

**SENATE MEETING
OPEN SESSION
MINUTES**

September 27, 2023

3:30 – 5:30 PM

Senate Chambers

Present: J. Allen, J. Bankole, C. Brown, R. Budde, R. Camp II, J. Chavez Suazo, L. Daukas, B. Deo, D. Desai, B. Durau, R. Fonda, K. Fredj, T. Fuson (non-voting), T. Fyfe, M. Gehloff, N. Hanlon, C. Ho Younghusband, C. Hofsink, H. Kazemian, J. King, T. Klassen-Ross, N. Koper, A. Kranz, P. Lakchani Denagamage, S. Linton, D. Nyce, B. Owen (non-voting), A. Parent (Recording Secretary), A. Palmer, G. Payne (Chair), K. Read (Secretary of Senate), K. Rennie, D. Roberts, R. Robinson, R. Schiff, P. Siakaluk (non-voting), F. Somani, R. Somani (non-voting), F K. Stathers, E. Ukut, T. Whitcombe, E. Wilson, J. Zhou

Regrets: L. Chen, A. Constantin, P. Gangani, A. Litt (non-voting), D. McIntosh, D Pandya, W. Rodgers, Tong, P. Winwood (non-voting), P. Wood-Adams

The Senate Meeting began at 3:31 pm.

The Chair reminded Senators of the informal gathering at the Thirsty Moose following Senate for light refreshments with the Board immediately following next month's Senate meeting.

The Chair asked all Senators online to change their name to 'Senator Last Name'.

If a Senator online has a question, he asked that they use the raise your hand feature on zoom. Senators are welcome to add their questions to chat but will be recognized by the chair to ask their question verbally.

The Chair welcomed new and returning student Senators and our new Vice President, Research and Innovation to Senate. The Chair welcomed everyone to the first Senate of the 2023-2024 Academic Year.

The Chair reported the following vacancies for:

- Faculty Member at Large
- Faculty Senator – Faculty of Environment
- Student Representative for the Faculty of Science and Engineering
- Graduate Student Representative

1.0 Acknowledgement of Territory

The Chair acknowledged that he is joining the meeting from the traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh and welcomed other Senators online to acknowledge the ancestral and traditional territories of their locations in the chat.

2.0 S-202309.01

Approval of the Agenda

Deo

That the agenda for the September 27, 2023, Open Session of Senate be approved as presented.

Item added under other business, the **Election of Vice Chair** be added as item 13.1.
Corrections noted for item 14.

CARRIED As Amended

- 3.0 Presentation:** Curriculum & SEM
Kimberly Read, Registrar and Secretary of Senate
Dennis Stark, Senior Director, Enrolment Management & Strategy

Presentation and Discussion points:

- Current UNBC Senate curriculum cycle
- Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM)
- UNBC SEM cycle
- Impacts of UNBC curriculum cycle and SEM cycle misalignment

Senator Whitcombe asked which calendar is considered the University's official calendar, the PDF version or the web version. The Registrar reported that the PDF versions of the Academic Calendars are published are considered to be the University's calendar. They are published July 1 of each year and represent the upcoming academic year. The online edition of the Academic Calendar is dynamic and will be updated regularly to reflect approved academic revisions.

4.0 Approval of the Minutes

S-202309.02

Approval of the Minutes

Kranz

That the Minutes for the August 23, 2023, Open Session of Senate be approved as presented.

CARRIED

5.0 Business Arising

5.1 ChatGPT and other AI Applications (*Discussion 10 minutes*) **Rodgers/Read**

5.1.1 Report Academic Student Misconduct Orientation (ASMO) Task Force **Read**

Report was received and discussed. The Registrar reported that the ASMO task force was struck as a result of ongoing discussions at Senate and Senate Committees around the use of Artificial Intelligence and the impact on students, faculty and the university community. Their purpose was to determine what resources or tools could be built and implemented for students by September 2023. A summary of the task force's final outcomes was included in the report.

Action: Further recommendations for Senate on future actions needed to come.

This will continue to be a standing item on the Senate agenda for discussion. Further guidance is needed for Faculty on how to consistently and fairly handle the use of AI.

The President reported that he will ask the Provost will strike a Task Force to provide guidance to Faculty on the use of AI and how to clearly communicate with the students, their responsibilities with respect to using AI in their coursework.

Action: Office of the Provost to strike an AI Task Force.

6.0 President's Report **Payne**

The President welcomed everyone back to campus for the Fall 2023.

The President reported that UNBC's Strategic Plan 2023-2028, Ready was approved by the Board on September 15. The official launch will be on October 5, 2023.

The President reported on his external and community activities, including with the city of Prince Rupert, who are interested in developing opportunities and partnerships with UNBC.

The President updated Senate on the search for the Associate, Vice President, Indigenous.

Senator Whitcombe asked about the searches for the Vice-Provost of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and the Director, Centre of Teaching, Learning and Technology. Dr. Owen reported on behalf of the office of the Provost that both searches are progressing.

7.0 Report of the Provost – no report

8.0 Report of the Registrar

Read

The Registrar reported on the activities of the International Centre.

There are 691 international students attending UNBC this fall, including 437 undergraduate students and 254 graduate students. Of these students, 182 are new students this fall. The students represent 63 countries worldwide including India, Iran Nigeria, China, Pakistan, Ghana, Bangladesh and the United States.

The Registrar reported on the activities of the Registrar Office, including the digital document management, Banner document management and the digital online verification system. They are working closely with IT on changes to our registration module. Other activities reported on included the Fall 2023 Exam schedule and a summary of graduating students.

9.0 Question Period

9.1 Written questions submitted in advance

9.1.1 Questions submitted by Senators Hanlon and Robinson

According to the agenda of its meeting on 18 September 2023, the Senate Committee on Indigenous Initiatives discussed a proposal submitted by Dean Kriston Rennie about a new Centre for Indigenous Studies. We have several questions about this proposal and ask that Dean Rennie respond to these at the next Open Meeting of Senate (27 Sept 2023). The questions are as follows:

1. The proposal indicates that the Centre will be administered by an Academic Director involved in “teaching planning and allocation, in collaboration with faculty, Program Chairs, and Deans; recruiting new faculty and staff, in collaboration with Chairs and Deans.” How does the position of Academic Director align with the Collective Agreement, which spells out the responsibilities of Chairs and Deans but makes no mention of Academic Directors?
2. The Proposal indicates “The Centre will coordinate, facilitate, and support the teaching of Indigenous academic programming across the University, which includes the principal undergraduate and graduate programs of First Nations Studies (FNST).” May we receive clarity about what is happening with the Department of First Nations Studies?
3. Who will lead the meaningful consultation that must take place with community partners if the current departmental structure is to be transformed?
4. The Department of First Nations Studies has approved a Scholarly Expectations document that is unique to its circumstances and objectives. How will this document be supported within the new administrative structure (i.e., the Centre)?
5. A newly created website for this proposed Centre is already posted (<https://www2.unbc.ca/indigenous-resource-dati/centre-indigenous-studies>) with the following information: “Roll-Out and Launch Early 2024.” The Senate has yet to receive any motions to close or change the First Nations Studies Department, nor to open the new Centre. When will these motions be presented to Senate?
6. In order to enable a more fulsome and informed discussion of these issues, will Dean Rennie make a formal presentation to Senate that spells out what is proposed to happen to the Department of First Nations Studies and the expected timelines for launching the Centre? We feel it is also important that Dean Rennie explain how these proposed initiatives help UNBC fulfill its obligations to respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s calls to action.

Dean Rennie thanked Senator Hanlon and Robinson for these important questions. Given the early nature of where we are he reported that he is not able to answer them all at this time but will come back to Senate to give a presentation when the time is right. He discussed, UNBC's draft proposal for a Centre for Indigenous Studies as a pan-institutional scholarly Centre for Indigenous Studies at UNBC, with a particular focus on strengthening teaching and research in First Nations Studies and Indigenous programming more broadly. The intent is to have the Centre be Indigenous-led and presents the opportunity to elevate, support, and strengthen Indigenous programming, community partnerships, student success and experience at UNBC.

Senator Hanlon asked if there was more information on how the Centre would fit into our existing framework. Dean Rennie indicated that these are important considerations that are being looked at.

Senator King asked for the website to be removed. The President reported that the website was live in error and has been removed.

Senator Brown indicated that she had further questions and comments for Dean Rennie but as he needed to leave the meeting, she would address them at a future Senate or Senate Committee on Indigenous Initiatives meeting.

9.2 Questions from the floor

Senator Kranz about room allocation and size and how it rolls forward from one course to the next. The Registrar indicated that the data does roll forward from year to year but if enrollment in one course impacts the enrollment in a subsequent course this would need to be communicated to the Registrar's office by the department.

Senator Kranz asked if as per *University Act 27 (2)(f)*, has the Board approved search procedures for the selection of an Associate Dean, Academic and if these would be coming to Senate. The President reported that he would report back to Senator Kranz. Senator Siakaluk asked how the search committees were populated. The President will report back.

Senator Whitcombe asked for an update on the damage to UNBC's Wood Innovation and Research Lab (WIRL) because of the fire in August. Senator Gehloff provided an update on the repairs to the building and some of the equipment. All student classrooms and lab space have been moved to other locations. Some research activities are impacted.

10.0 Approval of Motions on the Consent Agenda – none **Payne**

11.0 Committee Reports

11.1 Senate Committee on Student Appeals **Klassen-Ross**

11.2 Senate Committee on Academic Affairs **Rodgers**

11.3 Steering Committee of Senate **Payne**

For Approval:

S-202309.04

Senate Committee on Indigenous Initiatives Membership and Senate Handbook

Roberts

That on the recommendation of the Steering Committee of Senate the changes to the membership of the Senate Committee on Indigenous Initiatives and subsequently the Senate Handbook be approved.

Effective date: September 27, 2023

CARRIED

S-202309.05

Senate Membership and Senate Handbook

Camp

That on the recommendation of the Steering Committee of Senate, the changes to the membership of Senate be changed to reflect the transition of Continuing Studies from the Director of Business Services

to the Office of the Provost and subsequently changes to the membership of the Senate Committee on Academic Affairs and the Senate Handbook be approved.

Effective date: September 27, 2023

CARRIED

11.4 Senate Committee on Nominations

Recommendation of Senate Committee Members to Senate - none

11.4.1 List of Senate Committee Vacancies

11.5 Senate Committee on Curriculum and Calendar

Stathers

No report.

11.6 Senate Committee on Admissions and Degrees

Read

No report.

11.7 Senate Committee on Indigenous Initiatives

Payne

The President provided a verbal update. The committee met and discussed the search of the Associate Vice President, Indigenous, approved some revised terms and conditions for awards, received a draft proposal for the Centre for Indigenous Studies and reviewed and updated their terms of reference.

11.8 Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees and Special Forms of Recognition

Payne

Call for Nominations for the Honorary Degrees has gone out. Nominations can be accepted at any time, but nominations received in the Fall semester will be considered for the 2024 Convocation. Nomination received later will be considered for the 2025 Convocation cycle.

11.9 Senate Committee on Scholarships and Bursaries

Wood-Adams

For Information

SCSB20230823.03 (approved)

Elsie and Dieter Gerdes Scholarship

That the REVISED Terms and Conditions for the Elsie and Dieter Gerdes Scholarship be approved.

Effective: 2023-2024 Academic Year

11.10 Senate Committee on University Budget

Gehloff

No report.

12.0 Information

13.0 Other Business

13.1 Election of Vice Chair

In accordance with 3(c)(i) of the Senate Handbook. Senate shall elect a Vice Chair at least annually, who shall chair meetings in the absence of the president; but in no case shall a vice chair serve more than two consecutive terms.

S-202309.06

Recommendation of Vice-Chair

That Senator Durau be appointed as the Vice Chair of Senate.

Term effective: Immediately – August 31, 2023

14.0 S-202309.07 (10 minutes)

Move to the Closed Session

That the meeting move to Closed Session.

15.0

S-202309.13

Adjournment

Whitcombe

That the Senate meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.