED

S-202211.06

Change(s) to Course Description – FNST 797

Deo

That the change(s) to the MA Project course description for FNST 797-15, on page 122 of the 2022/2023 graduate calendar, be approved as proposed

Effective date: September 2023

CARRIED

The MA Project is a praxis-oriented community-based research option and ~~will be~~ is considered an alternative to the Thesis for completion of the Master's Degree in First Nations Studies. ~~A Project committee made up of the advisor from the First Nations program, one other faculty, and one First Nations community member guides the MA Project student.~~ Students projects may include, but are not limited to, taking the Project path are required to produce a scholarly product to be presented in a scholarly form that may include (and is not limited to) artistic expressions, films, creative writing, or digital Indigenous-related media initiatives, based on comprehensive research. All projects must

be accompanied by a paper that describes the project including the methodological principles and theory in project development, as well as community-related consultations and considerations. Normally, students are expected to complete the required coursework in the first two semesters of the Graduate Studies Program.

~~Prerequisites: None. Students must have completed the required courses for the MA in First Nations Studies (FNST 600-3, FNST 602-3, FNST 790-3; one elective course in the student's chosen stream; one elective from graduate offerings at UNBC; and one elective from either the First Nations Issues and Approaches stream or from the Northern Nations stream)~~

S-202211.07

Change(s) to Course Description – FNST 799

Deo

That the change(s) to the Graduate Thesis course description for FNST 799-15, on page 122 of the 2022/2023 graduate calendar, be approved as proposed.

Effective date: September 2023

CARRIED

The thesis requires that each student undertakes a study that represents original, respectful, and relevant Indigenous-related research (including appropriate analysis and recommendations). Normally, students will have completed the required coursework in the first two semesters of the Graduate Studies program.

Prerequisites: None.

11.3 **Steering Committee of Senate** **Payne**

11.4 **Senate Committee on Nominations** **Zogas**

Regular **S-202301.08**

Recommendation of Senate Committee Members to Senate

Kranz

That, on the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Nominations, the following candidates, who have met all eligibility requirements to serve on Senate committees as indicated, be appointed as proposed.

Effective date: November 23, 2022

For Approval Items:

SENATE COMMITTEE POSITION TO BE FILLED
(except as otherwise noted, all terms begin immediately)

CANDIDATE

Senate Committee on Academic Affairs

Faculty Member
(until 03/31/3024)

David Casperson

Faculty Senator
(until 03/31/3024)

Clarence Hofsink

Senate Committee on Student Appeals

Student At Large
(until 08/31/2023)

Cheri Brown

CARRIED

For Information Items:

A list of Senate Committee vacancies was included in the meeting package.

11.5 Senate Committee on Curriculum and Calendar **Read**

Registrar Read reported the Senator Stathers is now the chair of this committee.

11.6 Senate Committee on Admissions and Degrees **Read**

No report.

11.7 Senate Committee on Indigenous Initiatives **Payne**

The President reported that work has been done to populate this committee as we continue to seek Indigenous leadership. The committee has met and reviewed some awards that had moved through SCSB and were pending approval of SCII. The university is looking to engage with this committee as we proceed with a search for an Associate Vice President, Indigenous.

11.8 Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees and Special Forms of Recognition **Payne**

11.8.1 Distinguished Alumni Awards

The President reported that the Distinguished Alumni Awards will not be included with convocation. The university would like to look at an event to re-establish opportunities with community such as a Donor Recognition Event or a Legacy Event.

11.9 Senate Committee on Scholarships and Bursaries **Lewis**

For Information

SCSB20221123.03 *(approved)*

Sodexo Canada Award for Students with a Disability

That the new Terms and Conditions for the Sodexo Canada Award for Students with a Disability be approved.

Effective: 2023-2024 Academic Year

SCSB20221123.04 *(approved)*

Sodexo Canada Indigenous Award

That the new Terms and Conditions for the Sodexo Canada Indigenous Award be approved.

Effective: 2023-2024 Academic Year

SCSB20221123.05 *(approved)*

BC Hydro Environmental Studies Award

That the revised Terms and Conditions for the BC Hydro Environmental Studies Award be approved.

Effective: 2023-2024 Academic Year

SCSB20220928.11 *(approved)*

Spike Kendy Bursary

That the revised Terms and Conditions for the Spike Kendy Bursary be approved on the condition that SCII reviews and approves the revisions.

Effective: 2022-2023 Academic Year

11.10 Senate Committee on University Budget **Gehloff**

Senator Gehloff reported that the committee has met and discussed the budget presentation that is included in the Closed session.

12.0 Information

None.

13.0 Other Business

13.1 Senator Rennie reported that they are in early stages of creating an Institute of Indigenous Studies (name to be determined). The concept has emerged as a concerted effort to elevate, support, and strengthen Indigenous programming across UNBC as well as among community partnerships. The goal is to create an interdisciplinary institute that supports Indigenous programming with an overarching goal is to build a strong cohesive and supportive community of scholars and allies across the university, and the community .

**14.0 S-202301.09 (10 minutes)
Move to the Closed Session**

Zogas

That the meeting move to Close Session.

CARRIED

**15.0 S-202301.26
Adjournment**

Kranz

That the Senate meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.